

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
Bandstand (B-9)
Central Park, Wasagaming Townsite

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The bandstand was built in 1934-35 as part of an extensive landscaping programme executed according to plans prepared by the Architectural Division of the Parks Branch. The design of the bandstand itself was very likely a product of that office. The custodian is Parks Canada. The bandstand continues to be used for musical performances during the summer months. See FHBRO Building Report 85-54.

Reasons for Designation

The bandstand was designated Recognized for its environmental qualities, its architectural importance, and also for historical reasons.

Open air pavilions such as this were a common feature in national parks during the first decades of this century. The bandstand at Riding Mountain National Park is a conspicuous focal point within the park area, situated between the administration building and the waterfront in an area of the park which is little changed since its design in the 1930s. Architecturally, it is compatible with the rustic theme used in other parts of the park, and is distinguished by labour-intensive craftsmanship embodied in a decorative musical note motif.

The construction of this structure is related to Depression relief funding which stimulated much building activity in the park during the period 1930-1937.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Bandstand resides in its form, construction techniques and materials, whimsical decorative frieze and landscaped park setting.

The bandstand is an octagonal pavilion structure built of peeled logs, sitting on a base of concrete and stone. The bell-cast pyramidal roof is covered in wood shingles, and topped with a simple weathervane. Of note is the decorative frieze under the eaves, composed of musical notes and bars fashioned from twigs in rustic style. These features should be protected.

Regular maintenance has contributed to the longevity of the structure, and should continue. Repair work must stress maximum retention of original materials, and the use of replacement materials and techniques compatible with the original structure. The use of log siding for infill panels set between the stone piers does not appear to

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be in keeping with the intended level of rustic craftsmanship of the bandstand; physical inspection or historic photographs may reveal a more appropriate configuration to which the bandstand could be restored when repair of this feature is required.

The bandstand is currently painted in contrasting colours. It would be of interest to confirm the original paint scheme through paint analysis, and to return to this scheme when repainting is required.

The site was originally landscaped according to plans prepared by the National Park Branch's Architectural Division. This layout is relatively intact, and should be respected. A nearby pergola, built in 1935 of unpeeled native oak logs, is a compatible structure that also merits preservation.

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