

Bar U Ranch

The Hay Shed at the Bar U Ranch was added in 1956, after the second phase of development of the site (ca. 1902-05 to the 1940s). The structure was purpose-built by Alan J. Baker to house a stack liner, but was adapted for hay storage. The Hay Shed is a component of the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 92-17.

Reasons for Designation

The Hay Shed, as a component of the Bar U Ranch complex, was designated "Classified" because of the historical associations of this building and the ranch as a whole, because of the exceptional qualities of the site and setting, and because of its contribution to the overall aesthetic qualities of the complex.

The Bar U Ranch is strongly associated with the development of ranching in Alberta. Although a comparatively recent structure, the Hay Shed gives evidence of the continuing operation of the Bar U complex after its main periods of development. The Hay Shed is located close to the Stud-Horse Barn and was adapted to provide a convenient hay-storage facility for the important stable.

As part of a cohesive complex of buildings arranged to great functional effect in a simple and beautiful natural setting, the Hay Shed contributes to the character of the Bar U Ranch. The Hay Shed sits on a flat grassy area next to the Stud-Horse Barn and is not prominently visible, being smaller and essentially hidden from the access lane by the much larger Stud Horse Barn.

The Hay Shed is of interest for its structure, which is a simple construction of peeled poles and milled lumber. Despite its comparatively late construction date, the Hay Shed blends well with its surroundings because of its functional design and weathered appearance. The shed is located within the Percheron area, adjacent to the prominent Stud Horse Barn on a flat, grassy area.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Hay Shed resides in its simple function-driven design and form, exterior finish, construction materials and techniques, and setting.

The shed is of upright pole construction, with poles embedded directly into the ground. Three exterior walls and the roof are clad with board-on-board siding. The east elevation is open, with a heavy-duty double gate that swings 180 degrees on two large steel hinges. The open design was based on the overriding requirement for good ventilation for stored hay. It is possible that the materials used to build the Hay Shed

Bar U Ranch

were salvaged from an earlier barn on the premises. All of these features contribute to the building's heritage character and should be protected in any future modifications and maintenance work.

Because the building consists of such a limited range of materials, great care must be taken to repair in kind, matching lumber species, dimensions, surface finish and tool marks, and period paint colour.

Any development should seek to retain the unornamented, functional quality of the site, and respect existing patterns of access and circulation. Any changes to circulation or access should consider historic patterns related to the movement of grain tanks, wagons and motorized vehicles. The relationship of the Hay Shed with the Stud-Horse Barn is important to its heritage character and should be protected.

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

2000.03.27