RIDING MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

BUILT HERITAGE RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part I</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Architectural History of Riding Mountain National Park</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lakeshore</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Town Core</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cottage Area</td>
<td></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The North Shore Subdivision</td>
<td>135</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Gate</td>
<td></td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warden Stations and Backcountry Cabins</td>
<td>179</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolated Landmarks</td>
<td></td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

The growing recognition of the important architectural legacy in the western national parks is demonstrated by the succession of national historic site designations and classified structures identified by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office (FHBRO). Within the western national parks, Riding Mountain has a particularly valuable collection of heritage buildings. The Riding Mountain National Park East Gate Complex National Historic Site\(^1\) and the FHBRO Classfied Interpretive Centre are tangible evidence of the national significance of Riding Mountain’s rustic architecture. These two designations pay tribute to a tradition of design and craftsmanship that encompassed many aspects of park development and ultimately defined the distinctive architectural character of Riding Mountain. The park’s built heritage includes a significant number of other structures with strong claims to individual or collective importance. The Park Theatre and Danceland are the finest buildings of their type in any national park and are outstanding in a national context; the old campground kitchen shelters are among the oldest surviving campground structures in the national park system; the fire lookout towers are a rare building type whose pre-war examples are only found in Riding Mountain. Nor is the rich architectural tradition of the park confined to a few isolated monuments. The homogeneous streetscapes and building clusters of the cottage developments and commercial areas intermingle with carefully planned and well maintained greenspaces to create a unique ambience. Together, the combination of landmark heritage buildings, well-preserved streetscapes and cultural landscapes supported by a strong infrastructure of secondary buildings, make Riding Mountain National Park an important concentration of national park architecture.

This report identifies the primary heritage buildings of Riding Mountain National Park and offers a rationale for their importance. By extension, it provides a basis for developing strategies for their conservation and presentation. The report follows a format developed for architectural surveys carried out in Waterton, Jasper, Banff and Yoho national parks. Part I contains an overview of the historical and architectural development of Riding Mountain National Park. Part II identifies the principal activity zones or cultural landscapes in the park and identifies significant structures associated with them.

There are two types of activity zones or cultural landscapes in the park. One is comprised of areas with clearly defined functional qualities and geographical boundaries such as the townsite, the golf course and the cottage areas. The other consists of dispersed functional units that share common characteristics of spatial organization and building types. Included in this second group are warden stations, patrol cabin sites, fire towers and campgrounds. An exception has been made in the case of the Whirlpool Warden Station; it is included in the section on the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site, because the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada included the warden station in the designation.

\(^{1}\)This site will hereafter be referred to as the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site.
Introduction

Each activity zone section contains a summary of key buildings. These key buildings are accompanied by background statements that provide historical and architectural descriptions, followed by a heritage character statement that indicates the elements that contribute to the building’s heritage significance. The number of buildings chosen for each zone was determined by several factors. In general, buildings were selected on the basis of their historical, architectural or environmental importance. *Historical significance* derives from how a building relates to a particular period in the park’s development or how it relates to an event or person of historical importance. *Architectural significance* means the ability of the building to represent a particular architectural style or function or how well it exemplifies the work of a particular architect or builder. *Environmental significance* refers to the importance the building has to the surrounding area, either as a landmark or in establishing a particular style or heritage character within the locale. Not every potential heritage building in the park is presented, however, especially in the cottage category. For this group, the objective is to include representative examples of the major design types that contribute to the overall heritage character of the cottage subdivisions.

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INTRODUCTION

Le présent rapport relève les principaux édifices du patrimoine du parc national du Mont-Riding et il explique en quoi ils sont importants. Par extension, il constitue une pierre d’assise à l’élaboration de stratégies pour leur conservation et leur mise en valeur. Ce rapport a été préparé selon un format utilisé dans le cadre des études sur l’architecture réalisées dans les parcs nationaux Jasper, Banff et Yoho et dans le parc national des Lacs-Waterton. La partie I donne une vue d’ensemble des aménagements historiques et architecturaux du parc national du Mont-Riding. La partie II désigne les principales zones d’activité et principaux paysages culturels du parc et relève les constructions importantes qui y sont associées.

Dans le parc, il y a deux types de zones d’activité ou de paysages culturels. On trouve tout d’abord des zones assorties de qualités fonctionnelles et de limites géographiques clairement établies, comme le lotissement urbain, le terrain de golf et les secteurs des chalets. Il y a ensuite des unités fonctionnelles dispersées, qui présentent des caractéristiques communes sur le plan de l’organisation spatiale et du type de construction. Dans ce second groupe figurent les postes des gardes de parc, les sites des chalets de patrouille, les tours d’observation et les terrains de camping. Une exception a été faite dans le cas du poste des gardes de parc Whirlpool; il est traité dans la section sur le lieu historique national du Centre-d’Inscription-de-l’Entrée-Est, parce que la

1 Ce lieu historique sera dorénavant appelé lieu historique du Centre-d’Inscription-de-l’Entrée-Est.
Introduction

Commission des lieux et monuments historiques du Canada l’a inclus dans la désignation du lieu historique.

Chacune des sections sur les zones d’activité renferme un résumé des principaux édifices qui s’y trouvent. Pour chacun de ces édifices, on présente un énoncé qui décrit leur aspect historique et leur architecture, suivi d’un énoncé de valeur patrimoniale dans lequel on énumère les éléments qui contribuent à l’importance de l’édifice sur le plan patrimonial. Plusieurs facteurs ont servi à déterminer le nombre d’édifices choisis pour chacune des zones. En général, les édifices ont été retenus en fonction de leur importance choisis sur le plan historique, architectural ou environnemental. L’importance historique a trait à la façon dont un édifice se rapporte à une période donnée de l’aménagement du parc ou à un événement ou à une personne d’importance historique. L’importance architecturale s’entend de la mesure dans laquelle l’édifice représente un style d’architecture ou une fonction en particulier, ou encore de la manière dont il illustre l’œuvre d’un architecte ou d’un constructeur donné. L’importance environnementale renvoie à la valeur de l’édifice dans la région, soit à titre de point de repère ou parce qu’il confère un style particulier ou un caractère patrimonial à la région. Le rapport ne présente cependant pas tous les édifices qui pourraient faire partie du patrimoine du parc, en particulier dans la catégorie des chalets. Pour cette catégorie, l’objectif consiste à exposer des exemples représentatifs des principaux types de conception qui contribuent au caractère patrimonial général des subdivisions de chalets.

The heritage buildings of Riding Mountain National Park are products of historical processes that began with the inception of a cottage community at Clear Lake in 1916, and continue through its administration as a national park. The following historical overview describes the principal stages in the evolution of the park and links them to the existing building stock and the activity zones.

The Forest Branch Era
Although natural reserves, parks and government forests are artificial creations. They are laid out by government programmes to reserve areas from settlement and to manage their resources for the common good. In western Canada between the 1870s and the 1930s the whole process of opening up land for settlement and defining the special reserves was the responsibility of the Department of the Interior and its various branches. While settlers had been drifting into the area north of Minnedosa through the 1870s, settlement did not begin in earnest until the 1890s. By this time the land had been surveyed into sections and townships, and roads and railways were planned for the area. The area now known as Riding Mountain National Park was first set aside as a dominion forest reserve in 1895 with the intention of protecting timber from the wholesale clearing of the surrounding farmland. This timber would sustain farm building and contribute to the local economy.

The construction of Manitoba branch lines and the Canadian Northern Railway at the beginning of the 20th century brought increased settlement to the area north of Brandon. Erickson, which had been first settled by Scandinavian immigrants in the 1880s, was connected by rail to the rest of the province in 1905 when it got its first post office. By this time, communities in the area had begun to assume a more established form as they emerged from their pioneer phases. There was a hiatus in social development as a result of the Great War but by war’s end there was growing pressure on the Riding Mountain Forest Reserve as a recreational area. The forest reserve came under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Forest Branch of the Department of the Interior. While focussing on the protection of the forest resource, the Forest Branch also managed forest reserves for recreational purposes, meeting recreational and game preserve needs as well as protecting timber. In 1911 the Forest Branch was joined with the Dominion Parks Branch which managed Dominion Parks, usually within surrounding forest reserves as in the Rocky Mountains. A rivalry developed between the two branches as they fought over who was responsible for the recreational aspect. Eventually, the Forest Branch lost the battle to develop forest reserves as recreational areas but during the nineteen tens and twenties the Riding Mountain Forest Reserve was its most ambitious recreation area development.

Until 1912 only a few cabins used by hunters and fishers were scattered around Clear Lake. After 1912, the Forest Branch began to enforce regulations aimed at protecting game and discouraging hunting. As hunters stopped frequenting the area, families began to make increasing use of the lake as a playground. The southern shore of Clear Lake was used as a camping area by George Clark and the area became known as Clark’s Beach. In 1916 the Forest Branch had the area surveyed into cottage lots which it called the Clark Beach Subdivision.
According to Emma Ringstrom: "seventeen lots were surveyed on this first occasion and by 1918 there were half a dozen or more cottages on the beach." The first surveyed lots were on a hill overlooking the water. The term beach was a bit of a misnomer as the shore was swampy and ill-defined. During the 1920s, rocks and sand were hauled over the winter ice to build up this shoreline. The Forest Branch further encouraged the development of the area by constructing an auto road from the southern boundary of the reserve to the lake. By 1919, 26 lots had been surveyed along the lake. This number increased to 129 by 1923.

Plan of Clark Beach Subdivision, ca. 1920. [National Archives of Canada (NAC) RG 84, vol.1856, file RM21, pt.1]

1929 Plan of Clear Lake Summer Resort No. 2, aka the North Shore Subdivision. [RMNP Collection]
In 1928 the Forest Branch laid out a second cottage subdivision on the north shore of the lake, officially named Clear Lake Summer Resort No. 2 but known locally as Dauphins’ Beach. Dominion Land Surveyor Joseph Hardouin laid out a road parallel to the north shore of Clear Lake from which he surveyed a series of nine U-shaped blocks between the road and the lake, each containing between 13 and 18 lots. It appears that more blocks were planned as they were numbered to 18. A few of these lots had been built on by 1929 but the North Shore subdivision remained sparsely settled in comparison with the south shore.

The public beach area on the south shore was further developed by the Forest Branch with the construction of bath houses, outdoor fireplaces and kitchen shelters. Rudimentary visitor services were established during the 1920s. Emma Ringstrom reports that “Mr. Baker of Kelwood built the first store and it was located on the new beach.” Apparently, a post office was later attached to this store. A campground and inn were located on the lakeshore just to the west of the cottages. The facilities helped make Clear Lake a popular tourist destination. By 1929, it was attracting 7,000 visitors a season.

In 1927, the Forestry Branch erected a log building to serve as the summer residence for the manager and as the administrative headquarters for Riding Mountain Forest Reserve. It was located on Block 1, Lot 6 of the Clark Beach subdivision. The building was the most substantial structure erected by the Forestry Branch during Riding Mountain’s period of administration as a federal forest reserve. It is the only government facility that survives from that period. In 1932-33, this building was relocated to its present location at 154 Columbine and was subsequently enlarged and used as the park accountant’s residence.

