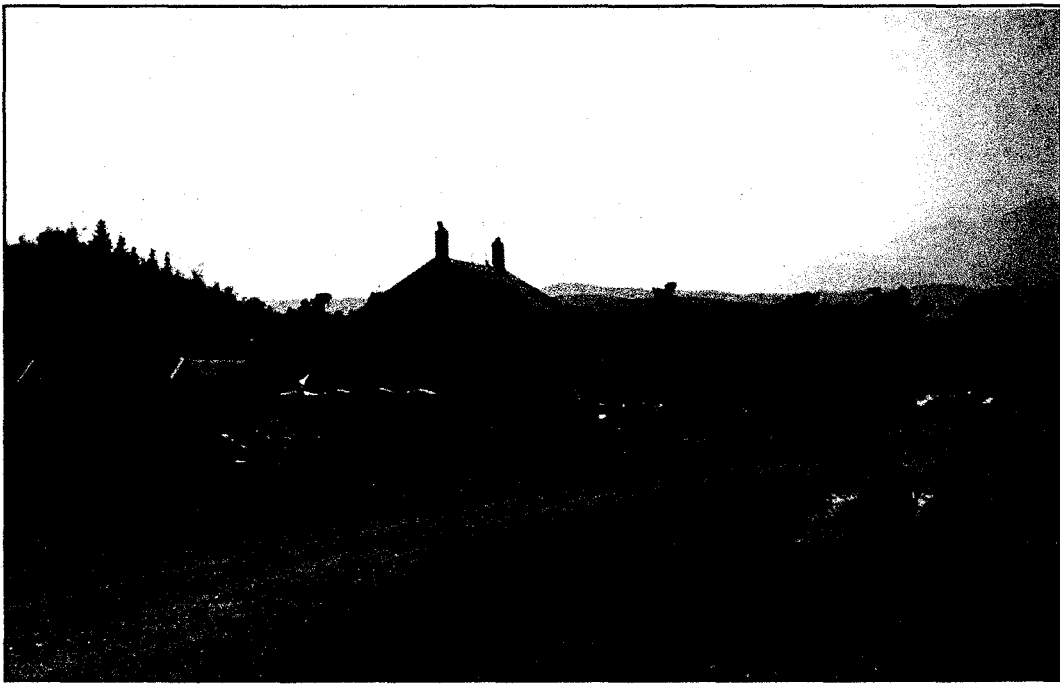


**BAR U RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
ALBERTA**



**COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY STATEMENT
November 2000**

APPROVAL

Approved

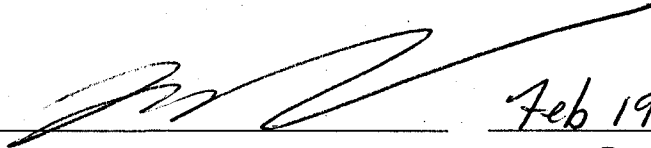


26.02.2001

Date

**Christina Cameron
Director General
National Historic Sites**

Recommended



Feb 19, 2001

Date

**Peter Lamb
Superintendent
Waterton Lakes National Park**

FRIENDS OF THE BAR U HISTORIC RANCH ASSOCIATION



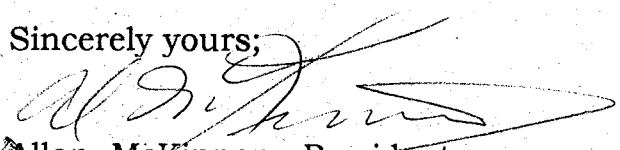
February 1st, 2001

Mr. Peter Lamb, Superintendent
Waterton Lakes National Park
Waterton, Alta. TOK-2M0

Dear Mr. Lamb:

The information outlined in Parks Canada's Commemorative Integrity Statement dated November 2000, was reviewed by a representative of the Friends of the Bar U Historic Ranch Association during August of 2000. We requested several minor changes to the statement, which are recognized in the November 2000 copies. Our organization fully supports the information content that is outlined in this publication.

Sincerely yours;

