

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Barracks No. 5, built in 1886, is one of five remaining buildings at the Battleford Post constructed by the North-West Mounted Police. The design of Barracks No. 5 can be attributed to the Department of Public Works during the tenure of Thomas Fuller as Chief Architect. The building is part of Fort Battleford National Historic Site, which was established by the federal government in 1951. The custodian is Parks Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 89-10.

Reasons for Designation

Barracks No. 5 was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its aesthetic design and its environmental value.

Barracks No. 5 is part of a complex of buildings that is closely related to the presence of the North-West Mounted Police on the Prairie frontier during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Barracks No. 5 relates to the law enforcement role of the force and to its internal organization. It was one of several buildings constructed in the wake of the 1885 Rebellion as part of a plan to improve accommodations for the garrison stationed at Battleford.

Barracks No. 5 is typical of the balloon frame buildings erected at Mounted Police posts in the North-West during the latter decades of the 19th century.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of Barracks No. 5 resides in its simple massing and proportions, its use of materials and evidence of its original interior layout.

The building consists of a single storey gable-roofed balloon frame structure with a T-shaped plan.

The exterior materials, which include stone for the foundations, clapboard for the walls, and wood shingles for the roof, contribute to the simple aesthetics of the building. The spacing of the door and window openings and the multi-paned windows give the building a balanced, orderly appearance. The porches enclosing the entrances add interest to the simple west elevation.

Any interventions should respect the original design intentions and materials of the building.

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The interior was designed as a mess room and kitchen and may also have been intended to house enlisted men. It retains its original T-shaped plan, including the partition walls which divide the main wing and the extension to form four interconnecting rooms. Evidence of the historic layout should be preserved, and early fabric and detailing identified and protected.

Barracks No. 5 is on its original site. The original access points to the building and the natural character of the site should be maintained.

1994.09.12