Forestry Branch Administration Office, built 1927, relocated 1932. (Extant)
[NAC, RG 84, vol.1841, file RM2, pt.1, v.2]

3 Ringstrom, 44.
4 Tabulenas, 198.
The Architectural History

The Forest Branch did not sell or lease its cottage lots. Instead, it issued a permit, rather like a license of occupation and charged an annual fee. From looking at the buildings put up in this early period, it is apparent that the Forest Branch had established guidelines governing the design and construction of new cottages. They were to be built on a concrete foundation, or at least on concrete piers. The cottages of this period tended to have wood stoves although fireplaces were permitted. The average house was square, measuring approximately 20 or 25 feet a side, with wood frame or log walls and rolled asphalt or rubberoid roofing. Sometimes a verandah extended along the front façade. Sometimes there was a porch. Often the front of the house was left plain. Essentially the cottages erected during the Forest Branch administration were one room cabins with outdoor privies at the back of the lot. The cottage built at 193 Wasagaming Drive in 1922 for Miss Olive Coad featured a typical square plan, on a poured concrete foundation and with rolled roofing. Not all cottages built in the 1920s were this plain. "The Shealing" built by Erickson carpenter, J.A. Sjogren for Mrs Mabel Smiley in 1922, is an ambitiously conceived log building with a dramatic central clerestory.

193 Wasagaming Drive, ca. 1934. [NAC, RG 84, vol.1860, file RM21-3-1]
The Shealing, ca. 1935 [RMNP file 8606/R1 B3-L7]
The Architectural History

The first cottage owners tended to be people of Scandinavian descent from the Erickson area or of Anglo-Ontarian descent from Neepawa, Minnedosa and surrounding areas. Later in the 1920s, as roads and automobiles improved, cottagers began to come from places further away such as Brandon and even Winnipeg. One of the first to take a lot in the Clark Beach subdivision was Carl Johnson from Erickson who received a permit in 1916 for what is now block 1, lot 9 and built a 20 foot square cabin in 1918. Ludvig B. Gusdal received a permit for what is now block 1, lot 7 in 1917 and built a cottage there in 1919. Very few of the north shore subdivision lots were leased during the Forest Branch era. One of them was block 17, lot 1, where Gotfrid Johnson built a log cottage in 1929 for William Ward, a farmer from the Dauphin area.

The New National Park

As the Dominion Parks Branch steadily took exclusive control over recreational development on federal crown land, there was another force which was to curtail the influence of the Forest Branch. Discussions surrounding the transfer of natural resources to the jurisdiction of the western provinces during the 1920s indicated that many of the dominion forest reserves would be transferred to provincial control. The provinces wanted the revenue derived from natural resources which would be exploited by private industry. Dominion parks were another matter. They did not bring an amount of revenue comparable to that of timber and minerals, and they required a greater degree of public development. The provinces were therefore content to let the dominion parks remain in federal jurisdiction while taking control of the forest reserves. In the case of Riding Mountain - a timber reserve that had been developed as a recreational area - the province wanted it converted into a dominion park. The driving force behind this idea was a citizen lobby group organized in 1927 as the Riding Mountain National Park Committee. At first the Dominion Parks Branch was hesitant to favour the area. Although the area possessed requisite scenery and wildlife, the branch was reluctant to recognize it as anything more than a recreation area and focussed its plans for a new park in the Whiteshell area. Nonetheless, Riding Mountain became a pawn in the federal-provincial negotiations for the transfer of jurisdiction over natural resources and in February 1930, Riding Mountain was formally declared a national park and included in the new National Parks Act.

The creation of a new park at the beginning of an economic depression that was to last for most of the decade could have meant that new development would be postponed. But the implementation of depression relief projects provided an unexpected windfall to national park building programs, allowing more work to be carried out than at any time during the preceding decade. The introduction of the Unemployment Relief Act in 1930 provided minimum wages for unemployed men to work on depression relief projects. Because they had an abundance of general works projects suitable for the employment of unskilled labour, and because they were located far from urban centres which were considered hotbeds of radical unrest, the national parks were favoured by the government as sites for large depression relief camps for single men. Because of their situation, both regionally and developmentally, Riding Mountain and Prince Albert national parks reaped major benefits from this program and by late December 1932 there
were more than a thousand men working at each park. In Riding Mountain, although men were scattered in groups throughout the park, the largest group, numbering 300 was situated at Clear Lake. This group was employed on a series of projects building and improving the townsite. The newly-built Wigwam café became a social centre for the work camp, serving as a camp commissary in the early 1930s.

Church Service in the Wigwam, early 1930s. [RMNP Collection]

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5Bill Waiser, Park Prisoners: The Untold Story of Western Canada’s National Parks (Saskatoon: Fifth House, 1995), 92.
Unlike the mountain parks, Riding Mountain lacked spectacular natural attractions such as mountain peaks, glaciers and hot springs. It also lacked monumental cultural attractions such as the Banff Springs Hotel or Jasper Park Lodge. Corporate investors shied away as the park was not on a railway line or near an American national park. Private investment in park infrastructure was further curtailed by the Depression. In order to counter these perceived deficiencies, the government invested heavily in park infrastructure in order to build up Riding Mountain National Park as a major tourist destination and establish an appropriate monumental quality to its architecture. The focus of this development was on the town of Wasagaming and the landscaping of its lakeshore.

The Creation of Wasagaming

Although the Forest Branch had undertaken a survey of the Clark Beach subdivision, the parks branch laid out a completely new survey. By 1930, the engineers and architects of the parks branch had considerable experience laying out townsites and subdivisions in the mountain parks and in Prince Albert National Park. Influenced by the British town planner Thomas Adams, who had for a while headed up the branch’s Architecture and Town Planning Division, the parks branch had established principles which it applied to all of its town plans: clear demarcation of functional zones such as residential, commercial and recreational, the interspersing of green spaces between blocks, the use of contours and natural features in laying out roads, and allowing public access to beaches and waterfront. These principles were incorporated into the plan for the Clear Lake townsites which was implemented between 1930 and 1932.

The string of 66-foot cottage lots that had been established along the lakeshore was left more or less intact although the lots were re-surveyed and organized into blocks numbered one through ten. Road and lane allowances were cut into the lots at regular intervals to provide public access to the water and a public pathway running along the lake shore. A main road, later named Wasagaming Drive, was laid out behind these front lots. Other blocks of cottage lots were laid out south of Wasagaming Drive to total 24 blocks. Blocks 17 through 22, situated between Lily on the east and Columbine on the west, may have been based on an earlier Forest Branch plan as they incorporated the smaller 66-foot lots and Wasagaming Drive is narrower in front of these blocks than it is in front of the blocks east of Lily.

The residential section was separated from the commercial zone to the west by a chain of park blocks that formed a green buffer running south to north and connecting with Wasagaming Drive. Block A on the lake front was reserved for a hotel, subsequently built as the Chalet. Another block (C) was reserved on the other side of Wasagaming Drive for a bungalow camp later developed as Idylwylde Bungalows. Block B, immediately to the west of the hotel block, was reserved as a lakeside recreation area called Central Park. The middle of the commercial area was kept as a government reserve which, from the 1930s through the 1950s, housed work camps. The rest of the commercial zone was allocated into lots and leased to various businesses. To the west of the commercial zone, separated by more green space, a new public camping ground was laid out. The campground was surveyed into ten blocks allowing for 288 lots to be
Plan of Wasagaming, as surveyed in 1931-31. [CLSR No. 38562, Natural Resources Canada.]
arranged on either side of ten short avenues.6

The townsite plan began to be implemented in the summer of 1931. The annual report of the Commissioner of National Parks for that year noted: "In keeping with park policy, considerable landscape work was carried out to enhance the natural attractions of the townsite. The entrance road from the south gate was reconstructed and new streets and lanes opened up. A large swamp was reclaimed and seeded to grass as a recreation ground and suitable equipment was installed."7 During 1932, commercial lots were laid out and landscaped. Further landscaping was carried out during the 1933-34 season:

The Central Park area was improved and beautified by the planting of a large number of trees and by the laying of flower beds. Walks were extended and gravelled throughout the townsite. The lake front promenade was completed during the year. The promenade, which is over a mile and a half long, reaches from the business district to the residential area and cross-sectional walks have been constructed a convenient intervals.8

Other landscaping work was carried out during this season on the campground and around the government buildings.

The government held a province-wide competition for a name for the new townsite in 1932 and the winning entry was "Wasagaming", a rendering of the Cree word meaning clear water. The new park and its townsite soon proved to be extremely popular. In 1933, the year of its official opening, attendance numbered 91,000, ranking it the third most popular national park after Banff and Point Pelee. Attendance climbed during the decade and by the latter 1930s Riding Mountain was surpassed only by Banff in the number of visits and revenue generated. Optimistic reports of high visitation encouraged further development. This optimism likely explains the large size of the dance hall and cinema that were built at Wasagaming in the mid-1930s.

W. D. Cromarty and the Tudor Rustic Style

The emerging townsite was characterized not only by a strong unified plan, but by an integrity of architectural design unparalleled in most communities. The Parks Branch developed well-conceived architectural plans for its government-owned buildings. It also insisted on high standards of design for the commercial buildings and private cottages. The government buildings occupied their own precinct between the commercial zone and Central Park. The complex of government buildings included the museum (now known as the interpretive centre), administration building, tennis pavilion, beach changing houses and bandstand. All of these buildings were designed by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch. This office also designed a number of key buildings for the commercial zone including the Chalet Hotel, Danceland, the Park Theatre and Idylwylde Bungalows. The consistent handling of the rustic

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7 Department of the Interior, Annual Report, 1931-32, 73.
building tradition, employing natural materials such as logs and stone, and making conscious references to vernacular English styles gave a uniformly imposing character to the heart of the townsite.

The man behind much of the design work for the Parks Branch from 1921 to 1936 was W.D. Cromarty. Born in Liverpool, England in 1884 and trained as an architect there, Cromarty worked in England and the Sudan before coming to Canada in 1912. He worked at a number of places across the country—in private practice in British Columbia and Ontario and teaching briefly at the University of Alberta—before joining the Architecture and Town Planning Division in 1921.9 Cromarty's background was in community planning and domestic building. He would have been influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement that flourished in Britain at the turn of the century. Arts and Crafts architects designed buildings using local materials inspired by vernacular traditions which relied upon time-tested building techniques. Leading British architects of the early 20th century such as Edwin Lutyens were greatly influenced by Arts and Crafts ideas. Lutyens designed country houses to appear as if they were rooted in the landscape, seemingly evolving over the centuries. Lutyens' country houses had roofs that were more medieval than modern in massing. Walls and windows evoked buildings of much earlier times, often employing rustic building elements such as stone and wood.

While Cromarty's background would have led him to a particular approach to building design in the parks, he would have been further encouraged by the ethos of the Parks Branch which saw park communities as picturesque enclaves that enhanced the overall scenic qualities of the surrounding park. As early as 1913 the branch had engaged the renowned British landscape architect Thomas Mawson to design a plan for Banff that would make it comparable to European mountain resort towns. It was to meet this objective that Mawson proposed the building of rustic cottages to suggest an indigenous peasantry. Appropriate styles to enhance the surrounding scenery were also advocated by the first head of the Architectural and Town Planning Division, Thomas Adams. The employment of rustic style in national parks was heavily favoured by the United States Parks Service whose attitudes clearly influenced those of the Parks Branch.10 The precepts of this rustic style were similar to those of the Arts and Crafts Movement. As Edward Mills has explained, the general characteristics of rustic architecture are embodied in a design that has its basis in local traditions and design at minimal cost to the builder. It uses local materials such as log and field stone and building methods exemplified by the use of hand-hewn materials.11

The building designs of both the Arts and Crafts movement and the Rustic building tradition hearkened back to traditional indigenous models. In England, the Arts and Crafts architects were

10 Ethan Carr, Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998), 123.
influenced by medieval and Tudor cottage and country house designs that evoked the image of the freeborn landowner, rooted in the landscape for generations. In the United States, the revival of log cabin architecture similarly evoked images of the pioneer American settler and traditional American values that were rooted in the soil. In western North America and in Canada which had been settled for a comparatively brief period, this traditional architectural heritage had to be invented. So, combining elements of the American rustic tradition and the English Arts and Crafts movement, Canadian architects of the early 20th century sought to create a uniquely Canadian expression that appeared rooted in the past and in the environment. This was especially true of Parks Branch architecture which sought to express a distinct national flavour in the newly-developed national parks.

