

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
Gatekeeper's Residence
East Gate

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The East Gate Gatekeeper's residence was built to the designs of the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch in 1933-34 for summer occupancy. Later, to facilitate year-round use, a shed-roofed porch was added to the rear of the building, and the basement was fully excavated to install an oil furnace. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 85-54.

Reasons For Designation

The Gatekeeper's residence was designated Recognized for its association with the early development of the Park; for its design and craftsmanship, which are characteristic of the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch during the early 1930s; and for its site relationships.

The residence was constructed as a Public Works project using Depression-relief funding shortly after the Park was established in 1930. It is a good surviving example of a log residence designed by the Architectural Division, and is an integral part of the distinctive East Gate building cluster - the sole remaining intact entrance grouping in the Park.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this structure is defined by its representative design features, the quality of its construction and materials, and its historic relationship to other East Gate buildings.

The sturdy log and stone construction of the Gatekeeper's residence reflects the rustic design and use of local materials favoured by the Architectural Branch during this period. The building is a simple one-and-a-half storey rectangular black with a projecting front porch and rear shed. The logs are saddle-notched, the rafter ends are exposed, the basement is faced with random-course stone, and the roof is shingled, originally in cedar but currently with asphalt. The detailing of the gable ends with stucco and half-timbering, and the original multi-pane casement windows, contrast with the simple massing and textural ruggedness of the log and stone.

The materials and workmanship are of high quality and the original building fabric should be carefully maintained. When re-roofing is required, cedar shingles should be used to restore the original intent of texture and natural materials. Consideration

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Gatekeeper's Residence (Continued)
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should be given to replacing the recent metal chimney with one more closely resembling the original brick chimney.

The original interior layout of the building was later modified by the addition of a first-floor bathroom, and the creation of attic bedrooms and an access staircase. If possible, future modifications should respect the general design intent and retain original finishes and features.

The building occupies a clearing in the forest in a prominent location along the entrance road. Together with the Warden's residence and the East Gate Entrance Building from the same period, the Gatekeeper's residence contributes to a unique historic setting. Existing natural features and site relationships should be preserved.

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