

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

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FHBRO 97-35

DFRP 08625

### **Recognized Federal Heritage Building**

OTTAWA, Ontario

Building #77 (Potting shed)

Central Experimental Farm (CEF)

Building #77, the potting shed, was constructed in 1889-90 as a stable for the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) Director's Residence (demolished). It was designed by the federal Department of Public Works. The building was moved to its current location within the CEF in 1936 and placed on a new foundation, above grade. Changes to the structure have included the replacement of wide stable doors by narrower doors and the placement of the structure above grade on a new foundation. Building #77 is currently used as an office for the grounds crew. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is the custodian. The structure is a Level 1 cultural resource located within the core of the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site.

### **Reasons for Designation**

Building #77 has been designated "Recognized" because of its historical, architectural, and environmental significance:

Building #77 is closely associated with two nationally significant themes: the Department of Agriculture's role in promoting agricultural reform in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the Central Experimental Farm's distinctive cultural landscape. Relocated within the core area of the farm, its design, function and history demonstrate the changing role of the Central Experimental Farm and the Department of Agriculture's decision to create a distinctive architectural theme among early farm buildings.

Building #77 was built as a stable for the CEF director, but it also served a broader purpose as a model stable for the family of a well-to-do Ontario farmer. In its scale, proportions, domestic form and decorative treatment it conformed to contemporary ideas about the design of country estates popularized in pattern books and the agricultural press. Its decorative treatment was borrowed directly from the Director's Residence, one of Canada's grandest Queen Anne Revival Style homes. Building #77's decorative elements include: board and batten siding, shingled and flared walls on the second storey, prominent half-timbered gables, and casement windows.

Building #77 also reinforced the Picturesque composition of the CEF. It serves as an important reminder that the Central Experimental Farm history reaches back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and that there is a strong unity in the design among all of the early Farm buildings.

## **Character-defining elements**

The heritage character of Building #77 resides in the following character-defining elements:

- Building #77 illustrates the Department of Agriculture's role in promoting agricultural reform and the creation of a distinctive cultural landscape at the CEF in fulfillment of that role. As a model stable for Ontario farmers, Building #77 illustrates the model farm role originally assumed by the CEF.
- The residential scale and decorative treatment of Building #77 harmonized with the design of the former Director's Residence. Important exterior decorative elements of Building #77 include: the shingled flared apron of the second floor; the cedar shingled roof; the casement windows; half-timbering on the gable ends; the cross-gabled roof; and the vertical board-and-batten siding. Important functional elements which reflect the building's original use as a stable include the interior application of vertical tongue-and-groove boarding for hygienic purposes, and a projecting gable which covers the hayloft doors on the attic storey.
- Building #77 reinforces the Picturesque composition of the CEF.

All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should aim to respect these character-defining elements.

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.