These influences came together in the park building designs of W.D. Cromarty and are nowhere more perfectly expressed than in the Riding Mountain Museum, now known as the Interpretive Centre. Elements of the Arts and Crafts Movement have been captured in the references to vernacular English architecture: the large 45 degree roof similar to medieval slate or thatched roofs, the leaded glass windows, half timbered bay and tall polygonal brick chimney. The Rustic building tradition is exemplified in the saddle-notched log walls, the stone work and the exposed pole rafters. Rustic elements were continued inside in the vaulted ceilings with pole rafters, natural woodwork and custom designed rustic furniture. The interior is divided into three distinct spaces, originally intended for a museum, community room and lecture hall. Each has a separate entrance. Cromarty cleverly varied the exterior treatment of these three spaces: one has log walls, the central portion has stone and the third is marked by roughcast plaster and mock half timber details. The irregular roof massing harmonizes with the different spaces. The effect of this varied treatment is to suggest that the building has evolved over time with additions made at different periods. This effect is supported by the chimney details. The base of the chimney is of stone with a large hearth of medieval proportions. The stack is of brick of a shape and proportion evocative of Tudor England. The whole building is further rooted in the environment by the careful attention to landscaping. The image of an English country house is supported by the rock walkways and steps, the planted hedges and ornamental flower beds. In fact, the annual report of the Parks Branch referred to the "old English Garden lay-out." In the shorthand of architectural historians the museum building has been described as being in the Tudor Rustic Style. A History of Canadian Architecture states that this building "presents the fullest expression of the Rustic Tudor [sic] Style" in Canada.
Riding Mountain Museum ca. 1935. [Parks Canada Photo Services]
The Architectural History

The effectiveness of the building designs was enhanced by the high degree of craftsmanship incorporated in their construction. Many of the key buildings in Wasagaming and outlying sites within the park were erected by skilled local artisans, many drawn from the Swedish settlements centred at nearby Erickson. There was considerable expertise in log construction which allowed for the design of more ambitious log buildings than were attempted in other parks. Buildings such as the museum, the three park entrance buildings, Danceland and the Park Theatre in turn challenged the skills of the local artisans. Through the initial construction phase, the park employed two crews of skilled builders. The first, headed by John Anderson, built the administration building, Danceland, and the Park Theatre. According to Emma Ringstrom, the theatre, “though contracted by John Anderson, was actually built by Carl Bow, Arvid Bow, George Bergman, Ole Nelson, Edward Johnson, Axel Neilson and Charlie Neilson.”15 A second crew, headed by Frank Thaczuk, built the museum (interpretive centre), bunkhouses, medical centre, and campground office. Other important log buildings including the golf clubhouse, superintendent’s residence and fire hall were built under the direction of Gotfrid Johnson.

The Cottage Tradition

With the opening of new cottage lots, a building boom took place in the cottage community as well. Here, the Parks Branch imposed strict standards, insisting that all designs for new cottages be reviewed by the Architectural Division and that new cottages be valued at a minimum of $1000. In reviewing the plans, the Architectural Division made frequent suggestions that led to a uniformity of decorative elements on cottages from this period. As a result, the cottages put up during the 1930s were usually more substantial than those erected earlier. A letter written by park superintendent James Smart to a cottage owner in 1934 attempted to explain the difference between the earlier standards and those being imposed by the parks branch.

You will note that the cottages which have been built under the Parks Regulations usually have certain fixtures which give the outside of the building a little more attractive appearance, and eliminates some of the plainness seen in many of the buildings which were put up before the Parks Regulations came into effect... . We include in the plan more attractive front entrances, such as the placing of a bracketed roof projection or porch at the front door, and in some cases a verandah.16

The park not only imposed design controls on new buildings, but encouraged owners of older cottages to renovate them to a higher standard.

The building designed for block 17, lot 10 in 1930 is typical of the work of Cromarty’s office. Modest in scale, the cottage’s design makes reference to both an English cottage and an American log cabin. The English references include the eyebrow eave over the door adapted from a thatched roof design and the picturesque multi-paned windows while the log slab siding alludes to log cabin architecture.

15 Ringstrom, 62.
16 Riding Mountain National Park [hereafter RMNP], file RM 21-4-3, J. Smart to T.H. Newell, 1 Nov. 1934.
Cottage on Block 17, Lot 10, ca. 1935. [RMNP file 8606/R1 B17-L10]
The design prepared for block 20, lot 1 around the same time is derived from more typical bungalow plans of the first half of the 20th century. An amply-proportioned clapboard house, it would not be out of place on an urban street. Decorative brackets under the eaves and end boards at the corners give the bungalow a “finished” and well-designed appearance. The segmental casement windows with multi-paned sashes are typical of other Wasagaming buildings constructed during the 1930s. The houses put up in the 1930s, while demonstrating the design influence of the Ottawa Architectural Division, continued the building traditions of the area. Builder John Johnson erected a 22 by 26 foot cottage in 1930. Andrew Rognan, builder of several cottages in Wasagaming, erected a 20 by 30 foot cottage in 1932. Martin Christianson, a construction foreman from Minnedosa, built a 31 by 25 foot cottage in 1934. The cottages tended to be of wood frame and neatly constructed, although larger and with more design flourishes than before. Carpenter Enock Elhin from Erickson described how he both designed and built his cottage on block 7, lot 5:
I build it according to the way my wife wanted it with 3 bed rooms kitchen and one big room and a caind of cement cellar with a dump waiter in the vail betwin the kitchen and dining room and a brick chimney and 1st grade cedar shingles quine an windows.\textsuperscript{17}

Mr Elhin's house employed a pavilion plan that echoed the Museum.

Land was acquired from the province in 1934 to extend the southern boundary of the park and the town plan was re-drawn in 1936 and 1938 to more than double the area of Wasagaming. In the cottage area, 22 blocks containing 352 new lots were laid out. After the war, the lots south of Ta-Wa-Pit Drive began to be leased. However, only the northernmost row of lots on the new blocks were leased for cottages. The rest remained undeveloped until, in the late 1950s, the area was re-surveyed for green space and a new campground. The newer cottages from the 1950s generally follow the building traditions of the earlier era. Some of the cottages along Ta-Wa-Pit make use of newer materials such as plywood and the occasional prefabricated design is evident. Other cottages, such as 272 Wasagaming Drive built in 1955, are virtually indistinguishable from buildings put up in the 1930s. By the mid 1950s, there were approximately 240 cottages in Wasagaming.

In order to expand recreation opportunities for the cottage community, the park built a bowling green in the middle of the cottage area in 1948. Plans were prepared by the Engineering and Construction Services division and construction carried out by the park. The administration of the green was left to a club managed by Wasagaming cottagers.

The Clear Lake Campground and the Question of Park Residences

On the other side of the townsite, an area was laid out for campers and short term visitors to the park. By 1935, 565 sites had been established. Virtually from the beginning, the Clear Lake campground was unusual for the number of seasonal residents it attracted. Families returned annually to the same lots where they would pitch their tents for the summer. These tents were made more comfortable by having wooden floors and even sectional wooden walls, evolving into what in Prince Albert National Park was called a "shack tent." These shack tents were then further improved until a kind of cabin community evolved. As one observer noted in 1956:

Eventually the canvas disappeared and the true shack tent was replaced with a sectional type of building constructed of plywood. A large number of tents were also replaced by trailers. The majority of these consist of a rectangular box on wheels commonly of the home-made variety. As these are rather small it has been customary to add a small addition or two and in some cases there have been so many additions made it is impossible to recognize the original trailer.\textsuperscript{18}

In 1957 it was estimated that 400 sites were occupied on a seasonal basis.\textsuperscript{19}

\textsuperscript{17}RMNP, file 8606/R1 B7-L5. Enock Elhin to J. Smart, 28 July 1930.
\textsuperscript{19}Ibid., "Report of Study Made of Public Campgrounds in Prince Albert and Riding Mountain National Parks, July 1957."
A small industry grew up with the seasonal campers. There was a concession to remove the cabins and the trailers in September, store them for the winter and put them back again the following spring. Many of the cabins and trailers were rented out when not being used by the families that owned them and the local real estate agent acted as a clearinghouse for these properties. There was even a business renting out furnished tents to the public and one woman held a "concession" for six sites for this purpose. All of this activity was under the table as strictly speaking the park did not condone such activities.

By the mid-1950s, many of the seasonal campers had been returning to the same site for 15 or 20 years and a distinct sense of community had been established where extended families or groups of families occupied blocks of sites summer after summer. A parks service official noted that "numerous little cliques made up of neighbouring campers exist and these cliques thrive on the absence of privacy. It is the common practice to yell back and forth between adjacent shacks to solicit an invitation for coffee or dinner or a ride into town." Some people found the friendliness and informality of the campground preferable to the less communal atmosphere of the cottages. Of course, for what was termed the transient camper -the family from away staying for one or two nights and accustomed to more traditional government campgrounds- this was a less than ideal environment. One tourist complained of being kept awake all night and that "the noise, brawling, shouting, whistling, racing of cars and trucks, some without mufflers, continued and accelerated, reaching a peak about 3:30 a.m. and stopping at daylight."

While park officials denied that conditions were as bad as those described above, they did admit that there were problems. Because of the level of interaction between the seasonal campers, the hum of activity was greater than in other campgrounds. Short term campers felt alienated as they were clearly not part of the neighbourhood atmosphere. Furthermore, the seasonal campers monopolized the best sites for the summer, leaving only the least desirable spots for the weekenders. There was also a problem with standards for accommodation. Because the park officials had looked the other way as the seasonal campers built more elaborate structures, many cabins and trailers were considered to be unsightly and did not conform to standard definitions of tents or trailers. Many structures were rather ramshackle affairs and there was even an airplane fuselage being used in the guise of a trailer. By 1958 the park superintendent and headquarters officials were talking of the need to clean up the old campground. Fortunately for the seasonal campers, the parks superintendent, Bruce Mitchell, recognized that the seasonal campers had as legitimate a claim to their area as did the cottage owners. He proposed creating a second campground to relieve pressure on the lakeside campground and to provide better accommodation for the short term camper.

Unfortunately for the seasonal campers, in the late 1950s and through the 1960s the whole status of permanent residences in national parks was under serious review. A body of opinion within the parks service held that they did not belong in a supposedly natural environment. As a result, the future of the old campground was left hanging while the future of park residences was

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20 loc. cit.

21 Ibid., Don Gaughenbaugh to National Parks Branch, Ottawa, 5 August 1956.
resolved. Unhappily for both the seasonal campers and the cottage owners, the government took a long time making up its mind. It was not until about 1977 that Parks Canada finally acknowledged the legitimacy of the seasonal cabin owners. Meanwhile the cabin owners had to keep dismantling their structures for the winter and reassembling them each spring. The old campground’s facilities also became more decrepit as the park had stopped maintaining them. In the late 1970s, after the decision had been made to permit the park residences to stay, the situation in the old campground was finally normalized. Seasonal campers were allowed to keep their cabins on the sites year round in return for paying an annual fee. New washroom facilities were built and the grounds generally rehabilitated as the park began spending money on their upkeep. The present community is a unique environment, distinguished by its uniform tree-lined streetscapes of small sleeping cabins and regularly-spaced communal kitchen shelters and washroom buildings. In many cases, the private cabins reflect their owners’ ingenuity in maximizing habitable space within the confines of a tightly-prescribed footprint size. The physical characteristics of the subdivision reflect the unique set of social conditions and park regulations that shaped its history.

