

Theodore Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Centennial Logo Grain Elevator.

Statement of Significance

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Description of Historic Place

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Centennial Elevator in Theodore occupies a __ hectare lot between a Canadian National railway line and the Yellowhead highway #16 in the Village of Theodore. The property features a grain elevator of wood crib construction built in 1967, an outbuilding and an office.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Theodore Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Centennial Logo Grain Elevator lies in its status as representative example of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevators constructed in 1967. To commemorate Canada's centenary, elevators built by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in 1967 prominently displayed Canada's Centennial logo.

The heritage value of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Centennial Elevator in Theodore also lies in its form and design. The building exemplifies the "modern tall"ⁱ single composite style of elevator. Elevators constructed in the 1950s began to surpass the size, height and capacity of older elevators. The building's form and design reflects the efforts of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to develop new technologies for greater efficiency in grain handling during the grain industry's period of maturityⁱⁱ that occurred between 1930 and 1970. The elevator with its capacity of 91,000 bushels (2477 tonnes) replaced an earlier and much smaller elevator with a capacity of 31,000 bushels (843 tonnes) built by the Sask. Co-operative Elevator Co. in 1915. Considered innovative in 1967, the elevator was also equipped with two elevating legs so that railcars could be loaded at the same time as deliveries of grain to the facility. With a capacity nearly three times the capacity of the earlier structure, this 1967 elevator demonstrates the trend to increasingly larger elevators with higher throughput capacities that began to appear in the 1960s. The "modern tall" design was the predominant style of elevators built between the 1950s and the 1980s when concrete replaced wood crib construction.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Theodore Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Centennial Logo Grain Elevator lies in the following character-defining elements:

- Elements that reflect the grain elevator architecture typical of the increasingly larger structures of the 1960-1970s, namely the elevator's tall rectangular design with sloped-shoulder gable roof topped by a narrower cupola; the elevator's wood-crib construction consisting of dimensional lumber stacked and nailed on its side, strong timber lintels above the crib walls, exposed structural members, fully-hoppered wood bins braced at regular intervals by steel rods- a design feature indicative of modern elevators; its wood framed cupola; the loading dock beside the railway tracks; the minimum fenestration, with several small windows with plain sashes at the ground level and several fixed windows in the elevator's upper sections.
- Elements that reflect the elevator's specialized grain handling equipment, including: the two elevator leg endless-cup conveyor legs that transported grain from the underground pit to the

top of the elevator where a distributor spout channeled grain into 32 bins, wood bins and chutes; the garner funnel and hopper; various slide valves including bin slide valves that control the flow of grain into the garner funnel; the wheel and equipment for controlling the gerber spout distributor; the modern design of the steel frame counter-weighted manlift system.

- Those elements associated with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the celebration of the Canadian Centennial year of 1967, including: the Centennial Logo painted on the upper portion of the elevator; the location of the elevator on its original site.

ⁱ Everett's work identifies six major styles in elevator design and their associated years of construction. Between the years 1880-1910, the "Pyramidal Roof" design, Hybrid Plan with Offset Roof" design and "Squat Standard Plan" were constructed. Between 1905-1925, the "Medium Height Standard Plan" elevators were constructed and between 1910 to 1965, "Tall Standard Plan Elevators" were constructed. Most elevators built after 1950 were of the "Tall Modern" design. See Everitt, John. A Study of Grain Elevators in Manitoba. Province of Manitoba, Historic Resources Branch 1992.

ⁱⁱ Fulton's work identifies 4 stages in the development of the modern grain handling system. The grain handling system went through four general periods as follows: a period of genesis between 1876 and 1900; a period of expansion between 1900 to 1930; a period of maturity between 1930-1970; and a period of attrition between 1970 to the present. See Fulton, Gordon. "Framework and Criteria for the Evaluation of Country Grain Elevators" Government of Canada, Historical Services Branch 1995.