

## OTHER FARM BUILDINGS

Any working farm has besides the barn a host of other structures that fulfill distinct agricultural functions: sheds, garages, buildings for chickens and pigs, etc. In Franco-Manitoba areas of Manitoba these kinds of buildings were like those of other groups – utilitarian and often without any architectural characteristics that would link them with a certain settlement group. Because many French areas of Manitoba eventually came to be dominated by dairy operations, there are two ancillary building types that have come to be closely associated with Franco-Manitoba farms: the grain silo and the milk house.

### Grain Silos

The Turenne Farm Silo (Figure 46), built in 1935, is the oldest of three remaining wooden silos in the R.M. of De Salaberry, and only one of a handful of the traditional wooden silos that still stand in Manitoba. Built for Theophile Turenne and his son Philip, this evocative farm building was used to store corn, a staple in any area of dairy farming. Like the other De Salaberry silos, the Turenne structure is a very good example of a building technology thought to have been imported from Wisconsin, the heartland of dairy and cheese production in North America. In this version, called the Scantling type, unsheathed walls are formed with overlapping 4" x 4" timbers that are about six feet on each of the eight sides and which soar about 40 feet high.

The nearby Cure Farm silo, in the St. Pierre area, has a similarly interesting form and details (Figure 47).



**Figure 46.**  
Turenne Farm Silo, R.M. of De Salaberry.



**Figure 47.**

Details and an interior view of the Cure Farm Silo, in the St. Pierre area of the R.M. of De Salaberry, show the visual interest created by simple materials and textures.

## Milk Houses

Franco-Manitoban dairy operations invariably required a milk house as a staple part of the farm's building infrastructure. The milk house was completely separate from the barn and the house (Figure 48). All dairy utensils were stored and cleaned in this structure. Its design could range from a square to an octagonal building. Milk houses were generally built away from the house, and preferably under trees, to make the site cooler in summer. The floor was usually dirt and shelves might be hung from the roof in wire hoops so mice could not get onto them. The pioneer milk house held no cream separator, but rather the big round pans into which the milk was poured, after straining through cheese cloth or fine wire mesh. The large flat pans were left for twelve hours so the cream would rise to the top. Once cooled, the cream could be skimmed off with a saucer, or a cream skimmer, which was a flat metal spoon with holes in it to allow the milk to drip through. The cream was placed in a crock, and to be churned or sold later. The skim milk was used in cooking or fed to the animals. Once it soured, it could be used for making cottage cheese.



**Figure 48.**

A large and well-appointed milk house in the Ste. Anne area.

## Other Farm Sheds and Outbuildings

The range of small, modest utilitarian outbuildings that would have been seen on nearly any Franco-Manitoba farmsite are illustrated here with examples from the Dufresne area (Figure 49 and 50), the La Broquerie area (Figure 51), St. Francois-Xavier area (Figure 52) and Lorette area (Figure 53).



**Figure 49.**  
Machine shed in the Dufresne area, built ca. 1910.



**Figure 50.**  
Machine shed in the Dufresne area, ca. 1910



**Figure 51.**  
Machine Shed in the La Broquerie area, ca. 1910.



**Figure 52.**

Granary in the St. Francois-Xavier area, built ca, 1900.



**Figure 53.**

Granary in the Lorette area, built ca. 1890.