22 See Bill Waizer, Saskatchewan’s Playground: A History of Prince Albert National Park (Saskatoon: Fifth House, 1989), 127-132, for a discussion of this topic.
The New Campground
By 1959, the decision had been made to let the seasonal campers remain at the old campground. At the same time, it was clear that the campground could not be expanded to accommodate the so-called 'transient' camper. A new area near the townsit was selected for a conventional campground catering to the tourist camper. The area selected was south of the cottage community, in an area originally surveyed for cottage lots. This location not only met the criteria for a new campground, it also served to restrict growth of the cottage community, something which the parks service wished to achieve as a matter of policy. Work began on clearing the site during 1960-61. New buildings were designed for the site by the Engineering Services Division of the Parks Branch. The washroom buildings and kitchen shelters were based on existing plans but were unique to this campground. They are distinguished by their use of brick, unusual in a national park campground. In form they resemble suburban domestic buildings of the time with large, gently sloping roofs and large, engineered spaces. Altogether, ten washroom buildings and 20 kitchen shelters were built on this site. The new townsite campground, officially opened in June 1964, included modern looking washroom buildings equipped with hot running water and showers. The new facility was named the Wasagaming Campground while the old campground was called Clear Lake Campground.

The Town Core
Between the cottage area and the old campground, a prosperous commercial area developed. Besides containing the administrative headquarters for the park, the commercial area provided facilities that completed the planners’ vision of Clear Lake as a resort destination of the 1930s. In keeping with other national park townsites such as Banff, Jasper and Waterton, the townsite contained a number of private enterprises offering tourist services, all coordinated and sanctioned by the national park head office in Ottawa. Hotels, bungalow camps, restaurants and stores were considered essential services for both the day trippers and summer residents. The establishment of a cinema and dance hall was also encouraged. A government brochure from 1938 advertised the following amenities: “The business subdivision comprises several blocks and contains five general stores, eight restaurants, two butcher shops, beauty parlours, three garages and service stations, a motion picture theatre and dance pavilion, and three photographic and souvenir stores.”

The commercial area contained some large buildings that gave Wasagaming a rather imposing appearance. Dominating the heart of the town was the three-storey Chalet Hotel, and the sprawling park museum. Further along Wasagaming Drive were the Park Theatre, one of the largest log buildings in Canada, and Danceland, a dance hall that rivalled that of Grand Beach for size and opulence. Strict design controls exercised by the Parks Branch ensured that even modest gas stations conformed to the overall standard of excellence.

The early success of Wasagaming as a tourist destination encouraged expansion to the commercial section in the mid 1930s. Danceland was rebuilt on a larger scale, and the Public Works Construction Act of 1936 encouraged the building of imposing public structures such as the fire hall. This peak phase of construction activity in Wasagaming came to a rather abrupt halt in 1937 when supplementary construction funds dried up and the National Parks Branch underwent an internal restructuring as a result of its removal from the dismantled Department of the Interior and relocation into the Department of Mines and Resources. One result of this restructuring was the disappearance of the Architectural Division and the shifting of responsibility for architectural design in the parks to a unit known as the Engineering and Construction Service which handled design and engineering work for all branches within the department. Under the new organization, the era of the Architectural Division’s application of a central design and planning standard came to an end. With the outbreak of war in 1939, visitation levelled off and new development was further discouraged.

After the war, there was a resurgence in both visitors and new building. In 1947, 200,000 people visited Riding Mountain. In 1952, 500,000 people visited the park. As a result of these increasing numbers, the townsite was further expanded in the early 1950s. A new survey was completed in 1951 to provide six additional lots on block 25 on Wasagaming Drive, eight lots on block 26 and five new blocks- 59 through 63- on Mooswa Drive. Like the planned expansion

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23Riding Mountain National Park Manitoba, General Information (Ottawa: King’s Printer, 1938).
of the cottage area in 1936-38, much of this was never built on. The new building consisted of motel expansion and park staff housing. Much of block 60 was used for the establishment of a new bungalow camp. Half of block 61 was taken up by three staff duplexes. With the exception of lots along Mooswa Drive, blocks 62, 63, and half of block 61 were left undeveloped. A third building boom occurred in the late 1950s and carried on into the 1960s as facilities were upgraded and expanded. The original 1931 administration building was replaced in 1956. A new community centre was built on the site of the old relief camp in 1969-70.

The permanent summer community, probably numbering close to 1,500 to 2,000 people, divided itself into three distinct segments. The cottage owners organized themselves as the Clear Lake Cottage Owners’ Association. The business community formed the Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce. And the cabin campground regulars created the Clear Lake Campers’ Association. All of these groups served to promote the attributes of Wasagaming and Riding Mountain National Park as well as the special interests of their members. Their views were expressed in a newspaper published in the 1930s through the 1960s by G.A. McMorran called The Wasagaming Guide to the Riding Mountains.

Despite the postwar building, Wasagaming is still largely dominated by building stock from the 1930s. The importance of this community, from a built heritage perspective, stems from the concentration of interwar recreational architecture. While some of the individual examples are exceptionally fine, even in a national context, the integrity of the community as a whole is more significant than the sum of its parts. The “Tudor Rustic” designs of the Architectural Division in combination with the skilled use of horizontal log and field stone construction lend an unmistakable character to the buildings erected in Riding Mountain National Park during the years between 1930 and 1937. This design motif continues to dominate the architectural character of the park up to the present time, most notably in the townsite of Wasagaming.
Building the Park
Development away from the townsite was made possible by a massive road building program that was carried out during the first half of the 1930s. When the park was established in 1930 access was confined to a gravel road that led north from Brandon to the south shore of Clear Lake, and a second one running south from Dauphin to an entry point at the park boundary on the Vermillion River. The road from Brandon was upgraded and extended north to connect with Dauphin in 1935, providing the park with entry points at both the north and south boundaries, and eliminating the need for the circuitous route from the Vermillion River south to Clear Lake via Lake Audy. In 1932 the Norgate Road was completed, establishing an access road to the eastern side of the park. Registration gate buildings were established at each of the three entry points. Built of logs and elegantly designed in the Rustic building tradition, the gates were the first visual symbols of the new national park to greet arriving visitors. At both the east and north entrances, the registration buildings were accompanied by complementary log residences that reinforced the rustic architectural effect and also served to draw attention to the law enforcement authority of the park wardens stationed there. During the same period new picnic grounds were established along the Dauphin and Norgate roads. An access road to Lake Katherine was built in 1935 and a small campground was also established there.25

Warden’s Residence, East Gate. [Parks Canada Photo Services]

Although a golf course had been started at the east end of Clear Lake by the Forest Branch in 1929, upgrading the course was a priority during the preliminary development phase of the park. In 1931 the greens were improved on the original nine hole course and work begun on the development of the back nine holes. In 1932 the Architectural Division prepared plans for a clubhouse which was completed the following year. The course itself was well sited to take advantage of the lake view, and the clubhouse was particularly well situated to take advantage of the scenic panorama. This was all part of the larger strategy of establishing the park as an important tourist destination as advertised in a tourist brochure from 1937.

One of the greatest attractions to park visitors is the Government golf course at the eastern end of Clear Lake, a distance of about three miles from Wasagaming. The course is charmingly situated, with a magnificent view obtainable from the clubhouse and course, to the westward down the whole blue length of the lake.26

The golf course provided a pastoral backdrop to the east end of Clear Lake, softening the landscape for a cultural overlay. The park planners attempted to introduce human elements into this landscape that appeared rooted in the landscape.

Original Golf Course Entrance, ca. 1932. [Parks Canada Photo Services]

26Riding Mountain National Park (Ottawa: National Parks Bureau, 1937), 23.
The approach taken with the museum, where a seemingly indigenous architecture appeared rooted in the landscape, was echoed in the design for the superintendent’s residence, constructed between 1931 and 1932. The residence was designed in the Rustic building tradition with saddle-notched log walls, rubble masonry, exposed pole rafters and bentwood brackets. The Rustic building tradition was carried out by the highly skilled local tradesmen including Gotfrid Johnson and Frank Thaczuk. The superintendent’s house also incorporates elements of the Anglo-Indian bungalow tradition with its large bell-cast roof with overhanging eaves and deep porch running along two sides of the residence. This was not a cabin in the wilderness but a spacious well-appointed residence, comparable to a manor house in England but cast in a New World environment. The stature of the residence was enhanced by its setting, with the bucolic fields of the golf course in the background, and the more formally landscaped private grounds which incorporated an English garden similar to the one established on the grounds of the museum.

The picturesque setting of the east end of Clear Lake was further enhanced by the construction of scenic Glen Beag Drive that connected the south and north shore cottage communities. Stone Arch Bridge over Bogey Creek was completed in 1935. A wishing well and rustic arbour at Bubbling Springs further enhanced the pastoral qualities of the area and provided a picnic area. On the north shore, the Parks Branch retained the U-shaped blocks laid out in the Forest Branch survey. However, they scaled back the number of blocks on the north shore, keeping only blocks one, 15, 17 and 18 and reducing the number of lots in each block to ten or less.

Not all building in the park was directed at tourist development; the park administration was concerned with protecting its assets and a sizeable proportion of its staff and budget was directed toward conservation. A number of cabins were built throughout the park to facilitate warden patrols. Poaching was a chronic problem for the wardens. Hunting had been allowed under the Forest Branch administration of the area and both the local farming and First Nations communities claimed traditional rights in this area. The park was surrounded by agricultural land and was easily accessible by road along much of its boundary. Thus, for a time, Riding Mountain had the dubious distinction of being the most heavily poached park in the federal system. Because poachers usually hunted along the boundary of the park, warden patrols were concentrated along the perimeter. Between 1931 and the mid-1960s, 13 warden stations were established on or near the park boundary, and a network of patrol cabins was developed on trails throughout the park.

Fire protection was another important concern for the park administration as the forests were an important feature of the park. At first, the park had an arrangement with the Royal Canadian Air Force to have aerial surveillance of the park during the hazardous summer months. A sheltered anchorage for the RCAF float planes was located along the shore of Clear Lake just east of the townsite at a place called Aeroplane (now Deep) Bay. In 1934 the park built a cottage for the pilot beside this facility. Designed by the Architectural Division, it incorporated elements of the Rustic Tudor Style that had come to typify the architecture of the townsite. Four years later the aerial surveys were replaced by a system of lookout towers that were established along the perimeter of the park. A series of dry years in the 1930s prompted the Parks service to institute a
coordinated program of fire prevention. Interest in researching fires and monitoring fire risk was encouraged by the circumstances of the Parks service in the 1930s. In 1936 it lost its branch status when the Department of the Interior was disbanded and reorganized as part of the Land, Park and Forestry Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources. This placed the Parks service in a closer relationship with forestry officials than it had been for many years. The Dominion Forest Service saw Parks as a way of establishing an uninterrupted network of research and detection stations across the west. Lookouts were to form an important part of the forest protection strategy along with fire roads, trained personnel and portable pumps. Beginning in 1938 a system of fire lookouts was inaugurated at both Prince Albert and Riding Mountain National Parks. Towers were built at Rolling River, Baldy Lake, Clear Lake, Heron Creek and Sugarloaf. As part of this same program, the redundant pilot's cottage was incorporated into a forest research station staffed by the forest service.