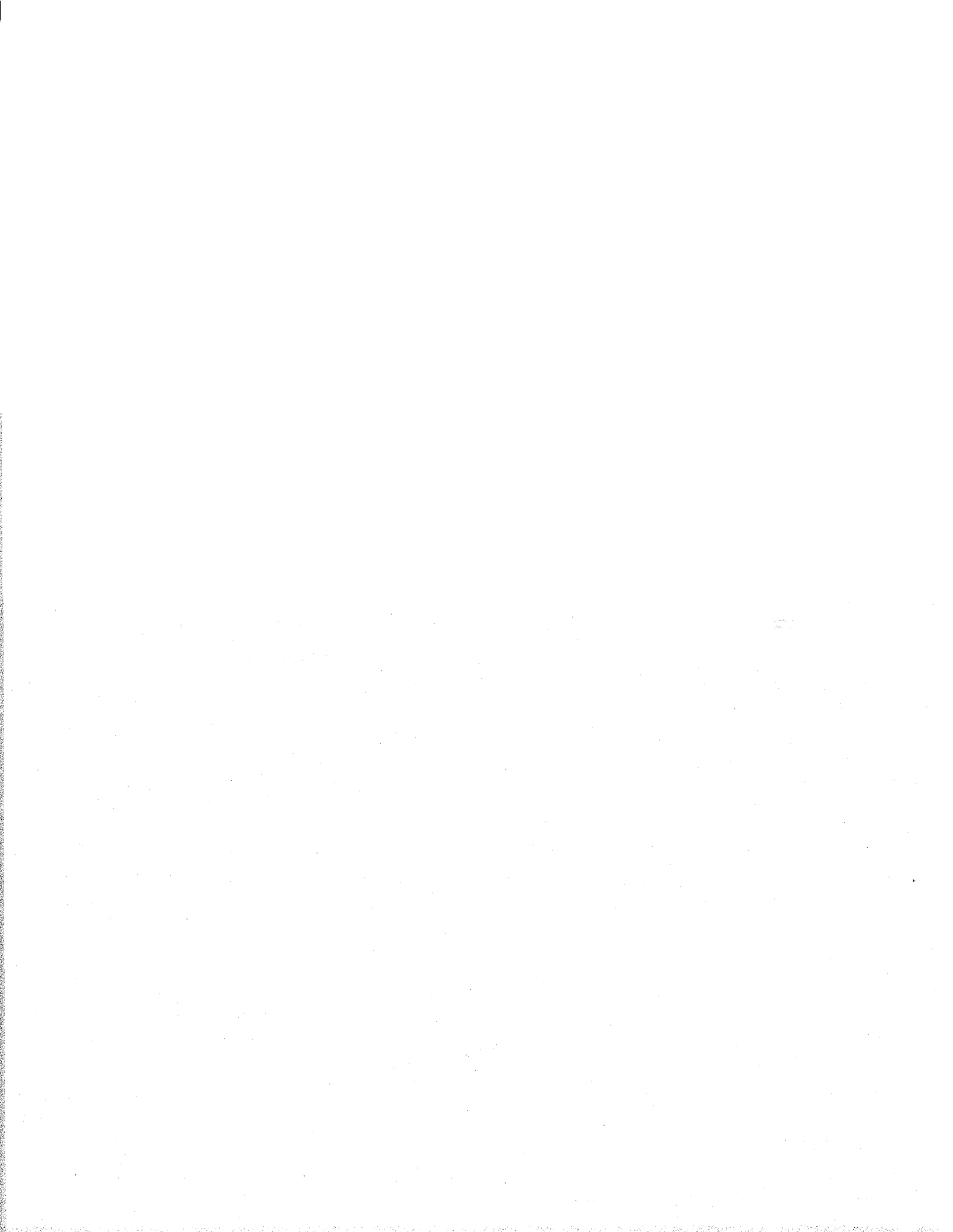

Allan McKinnon, President

Friends of the Bar U Historic Ranch Association



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BAR U RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY STATEMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

1. National Historic Site Objectives

The National Historic Sites Policy sets out the following objectives:

to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada 's past through a national program of historical commemoration;

to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources.

to encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.

2. Definition and Purpose of Commemorative Integrity

The term commemorative integrity is used to describe the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat;

the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public;

the site 's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site;

The achievement of commemorative integrity is a goal; it is a goal that will be necessarily site specific. For this reason the three elements of commemorative integrity will be dealt with as they relate to the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, and commemorative integrity objectives will be identified for each element.

3. Background

The 1968 Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommendation that “ the ranching industry is of national significance”, and the Board’s subsequent deliberations on this subject, were influenced by popular mythology and a dominant historical tradition that had three strains. First of all, the Alberta foothills region is seen as the “physical and spiritual core” of ranching in Canada. Second, it is argued that certain aspects related to the large-scale establishment of ranching in this area are distinctively Canadian, although it is recognized that in many ways the industry is similar to that in the United States. The third strain, again reflecting the experience of the foothills region, expounds the view that the social structure which grew out of an industry established by eastern Canadian and British investors, based on large government land apportionments in a territory overseen by the Mounted Police, maintained certain values such as a respect for authority and high civil and cultural standards.

The Board sustained a constant interest in a particular form of commemoration for the industry: the acquisition of a ranch property and its development as an historic site. Ultimately, after several surveys of candidate ranches and more than one failed attempt at purchasing it, the headquarters site of the Bar U was bought by Parks Canada in 1991.

The raising of cattle and horses on a large-scale commercial basis began in Western Canada during the early 1860s in the British Columbia interior when the Cariboo gold rush created a market for beef and transport animals. The animals and the men who managed them came north from the United States, and the business carried on as it had south of the Line, using free grass. Ranches later established on pre-empted land in the southern interior. were largely converted to fruit-growing by the end of the century, and the surviving, sometimes very large, operations are found today in the northern marginal lands or the dry valleys of the south.

East of the Rocky Mountains matters were in a state of abrupt change. By the mid 1870s the great herds of bison were gone from the northern plains, and the few remaining could no longer sustain the native peoples who had depended on them for millennia. The Canadian government, which assumed formal control of these vast lands in 1870, began to assert its authority by organizing and dispatching the North West Mounted Police and by initiating the Dominion Land Survey. A series of treaties made with the First Nations of the plains theoretically paved the way for agricultural settlement. Long distances, a sluggish economy and the attractions of the United States, however, conspired to slow the influx of settlers. Meanwhile, the new reserves were unable to sustain the native population, obliging the government to supply rations. Conditions were ripe in the North West for the introduction of commercial cattle-raising: the Indian Department and the Mounted Police provided a market for beef, and there were hundreds of square miles of unpatented Crown land with grass on it.

There were domestic cattle in the North West before 1880. The McDougall mission on the Bow River had a small herd, while in the Cypress Hills the semi-sedentary local population that had its roots in the fur trade and the buffalo hunt were raising cattle as well as horses. Other owner-operated outfits in scattered coulees and creek bottoms ran cattle on the endless free grass. None of these could meet the demands of the new market. Not only did the government require cattle in large numbers, but it wanted them delivered to specific places at stated times. It is significant to note that the gap was filled by I.G. Baker and Company of Fort Benton, Montana, which was primarily a mercantile concern, although it did engage in stock-raising. I.G. Baker remained the largest contract supplier of beef in the Treaty 7 area until 1890. Until the mid-1880s most came from cattle imported from the United States; but as early as 1882 the newly-established Cochrane Ranche supplied beef to the Police through an I.G. Baker sub-contract. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway mainline, which reached Calgary in 1883, opened up additional markets for beef in eastern Canada and Britain.

In 1884 the Minister of Agriculture stated in his annual report that the North West Cattle Company, and the Oxley and Stewart Ranches, were delivering beef to the Police, the C.P.R. and the public. These suppliers, together with other, recently established corporate concerns, such as the Cochrane, the Walrond, the Quom and the Glengarry ranches, represented a new phenomenon in the North West. In several respects it reflected the great "beef bonanza" in the United States, in which rumours of huge profits attracted domestic and foreign investors, whose money launched large-scale ranching operations, sometimes on tenured land, but often on "free grass", or open land. As these lands became crowded or over-grazed, the adjacent grasslands in Canada looked more and more inviting. Indeed, in the late 1880s American-based cattle operations began to take up land north of the boundary, especially in the vicinity of the Cypress Hills. Expansion into the desirable southern foothills of the Rocky Mountains was largely forestalled, however, by the advent of large Canadian corporate ranches.



The Bar U, originally owned by the North West Cattle Company, has been known by its principal brand for more than a century. Its foundation herd of over 3,000 head of Idaho cattle and 21 purebred Shorthorn bulls arrived in 1882, and a headquarters was chosen the same year on Pekisko Creek, in the foothills.



