Renouveau at the Central Experimental Farm

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Ottawa’s Central Experimental Farm – 1000 acres
In 1998 the CEF was declared a National Historic Site

Background

Commemorative Integrity Statement (HSMB)
The commemorative intent of the CEF is encompassed in the following historic values:

- Its distinctiveness as a cultural landscape
- A 400-hectare farm in the heart of the nation’s capital reflecting a 19th-century philosophy of agriculture and the role of science in nation-building
- Its scientific contributions to agriculture in uniting scientific experimentation with practical verification
- A rare example of a farm within a city
- A symbol of the central role agriculture has played in shaping the country

Types of cultural landscape identified by UNESCO

Background

Cultural Landscape and Cultural Identity

- Designed: Halifax Public Gardens
- Evolved: Bas-Saint-Laurent
- Associative: Mt. Assiniboine Prov. Park
The CEF was originally a designed landscape based on a specific concept

Background

The designed landscape: 1886-1936

As research progressed it became less public

Background

The evolved landscape: 1936-1986
Today people associate the farm with various functions

Background

The associative landscape: 1986 -

Clockwise from top: Arboretum and recreational paths • AAFC Headquarters • Canada Agriculture Museum • Fletcher Wildlife Garden • ECORC •

A complex site involving many stakeholders and overlapping interests

Context

- Jurisdictional/planning overlaps
- Programming and O&M overlaps
- Cultural resource and collections management issues and concerns
- Natural resource management issues
- Circulation, access and open space patterns
Introduction

Three recent initiatives amongst a number of successful initiatives:

• Canadian 4-H Council National Headquarters
• Canadian Dairy Commission Headquarters
• Michelle Comeau Learning Centre

Building 26 – Bee Research Division

- Built in 1915
- 1 ½ storey, Wood frame
- 1960 use changed to an office function
Building 26 - 4-H National Headquarters
- Renovation completed in 1997
- 15 year lease agreement between AAFC and the 4-H Council
- 1999 City of Ottawa Architectural Conservation Award of Merit, Adaptive Use of Building

Building 55 - Horticulture Building
- Constructed in 1930 with additions in 1937 and 1943
- Tudor Style with wood frame, brick veneer and stucco
- FHBRO Recognized Heritage building
- In the 1960’s it became a Food Research Centre
Building 55 – Canadian Dairy Commission

- Renovations completed in 2003
- Houses about 60 employees
- Supports portfolio approach for the Minister of AAFC
- 2003 City of Ottawa Architectural Conservation Award of Merit, Adaptive Use of Building
Building 59 – Nutrition Building

- Built in 1898, wood frame and brick veneer
- Hip roof with shed and gable dormers are of asphalt shingles
- Chemistry Laboratory
- Animal Research
- FHBRO recognized heritage building

Building 59

Challenges

- De-commissioning of perchloric fume hoods
- Accessibility
- Increased capacity on third floor
- Demolition of an entire wing
Building 59 – Michelle Comeau learning Centre

Today

- AAFC main learning centre
- 6 main training rooms
- Consolidated training staff on 3rd floor
- 2003 City of Ottawa Conservation Award of Merit
- Recognized as a model accessible building – 2004 City of Ottawa Accessibility by Design Award
Future Initiatives

- Portfolio consolidation: National Farm Products Council moving to CEF building 57 - 2006
- Consolidation of Greenhouses complex - 2007
- New AAFC-CFIA Headquarters - 2008
- Collections consolidation - 2012

CEF web site: http://www.agr.gc.ca/cef-fec/

Building 57- National Farm Products Council
Greenhouse Complex and Collections Consolidation

View from the northeast of the public interpretation and research areas (demonstration plan).