

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
Jamboree Hall (B-10)
Clear Lake Campground, Wasagaming

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Jamboree Hall at Riding Mountain National Park was constructed in 1933 as a site for social activities in the Clear Lake campground, based on a standard plan prepared by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch. It continues in that use to the present day. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 85-54.

Reasons for Designation

The Jamboree Hall was designated Recognized for its architectural merit and its environmental qualities.

The Jamboree Hall is one of a succession of recreational pavilions constructed within National Parks during the 1930s to accommodate the continually increasing numbers of campers. This is one of at least four that were based on a standard plan prepared by the National Parks Architectural Division. Its rustic design executed in peeled logs continues the aesthetic used for other park buildings of this era. The elaborate log trusses and posts exposed at the interior are of particular note.

The Hall provided a social center for the densely populated "shack-tent" and transient camping community that converged upon the Clear Lake campground each summer. The building complements its central lakefront location within the campground.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Jamboree Hall resides in its form, its peeled log construction, its vocabulary of rustic materials, and its setting.

The Jamboree Hall is composed of a medium-pitched, slightly bell-cast hip roof supported on vertical posts. When built, one-quarter of its volume was enclosed with horizontal logs, and the remaining volume was open, perhaps with a balustrade at the perimeter. The balustrade has since been replaced by more substantial walls rising approximately one meter above grade and sheathed with tapered siding. A prominent stone chimney and fireplace are located at the centre of the enclosed wall.

Alterations over the years have affected the heritage character of the structure: the current asphalt shingles lack the texture and natural patina of the original wood shingles, which enhanced the rustic effect; the modern fascias obscure the log rafter

.../2

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
Jamboree Hall (B-10) (Continued)

tails, which were probably intended to be exposed; the modern windows lack the visual interest provided by earlier multi-pane units; and the partial enclosure of the open sides diminishes the intended lightness of the structure. When any of these features require replacement or upgrading, an approach more in keeping with the original design intent, as confirmed through physical, documentary or pictorial evidence, would be desirable.

At the interior, the most striking feature is the exposed truss system of peeled logs supported on log uprights and struts. The informal, rustic quality of this space, with its single large volume and connection to the exterior through three open (or at least partially open) sides, must be respected. Appropriate interior and exterior building finishes should be confirmed through paint analysis.

The site is distinguished by mature trees and simple landscaping. Attempts to formalize or decorate the site should be resisted. Any modification should be based on an understanding of the intended landscape treatment.

1994.09.12