

Mt. Revelstoke National Park, British Columbia
Warden's Cabin

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Eva Lake Cabin was built in 1928 as a warden patrol cabin in the interior of Mt. Revelstoke National Park at the southwest corner of Eva Lake. It appears to have been built using a standard design prepared by the Architectural and Planning Division of the National Parks Service, under the supervision of William Cromarty, head of the division. Today it is the property of Environment Canada Parks Service. See Building Report 87-48.

Reasons for Designation

The cabin was designated Recognized primarily for its association with the origins of the National Park, its simple rustic design, and its environmental significance.

One of the oldest structures in Mt. Revelstoke National Park, the cabin was one of four built prior to 1930 to assist the park's wardens patrol the park in order to protect its flora and fauna from the depredation of hunters and forest fires. Its construction coincided with the completion of a road to the summit of Mt. Revelstoke and the development of camping facilities adjacent to the Balsam Lake area.

Built to a standard design developed by the National Parks Service for use by wardens on patrol, the one room log cabin is of a type indigenous to Western Canada, and common throughout the region before 1950.

Its original site has changed little since the building's construction. The maturing vegetation surrounding the cabin has been well managed. Though a new privy has been located a discreet distance from the cabin, the natural character of the cabin's site is largely intact.

Character Defining Elements

The cabin derives its character in part from its simple rustic character and its log construction. The walls are raised in horizontal logs, dove-tailed at corners and perforated by a plank door and two multi-paned fixed sash windows. The front gable end of the cabin is encased in a porch framed by extended roof purlins and supporting vertical log posts. The original "rubberoid" roll roofing has been supplanted by a later shingle roof. Intended primarily to provide rudimentary summer shelter, the cabin contained but a single room. Its simple, unadorned interior of exposed log walls and plank floor has included no provision for heating.

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Mt. Revelstoke National Park, British Columbia
Warden's Cabin (Continued)

These simple attributes are the key to the building's rustic character and should be

carefully respected in any future efforts to upgrade or repair the structure.

Equally important to the building's character is the relatively pristine nature of the building's setting. Every effort should be made to preserve its relative isolation, and to ensure adequate levels of site management for the surrounding vegetation.