

C.P.R. Freight Shed

Van Horne Street
1898



This early photo of the Freight Shed shows little change from today. Some small differences, compared with the same view today, include the tall narrow windows at the far (north) end, the second tall window on the (south) end which has today been replaced by a freight door, and the brick chimneys. The rails in the foreground lead to a loading track, with Van Horne Street being immediately behind the photographer. The large doors on this side of the building were for wagon and truck access, while the train loading and unloading was on the opposite side, hidden from view.

The old Cranbrook freight shed was added to the railway museum expansion in 1994. This original structure, built in the later years of the century, was located a few hundred feet south of the CP Rail station and is one of the original buildings that made up the CPR industry that made Cranbrook a city. It had seen various uses since that time, including Burns Lumber Co. and an “Antique” business.

The large 30' by 150' freight shed was built separately from the station in Cranbrook. The building was for the storage of freight and express arriving or leaving from Cranbrook and area. It had a long wide platform on the north side adjacent to the tracks and raised for loading and unloading, while the streetside freight doors allowed wagons and trucks to load and unload easily. Large freight doors rolled to the side to permit large items to be moved.

In 1999 the freight shed was moved slightly along the track to its present location. A new foundation provided a 5,000 square foot lower level and then a modern interior was begun on the upper level while leaving the original exterior.

The Museum has thus been able to provide the space for a future Cranbrook History Gallery, new gallery spaces for temporary exhibits, a small meeting room, storage, small maintenance workshop, washrooms, two historic model railways and a Galleries Café with an outdoor deck.

Given Heritage Designation November 2013