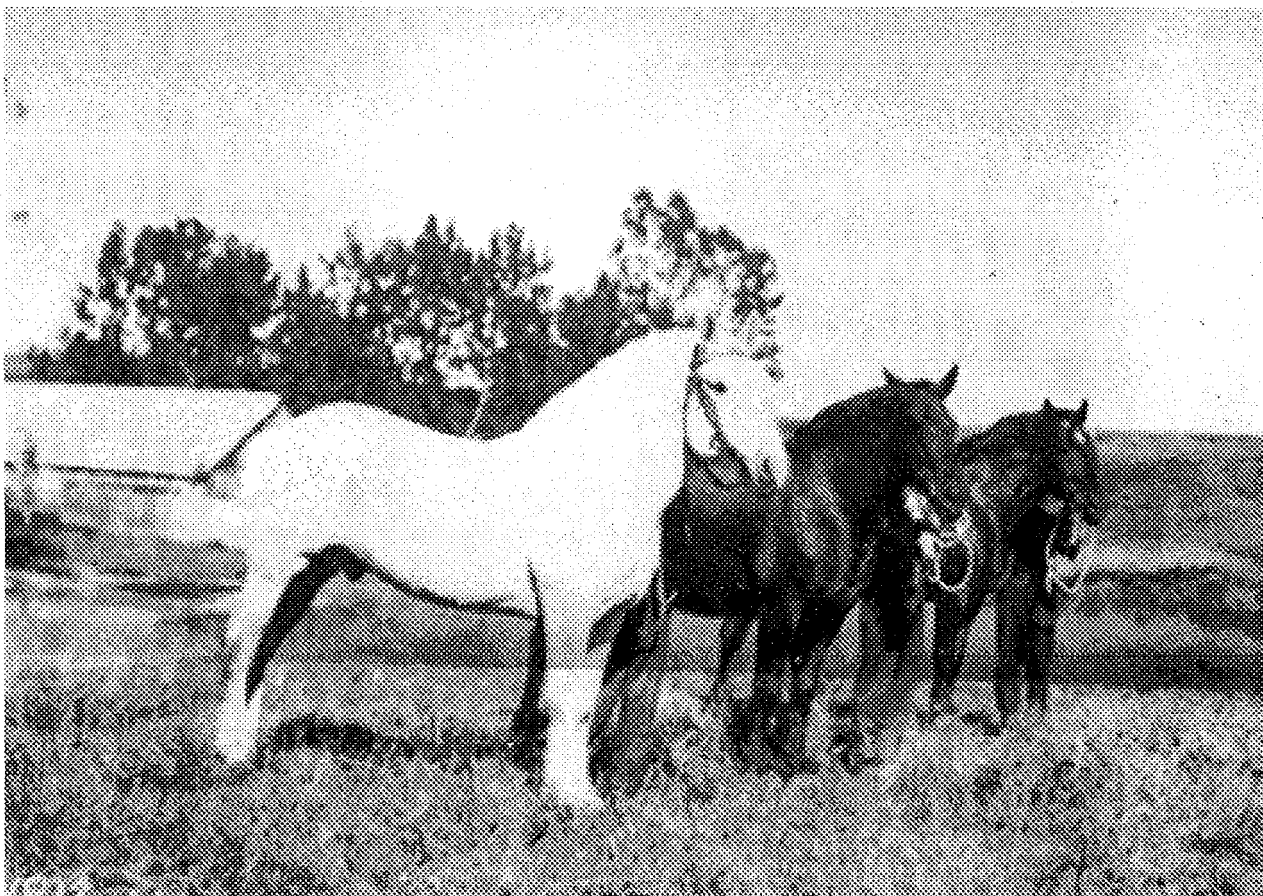
By the following spring much progress had been made in the construction of necessary buildings, one of which, the saddle horse barn, is still standing. The ranch owners engaged experienced stockmen, mostly American, and certain practices, such as building large barns, putting up hay and the erection of fences, demonstrate right from the start the adoption of what a recent scholarly study describes as the “midwestern” American pastoral system. This was a pragmatic approach, based on experience and the adaptation of traditions to vegetation and climate, that addressed the challenges of large-scale cattle-raising on a northern range. Despite changes in ownership the Bar U continued for nearly seventy years as a large corporate landholding, gaining a reputation for its standard of management and as a nursery of famous stockmen.

In 1881 Frederick Smith Stimson, entrepreneur and experienced stockman from Compton Township in Quebec, organized the North West Cattle Company in association with the Allan family of Montreal. Stimson followed quickly on the heels of his neighbour and owner of prize cattle, Senator Mathew Cochrane, who had set up the first of the corporate ranches. Cochrane had taken advantage of his political connections (and the influence of the Member of Parliament for Compton who also happened to be Minister of Agriculture) to persuade the government to amend the Dominion Lands Act regulations to allow for large-scale leasing of land for ranching at a small annual rental, in return for stocking the land with specified numbers of cattle. It was argued that such an arrangement would attract capital and smooth the way for an orderly introduction of the industry into the vacant Crown lands of the North West. Stimson, together

with others like him, visited the west and liked what he saw; his brother-in-law, Superintendent Winder of the Mounted Police, was serving at Fort Macleod and could vouch for the foothills as good cattle country. Returning to Montreal, Stimson was able to engage the substantial interest of the Allan and Milburne families of Montreal, and with himself as managing director the Bar U was in business.

The North West Cattle Company raised beef cattle for local and export sale as well as light horses, and operated until 1890 on 158,000 acres of leased land, or nearly seven townships. In 1891 Stimson applied for a homestead on the headquarters site, which, when patented, became the company's first freehold acquisition. Changes in government policy during the 1890s made it not only possible, but advisable, to convert 23 sections of the leased area to freehold. Following the sale of the ranch in 1902 George Lane and his partners made further additions of freehold to a total of over 28 sections. In addition to the conversion of leased land, freehold acquisitions outside the Bar U Ranch's initial holding resulted in a total operating area, both leased and freehold, of nearly 250 square miles by 1910.

Throughout its career as a large corporate ranch the Bar U was the core of a beef-raising operation. However, its owners all kept an eye on other opportunities: the North West Cattle Company ran 1,000 horses in 1891; George Lane went into draft horse production, and after the turn of the century the ranch became a centre for purebred Percheron breeding. Lane also began large scale farming on the ranch lands. Patrick Burns, who bought the ranch in 1928, and his management team turned in the 1930s and 1940s to increased crop production. Operational requirements led to physical changes at the headquarters site, such as the building of new specialized structures, increased accommodation for ranch staff, or the adaptive re-use of older facilities. Nevertheless, the general layout of the site has remained remarkably constant in many ways, and many historic structures have survived because of the work of J. Allen Baker, who bought a portion of the old ranch together with its headquarters in 1950.



B. STATEMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE INTENT

This statement describes the reasons for the site's national historic significance, the basis for its designation as a national historic site. Authority to designate rests with the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, acting on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Commemorative intent is therefore derived from the Ministerially-approved minutes of the Board's deliberations. Inscriptions on commemorative plaques are approved by the Board, and where such an inscription clearly communicates commemorative intent it may also be considered. Extracts from the Board's minutes are attached as an appendix. The record of discussion at the Board's November 1989 meeting reflects the report prepared on this topic by A.B. McCullough (see list of references).

Commemorative intent for the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site is expressed in the following statement:

The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site is of national significance because of its important role in the ranching industry in Canada.

Several important considerations stem from this statement:

1. Site selection criteria accepted by the Board in 1988 state that “although these criteria will serve to distinguish the candidate ranch from ranches in other ranching areas, in interpreting the industry, the importance and distinctive characteristics of other regions should not be overlooked” (McCullough, pp.22,23); the November 1989 Minutes recommend that Parks Canada “seek to achieve a meaningful commemoration of the Canadian Ranching Industry”;
2. The reference in the Board’s 1989 Minutes to “*in situ* resources dating from the late 19th or early 20th century”, when applied to the Bar U Ranch, can be interpreted as those resources dating from 1882, when the ranch was established, to 1950, when the ranch holdings were broken up and sold;
3. The 1989 Minutes also speak of the Bar U’s “long and close association with the ranching industry”, which did not end with the 1950 dispersal. The headquarters site remained the active centre of a smaller ranch operation up to and after the time of its acquisition by Parks Canada, and most of the original Bar U land holdings continue to be used for livestock raising.

C. TREATMENT OF THE THREE ELEMENTS OF COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

First element: *the resources that symbolize or represent the site’s national historic significance are not impaired or under threat.*

1. Designated Place

The *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* empowers the Minister to commemorate “historic places”. Definition of historic place gives geographical expression to a designated national historic site. Furthermore, the Cultural Resource Management Policy “applies to the overall management of a national historic site.. ” as well as to the individual cultural resources that are contained in a national historic site...“. It is important, therefore to understand the whole site as well its component parts.

The historic Bar U Ranch, at its greatest extent, covered an area of nearly 250 square miles (647.5 square km.) of rolling uplands, level “flats” and creek bottoms, where the dominant vegetation was the native fescue grass so important to stock growers. Canopies of cottonwood trees or willows marked the watercourses, and it was in such a sheltered place that the Bar U built its

headquarters on Pekisko Creek. Its home range extended from the Highwood River south to the headwaters of Stimson Creek, and from the steepening hills along the line between Range 4 and Range 3, east to the Fifth Meridian. This was, and still is, prime ranch land.

Since 1882 the historic place has been transformed by adaptations typical of foothills ranch country in Alberta. While the major components of the ecosystem have not been reshaped, certain original natural features have been impacted. Only a few patches of the native “prairie wool” remain. A significant area is under cultivation, and the countryside displays the typical patterns of rural settlement: fencelines, gravel roads, scattered farmsteads and outbuildings. More recently a major pipeline corridor has left its mark in the shape of altered vegetation and garish safety markers, while an upgraded and paved Highway 22 carries ever-increasing traffic north and south through the heart of the district. The physical results of these changes are character-defining elements of a cultural landscape, together with non-tangible features such as the spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains, with Mount Head in the forefront, the long-standing use of this land for cattle raising, and the links in the popular imagination between the foothills country and ranching or cowboy lore. Certain of these physical and associative attributes have historic value.

The designated place coincides with the land administered by Parks Canada. This comprises the original headquarters of the Bar U ranch, representative fields and outbuildings, and a portion of the Pekisko Creek.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of the designated place , as a whole, are:

the enduring rural character of the landscape, and the continuing use of the land for cattle raising;

traditional landscape elements associated with foothills cattle country: characteristic fences and corrals, unpaved roads, dispersed farmsteads and ranch buildings, cattle guards, large unenclosed spaces ;

unobstructed views of the-Rocky Mountains and of large areas of grassland on the flats and the rolling uplands;

continuing recognition of the fact that these lands were the historic home range of the Bar U Ranch, reinforced by the use of geographic names such as *Stimson Creek*, *Pekisko Creek* (named at the suggestion of Fred Stimson), *Miller Gap*, “Bar U Flats” and the “Bar U Trail”; and by the local traditions linking present-day ranches with former Bar U lands;

the historic main approach route from the east, known as the “Bar U Trail”, is to a large extent followed by present-day Secondary Road 540.

O B J E C T I V E S

Commemorative integrity will be achieved when:

the character-defining elements of the rural landscape which have historic value are retained or replaced in like form;

the landscape retains its rural character and the former Bar U lands continue to be used for grazing livestock or feed production;

historic viewplanes are protected, and the relationship between the Bar U headquarters site and the surrounding rangeland is seen and understood;

traditions respecting the historic Bar U home range and its links with certain present-day ranches, together with information on the origins of related geographic names, support the appreciation and understanding of the values of the historic place;

the values of the designated place are communicated to the public;

a Conservation Strategy is in place which addresses the need to protect the historic values of that part of the historic place not owned by Parks Canada, through a co-operative working relationship with adjacent and other landowners and collaboration with the municipal and provincial governments.

2. Level I *In-situ* Resources

a) Headquarters Site Complex:

This location was chosen in 1882 because of its relationship to the North West Cattle Company's lease, and because of the advantages offered by a sheltered coulee bottom: year-round water, a large stand of trees for shade and fuel, and some protection from the prevailing winds. Over time, through the addition of buildings, corrals, bridges, fences and roadways the site evolved to reflect the changing needs of the ranch business. Buildings have changed functions, been altered to reflect this change, and some have been moved or lost to fire. The overall composition of a ranch headquarters strung out along a central road, however, remains intact and could be said to exhibit a high degree of integrity.

