

Fort Battleford National Historic Park
Sick Horse Stable
Fort Battleford, Saskatchewan

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Sick Horse Stable was constructed in 1898 by the Northwest Mounted Police for the care of horses. Designs were by Superintendent Cotton. The property was abandoned in 1924. In the 1940s the building was moved to its present location as part of its development as a historic site. The Environment Canada Parks Service is Custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 89-10.

Reason for Designation

The building was designated Recognized because of its important historical associations and the functional aspects of its design.

The stable building is associated with law, order and administration in the Northwest, particularly the mounted patrol work of the Northwest Mounted Police. The building is part of the only extant group of pre-1900 Mounted Police buildings from a major divisional post in the West.

A plain, gable roofed, wood-frame building, the stable is a specialized facility built to accommodate horses and the veterinary surgeon. This function is clearly reflected in its design and fabric. The Sick Horse Stable is the only extant building of its type, erected for the Mounted Police on the Prairie frontier.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Sick Horse Stable resides in its simple gable-roofed form and those elements of its design and fabric that relate to its historic function.

A smaller example of the standard barn design, the building is characterized by its simple, rough stucco finish, small high windows and large double doors. A separate door and larger windows, two on the west and one on the south, mark the veterinary surgeon's office and work area.

The building's most prominent feature is the gable roofed lantern mounted on the roof which provides light and ventilation to the interior.

Existing roofing is rolled asphalt roofing. Replacement of this finish with a material that is more consistent with the design and period of the building, if it can be identified, would enhance it.

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Sick Horse Stable (Continued)

The large double doors lead to a central combined driveway and feed alley which

serves the single standing stalls and the box stalls. The interior arrangement and finishes are largely intact. All aspects of the design and fabric related to the stalls, veterinary surgeon's facilities and ventilation system should be carefully protected.

The present siting of the Sick Horse Stable, adjacent to living quarters, is historically and functionally inappropriate. Should the opportunity arise, this juxtaposition could be addressed by landscape screening or relocation of the building.

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