

FHBRO Number 92-017

Longview, Alberta

Vehicle Garage (Building 35)

FINAL

Bar U Ranch

The Vehicle Garage is believed to have been built before 1927, although the actual date of construction and the designer are unknown. After 1927, the Vehicle Garage was probably relocated from an area close to Foreman Pearson's House to its present location on the western perimeter of the headquarters site. It is currently used to house one sheep. The building 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 Vehicle Garage, 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.

As part of the Bar U complex, the Vehicle Garage is associated with the development of ranching in Alberta. It was probably also associated with the Pearson House, since vehicle garages of similar configuration are known to have existed in the vicinity of the residential houses on the ranch. The structure 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. Finally, the Vehicle Garage is 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 Vehicle Garage contributes to the character of the Bar U Ranch. The structure sits in an isolated site within the management and residential area, beside a planted row of mature spruce trees that mark the border of an open field to the west of the area. It is also presumed to be a component of the collection of pre-1927 buildings which contribute to the landmark value of the complex as one of the region's most important early ranch sites. The landmark value is reinforced by the designation of the complex as a National Historic Site.

The Vehicle Garage's unornamented and function-driven yet pleasing design is characteristic of the buildings erected at the Bar U Ranch.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Vehicle Garage resides in its construction materials, exterior and interior finishes, and its setting.

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The Vehicle Garage is a simple one-storey rectangular structure. Its gable roof is covered with cedar shingles and has three lightening rods at its ridge. The walls are of light frame construction and are sheathed with horizontal boards on both the exterior and interior, with insulation between. Diagonal boards were added over the boards on the exterior south, east and west walls. The structure's walls bear directly on a plate at grade level. The white wall colour suggests a historical association with one of the residences. Chosen construction materials and techniques contribute to the building's visual cohesiveness within the site and to its utilitarian character. This should be respected in any future modifications or maintenance work.

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 grain tanks, wagons and motorized vehicles. The Vehicle Garage's relationship to the spruce trees and field and its discrete setting are important to its heritage character and should be protected.

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

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