The Bar U Ranch headquarters site has been separately designated under the Federal Heritage Buildings Policy as a Classified complex “of contiguous buildings and associated landscapes”. The reasons for this designation, cited in the heritage character statement, include “historical association” (with the history of ranching), which is also one of the reasons for the Bar U’s designation as a national historic site. The heritage character statement also identifies certain qualities in the built environment of the headquarters site that give it historic value.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of the headquarters site complex are:

- * its visual cohesiveness, which reflects an overall uniformity of building materials, scale, and functional design of the buildings and related structures (i.e. corrals, feeders, shelters, etc.);
- * the evolutionary nature of the buildings and related structures, which reflects continuity of purpose over a long period, together with evidence of adaptation and change to meet changing operational requirements;
- * the pattern of integral cultural landscape elements such as the original roadways, the main bridge site, primary and secondary paths, fencelines, utility poles, irrigation works and early tree and shrub plantings;
- * the historic and enduring spatial relationship between the built and natural environments which forms the immediate setting of the headquarters site complex, the canopy of cottonwood trees along Pekisko Creek, the clustering of built elements in the coulee bottom ringed about by steep hillsides, unobstructed views of the surrounding uplands, and minimal visibility of modern intrusions;
- * the continuity of the functional layout of the headquarters site, represented by an enduring pattern of structural groupings (e.g. cookhouse, storage buildings and root cellar) and interior spaces (e.g. corrals, gardens, storage area for wagons and hay racks);
- * its symbolic importance as the historic core of the Bar U Ranch, and its long and continuous association with the history of the ranching industry in Canada.

b) Buildings and Related Structures from the Period 1882-1950:

Thirty buildings are included in the Classified Federal Heritage Building designation, and are listed in tabular form as an appendix. Some of these buildings have adjacent enclosures or other structures related to their function (e.g. saddle horse barn and corral), and the west corral zone represents a significant concentration of stout timber enclosures and related features. The buildings can be grouped into two general categories: 8 built of logs and dating from 1883- 1919, and 22 frame structures dated c.1909-1949. The majority of these buildings appear on a fire insurance plan dated 1927.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of the buildings and related structures dating from 1882-1950 are:

- * their direct association with the history of the Bar U Ranch during the 19th and early 20th centuries, and as physical expressions of how managers of the ranch responded to their operational requirements;
- * the proportions, interior functional layout, simple massing, medium-pitched gabled cedar shingled roofs, and common colour schemes of the buildings;
- * the demonstration of horizontal log construction in an identifiably Canadian vernacular tradition, with individual variations between buildings;
- * as witnesses to a shift from vernacular log building and reliance on native materials to the use of milled lumber and frame construction, which reflects easier access to external sources for design concepts and building materials;
- * the direct association between the corrals and related structures (cattle squeeze, feeders) and the close management of livestock, and a reflection of how this requirement was met at the Bar U Ranch;
- * the sturdy character of the corrals and related structures as expressed by the use of components such as heavy posts and timber rails and planks; their form and spatial distribution within the headquarters site complex.
- * visible physical evidence of use, wear marks and patterns, related to function.

c) Vestiges and Sub-surface Remains:

There was human occupation of the ranch headquarters site prior to 1882, as evidenced by dated archaeological remains of Aboriginal origin. Similar evidence may exist in other places within the historic Bar U Ranch home range. As might be expected within the headquarters site area, sub-surface structural remains, middens and other features dating from the period 1882 to 1950, and related to ranching activity, are more plentiful and are of national historic significance (Level I historic value). More visible remains include grassed-over traces of paths, roadways and building footprints, the two surface dumps or middens, stone piles, assemblages (e.g. stave pipes from the former irrigation system, wagon and hayrack parts, building materials), and spaces marked out by vegetation patterns or the vestiges of fences (e.g. site of the former Pekisko House, vegetable gardens, etc.). These remains which are associated with ranch operations between 1882 and 1950 are also of Level I historic value.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of the vestiges and sub-surface remains are:

- * their direct association with the establishment and operation of the Bar U Ranch between 1882 and 1950;
- * their witness to the evolution of the headquarters site over the period 1882-1950, the loss or removal of buildings and related structures, and changing circulation and land-use patterns;
- * the evidence they provide of the ranch operation's material culture over time.

OBJECTIVES

Commemorative integrity will be achieved when:

- * a comprehensive Conservation Strategy is in place which provides direction for short and long term protection of all Level I elements of the headquarters site complex, including measures taken against the danger from wildfires and flood;
- * the spatial and functional relationship between the built and the natural environments which make up the headquarters site complex is maintained, viewplanes looking out from the complex are protected from modern intrusions, and significant natural features such as the grass and scrub-covered escarpment ringing the headquarters complex, and

the margins of Pekisko Creek, together with its stands of cottonwood trees, are nurtured and protected from disturbance;

- * the pattern of cultural landscape elements within the headquarters site complex is maintained, especially the enduring historic layout, the visible spatial and functional relationships between buildings, and between particular buildings and related structures, reinforced by the continuity of historic circulation patterns;
- * physical interventions to each building and significant grouping of other structures (e.g. corrals, fences, gates, squeezes, chutes and feed bunks), are carried out in accordance with a specific conservation plan which respects the form, massing, original materials, structural and decorative detailing, patterns of wear and extensions and alterations related to historic changes of function of the buildings and other structures;
- * vestiges and sub-surface remains are protected from disturbance and their relationships to the historic operations of the ranch are understood;
- * heritage recording of buildings and significant groupings of other structures within the ranch headquarters complex is completed, as well as an inventory of fence patterns and fence and gate types;
- * The values of the *in situ* resources are communicated to the public.
- * archaeological, historical, curatorial and architectural conservation documentation is complete and accessible.



3. Moveable Resources

a) Historic Objects Associated with Bar U Ranch Operations 1882-1950:

This association provides a link with the commemorative intent, and a basis for national historic significance (Level I historic value). Very few site-specific objects were acquired by Parks Canada along with the headquarters site, although others are known to exist in private hands or in museums.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of these (Level I) historic objects are:

- * their direct association with the historic Bar U Ranch during the period 1882-1950, or with known historic persons connected with the ranch's operations during that period;
- * distinguishing marks, wear patterns, design or materials that reflect ownership or use in connection with historic ranch operations at the Bar U, and demonstrate adaptation to the Bar U's particular needs over the period 1882-1950 (e.g. post office sorting cabinet, patent hay sling, tooled Bar U brand on George Lane's saddle);

- * their tangible expression of the tools, equipment, clothing and other material culture typical of the historic ranching industry in Canada.

b) Archaeological artifacts:

During the course of archaeological investigations at the Bar U Ranch headquarters site, material was removed and retained as part of the documentation of each operation. Of the many individual specimens in the site assemblage, some have historic value; those which are associated with ranch operations during the period 1882-1950 have Level I historic value.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of these (Level I) archaeological artifacts are:

- * their direct association with ranch operations at the Bar U, 1882-1950;
- * physical attributes which reflect their origin, function, adaptation and use, and particular details which provide evidence of ownership or other relationships to the Bar U Ranch operations during the period 1882-1950;
- * their material witness to the functional layout of the headquarters site; historic use of buildings, structures and spaces; evolution and change.

