

OTHER FARM BUILDINGS

While houses and barns in the region have undergone greater architectural and constructional change during the past hundred years than have smaller farmyard buildings, the latter are not without interest. Technical developments have caused interesting changes to these buildings, especially the grain elevators.

Granaries and Elevators

As the farmyard developed, granaries were added to contain the growing quantities of crops. One frame granary at NW 13-9-19, built around 1890 is of typical size and form for the period (Figure 61). Its construction also is typical. The 40 x 80 (2" x 4") building frame was sheathed on the outside with horizontal drop siding, and on the inside with planking. This construction procedure not only produced a sturdier building in which to store grain, but it also created a smooth interior that was easy to clean.



Figure 61

Granary, NW 13-9-10W. The hatch in the gable end was used for loading and unloading the grain. Bags of grain were usually pitched from a wagon up to the opening.

Larger granaries were slightly more complex. Instead of wagons pulling alongside the building and bags being pitched through a small door, wagons were pulled into an alleyway in the granary. From here, loose grain could simply be shoveled into high-walled bins on either side of the alley. A granary at NE 32-9-19W, built in 1892, shows this development (Figure 62).



Figure 62

Low Granary, NE 32-9-19W, 1892. The simple drive-in granary was altered by the addition of a small belt-driven bucket elevator, whose distribution head projects through the roof, a small feed mill and shed-roofed storage areas on each side.

Grain elevators began to replace the simpler granaries, particularly in south central Elton, around the turn of the century. While the two earlier types of granary relied on manual labour, grain elevators contained a system that mechanically distributed grain to the bins. A leg, which consisted of a series of small buckets attached to a vertical conveyor belt, lifted the grain up to a distribution box where it was dispersed to the individual bins. The McCallum elevator, built in 1904 at NW 3-11-18W, was a particularly good example of a grain elevator (Figure 63). A central corridor separated the building into two storage areas that were each subdivided into three bins (Figure 64). The capacity of the individual bins was 43,640 liters (1200 bushels). Above the alley were located two smaller slant-floored bins (Figure 65). The capacity of the west bin was 15,550 liters (400 bushels), while the east bin could hold 9090 liters (250 bushels). Wagons were pulled up the west door where grain was dumped into the lower grain box. From there it was lifted up the two elevator legs to the distribution box. Spouts connected to the distribution box directed the grain into one of the eight bins.



Figure 63
McCallum Elevator, NW 3-11-18W, 1904.
Grain was retrieved from the spouts that project from the walls.

