

Waskesiu, Saskatchewan
Warden's Headquarters/Visitor Centre
Prince Albert National Park

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Warden's Headquarters was constructed in 1934-35 as a residential duplex for summer staff. The original design for the building was prepared by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch. It has subsequently been converted into a park visitor's centre. Environment Canada, the Canadian Parks Service is custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 85-63.

Reason for Designation

The building was designated Recognized because of its association with the early history of Prince Albert National Park and the Waskesiu townsite area, because of its excellent design and craftsmanship, and because of its important environmental qualities.

The former staff residence is one of only two early park facilities still situated in the Government Reserve area. Carefully designed, the building is one of the better examples of the rustic-picturesque buildings designed by the Architectural Division. The detailing and craftsmanship are particularly strong.

The building is well sited in an area that retains its early character.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the building resides in its overall form, the details of its design and materials, and in its unaltered site and setting.

The building is a well executed work in fieldstone and horizontal log, an appropriate and harmonious design within a natural setting. The main elevation is a symmetrical composition marked by a gable roofed porch, projecting central bay and entrances, and flanking windows. The use of stucco and "half-timbering" give the building a slightly Tudor character while the exposed rafter ends and the posts and brackets "in the round" contribute to the overall rustic character of the building. The side and rear elevations are of a more simple design. The symmetry of composition and the use of logs is continued but without the diversity of stone and stucco. The multi-paned window units give the building the fine detail of precise lines which contrasts with the roughness of the indigenous materials.

With the exception of the living room windows on either side of the entrance, the exterior remains unchanged in character and detail. It should continue to be carefully maintained. Reinstatement of the original three-bay window arrangement in these openings, when window replacement becomes necessary, would enhance the building's appearance.

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Conversion to the present functions required few alterations to the fabric of the exterior or interior of the building. Given the historic integrity of the building, the present configuration of the interior should be generally retained.

The site should be treated as an integral part of the building's character due to its long association and compatible character.

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