OBJECTIVES

Commemorative integrity will be achieved when:

- * historic objects and archaeological artifacts have been appropriately conserved, are in a stable condition and maintained in a secure environment;
- * curatorial, archaeological and historical information relating to Level I moveable resources is complete and accessible;
- * the custody and location of Level I historic objects which are not part of the Parks Canada collection are known and documented; and when a Scope of Collections Statement is in place which reflects the commemorative intent, and is used to govern the acquisition, retention and disposal of Level I historic objects;
- * the historic object collection and archaeological artifact assemblage associated with the Bar U Ranch NHS are addressed by a Conservation Strategy, and are managed in

accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy and the Collections Management Directives.

- * the values of the artifacts and historic objects are communicated to the public.

Second Element: *the reasons for the site's national significance are effectively communicated to the public.*

The history of the ranching industry in Canada is of national significance. As described above, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board expressed, from time to time over a period of 20 years, a desire to see the acquisition and development of an appropriate historic ranch as the means for a "meaningful commemoration" of the industry's history. While the search for such a site was to focus on the foothills ranching country of Alberta, the selection criteria included a reminder that "in interpreting the industry, the importance and distinctive characteristics of other regions should not be overlooked".

MESSAGES OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The following messages of national significance will be communicated at the Bar. U Ranch National Historic Site and through outreach programs:

1. The Bar U Ranch played an important role in the ranching industry in Canada.
2. The ranching industry in Canada is of national historic importance.

Context Messages

- * Bar U Ranch was one of several large corporate enterprises organised in the late nineteenth century and established in the Alberta foothills, one of the historically-important ranching regions of Canada.
- * Frederick Smith Stimson, George Lane and Patrick Bums were three leading personalities associated with the management of the Bar U Ranch, and each also played a role in the broader history of the ranching industry, as spokesmen and entrepreneurs.
- * Founded in 1882, the Bar U was a significant ranching enterprise during the heyday of ranching in Canada. The ranch holdings were broken up and sold in 1950, after which the site remained the active centre of a smaller ranch operation.
- * Large scale commercial stock-raising has a geographic distribution within Canada and in each of these regions the history of ranching has been distinct.

- * The ranching industry includes a significant human component reflecting the participation of individuals, groups and political and social interaction.
- * The ranching industry has played a significant role in Canada's economy.
- * The ranching industry uses distinctive practices and technologies.
- * Grazing leases and land-use conflicts have helped define the history of ranching.
- * Range ecology is an important aspect of ranching history.

OBJECTIVES

Effective communication of these messages will be achieved when:

- * the messages of national historic significance and their context messages are communicated to the public.
- * as many Canadians as possible understand the messages of national significance.
- * methods to measure and indicators of success in achieving learning objectives will be in place to determine the effectiveness of message delivery.

Third Element: *the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.*

The heritage values of the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site have a continuum of meaning ranging from national significance (as described above) to local or special significance for particular people. These values are a reflection of certain physical attributes (Level II cultural resources and significant natural features) and associative attributes.

1. Level II Cultural Resources

Level II cultural resources have historic value, but are not of national historic significance.

a) Pre-contact Aboriginal sites:

Known traditional Aboriginal wintering sites on the northern plains tend to have a number of common characteristics: sheltered location, proximity to wood and water, and the availability of fish and game animals. The site chosen in 1882 by the North West Cattle Company for its ranch headquarters meets this description, which may be one reason the location was selected.

Archaeological investigation of the Bar U headquarters site has revealed evidence of a number of Aboriginal encampments. Preliminary analysis of artifacts and other specimens suggests dates of occupation from 200 years ago to much older. Further research is required to address questions of age, density, spatial distribution and cultural affiliation.

b) Pre-contact artifacts:

Among the archaeological specimens removed during investigations of pre-contact Aboriginal sites are a number of identifiable stone tools, which exhibit cultural attributes used in dating them.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of the pre-contact Aboriginal sites and associated artifacts are:

- * their apparent age and association with the life of Aboriginal peoples on the northern plains prior to their occupation by an alien culture;
- * their material witness to a culture adapted through time to life on the northern plains;
- * as a record of periodic human occupation of this part of the valley of Pekisko Creek, over possibly many centuries, which helps us to understand one of the reasons why this location was chosen for the headquarters of the Bar U.
- * Post-1950 ranch buildings and related structures:

Following the breakup and sale of the historic Bar U holdings by the Bums organization, the old headquarters site continued to act as the operational centre of an active ranching business for another forty-five years. During that time most of the physical changes to the built environment involved repair, replacement or adaptation. New elements were introduced, but not to the same scale as occurred at other historic ranches, where the older building stock has been replaced by large modern structures and non-traditional materials. However, certain metal grain storage tanks were removed from the site by the previous owner after the site's acquisition by Parks Canada. The principal Level II built resources are the current main ranch house, its garage, the hay shed, and the concrete piggery.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of the post-1950 ranch buildings and related structures are:

- * their witness to the continuity of function of the ranch headquarters site, its evolution and adaptation to changing operational needs;
- * their material evidence of the adoption of new design (alteration of manager's cottage to large "ranch-style" bungalow) and new materials (concrete blocks) to traditional ranch requirements.

d) Level II historic objects:

This category of cultural resource includes those items of moveable cultural property which have historic value. They will either have been associated with the Bar U Ranch after 1950 and were connected with Bar U Ranch operations, or they will have been collected from other sources and have attributes which link them to the history of ranching.

HISTORIC VALUES

The historic values of Level II historic objects are:

- * a combination of age, aesthetic attributes, function, materials or workmanship that reflects an association with the history of ranching in Canada;
- * association with persons or places significant in the history of ranching in Canada;
- * authentic association with Bar U Ranch operations after 1950, together with marks, patterns of wear, or other physical attributes which verify that association.

OBJECTIVES

Heritage values will be respected when:

- * a Conservation Strategy is in place which protects pre-contact Aboriginal sites from disturbance, maintains the heritage character of post-1950 buildings and related structures, ensures the physical integrity of Aboriginal artifacts and Level II historic objects, and is based on the principles and practice and the activities of the Cultural Resource Management Policy;
- * further research determines the age, cultural affiliation, density, and spatial boundaries of all pre-contact Aboriginal sites;

- * a Scope of Collections Statement is in place which reflects the commemorative intent, and is used to guide the acquisition, retention and disposal of Level II historic objects;
- * historical, archaeological, curatorial and architectural conservation documentation concerning Level II cultural resources is complete and accessible.
- * values of these historical resources are communicated to the public.

