

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT  
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FHBRO number: **95-50**  
DFRP Number: **30070**  
Resource name: **Horse Barn (Building #1)**  
Address: **Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch, west of Sundre, Alberta**  
Construction: **1942-43 (Warden Service)**  
Original function: **Horse barn**  
Current function: **Horse barn**  
Custodian: **Parks Canada**  
FHBRO status: **'Recognized' Federal Heritage Building**

***Reasons for designation***

The Horse Barn (Building #1) is a 'Recognized' Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

*Historical value:* The Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch was established in 1905 by Jim and Bill Brewster high in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Its name means - little prairie in the mountains - in the language of the Stoney Indians. The Brewster lease on the ranch was terminated in 1917, at which time it became part of the Rocky Mountains National Park. Between 1917 and 1948, it served as a residence for wardens working in Canada's National Parks and was operated as a ranch for their horses. From 1948 to the present, the ranch has been occupied by Parks Canada staff although it has also continued to serve as a ranch for raising, training and over wintering of warden service horses. The Horse Barn, constructed in 1942-43, is the most dominant and distinctive structure on the property, and represents a testimony to the ranch's support role for the conservation of Canada's National Parks by mounted wardens.

*Architectural value:* The Horse Barn is a handsome but simple building that was designed and constructed with careful attention to proportions, detailing, and craftsmanship. Like many other National Park structures in western Canada, it is a log construction; this choice was probably based on the desire for a traditional, rustic style that was compatible with the foothills setting, as well as on the plentiful supply of logs within the site and the comparatively high cost of milled lumber. The exterior walls are dark brown with white trim. The gambrel roof, made of milled lumber, illustrates a common form that maximized space for hay storage in the upper loft. The interior accommodates a functional arrangement of stalls and a tack room.

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*Environmental value:* The Horse Barn and the other ranch buildings constitute an attractive group of log constructions united by their uniform colour scheme. These structures support each other functionally, but the Horse Barn and corrals are the ranch's most important components. The Horse Barn, as the most visually conspicuous element, reinforces the overall character of the ensemble, which remains intact despite various changes over the years.

*Character-defining elements*

The following character-defining elements of the Horse Barn should be respected:

*Its role in supporting the conservation of Canada's National Parks by mounted wardens:*

- Its ongoing function, since its construction in 1942-43, as an integral component of a ranch for breeding, training, and wintering the horses of National Parks wardens.

*Its high-quality, functional design and construction:*

- Its log construction and its distinctive gambrel roof of milled lumber, which illustrate careful attention to proportions, detailing, and craftsmanship.
- The functional layout of its horse stalls and tack room.
- Its functional roof design, which provides maximum space for loose hay storage in the upper loft.
- Its dark brown colour and the white trim around its doors and windows, which enhance its architectural form and features.

*Its reinforcement of a coherent ranch ensemble:*

- Its dominant size and distinctive gambrel roof, which make it the most conspicuous element of the ranch, whose attractive ensemble of log constructions has maintained its character within the natural setting of the Rocky Mountain foothills despite some changes over the years.
- Its compatibility with the uniform colour scheme of the ranch.

For guidance on interventions, refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information, contact FHBRO.

March 2002