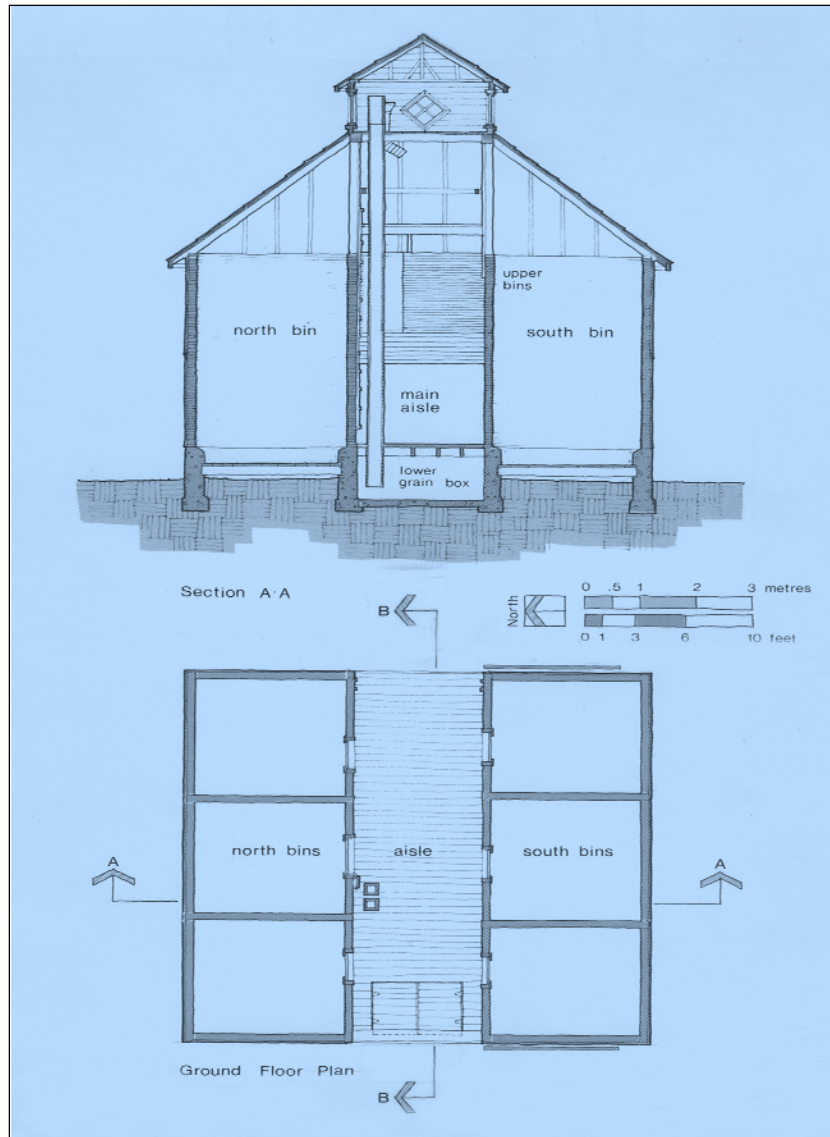


Figure 64
McCallum Elevator: ground floor plan and section. The cribbed bin walls were constructed of stacked 40 x 80s (2" x 4"s).

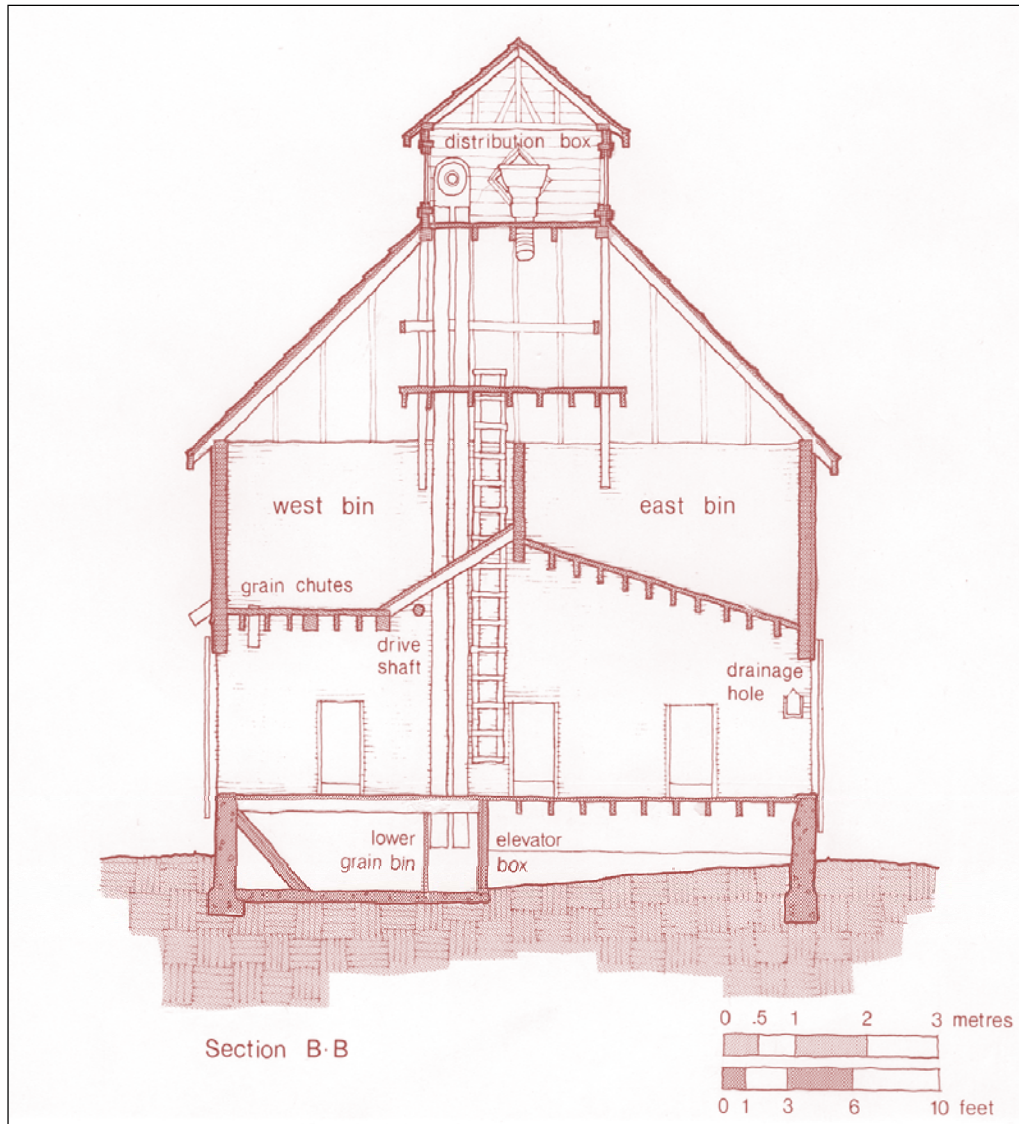


Figure 65
McCallum Elevator: section. The capacity of this elevator was 68,280 litres (7850 bushels).