2. Significant Natural Features

Apart from those components of the ecosystem that underlie the historic place and the headquarters site complex (the grassy uplands and flats, the coulee, the creek and its stand of cottonwood trees), which are dealt with above, there are individual natural features which have significance apart from their association with the historic ranch.

HERITAGE VALUES

- * Pekisko Creek is recognized as an important -trout and whitefish spawning and rearing tributary to the Highwood and Bow Rivers;
- * certain native birds and animals rely on the variety of habitat provided within the historic place, and great horned owls (Alberta's provincial bird) are known to nest within the headquarters site.

OBJECTIVES

Heritage values will be respected when:

- * a Conservation Strategy is in place which directs the protection of significant natural features, through environmental measures consistent with the commemorative purpose of the site, and exemplary management practices;
- * the banks of Pekisko Creek are protected from disturbance by livestock, and water quality and fish spawning requirements are safeguarded through controls on vehicle entry into the creek and careful design of utility crossings, control structures, etc;
- * visitor and site management activities are conducted in such a way that unnecessary disturbance of wildlife is avoided.
- * environmental values are communicated to the public.

3. Associative and Other Values

a) Values and traditions of the ranching community:

The Bar U Ranch NHS is situated in the midst of an important stock-raising district. Most of the neighbouring ranches are operated by resident owners, some of whom are of the third or fourth generation. Ranch families in the foothills are often inter-related, and they share interests and preoccupations which resemble those of their forbears: management and control of grazing land, livestock, markets and prices. There has been in the last half century or so an increase in those with higher education, particularly in animal husbandry and range management, but traditional knowledge and experience is still highly valued. Spokespeople for the industry emphasize their role as stewards of the land, and it is recognized that the larger urbanized society around them is growing more and more estranged from the realities of livestock raising, despite its continued demand for beef and its romantic image of the cowboy.

b) Regional identity and popular memory:

Southwest Alberta, in common with the other regions of Canada where ranching has been long established, projects an image which reflects the real or imagined characteristics of the cowboy. This image is political, social, literary and commercial, and is expressed through special events, costume and the popular media. In Alberta, at least, it has been largely adopted by the urban population. This phenomenon first appeared in the nineteenth century, in the shape of the dime novel and the wild west show. The first Calgary Stampede of 1912 followed the well-worn formula, intended to evoke an heroic past, with the added embellishment of a rodeo. Today the American influence on popular commercial culture in Canada is nowhere more evident. This influence has strongly coloured historical knowledge of the ranching past among Canadians.

Journalist L.V. Kelly's *The Rangemen* appeared in 1913, and others like him worked to record what they saw as the real story of ranching in Alberta. In 1935 L.G. Thomas completed his Master's thesis in history at the University of Alberta; his topic was ranching in Alberta. Thomas was later member for Alberta on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, when it recommended commemoration of the history of ranching in 1968. In the 1940s the U of A Department of Extension was collecting reminiscences of pioneer life, including those of ranchers. From its early beginnings the Glenbow Museum has built up an impressive archival and curatorial collection associated with ranching history, and this institution has done much to assist the many Albertans who maintain a serious interest in this topic. Other organizations with a similar mandate include the Museum of the Highwood and the Western Heritage Centre.

c) Presenting other voices:

Although the labour force of the Bar U was predominantly male of European origin, there were other people associated with the ranch. The famous African American cowboy John Ware allegedly participated in one of the early cattle drives although there is no documentary evidence to support this. Neighbouring Stoneys, on the other hand, were a continuing presence on the ranch whose participation is well documented. They participated in many aspects of outdoor ranch work and, when labour was otherwise scarce and expensive, were a mainstay of the ranch labour force. A Blackfoot family helped Fred Stimson around the house during the 1880s. In the early 1900s there was a series of Chinese cooks. Although not a part of the main labour force, women were a regular presence on the ranch. Agnes Beddingfeld was a housekeeper during the 1880s and ranch wife Mary Stimson worked as postmistress.

4. National Historic Sites in Canada

Thematically related commemorations:

Several persons of national historic significance were so designated in part because of their connections to the history of the ranching industry - A.E Cross, Patrick Burns, W.R. Hull, Frank Oliver and William Pearce.

Head-Smashed-In and Old Women's Buffalo Jumps are national historic sites which commemorate the historic importance of the bison to the Aboriginal peoples of the plains. The great herds of bison had been sustained by a vast extent of native grass, and their virtual disappearance by 1880 cleared the way for large-scale ranching. The Treaty 7 signing site at Blackfoot Crossing commemorates the making of the treaty covering the foothills ranching country.

Three historic ranches have been provincially designated, the Hat Creek and O'Keefe ranches in British Columbia and the Cochrane Ranch in Alberta (the site of the associated Western Heritage Centre). The Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, at Deer Lodge, Montana, is administered by the United States National Park Service.

The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site is part of a family of national historic sites across the country.

OBJECTIVES

Heritage values will be respected when:

- * the public has an opportunity to learn about the contemporary ranching industry,

which is a continuation of the story told at the Bar U, with the participation and support of the ranching community;

- * the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site enhances a sense of regional identity, and works co-operatively with other institutions and the interested public toward a better understanding of the historical roots of this identity;
- * the public is aware of the thematic relationship between the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site and other commemorations, and information is provided about these historic persons and sites;
- * the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site's membership in the larger family of national historic sites is made known and information about other national historic sites is provided to the public.



D. REFERENCES

1. Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada: minutes, November 1968 - June 1997, *passim* (see Appendix).
2. McCullough, A.B.: "The Ranching Industry in Canada - Report on Evaluation of Potential Sites for Commemoration", prepared for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, July 1989.
3. Parks Canada, Western Canada Service Centre, Calgary: "Resource Description and Analysis Bar U Ranch National Historic Site", January 1994.
4. Public Works and Government Services Canada, Heritage Conservation Program: "Bar U Ranch National Historic Site Area Development Plan", August 1997.
5. Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada: *Bar U Ranch National Historic Site Management Plan*, April 1995.
6. Evans, Simon M.: "Story Line: Bar U Ranch National Historic Site", draft, April 1994.



**BAR U RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

***APPENDIX I - PROCEEDINGS OF THE HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD
OF CANADA 1968 - 1997***

There are thirteen entries in the Board's minutes which deal directly with the commemoration of ranching history, and with the selection of a site at which to carry out this commemoration. Over this period of time the exigencies of site selection and acquisition by Parks Canada required reference to the Board from time to time, and more than once the Board itself took direct action. A summary of discussion is provided for the minutes listed below; where there is a substantive recommendation which bears on commemorative intent for the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, extracts from the minutes are included.

