

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

COW BARN & DAIRY, ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY, COLWOOD, BC

FHBRO number: **99-137**
DFRP number: **17452**
Resource name: **Cow Barn and Dairy (RR6)**
Address: **Royal Roads University, Colwood, BC**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1912-1916**
Designer: **Brett & Hall, Boston**
Original function: **Cow barn and dairy for Dunsmuir Estate**
Current function: **Centre for Environmental Information Management**
Modifications: **East dormers removed from Cow Barn; grey slate roofs replaced with asphalt shingles; windows replaced; and interior renovated for adaptive re-use.**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

The Cow Barn and Dairy is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

The Cow Barn and Dairy are associated with the manifestation of great wealth and lavish estates created by leading Canadian industrialists at the beginning of the 20th century. Constructed during the first phase of the site's development between 1908-1937, the building was one of the agricultural buildings that made up the model farm, an essential component of J. Dunsmuir's self-sufficient Edwardian estate which also included a piggery, greenhouse, vegetable gardens and stable. The building is also associated with the expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces and the development of its professional training programs during and after WWII. During this second phase of the site's development, DND purchased the estate to establish the Royal Roads University, at which time the Cow Barn and Dairy was converted into classrooms and an engineering workshop.

Architectural value:

The Cow Barn and Dairy is a very good example of traditional vernacular farm architecture combined with Tudor Revival details. Its picturesque exterior and materials speak to the site's original function as a component of the model farm. The Cow Barn is a two-storey, gambrel-roofed building and is accented with ventilation cupolas, external chimneys and shed dormer windows. The dairy is a two-storey, hipped roof building with a monitor straddling the main ridge. This T-shaped, stucco-clad building is constructed of good quality materials and craftsmanship.

Environmental value:

Built into the sloping terrain, the Cow Barn and Dairy is an important component of the former model farm, speaks to the James Dunsmuir Edwardian estate period, and reinforces the pastoral character of Royal Roads. The Cow Barn and Dairy is located on College Road, south of Hatley Castle in an area that is surrounded by regenerated forest and is within the agricultural zone of the property. The Cow Barn and Dairy is a visually prominent building owing to its scale and location.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Cow Barn and Dairy Building should be respected:

Its early role as an illustration of the manifestation of great wealth and lavish estates created by leading Canadian industrialists at the beginning of the 20th century, and its later role as an illustration of the expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces and the development of its professional training programs during and after WWI are reflected in:

- its agricultural character as a surviving component of the former model farm complex; and,
- its later use as classrooms and an engineering workshop as part of the Royal Roads University.

Its traditional vernacular farm architecture, and good quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- the silhouette of its characteristic barn roofs with their wide eaves, exposed rafters, ventilation cupolas, external chimneys, shed dormer windows and the monitor straddling the main roof ridge; and,
- the solidly constructed brick walls and chimneys with their stucco-clad finish.

The manner in which the building reinforces the former Edwardian setting of the university campus, as evidenced in:

- its location and compatibility with the other agricultural buildings on the former model farm complex.

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

January 2003