An exotic component of Riding Mountain's early conservation program was the establishment in the park of the renowned author, conservationist and, at the time, reputed aboriginal, Grey Owl in 1931. The stated reason for Grey Owl's establishment in the park was to inaugurate a program of reintroducing beaver to the area. But the Parks service also believed that the noted author's presence would generate favourable publicity and further stimulate tourism to Riding Mountain. Grey Owl was promised a cabin by water where he and his wife Anahareo along with their two pet beavers could live. The site chosen was located on a small lake (later named Beaver Lodge Lake) situated north-east of Clear Lake, where the prerequisites of food, shelter, isolation and suitable drainage appeared to exist. The cabin's design and construction has been attributed to Gotfrid Johnson and indeed the alternating lengths of the logs at the corners of the building are his distinctive signature. Grey Owl and Anahareo stayed only six months in Riding Mountain before moving on to Prince Albert National Park but the cabin remains a popular tourist destination associated with the still famous author.

As with Wasagaming, the architectural character of the park was established through the building programs carried out between 1931 and 1936. This early building stock was enlarged and partially replaced by extensive building programs carried out during the 1950s and 1960s. Buildings from this later construction phase were often characterized by generic designs that focussed on meeting functional and operation requirements without reference to preceding design traditions within the park. This was most evident in the case of replacements for outdated staff residences and operational buildings, particularly at the warden stations. The enlargement of the general works function in the park also dictated the building of a substantial maintenance compound. But probably the most noticeable product from this later period was the refurbishment of four unserviced campgrounds. The Lake Audy Campground was built in 1956, partly to relieve pressure on the Clear Lake Campground and partly to provide better visitor services at a popular natural attraction. At the same time, new kitchen shelters and washrooms were provided at the Lake Katherine campground. Campgrounds with kitchen shelters were also in place at Whirlpool Lake and Moon Lake by the end of the 1950s. Following the construction of the large new campground in the townsite in 1960-63, the Lake Katherine site was converted to a picnic ground and subsequently leased to Anishinabe Village.
While the architectural qualities of buildings at Riding Mountain dating from the 1920s and 1930s have cast an enduring character on the human landscape of the park, it is important to also consider the contributions made by successive phases of construction that followed. Riding Mountain is, after all, a dynamic place that reflects the changing needs and tastes of the people who use it for work or for pleasure. While they may lack the qualities of design, native materials and craftsmanship that are embodied in landmark buildings from the 1930s, later buildings or building clusters often convey valuable cultural messages through their associations with the park’s evolving human history.
THE LAKE SHORE

The lakeshore of Clear Lake forms the heart of the town and is the visual focus for the whole park. At the core of this area are the Interpretive Centre and the administration building, forming an administrative node, surrounded by green space consisting of gardens, picnic grounds, recreation area, and Central Park. They provide the administrative and principal visitor service facility for the park. Originally, the two buildings were designed to be visually linked by common log and stone façades and by decorative landscape that tied the two buildings in a shared setting. However, the original administrative building was replaced by a more modern looking structure in 1956 which lessened the visual effect of the administrative complex. Now the Museum, which has been converted into the park interpretive centre, is the visual focus for this zone. Situated on a slight embankment overlooking Wasagaming Drive, it provides a visual focus for the entire townsite and appears like a manor house in a traditional English country setting. This reference is underscored by the country house landscaping and gardens which surround the building.

The Riding Mountain Museum, 1933. [Provincial Archives of Manitoba; N20400]
The Chalet Hotel, built in 1933-34, stood on its own block, surrounded by Central Park and overlooking the lake. It contrasted with other large buildings in the townsite by being a more fully developed expression of the Tudor Revival Style. The hotel was built on the site of Bakers Hotel, on Block A, beside the cottage area. The Chalet burned down in 1956 and the block was incorporated into Central Park. Central Park also contains facilities for swimming and tennis as well as landscaped gardens. Originally two changing room/washroom facilities were located next to the beach, designed in what the Architectural Division called "cottage style" with log and stone exteriors. These have been replaced by more modern facilities.

A greenhouse and nursery were situated to the west and a baseball diamond was located nearby. Both were replaced in the 1950s, to allow for an expanded picnic area. Extensive landscaping was done along the lakeshore in the 1930s to enhance the natural vista across the lake and provide an attractive setting for pedestrian walks. As the entire shoreline is artificial, so the grounds back of it were all planted with various species of trees and shrubs. The tall trees along the sidewalks are elm. There are also green ash, balsam poplar, trembling aspen, white spruce and some red pines and white birch. Walkways were laid out and flower beds established along their borders. Much of the original horticultural work was carried out by George "Daddy" Lean, an accomplished gardener who also developed the "English" gardens at the rear of the museum.27 The rustic pergola and bandstand

are key elements in the rustic landscape architecture of Central Park. Off to the west is a large tennis pavilion constructed in 1934-35. It is associated with four playing courts.

Key heritage buildings in the lakeshore cultural landscape are the Interpretive Centre, kitchen shelters, tennis clubhouse, bandstand and pergola. Individual building reports on these buildings, complete with heritage character statements, follow, with the exception of the kitchen shelters which are treated in the campground section. An important aspect of the heritage character of this area, not reflected in the buildings, is the ground plane, whose plantings provide a strong visual element to this important cultural landscape.
INTERPRETIVE CENTRE (MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY BUILDING)

Background
The Museum was designed to be both a visual focal point for the town as well as a social centre for the community. Prominently sited on a hill overlooking Wasagaming Drive, it assumed greater presence through its generous proportions, imposing pavilion plan and ornate landscaping. Functionally, it was designed to be the principal visitor centre for the park, containing a natural history museum which displayed the flora and fauna of the area. It also contained a lecture hall in which lantern slide shows and other educational talks were held during summer evenings. On Sundays it was used for multi-denominational church services. A third public space was called the community room.

Its style incorporated W.D. Cromarty’s vision of the Tudor Rustic style, incorporating both English and North American elements of this early 20th century style. Rustic elements include the domestic form of the building with its broken roof line incorporating gables, hipped pavilions, eyebrow eaves and Jacobean dormers. The eyebrow eave over the principal entrance evokes the roof line of a thatched cottage. The half timber and stucco detailing, tall slender chimneys and multi-paned leaded glass windows evoke country buildings from 16th century England. The log walls evoke pioneer North American dwellings, although this detail also has its origins in Scandinavian rural architecture. This building has been rated as "Classified" by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office, the highest rating possible. The building has been poorly conserved in the past and some of the logs have been abraded. Restoration of the logs was undertaken in the late 1990s. Unfortunately, much of the original furniture and display cabinets have been removed from the interior.

Heritage Character Statement
The building is important for the central role it plays in the community. Its heritage character derives both from its historical significance as a visitor centre and its architectural prominence, helping establish the architectural character of the larger community. It is also a prominent landmark. Character defining elements include the log walls, half timber and stucco details, finely crafted stone porticos and chimney bases, multi-paned leaded glass windows and banded cedar shingle roof. The heritage character of the building is further defined by the landscaping, including the broad sweep of lawn running down to Wasagaming Drive at the front and the ornamental, English-inspired garden at the rear.
The Interpretive Centre, 1999

Museum Door, Interpretive Centre, 1999
The Lakeshore

BANDSTAND AND PERGOLA

Background
The bandstand is an octagonal structure, of log, concrete and stone construction, covered with a bell-cast pyramidal roof sheathed with cedar shingles. It was built in 1934-35 as part of the extensive landscaping programme then underway in Central Park. A nearby pergola, constructed of native oak logs, dates from the same year and was also a product of the landscape design for the park.

The design of the bandstand complements the architectural theme developed in the townsite by the Architectural Division of the Parks Branch and is probably a product of that office. The craftsmanship evident in the log and stone construction reflects the skilled labour available in the park in the 1930s. The bandstand is a substantial structure with a stone-faced base and piers supporting a superstructure built entirely of peeled logs, apart from the roof cladding. It incorporates a decorative frieze of musical notes and bars of stick wood construction inserted between the horizontal logs and eaves on each of the eight sides. The building is well maintained and is still employed for musical performances during the summer months. The only apparent evidence of alterations is the use of log siding for infill panels set between the stone piers. These panels likely replace original horizontal log work. Both the Bandstand and Pergola have been accorded "Recognized" heritage status by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the Bandstand is based on the well constructed Rustic design incorporating cut stone base and supporting piers, peeled log columns, pole rafters and bell-cast roof with wood shingles. Decorative features such as the bent wood brackets and musical notes also contribute to the heritage character. The heritage character of the pergola is based on its oak log construction and function as an architectural piece in a designed landscape.
The Bandstand, 1999

The Pergola, 1999
TENNIS CLUBHOUSE (PAVILION)

Background
Eight tennis courts were installed on their present site to the west of the Central Park area in 1932-33. Originally clay courts, they were resurfaced with asphalt in 1972. The facilities have been maintained to a high standard and have been the site of district and provincial tennis championships. The pavilion was added in 1934-35 to provide changing rooms, washrooms and a covered verandah overlooking the playing area. Construction is attributed to Gotfrid and Herb Johnson, two log builders from Erickson, with the assistance of relief labour under the 1934 Public Works Construction Act. Plans for the tennis pavilion were prepared by the Architectural Division of the Parks Branch. The design employs elements of the Tudor Rustic style found in the Museum and other government buildings in Wasagaming. The original interior plan consisted of men's and women's changing rooms separated by storage rooms and toilets. Later alterations relocated the men's and women's changing and lavatory facilities to the right side to permit the inclusion of a lounge area on the left side. The former lavatories and storage room were then converted into an office. The Tennis Clubhouse has been designated as a "Recognized" heritage building by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office.

Heritage Character Statement
The clubhouse is an important visual anchor on the west edge of Central Park. Its design echoes that of the Interpretive Centre and it is a good example of Tudor Rustic design in Wasagaming. Character defining elements include the saddle-notched log walls, mock half timbered gable, exposed log rafters, flared fascia boards, multi-paned windows and banded wood shingle roof. Its historical significance derives from the continued use of the facility as a tennis clubhouse.
TOWN CORE

Canada's national parks became committed to a policy of promoting commercial activities within park boundaries following Banff’s establishment as a resort-oriented townsite in 1887. The creation of subsequent parks, notably Yoho, Jasper, Waterton Lakes, Prince Albert, and Riding Mountain, was in turn accompanied by the establishment of townsites within park boundaries. But, although they seemed like other municipalities, these commercial areas were subject to much more control than municipalities outside of the parks. The Parks Branch had absolute authority over the type of business that could be established and the appearance of its premises.

The commercial area at Wasagaming was laid out by the national park planners to provide visitor services, shops, accommodation and entertainment for visitors and summer residents in the park. Like the lakeshore, it was dominated by a group of large buildings that had been designed by the Architectural Division of the Parks Branch and which exhibited high standards of craftsmanship by local artisans. The main street of the town core was laid out along Wasagaming Drive which borders the lakeshore. Two commercial buildings along this street mirror the monumental scale of the Interpretive Centre which is grouped with the lakeshore area. Built of peeled log, Danceland and the Park Theatre also employed the Tudor Rustic building tradition that was the architectural motif of Wasagaming. Smaller buildings along Wasagaming Drive such as Cones-N-Things, Idylwylde Bungalows, the Wigwam and the Art Craft Shop used different materials and architectural motifs but all tended to be from designs by the Architectural Division and conformed to its overall vision for the townsite.

Another component of the townsite is situated at the other side of the commercial zone along Ta-Wa-Pit Drive. Included in this area are the fire hall, the doctor’s residence and clinic at 140 Ta-Wa-Pit and the staff residence at 150 Ta-Wa-Pit. The fire hall borders a general service area that once contained the work camps. The staff residence borders the cottage area and is situated on a slight rise that gives it greater prominence. Both buildings are fine examples of Cromarty’s Tudor Rustic style and echo many of the design elements of the Interpretive Centre, including the mixture of saddle-notched log walls, mock Tudor half timbering, multi-paned windows, and finely-crafted stone work. The doctor’s residence exemplifies a later period of government architecture and is more modest in scale and execution.

