

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

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FHBRO Number 00-17

DFRP Number 03185

### **Recognized Federal Heritage Building**

NAPPAN, Nova Scotia

### **Research Farm Building 16 (Implement and Seed Storage)**

Nappan Experimental Farm

Building 16 was constructed in 1892 as the Implement and Seed Storage Building at Nappan Experimental Farm in Nappan, Nova Scotia. The Department of Public Works prepared the building plans, but Dr. William Saunders, the founding director of the Experimental Farms Branch, was likely responsible for its design, layout and placement. The building was enlarged in 1948 with an addition that retained most of the structure's original decorative detailing and its overall massing. Roof cupolas, built-in research equipment and some interior finishes have been removed. The building is vacant. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is the custodian.

### **Reasons for Designation**

Building 16 has been designated "Recognized" because of its historical, architectural and environmental significance.

#### Historical Significance

Building 16 illustrates the role of Canada's Experimental Farm System in agricultural research and experimentation over a century, from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nappan Experimental Farm, established in 1887, was one of five original farms in the system. Building 16 was constructed in 1892 as a combined workshop and storage facility for crop research. It was one of seven buildings erected at Nappan in the 1880s and 1890s, only two of which are extant. Building 16 was used almost exclusively to support the development, cataloguing, storage and distribution of seed samples for Atlantic Canada.

#### Architectural Significance

Building 16 conforms to the Picturesque aesthetic chosen for all of the original farms of the Experimental Farm branch of the federal Department of Agriculture. As a support structure, only the most basic design elements, namely, exterior cladding, roofing and trim, provided limited opportunity for architectural expression of the dominant Queen Anne style used more clearly on barns and main residences. Its steeply pitched gable roof, long eave line, low eaves, gable-roofed dormers, human scale, and connected functional units in one structure are all borrowed from the 'Quebec' barn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The banked foundation, here executed in concrete with entrances on the main and basement levels, is typical of 19<sup>th</sup>-century barn construction in Ontario and Nova Scotia. The interior structure of the barn incorporates milled as well as hand-hewn timbers and is largely concealed beneath tongue-and-groove boarding. The 1948 extension closely follows the visual aesthetic of the original building.

#### Environmental Significance

Building 16 was originally one of at least three agricultural outbuildings, including a second seed and implement building, grouped behind the director's residence in a courtyard pattern conforming to practices promoted by the Experimental Farms Branch. Located within the

physical core of the farm, close to the main entrance, the barn, residence and outbuildings dominated the cultural landscape of the farm. Subsequent construction was designed to complement the aesthetic of these original buildings. However, the demolition of farm buildings, especially the main residence, has altered the relationship of buildings within the central core. Building 16 and the other extant 19<sup>th</sup> century building, the Main Barn, now dominate its visual landscape.

### **Character-defining Elements**

The heritage character of Building 16 resides in the following character-defining elements:

- Aesthetic and functional features drawn from 19<sup>th</sup> century barn construction traditions that purposely concealed its largely scientific function as a laboratory and storage area. These features include: a steeply pitched gable roof with long eave line; low eaves; gable-roofed dormers, and a banked foundation with entrances on two levels.
- Features drawn from the Picturesque aesthetic, including the small scale of the building, low, shingled, gable roof, comparatively small windows, and clapboard siding.
- Milled and hand-hewn timbers in the framing of the building that testify to its 19<sup>th</sup>-century origins.
- The placement of Building 16 within the core of the Experimental Farm, proximate to the Main Barn.

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

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