

90-235

Waterton Lakes, Alberta

Kitchen Shelters

Waterton Lakes National Park

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Waterton Lakes National Park Kitchen Shelters (nine in total) were constructed as covered cooking areas in 1931. They were constructed under Depression-relief programs and were designed by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-235.

Reasons for Designation

The Kitchen Shelters were designated Recognized because of their environmental significance and historical associations, and also for their design qualities.

The Kitchen Shelters are part of the Waterton Lake townsite campground and illustrate the theme of automobile-accessible campground development in Canada. Waterton Lakes National Park was one of the first national parks to develop a series of facilities for park visitors. The Kitchen Shelters are also associated with Depression relief construction activity.

The Kitchen Shelters were built to a standardized plan as simple three-sided enclosures providing shelter and cooking facilities. The natural materials - log siding, exposed rafters, log posts - are in keeping with the picturesque Rustic style used to create a unified image for the national parks.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Kitchen Shelters resides in their form, construction materials, architectural details, and relationship to the site and setting.

The Kitchen Shelters are single-storey gable-roofed structures enclosed on three sides, with a three-bay front opening punctuated by heavy timbers. The central metal cookstove has a masonry chimney. The rectangular plan, the roof profile and the single chimney should be maintained.

The character of the construction details and materials could be defined as rustic and utilitarian. The buildings generally retain their original post and beam framing, exposed wood stud infill, exposed rafter framing and tails, and log slab siding. Some of the shelters have squared timbers (3,5,7,9), others peeled logs (1,2,6) as posts within the open front. These features reflect the standardized materials and style used

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Kitchen Shelters (Continued)

in the national parks and should be maintained. Some rafter tails have been inappropriately concealed by new fascia and soffit cladding. The original expression of exposed rafter tails should be reintroduced. The concrete floor slab and exposed foundations should be maintained as unobtrusive elements in keeping with the rustic appearance of the shelters. The roof is a prominent feature, and research is required when re-roofing to confirm appropriate materials and color.

The original symmetrical arrangement of multi-pane wood casement windows appears to survive. The windows should be repaired and maintained.

The simple layout consists of a central cook stove with picnic tables to the side. The interior finishes and surviving details should be preserved and maintained in any rehabilitation.

Formal landscaping per se should be minimal to respect the simple open character of the site.

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For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.