As the townsite developed, its streets took on a distinctive character. The commercial side of Wasagaming Drive assumed a dignified resort like atmosphere. The buildings are set well back from the main street, surrounded by mature trees and bordered by well-kept lawns. The repetition of the Tudor detailing and other characteristics of English architecture give the main commercial part of Wasagaming Drive the atmosphere of an English high street. The long façade of the Cones-N-Things building contributes to this English appearance. Further to the west of the townsite the area takes on a more residential aspect, as several bungalow camps line the streets. The cabins seem to get smaller further to the west so that the streets resemble those of the seasonal cabin area.
Although the heritage character of the town core is defined by its distinctive streetscapes and greenscapes, it is also distinguished by a number of key heritage buildings: Cones-N-Things, Wigwam Restaurant, Park Theatre, Danceland, Idylwylde Bungalows, Johnson Cabins, Art Craft Shop, Tempo Service Station, Esso Gas Station, Fire Hall, Staff Fourplex, and the Doctor’s residence and clinic.
DANCELAND

Background
The original Wasagaming dance hall opened in 1932 but soon proved unable to meet the demands of the dancing public. The owner received permission to replace it with a larger facility in 1933 and the Parks Branch provided plans based on a similar facility at Waterton Lakes. These plans were modified by the owner, Charles Pedlar, and construction began in 1934 under the direction of John Anderson. Danceland’s design features an 80-foot square dance floor with perimeter seating and refreshment areas. The arrangement of the dance floor and perimeter sections is reflected in the building’s exterior appearance. An upper clerestory level provides natural lighting for the dance floor and is covered by a broad hipped roof. A hipped roof of similar dimension covers the perimeter section. A gable-roof front porch covers the main entrance and features the half-timbered motif typical of Parks Branch designs. While the building’s exterior is not overtly rustic in character, its interior was designed to exude a rustic atmosphere. This derives from the massive exposed framework, consisting of 20-foot high peeled log posts set along the perimeter of the dance floor, that in turn support an open roof-truss system, also constructed from peeled logs.

Danceland has undergone periodic alterations that have radically changed the appearance of the main façade. The original siding has been replaced with log slab siding, its clerestory windows have been enclosed, and the original central gable entrance has been removed.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of Danceland derives from its historical associations as a dance hall and regional entertainment centre and from the large, relatively intact dance room. Character defining elements of this room include the sprung wooden dance floor, log posts and log truss system. It is defined by its large unobstructed space.

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CONES-N-THINGS

Background
The building, comprised of three identical segments, was built in three phases. The central portion was constructed in 1932 as a photography and souvenir shop. The second segment to the west was built in 1941 to accommodate a post office. Finally, the third segment to the east was added in 1949 to provide space for a drug store.

The first proprietor was Minnedosa photographer A.R. Henson. The plans for the new building were prepared by the Architectural Division. The park superintendent indicated that Mr. Henson required "a building providing a store in the front, small workshop or studio, and one bedroom and kitchen for the purpose of somebody being able to be quartered in the building to look after the business."28 The building, as completed in 1934, had a large bay window occupying much of the principal façade with an offset entry door. The mock-half timber stucco finish of the gable end is a typical flourish of the Wasagaming commercial buildings. The rest of the façade was originally finished with artificial brick. By 1933 the grounds around the building had been improved with the addition of "a lawn, flower beds and walks."29

When the business opened it was more than a photography shop, selling souvenirs, candies, patent medicines and toiletries. In 1941 Henson was appointed postmaster of Wasagaming and received permission for an expansion to his building. Park officials agreed that Henson could expand to the west and plans for a virtually identical building with a connecting wing were provided by the department. The expansion allowed for improvements to the confectionary side of the business and the connecting wing accommodated a nut house. In 1949 Henson formed a partnership with Gerald Porter, the Dauphin druggist who had previously helped stock that side of the business. The partnership was part of a plan to open a fully-fledged drug store and to accommodate this expanded business, the department approved an expansion to the east that would mirror the 1941 addition. The exterior of both additions continued the artificial brick of the original central segment.

Henson sold his share of the business in 1956. Some time after this, the 1941 addition on the west segment was converted for use as a restaurant. After 1967 this became more of a snack shop, a function that is continued through its present use as an ice cream parlour, and gourmet coffee shop. The old drug store, meanwhile, evolved into a more general store. In 1975 a rear addition was built for living space and a stock room.

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Heritage Character Statement
This building is an important component of the Wasagaming Drive streetscape, contributing to the ‘high street’ quality of the main street of the town, with all the English associations that term implies. Character defining elements include the distinctive gables with stucco and mock half-timber detailing and the large multi-paned bow windows with stone trim at the base. The heritage character of the building is enhanced by the surrounding lawn and trees which provides a link to the park land across the street bordering the lakeshore.
WIGWAM RESTAURANT

Background
The Wigwam Café or Restaurant was completed in the spring of 1931 by Oswald and Ernest Gusdal. The design came from the Architectural Division of the Parks Branch. The original design called for a single room, measuring 40 feet square with a pyramid roof and a small wing extending to the rear for a kitchen and store rooms. The plans called for a counter to extend across the rear of the large room, separating it from the kitchen behind. As built, the dimensions of the main room were slightly different measuring about 35 by 40 feet. This made the roof into a hipped shape. A low rectangular building was erected behind the restaurant for stores and staff living quarters. The building combined a small café on one side with a grocery store on the other. The Gusdals owned a similar business in Erickson and the Wigwam was likely an extension of this enterprise. But Ernest Gusdal was also involved in much of the construction work in Wasagaming including the Interpretive Centre and the Fire Hall. He was involved in building the original Johnson Bungalows in partnership with his father-in-law Gotfrid Johnson.

In 1933 Oswald Gusdal died, leaving his brother to manage the building alone. The park did not like two buildings on the site so in 1935 Ernest Gusdal built an extension that joined the restaurant with the rear annex. By 1937 George Poole was managing the restaurant which he eventually bought from Gusdal in 1944. George Poole applied for permission to make the following alterations in 1937:

It is our wish to transfer the tea room to the north side in the space now occupied by the store. This necessitates the substitution of the double windows for the door which at present is rarely used. The tea room would then have two triple and one double window, which would provide light and through which customers could view the park lawns and lake.

This work was approved and the main elevation assumed its present appearance. Further additions to the rear and the kitchen were approved in 1948 and 1949. A last small addition was approved in 1962.

The Wigwam was designated a Provincial Heritage Site in 1992.

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31 Ibid., George Poole and Ernest Gusdal to Superintendent Hyslop, May 1937.
Heritage Character Statement
One of the first businesses to be established in Wasagaming, the Wigwam remains the oldest restaurant in the community. It has important associations with the work camp located just behind this block as it served as the camp’s commissary and hall. Architecturally, it exemplifies the Tudor Rustic style developed by the Architectural Division in the national parks. The large interior space is well preserved and detailing such as the open ceiling, exposed pole rafters and central dormer illuminating the interior space is typical of the work of the local builders.
PARK THEATRE

Background
Cinemas were considered necessary for the completion of tourist facilities in all national park townsites and Wasagaming was no exception. Applications to build a cinema in Wasagaming were made as early as 1933 and prompted the preparation of plans for a large log theatre building by the Architectural Division in that year. At least two applicants backed off at the last minute, apparently due to financial problems or second thoughts about the viability of the enterprise. In 1936, a Winnipeg-based firm called Ellice Securities submitted an application to build a cinema in a slightly modified form which included a café and retail shop in the front. This application was accepted and the building was erected in the following year. Chief contractor for the building was John Anderson, who had also built the neighbouring dance hall two years earlier and numerous other park buildings since the early 1930s.

The front section is a rectangular hip-roofed structure, 71 feet in width by 40 feet in depth, with a prominent gable-roofed front portico which covers an outer lobby, ticket booth and entrances to the inner foyer. This porticoed entrance area is flanked by two retail shops, lending a symmetrical T-shape to the structure in its original configuration. The auditorium measures almost 78 feet in length by just under 41 feet in width, excluding the stage and flanking wings in the rear. The exterior walls are of saddle-notched log construction, making this among the largest log buildings in the country. The size of the facility, however, necessitated the construction of concrete buttresses to support the large roof. The original symmetrical T-shape was partially obscured by an addition to the left (south) side of the auditorium section in the mid-1940s. This section was built according to plans furnished by the Engineering and Construction Service of the Department of Mines and Resources and employed log construction similar to the original building. Aside from the 1945 addition to the restaurant concession, a frame extension to the kitchen (1951), and a washroom addition in 1969-70, the major alteration to date was the replacement of the original wooden floor in the cinema with a concrete slab during the early 1950s. The interiors of the auditorium, shop and restaurant appear to be largely unchanged. The windows have been changed in the front gable and the original board and batten finish replaced with wood shingles.

The Park Theatre has been designated as a Provincial Heritage Site.

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Heritage Character Statement
This is an important landmark on Wasagaming Drive. Its heritage character derives from its continuing function as a cinema and the large scale rustic expression. Character defining elements include the saddle notched log construction, the cinema entrance details, and the barge boards on the gable.
IDYLWYLDE BUNGALOWS

Background
The idea of establishing bungalow camps in national parks had been forming through the 1920s, following the lead of the CPR which had opened several such places in Yoho, Kootenay and Rocky Mountains Park (Banff). The Parks Branch saw bungalow camps as a development from automobile camps, with similar configurations but having cabins replace tents. This was promoted as policy beginning in 1931. As originally conceived, a bungalow camp consisted of a group of single room cabins clustered around a central lodge. The cabins were designed for sleeping. Meals were taken communally in the lodge and there were communal toilet and washing facilities.

In Wasagaming, the branch accepted the proposal of George Poole, who described himself as an insurance underwriter living in Winnipeg.\(^{33}\) Plans were provided by the Architectural Division and Poole erected the main lodge and ten cabins in the summer of 1931. The lodge contained an office, restaurant, and store on the ground floor with living quarters at the rear. The ten guest units were actually contained in six structures: two single family bungalows, two double bungalows separated by a carport and two double unit bungalows separated only by a wall.\(^{34}\) Although the plans specified the use of peeled log construction, the owner was permitted to substitute conventional milled frame construction with veneers of locally milled slab siding. The upper walls of the store and office portion of the main building were stuccoed with mock half timber detailing. The Architectural Division influence can be seen in the eyebrow eaves over the cabin doors, emulating the thatched roof eaves of English cottages. The double units did not prove popular and so additional units were of the single cabin variety. Mr. Poole erected another 15 of these by 1932 and more the following year to total 40 units. In 1934 additions were made to the main lodge that added projecting bays to the fronts of the office and store and extended the rear walls about seven feet to change the original cruciform plan to a rectangle. By 1936 there were 40 cabin units available to rent. By 1941 extensions were being made to the cabins, probably to provide kitchenettes and toilet facilities. At some unknown time the central portion of the main lodge was stuccoed.

The main lodge still closely resembles its 1934 appearance having a broken roof line, bracketed eaves and mock half timber motif. There are several remnants from the 1930s bungalow camp besides the main lodge. The 1936 bath house and laundry may survive as the storage building with drop siding. Unit 50 resembles the first design for a single cabin and may be the oldest cabin on the site. Unit 48 is a well preserved example of another style of single cabin. Unit 31 combines two early single cabins.

