FHBRO Number 96-1 29
Ottawa, Ontario
Arc Biotech Building (Building No. 34)
Central Experimental Farm

The Arc Biotech Building was constructed in 1920 and received an addition in 1950 which almost doubled its size. The building's windows have been replaced. Its designer is unknown. Also called the Harry S. Gutteridge Building, the Arc Biotech Building originally served as headquarters for the Poultry Divison building, and is now used to accommodate offices, a library, heavy laboratories for general Animal Genetics, and file storage in the attic. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is the custodian. The Arc Biotech Building is part of the Central Experimental Farm NHS. See FHBRO Case File No. 96-1 29.

Reasons for Designation

The Arc Biotech Building has been designated Recognized because of its historical associations, environmental significance and architectural qualities.

The Arc Biotech Building is closely associated with the development of the Experimental Farm system in Canada. In accordance with the Farm's 1886 mandate to introduce new and profitable farming methods to Canada, a Poultry Division was soon established in 1888. The Arc Biotech Building housed the offices and laboratories pertaining to this Division.

The building is named after Harry Stoneman Gutteridge, a scientist who spent almost his entire professional career in the Poultry Division. Mr. Gutteridge was first put in charge of Research in Poultry Nutrition, then was appointed Divisional Chief. During his stay, Mr. Gutteridge contributed to an increased application of scientific disciplines in solving the problems of a rapidly expanding and developing poultry industry.

The Arc Biotech Building is an important building belonging to the science and administration group of the central core. Its modest scale, chosen materials and detailing are typical of the smaller science and administration buildings built in the 1920's and 1930's at the Central Experimental Farm and help the building blend with the picturesque landscape. Ornamental shrub and tree plantings further enhance this overall character.

The building's vernacular character is visible in several architectural elements and details and is compatible with the picturesque aesthetic established on the site.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Arc Biotech Building resides in its massing, scale, proportions, materials, architectural details, interior layout and finishes and in the relationship of the building to its setting.

The building consists of a two-and-a-half storey rectangular mass. Although the 1950 addition to the building's north side changed the original symmetry of the three bay façade with central entranceway, it integrates well with the building's original character. Window groupings and dormers accentuate the rhythmic, balanced proportions of the façades and reflect the building's interior layout.

The red brick walls, painted wood trim, high concrete foundations, pitched roof dormers and asphalt shingle roof contribute to the building's character and are in keeping with the overall architectural program for the farm. The addition's close brick match is a positive aspect worth noting. The ornamental eave dentils and the entrance topped by a transom window and projecting pediment with mock half-timbering are distinctive details. Subtle brick coursing patterns on the walls and mock half-timbering in the upper part of the dormers visually unite the building to many other buildings at the farm. All exterior features should be preserved through regular conservation maintenance and in any alterations or modifications. Also meriting protection is the visible demarcation between the original building and the addition, which gives evidence of the building's original composition.

An important feature was lost when the original multi-paned wood sash windows were replaced with aluminum windows with no muntin divisions. The remaining multi-paned windows in the building's main double, wooden doors are the only reminder of these former architectural elements and should be protected. When new windows are at the end of their service life, the building's heritage character would be enhanced by returning them to their former appearance.

Photographs from different periods show varying colour schemes for doors, trim and window frames. Paint analysis would help determine colour treatments for these elements.

The interior layout of the building is balanced, with rooms arranged off a central corridor, each having access to a set of windows. Any alterations to the interior should

respect this general plan. Interior finishes of value include the unpainted wood mouldings and flat plaster. Newer, dropped ceilings and fluorescent lighting detract from the quality and heritage character of the interior spaces and should be reconsidered when modifications are planned.

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The ornamental shrubs, mature trees and turfgrass lawn adjacent to the Arc Biotech Building enhance its character and reinforce the picturesque qualities of this area of the Central Experimental Farm. Because the foundation was designed to be expressed and to admit light into the basement, shrub plantings should not be continuous along the façade to avoid obscuring a view of the foundation. The building's siting relates to the establishment of the second group of central core buildings, the science and administration buildings, on the north side of the Driveway Promenade.

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

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