

# Heritage Property Details

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**Site Name:** Smith Barn Site

**Property Type:** Farm

**Date of Origin:** 1914

**Current Name:** The Smith Barn Site

**Location:** Happyland RM 231

## Designation information

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**Authority:** Municipal Heritage Property

**Designation Bylaw Passed:** August 13, 1991

## Heritage Significance Statement

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The Smith Barn Site is a Municipal Heritage Property consisting of 4645 square metres of land located approximately ten kilometres northwest of Leader. The designation applies to the foundation remains of a large barn demolished in 1921.

The heritage value of the Smith Barn Site lies in its association with one of the largest barns ever

built in North America. The barn was built by W.T. "Horseshoe" Smith, a locally-noted cattle rancher from Great Falls, Montana. Smith financed and built the barn in 1914 at the forks of the Red Deer and South Saskatchewan Rivers west of Leader. It cost Smith \$82,000 and required a wagon load and a half of nails; 32 wagon loads of fir lumber imported from British Columbia; 30,000 sacks of cement; and 4645 square metres of galvanized roofing. The barn was over 122 metres long and 39 metres wide and took one hundred men over five months to build. A scale model of the barn was erected on the site in 1991.

The heritage value of the Smith Barn Site also lies in its relationship with the ranching industry in southwest Saskatchewan. The size of the barn and the thousands of grazing acres Smith had acquired made the barn one of the most important operations in the region. With a staff of 160, its own sports organizations and international rodeo, the barn and ranch were significant contributors to the social and economic fabric of the southwest region. Smith's death in 1918 and the barn's demolition in 1921 marked the end of the Smith Ranch, though the barn foundations are still identified as a community landmark.

Source:

Rural Municipality of Happyland No. 231 Bylaw No. 91-4 of 1991.