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Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character derives from the traditional configuration of a bungalow camp, with numerous small cabins grouped in rows behind a central main lodge. Character defining elements include the slab siding, doors and windows, projecting eaves and eyebrow eave treatment over the original door openings.

Cabin 48, Idylwylde Bungalows, 1999
Idylwylde Main Building, ca. 1935 [Parks Canada Photo Services]
Idylwylde Main Building, 1999
JOHNSON CABINS

Background
The first bungalow camp to be established in Wasagaming, Idylwylde Bungalows, was given a five year monopoly in 1932 in order to ensure that it remained economically viable as the cabins gradually were built. At the same time, Gotfrid Johnson opened the Wasagaming Lodge which by 1938 had 26 rooms. In 1937, at the end of Idylwylde’s exclusive clause, Gotfrid Johnson and his son-in-law Ernest Gusdal applied for and received permission to open a second bungalow camp. It was the intention of the partners to provide slightly more deluxe accommodation than the simple cabins of Idylwylde, having private bathrooms and kitchenettes. Consequently a main lodge was not fundamental to the arrangement as it was with the more traditional bungalow camp with its communal dining and washroom facilities. Basic plans for the cabins were provided by the Architectural Division, modified from plans prepared for a bungalow camp in Jasper. Johnson was himself an experienced builder, having contracted to construct the museum and administration buildings for the park. The design certainly incorporates details that are associated with Johnson buildings such as the alternating lengths of logs at the corners and the plain exterior finish. In 1937 Johnson built ten cabins, three of which were log and faced Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, the others being of frame construction with log slab siding. They were later stucco clad. By 1947 it had 25 cabins. The central building, with office and living quarters for the proprietor and staff, was constructed in 1946. By 1950 the establishment was described as consisting of 18 fully modern cabins, ten semi-modern cabins, one ice house, one office building and one shower building. The establishment had a succession of names. Originally known as Johnson and Gusdal Cabins, for a while it was referred to as Wasagaming Cabins but since the 1961 has been known as Johnson Cabins.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of Johnson Cabins is largely confined to the three original log cabins facing Ta-Wa-Pit Drive. They are important for their association with Gotfrid Johnson and as good examples of the Rustic building tradition in Wasagaming. Character defining elements include the saddle-notched log walls with their distinctive corner treatment, the plain window and door treatment, exposed pole rafters and wood shingle roofs.

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Johnson Cabins - one of the three original log cabins on Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, 1999
ART CRAFT SHOP

Background
The Art Craft shop was specifically designed by the Architectural Division as a shop for the sale of arts and crafts. The owner, E.R. Williams, a Winnipeg art teacher, requested that the design of the building be "attractive" reflecting the artistic nature of the business. The designs reflected the larger architectural motifs of the commercial area while adding some distinctive features.

The original plan was fairly square, measuring 30 by 36 feet, with a central entrance and a pyramid roof. Large multi-paned windows at either side of the main entrance were intended for the display of sale goods. Two large window bays on either side provided light. More light was provided by an elegant dormer above the main entrance. The front façade had stone running up to the bottom of the windows. The remaining front wall that was not taken up by windows and door was stucco with mock half timber detailing. The original plan called for the other walls to be covered with log slab siding. The builder, however, used stucco for all the exterior cladding. The interior comprised a large open room with vaulted ceiling. A stock room and office occupied the rear third of the structure. The building was completed by August 1934.

In 1935 Mr. Williams received permission to construct a 26 by 30 foot addition to the side of the building to provide living space for the shop keeper. Plans were drawn up by the Architectural Division that year although the addition which was likely completed in 1936 was on the rear, not the side. This addition incorporated the Tudor Revival details -multi paned bay window and mock half timber detailing- used in the original plan. In 1951 a permit was issued for the construction of another addition to the south side of the building for storage. The addition incorporates the same stuccoed finish and large multi-paned windows as the rest of the building.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the Art Craft Shop derives from its continuing use as an arts and crafts shop since 1934. It is an elegant adaptation of the Tudor Rustic Revival styles used in other Wasagaming buildings. Character defining elements include the stone work along the lower portion of the front façade, the mock half timber detailing, large multi-paned windows, distinctive front dormer, and stuccoed walls. The heritage character is further enhanced by the treed setting of the lot.

Art Craft Shop, 1999
TEMPO SERVICE STATION, 120 WASAGAMING DRIVE

Background
Visitors to Wasagaming were totally dependent on the automobile unlike other townsites which were served by rail and bus. With visitation expected to be surpassed only by Banff, the need for gasoline filling stations and vehicle repair services would have been considered acute. National Park plans for the new townsite originally allowed for two service stations on Wasagaming Drive: one for Imperial Oil on Block B, now green space beside the Wigwam café, and one for the British-American Oil Company on the site now occupied by the Tempo gas station. Permission was granted in 1934 to build a third gas station on the site of the present Esso service station. Of these three establishments, only the former British-American and Esso stations remain. The 1931 Imperial station was closed in 1935 and the building moved to Ta-Wa-Pit Drive where it was recycled as a real estate agency and printing office, and later as a retail shop now known as "Seagulls and Sandcastles."

The British-American station was built in 1932 according to plans prepared by the British-American Oil Company. As first built, it was a rather plain log slab building with a hipped roof and a smaller cabin in the rear for accommodation for the station attendant. The Architectural Division was not pleased with the result; it complained the building was supposed to be of log like the Imperial station and the separate cabin in the rear was unacceptable. Discussions were carried out between Ottawa and the British-American office in Winnipeg which led to mutually acceptable plans to remodel the building. The cabin was replaced with a rear wing for staff quarters and the Wasagaming Drive façade was dressed up with typical Architectural Division design motifs including a central gable with mock half timber and stucco detailing.

The present Tempo station is remarkably similar to the 1935 building. Renovations were carried out in 1958 which may have included replacing the panes of the front windows with plate glass. The exterior walls are now painted white where they were once brown. British-American changed its name to Gulf. The firm later disposed of its lease in Wasagaming to an independent dealer who then became associated with the Tempo firm.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this building derives from its historic function as one of the original gas stations in Wasagaming, a function which continues to the present. Character defining elements include the log slab siding, end boards and central gable with mock half timber detailing.
British-American Oil Company Service Station, ca. 1935
[NAC, RG 84, vol. 1879, RM21-26-12, pt.1]

Tempo Service Station, 1999
ESSO GAS STATION, 122 WASAGAMING DRIVE

Background
This service station was built for the McColl-Frontenac Oil Company in 1934 to their design. C.T. Pedlar had the first lease for the lot upon which he built a dance hall in 1932. He soon found it too small for the many visitors flocking to the Saturday night dances and he negotiated with the park for two lots across Wasagaming Drive on which he built the present Danceland. He invited McColl-Frontenac to take over his lease and the Parks Branch agreed to the building of a third service station. Although designed by McColl-Frontenac, the building shares some typically Parks Branch design motifs, including the central gable over the central door with its mock half timber detailing and paired multi-paned casement windows. Other design features include the truncated hipped roof, stucco cladding and imitation brick finish along the lower third of the exterior. In 1939 plans were approved for a side addition to provide space for two more service bays and public washrooms. McColl-Frontenac was eventually acquired by Texaco. The station became affiliated with Esso at an unknown date.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the building derives from its continuous use as a gas station from 1934 until the present. The open space surrounding the main building and its prominent location on Wasagaming Drive make it a well-known landmark in the townsite. Character defining elements of the design include the central gable with mock half timber detailing, exposed rafters, stucco finish and paired casement windows.
FIRE HALL

Background
The Wasagaming Fire Hall was designed by the Architectural Division and constructed in 1935-36 under the direction of Gotfrid Johnson, a noted local craftsman and builder. Branch architects designed a highly individualistic building, combining an unusually vigorous use of log construction with an eccentric roof and hose tower design. Walls featured characteristic horizontal log construction, with flared ends that bore the curving overhang of the hipped roof. The main façade incorporates log slab cladding. The attenuated roof slope on the front façade was supported by five log brackets which projected from the wall surface immediately above the two vehicle bays. To the rear of the building stands a lofty hose drying tower, sheathed with split logs and capped with a half timbered cupola-like structure.

Unfortunately, the qualities of the original design have not been well served by later modifications. The need for a larger vehicle entrance was met by eradicating the original bracketing system and installing an unsympathetic modern door. The integrity of the original structure was further eroded by an unsympathetic rear addition in 1982. The Federal Heritage Building Review Office has designated this a "Recognized" heritage building.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the Fire Hall stems from its Tudor Rustic style and traditional use as a fire hall. Character defining elements include the stone foundation, horizontal log wall, bell-cast pyramid roof and attached tower with log slab siding and mock half timber detailing.
The Fire Hall, ca. 1936. [Parks Canada Photo Services]
STAFF RESIDENCE, 150 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive

Background
Designed by the Architectural Division of the Parks Branch, this building was constructed in 1934-35 to house permanent staff employed at the park. Its design, employing the Tudor Rustic style, with log wall, mock half timbering in the central gable and stone foundation echoes the Interpretive Centre and the Tennis Pavilion in the Government Reserve. Like the Interpretive Centre, the building is prominently sited on a slight hill overlooking the commercial zone. The slightly bell-cast roof echoes the bandstand. Initially designed as a duplex, the building was modified into four units in 1938 through the addition of a large rear dormer and the building of two suites on the attic floor. This addition necessitated the construction of a wooden staircase at the rear to provide for a separate entrance to the second floor. Later renovations replaced the original banded wood shingle roof with asphalt shingles. An extensive renovation in 1981 boxed in the exposed log rafters and upgraded the windows. The windows along the principal façade, however, appear to be original. The Federal Heritage Building Review Office has designated this as a "Recognized" heritage building.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this building derives from it being a good example of the Tudor Rustic style employed by the Architectural Division in Wasagaming in the 1930s. Character defining elements include the stone work, log walls, mock half timber gable and multi-paned windows.
DOCTOR’S RESIDENCE AND CLINIC
140 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive

Background
In 1946, the national parks service decided to establish seasonal medical facilities in both Prince Albert and Riding Mountain national parks. Consequently, this building was erected in 1948 according to plans prepared by W.K. Humphrys for the Soldier Settlement and Veterans Land Act Agency. The building is a modest one and one-half storey building of milled frame construction, sheathed with bevelled siding and covered with a medium-pitch gabled roof with exposed rafters. It has a rectangular plan with a centrally-placed front entrance and roof dormer. The original plan was modified slightly in order to accommodate the clinic on the ground floor which consists of waiting and consulting rooms. The design of the building marks a shift away from the design aesthetic of the 1930s. But in its materials and colour, it blends with the cottages constructed at an earlier date. The building was given "Recognized" heritage status by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office in 1985.

Heritage Character Defining Elements
The heritage character of the building derives from its historical associations as the first medical facility of Wasagaming. Character defining elements include the classical details of the pedimented central porch, wood siding with end boards, central dormer and exposed rafters.

The cottage area forms a distinct community within Wasagaming, comprising 282 buildings, organized into 30 blocks to the east of the commercial area. Most of the cottages were built between 1931 and 1937 although a small proportion dates to the 1920s and another small segment dates to the 1950s. The cottage area is defined by a rustic landscape: rock-lined streets, treed lots mostly without fences or formal gardens. There is a remarkable homogeneity to the building stock and most of the cottages fall into eight main types. These types are defined by their plan, roof type and position of main entry.

**Type 1**: characterized predominantly by its gable roof, and rectangular plan with main entry on the short façade. In some instances the plan is a square shape. Plan No. 6046 illustrates a type 1 cottage. The plan is rectangular with the entry on the short façade and the roof is a gable.

