

# TRIBAL REGISTER: THE RED BARN

The Red Barn stands in the heart of the Brighton Reservation, a symbol of the Seminole Tribal cattle program's beginnings, and of the change that came with it. Built around 1941, the Red Barn is one of the oldest standing structures on any STOF reservation. Originally the construction included not only the Red Barn itself, but a water tower, a pole barn, and two concrete water troughs as well. Today only the Red Barn itself remains.

The Red Barn was the center of the Brighton cattle operation at its start, housing the horses needed for the cattlekeepers and importantly serving as the central meeting place for the cattlekeepers. Charlie Micco, the first cattle foreman of the Tribe, kept his camp directly north of the Red Barn so he could be on hand at all times if needed. Just to the east could be found the camp of John Josh, a learned cattle worker who helped start the program. He was elected one of the first three Seminole cattle trustees for the Tribe, alongside Charlie Micco and Willie Gopher. It was in meetings at the Red Barn that the structure of the Seminole Cattle Program was created, a structure that became the foundation for the modern democratic government of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

By the 1960s changes in technology and ranching methods had made the barn obsolete, and the cattle program had moved to its own offices. But while it was no longer needed for its original purpose, the Red Barn quickly became a central meeting ground for the Brighton community. Now open for both formal and informal use, the barn soon hosted tribal meetings, family reunions, birthday parties, and many other functions, continuing its role in Brighton life. It was one of the first sites listed on the Tribal Register of Historic Places, and in 2008 was named to the National Register of Historic Places for its place in Seminole History.



## TO LEARN MORE

Visit the Tribal Historic Preservation Office website at [stofthpo.com](http://stofthpo.com) or use the QR code for more Seminole history resources.

If you want to learn more about the Seminole Cattle Program and its history, look for *Cowkeeper's Legacy: A Seminole Story* coming soon from the THPO.

