

FHBRO Number 92-017

Longview, Alberta

Coal Shed (Building 12)

FINAL

Bar U Ranch

The estimated construction date of the Coal Shed falls between 1909 and 1910 as part of the second phase of building at the Bar U Ranch. The structure remains virtually unaltered and continues to be used as a storage facility. The Coal 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 Coal 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. The Coal Shed, constructed around the same time as the Bunkhouse/Cookhouse, plays a supporting role to that development as a building that was utilized to store coal used for cooking and heating purposes.

The Coal Shed is associated with George Lane, a prominent Alberta cattleman, who was hired at Bar U in 1884 to serve as the ranch foreman and who ran the ranch between 1902 and 1925. The Coal Shed is also associated with Patrick Burns, who purchased the Bar U Ranch in 1927 to add to his vast cattle empire. Burns, who is recognized as the kingpin of the meat processing industry in western Canada during the mid-1920s, has been designated a person of national significance.

As part of a cohesive complex of buildings arranged to great functional effect in a simple and beautiful natural setting, the Coal Shed reinforces the overall character of the Ranch. The Coal Shed is situated within the community centre, focused on Pekisko Creek, and is located a short distance from the rear entrance of the Bunkhouse/Cookhouse.

The Coal Shed is the product of a simple, function-oriented design that is in keeping with the scale, massing and patina of associated and adjacent buildings.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Coal Shed resides in its functional design and form, simple massing, common construction materials, exterior finish, interior layout and setting.

The Coal Shed is a small, one-storey structure with a simple rectangular footprint and a

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shallow gabled roof covered in cedar shingles. Exterior walls are clad with narrow wood siding. The colour scheme of the Coal Shed (barn red walls and white trim) follows a tradition across the Prairies. The main elevation is enlivened only by a single door and by small four-pane sash windows located high in the walls. This character of simplicity and functionality should be respected in any intervention. Any repairs should use sympathetic materials and techniques, matching the existing level of craftsmanship.

The interior is a simple unadorned space divided into two areas by a frame partition.

Any development should seek to retain the 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 wagons and motorized vehicles. The strong functional relationship of the Coal Shed to the Bunkhouse/Cookhouse and to the linking walkway is important to the building's heritage character.

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

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