June 1968

The Board recommended:

that the ranching industry is of national historical significance. It recommended that the Cochrane-Ranch, significant as the oldest ranch in Alberta and readily accessible, would be an appropriate place at which to commemorate the industry and that the Department investigate the feasibility of acquiring the Ranch for this purpose.

October 1972

The Cochrane Ranch site was recognized as having severe limitations. A study of alternate sites was requested.

June 1973

A study of alternate sites by H.A. Tatro was reported to be underway.

May 1974

H.A. Tatro's report presented. Five ranches, including the Bar U, were suggested to have potential for interpreting the industry. A sub-committee of the Board was set up to visit these sites.

November 1974

The Flying E Ranch was recommended to be of national historic significance, and the preservation of its historic buildings was urged. The Bar U was ranked second.

June 1976

Questions were raised about the intentions of the province of Alberta.

November 1976

Negotiations to acquire the Flying E having failed, the Board was asked to consider the 7-U Brown Ranch, which was provincially-owned. A decision was delayed until the member for Alberta had met with the owners of the Flying E.

June 1977

Further negotiations concerning the Flying E also failed, there were suggestions that Alberta might develop the 7-U Brown ranch, and the Bar U became available for purchase. The Board reaffirmed its recommendation that ranching was of national significance, and recommended further :

that the Bar "U" Ranch is the best available site on the basis of historic merit and recommended that it be acquired for the interpretation of this activity.

If it could be shown that the province was going to commemorate ranching at an adjacent site, the Board did not wish to encourage duplication.

May 1979

A study of the buildings at the Bar U was requested.

November 1982

The Secretary of the Board reported that the ranching theme was part of the National Historic Sites System Plan.

November 1988

The member for Alberta having requested a status report on progress, the Board again reaffirmed its position on ranching, and in order to provide a broader basis for action by Parks Canada it approved criteria for the consideration of "historic" and "generic" ranches, and requested a survey of candidate ranches. The Board's recommendations on the Cochrane and Flying E Ranches were revoked. The Bow Valley Ranch was not determined to be of national historic significance, but W.R. Hull was recommended for designation.

November 1989

The Board received the evaluation report by A.B. McCullough, "The Ranching Industry in Canada", in which the results of a survey of five "historic" and seven "generic" ranches were laid out. The Board recommended that:

by virtue of their long and close association with the ranching industry and the nature and extent of their in situ resources dating from the late 19th century or early 20th century, the Bar U Ranch, the Glengarry 44 Ranch and the 7 U Brown Ranch are of national historic significance.

November 1996

In response to a question as to whether there should be a plaque commemorating the Bar U Ranch or the theme of ranching history, the Board recommended that:

the text should treat the Bar U as a nationally important example of the theme of ranching and that the title of the plaque should be changed to "The Ranching Industry and the Bar U Ranch".

June 1997

The Board revoked its earlier recommendations concerning the national historic significance of the Glengarry 44 and 7 U Brown Ranches.



Appendix 2
Table of Extant Buildings and their Distinguishing Features

Building Name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1. Stud Horse Barn	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■					■
2. Hay Shed		■		■	■			■		■				■	■	
3. Chop House	■			■		■	■	■		■	■			■	■	■
4. Log House	■		■		■				■	■					■	■
5. Post/Ranch Office	■		■		■	■	■		■	■					■	■
6. Harness Shop	■			■	■	■	■		■	■					■	■
7. Tractor Shed	■			■	■			■		■				■	■	■
8. Ice House/East Storage	■		■		■			■		■	■				■	■
9. Middle Storage Building	■		■		■	■	■	■		■	■					■
10. West Storage Building	■		■		■			■		■	■				■	■
11. Cook House	■			■		■		■		■	■		■	■		■
12. Coal Shed	■			■	■			■		■	■			■	■	
13. Root Cellar	■			■	■			■		■	■					
14. Blacksmith Shop	■		■		■				■	■					■	■
15. Fuel Storage Shed			D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H	E	D				
16. Saddle Horse Barn	■		■		■	■		■		■	■			■	■	■
17. Work Horse Barn	■		■		■	■		■		■	■			■	■	■
18. Implement Shed	■			■	■	■		■		■				■	■	
19. Ranch House		■		■		■		■		■	■		■	■		
20. Ranch House Garage		■		■				■		■	■			■	■	
21. Poultry Building	■			■	■			■		■	■			■	■	■
21a. Smokehouse	■			■	■			■								■
22. Pierson House	■			■	■	■			■	■	■			■		
23. Wood Shed	■			■	■					■	■				■	
24. Garage	■			■	■					■	■				■	
25. Dairy Barn	■			■	■	■		■		■					■	■
26. Concrete Piggery		■			■			■			■			■	■	
27. Slaughterhouse	■			■	■			■		■					■	■
28. Privy	■			■	■										■	
29. Percheron Box Stalls	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■			■		■
30. Self-Feeder/Bunkhouse	■			■	■					■		■	■			■
31. Hog Barn	■			■	■			■		■					■	■
31a. Livestock Shed	■			■	■				■	■					■	■
32. Corrals	N	O	T		D	E	A	L	T		W	I	T	H		
33. Steel Granary*		■			■							■	■		■	
34. Storage Tanks*		■			■							■	■		■	
35. Garage	■			■	■				■	■						

Building numbers are from the FHBRO Building Report 92-17; Figure 1: Ranch Headquarters Site Plan

Appendix 2
Table of Extant Buildings and their Distinguishing Features

Key to Attributes in Table:

- A. Level I Historic Value
- B. Level II Historic Value
- C. Log construction details reflect vernacular building tradition
- D. Frame construction details reflect transition to new technologies and design
- E. Original functional design readily distinguishable from later alterations
- F. Alteration(s) reflect evolving ranch operations before 1950
- G. Change in function reflects evolving ranch operations before 1950
- H. In original location
- I. Building relocated within designated place as part of evolving ranch operation before 1950
- J. Form, colour and materials contribute to site's visual cohesiveness
- K. Associated physical context retained; related structures present
- L. Building relocated within designated place as part of evolving ranch operations after 1950
- M. Building altered as part of evolving ranch operations after 1950
- N. Building still in use by ranch operation in 1991
- O. Original interior functional layout
- P. Patterns of wear reflecting use

- * Moved since 1992