

Batoche National Historic Site (Lot 52)
Former Jean Caron Sr. House
Batoche, Saskatchewan

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The house was constructed ca. 1890 by farmer and carpenter Jean Caron Sr. Lots 52 and 53 (including the house) were acquired by the federal government in the 1970s. The building is now a part of Batoche National Historic Site. Environment Canada is custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 86-81.

Reason for Designation

The Caron House was designated Recognized because of its associations with the reconstruction of the Metis community after the Rebellion of 1885 and because it is one of the very few surviving structures from the earliest phase of this reconstruction, and because of its documentary value as a rare example of a typical, rural vernacular Metis house.

Character Defining Elements

The designation applies to the entirety of the form and fabric of the building that relates to the period and evolution of its use as the residence of a Metis family.

The value of the building resides in its form as an end-facing gable with additions, and the composition of its main façade consisting of a central door and two flanking small windows, typical of its type. The building's construction is based on the local Metis vernacular tradition - indigenous skills and locally available materials, consisting of rough-hewn, horizontal logs, dovetail joined at the corners, and both the early covering of twig-lath and mud, and the later wood siding. These should be retained and carefully protected. The later additions to the original house reflect the minor changes in the way of life of the occupants. These should be retained and maintained.

Given the value of the Caron House as a social and cultural document, any intervention should have the least possible impact on its form and fabric.

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