

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE

BUILDING EVALUATION REPORT

File No. 2.5.4

I

IDENTIFICATION

Ad Hoc

BUILDING

FHBRO (CDA)

- City/Prov: Prince Edward Island NP/P.E.I.
- Name: Green Gables House
- Address: P.E.I. National Park, Cavendish
- Owner: DOE

- Meeting: 85-02
- Date: 85-07-10
- BER No.: 84-50
- Date: JUL 24 1985

II

HERITAGE CHARACTER

SUMMARY

Built in stages between 1831 and 1870's, and located in the midst of Prince Edward Island National Park, the Green Gables House was the inspiration for the home of the fictional character Anne Shirley, heroine of L.M. Montgomery's famous novel Anne of Green Gables. This literary association as well as landmark convey a significant heritage value to the house, which holds an important position in the imagination of the many readers of this very popular novel.

HISTORY

This simple and very ordinary Prince Edward Island farmhouse has emerged over the years, due to public demand, as an increasingly important feature of P.E.I. National Park. The Canadian author, L.M. Montgomery, used it as the setting for her famous novel, Anne of Green Gables, the story of an imaginative orphan adopted by an aging brother and sister, which was an instant success in 1905 and had been translated into many languages by the 1920's. It received complimentary reviews in most North American newspapers. Mark Twain described Anne as "the dearest and most lovable child in fiction since the immortal Alice". Montgomery published Anne of Avonlea, the sequel to Green Gables in 1909. It too was a success. In addition to the "Anne books", she continued to publish short stories and poetry. In 1935 she was made a member of the Order of the British Empire and was the first Canadian member of the Royal Society of Arts and Letters.

ENVIRONMENT

At present, the house sits in the midst of an 18 hole golf course, close to a busy road. Consequently, the landscape immediately surrounding it is compatible with the character of a farmhouse, and it will remain a landmark because of its association with the popular novel Anne of Green Gables.