HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

FHBRO Number 96-135
DFRP Number 08625

Recognized Federal Heritage Building
OTTAWA, Ontario
Service Building, Building #56
Central Experimental Farm

Building #56 was constructed in three sections. The east end of the building was built in 1918-20 as a root, seed and implement storage building for the Central Experimental Farm (CEF). In 1924 a one-storey implement storage shed was added to the west end of the building. In 1932-4 the one-storey addition was increased to two storeys, a small boiler room was added to the north elevation, a second cupola was added to the roof, several windows and doors were added or relocated, interior stairs were relocated, and the interior was reconfigured. The boiler room was removed at an unknown date. The original building and subsequent alterations were designed by staff of the Department of Public Works under the direction of Chief Architects R.C. Wright and T.W. Fuller. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAF) is the custodian. The building is presently used for storage. The structure is a Level 1 cultural resource located within the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site.

Reasons for Designation

Service Building #56 has been designated "Recognized" because of its historical, architectural, and environmental significance:

Historical Significance

Building #56 is associated with the agricultural research carried on by the Department of Agriculture through the experimental farms service in the early 20th century. It is associated in particular with the heightened interest in home preservation and canning of fruits and vegetables during the First World War and interwar years, and the efforts of the CEF's Horticultural Division to conduct and disseminate useful research in that area. Building #56 belongs to the second phase of development at the CEF (1911-9), when many new buildings were added to the site. Its subsequent additions typify the third phase of development at the CEF (1920-36), when a more scientific approach to agriculture was favoured, and additions to existing buildings were preferred over new construction.

Architectural Significance

In its original construction and subsequent alterations, Building #56 conforms to the modified Shingle Style used in the design of farm buildings on the CEF in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It follows the established vocabulary for the original set of CEF farm buildings in its use of board-and-batten siding on the first floor, wood shingling on the second floor with a slight outward flare at the floorline, multi-lite windows, shingled roof and decorative ventilators. The dormers and cut-away eaves over windows further enliven the roof line. The interior design and location of ground-floor openings has been adapted over time to suit ongoing functional uses. Special features include a large number of windows for natural light and ventilation, roof cupolas connected to air shafts to ventilate the building, and an underground root cellar.

Environmental Significance

Building #56 maintains its original courtyard relationship with neighbouring and roughly contemporary

buildings: the Dairy Technology Building (#57, c. 1920) and the Horticulture Building (#55, c. 1919). The details of this relationship have changed with subsequent additions to all three buildings and with landscaping changes. Building #56 maintains a strong aesthetic relationship with the Main Dairy Barn, located on the opposite side of the Driveway, due to its exterior detailing.

Character-defining Elements

The heritage character of Building #56 resides in the following character-defining elements:

- Its adherence to the Shingle Style utilized on earlier CEF farm buildings. It uses board-and-batten siding on the ground floor, wood shingled side walls on the second storey with a slight outward flare at the floorline, and multi-lite windows. A shingled, hipped roof with a broad overhang and carved brackets is enlivened with decorative roof ventilators, dormers and cut-away eaves over windows.

- The incorporation of special features suited to its function as a workshop for canning and preserving fruits and vegetables, including the large number of windows for natural light and ventilation, roof cupolas connected to air shafts to ventilate the building, and an underground root cellar.

- Its physical relationship to the neighbouring Horticulture Building and Dairy Technology Building, and to the Main Dairy 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 ofPractice*.