**Type 1A**: has a gable roof and rectangular plan with the main entry on the long façade. Plan No. 7043 has many similarities to Plan No. 6046, however in this plan the main entry is on the long façade.

**Type 2**: characterized predominantly by its hip roof and rectangular plan with the main entry on the short façade.

**Type 2A**: has a hip roof and rectangular plan with the main entry on the long façade.

**Type 3**: characterized by its pyramidal roof. These cottages tend to be square in plan with all façades being of equal length. Plan No. 6096 is an excellent example of this type of cottage. The plan is 26' x 26', perfectly square, with the pyramidal roof.

**Type 4**: characterized by its square plan and hipped roof with a cupola centred within the hipped roof. The cupola has a pyramid roof.

**Type 5**: cottage is characterized by intersecting gable roofs, resulting in three different plan shapes; L-shaped, cruciform or T-shaped. Plan No. 6064 shows the L-shaped plan.

**Type 6**: characterized by its pavilion plan. The main façade is symmetrical with a mid-section set back from two identical side sections. The main entry is in the mid-section. Plan No. 7010 illustrates this building type. Note the two identical ends of the pavilion with the main entry in the mid-section.

Buildings have been selected that exemplify each of the basic design types as well as the work of the prominent local builders. The cottage building stock of the late 1920s and early 1930s is associated with a well-defined building tradition introduced by Swedish-Canadian artisans from the Erickson area. These include Gotfrid Johnson, Ludvig Gusdal, Alfred Sjogren and John Anderson. Frank Thaczuk was another important local builder whose work is well-represented in Wasagaming.
The Bowling Green Clubhouse is a landmark building in the cottage area that needs to be described here because it is not included in the examples of cottage types given below. Designed by the Engineering and Construction Services Division of the Department of Mines and Resources and constructed in 1947, it represents a later building tradition in Wasagaming. It is of milled frame construction and was originally sheathed with either beveled siding or half-round log siding up to the eaves level. The gable ends were stuccoed, with mock half-timber inserts, as was the gabled hood above the front entrance. The front half of the building contained an open verandah which was later enclosed with windows. In 1957 the building underwent extensive repairs, including the replacement of the original siding with tapered cedar siding. Further modifications included the replacement of the original concrete piers with a concrete perimeter wall and the installation of fascia boards over the exposed rafters on the eaves. In short, the exterior of the building has been thoroughly renovated over the years; the only conspicuous original component being the half-timber motif on the gable ends.\footnote{FHBRO, \textit{Building Reports}, vol. 39, p. 277.}
**Type 1:** façade characterized predominantly by its gable roof, and rectangular plan with main entry on the short façade. In some instances the plan is a square shape. Plan No. 6046 illustrates a type 1 cottage. Note the rectangular plan with the entry on the short façade and the gable roof.

Standard Plan No. 6046, 3-5-32, Architectural Division, National Parks of Canada, Department of the Interior [hereafter Architectural Division]

*(RMNP Realty file 8606/R1 B17-L12)*
263 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive (153 Puccoon Street)
Block 14 Lot 7

Background
This cottage was constructed in 1939 by George William Cawston of Kelwood, Manitoba. It measured 26 ft. by 30 ft. when first built. There have been very few alterations throughout the years, the major one being the installation of a bathroom in 1963.

The building is a good example of the Type 1, gable roofed style with the main entry on the narrow end façade. This cottage is typical of the later “30's” era cottages, being fairly substantial in size and with considerable detail. The cottage has an attractive front entrance, with a gable roof projection, supported by brackets, over the front door. The eaves have large overhangs supported by decorative brackets. The building is of wood frame construction with drop siding and the multi-paned windows appear to be original. On one of the long elevations is a bay window crowned by a triangle dormer on the roof. The building rests on concrete piers and occupies a well treed corner lot set back in a clearing.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character defining elements include the horizontal drop siding, gable projection over the front entrance, brackets supporting the eaves and gable projection, gable roof, rectangular plan, multi-paned wood windows and concrete piers. The natural park-like setting also contributes to the character of the building and site.
153 Primula Street
Block 15 Lot 6

Background
Otto V. Neilson built this wood frame cottage in 1934, using a plan from the Architecture and Town Planning Division. It is a one storey cottage on a stone foundation. The building measures 24 ft. by 28 ft. and has a gable roof with asphalt shingles. There is an enclosed front entry porch, which may be a later addition as the windows are more modern than those on the remainder of the cottage. There are two bay windows along the south façade of the building with multi-paned windows similar to the other windows in the main body of the cottage. The building is clad with 6 inch lap siding and some of the windows are decorated with flower boxes. The cottage seems relatively intact from when it was originally constructed. Changes include the addition of a bathroom and a screen verandah.

The cottage is situated on a corner lot and shares the site with a guest cabin and two utility buildings. The guest cabin has a gable roof and siding that matches the main cottage. The site is well treed and is bordered by a stone retaining wall.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this building is defined by its rectangular plan with gable roof and front verandah. Other elements that contribute to the heritage character include the wood lap siding, the bay window, the fenestration pattern of the original wood windows, and the stone foundation. The guest cottage with its lap siding, rectangular plan and gable roof contributes to the heritage character of the site. The stone retaining wall is a prominent feature of the townsite and should be protected.
196 Wasagaming Drive  
Block 17 Lot 2

**Background**
Ernest F. Gusdal, a merchant from Erickson built a cottage and garage on this lot in 1933. The cottage was built to standard plan No. 6054 and measured 22 ft. 4 in. by 28 ft. 4 in. In 1948, a frame washroom was added.

The cottage is a one storey frame structure with a hipped gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The large overhang eaves are supported by wood brackets. The front doorway is protected by a shed roof projection, also supported by wood brackets.

The cottage rests on concrete piers which have been infilled with poured concrete. The exterior is clad with 6 inch drop siding. The main entry is centered on the front façade and is flanked by two sets of multi-paned windows. A small band of wood windows is located below the hipped projection of the roof along the front façade. Wood steps lead down to a concrete walk that ends at the road. The lot is sheltered by mature trees and has large expanses of grass in the front and back yards. A storage/wood shed is situated at the back of the lot.

**Heritage Character Statement**
Heritage character is derived from association with Ernest Gusdal, a figure of local historical importance. The heritage character defining elements of this cottage include the large hipped gable roof with the hipped projection along the front façade, the shed roof projection over the front door, the wood multi-paned sashes, the wood siding and the concrete foundation. The wood supporting brackets and wood steps also contribute to the building’s heritage character.
156 Hawthorne Street  
Block 17 Lot 3

Background
The original owner of this cottage was Oswald J. Gusdal, an early cottager, and builder of the Wigwam, with his brother Ernest. Built in 1933, it is a one storey wood frame cottage with a concrete foundation. The building is rectangular in plan with a gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The front entry is on the centre of the west façade and is protected from the elements by a shed roof covering supported on wood brackets. The entry door is flanked by two identical windows that are similarly protected by awnings, with a smaller window over the door just under the apex of the gable. It too is protected by an awning.

The roof has exposed rafters and eaves on the front façade which are supported by brackets. The original windows appear to have been replaced with newer metal windows. The front door is aluminum. The exterior of the cottage is clad in 6 inch painted drop siding. Changes to the cottage over time include the addition of a screened porch at the back of the building, the installation of a bathroom, and the replacement of the original doors and windows with aluminum ones.

The cottage is set well back from the street and is surrounded by trees. The grassed yard has a very natural appearance. A storage shed is situated at the back of the site and complements the main cottage in appearance and configuration.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the cottage is derived from its simple rectangular plan, gable roof and the centrally placed front entry. Another important feature is its association with the Gusdals, one of the prominent families associated with the development of Wasagaming townsite. Other contributing elements include the drop siding, the projection over the front door, the wood brackets supporting the eaves and the front projection, and the exposed rafters. The storage shed, which is compatible in design to the main cottage, adds to the heritage character of the site. The natural look of the site, as opposed to a more manicured urban look, should be retained.
154 Hawthorne Street  
Block 17 Lot 4

Background  
Built in 1933 during the building boom of the Depression decade, this cottage measures 22 ft. by 28 ft. It is a one storey frame building with lap siding and a shingle roof. It has a bay window with four sashes having an 8/8 light configuration and capped with a triangle dormer. The other windows are also multi-paned with wood sashes. The front door, which looks original, is offset to the right of the main façade and is protected by an open porch capped with a small gable roof. The building rests on concrete piers which are hidden from view by the addition of wood lattice at the base of the building. The cottage is very picturesque with white siding and turquoise trim.

Additions to the original cottage include an 8 ft. by 20 ft. addition for a dining area and bathroom.  
The site also has a small storage shed located on it. A number of trees have been cut down around the cottage, however there is still a substantial growth of trees, which contributes to the natural setting.

Heritage Character Statement  
The heritage character of this cottage is reinforced by the original multi-paned wood windows, the rectangular plan, gable roof, concrete piers and lap siding. The fairly simple plan has been embellished by the use of a front porch at the entry door and the bay window.
200 Wasagaming Drive
Block 17 Lot 12

Background
The original builder and owner of this cottage was Martin Christianson, a construction foreman from Minnedosa. He constructed the cottage in 1934, based on a standard plan No. 6046. It appears that he duplicated the plan in its entirety except for a window in the back of the house which he omitted.

The cottage is a single storey wood frame building, measuring 31 ft. by 25 ft. which rests on concrete piers. Wood lattice has been installed between the piers likely for decoration and rodent control. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles, and wood siding. The main entrance is at one of the gable end façades and is centred on that façade. The entry door is protected by a small gable roof projection supported by brackets. This is a replacement, as the original projection over the door had a flat roof. The front door is flanked by a pair of windows on either side. The windows have modern aluminum sashes, replacing the original multi-paned wood sashes. A small set of windows above the front door and at the apex of the gable have retained their original wood sashes. The front door, although not the original one, is wood in keeping with the character of the building.

This cottage is situated across the street from the community lawn bowling green. The lot is well treed and has a very natural appearance. A small wood storage shed and another metal shed also occupy the site.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character defining elements include the rectangular plan, gable roof, the wood siding, the concrete piers, and the flower boxes. The symmetrical placement of the windows and doors on the front elevation also contributes to its heritage character. Important elements of the site include the storage shed, which also has painted wood siding and a gable roof, and the partial stone retaining wall at the front of the property.
200 Wasagaming Drive, ca. 1935 [RMNP file 8606/R1 B17-L12]
185 Ta-Wa-Pit Street
Block 18 Lot 5

Background
This cottage was built in 1932-33 to Standard Plan No. 6068, and measured 24 ft. by 28 ft. with a 12 ft. by 18 ft. garage. The original owner was George Edgar Fitzsimmons, a CNR Agent from Langruth, Manitoba.

The building is a one storey frame cottage with a concrete surface foundation. The roof is a gable with asphalt shingles, a triangle dormer and exposed rafters. The exterior is sheathed with 6 inch drop siding. The siding is painted green along the lower portion of the building and white along the upper portion. The window sashes are multi-paned and appear to be original. The cottage had a 4 ft. by 12 ft. addition in 1961 to incorporate a bathroom. There are two utility buildings on the site; a garage and a wood storage shed.

The cottage is situated on a corner lot at the intersection of Ta-Wa-Pit Drive and Harebell Street. The lot still contains many mature trees which help to screen the cottage from the roadways.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character defining elements include the rectangular plan with gable roof and triangle dormer. Also contributing to the heritage character of the cottage is the drop siding, the multi-paned windows, the exposed rafters, and the concrete foundation. The site should be retained in its natural state as much as possible. Manicured lawns and urban landscape elements are discouraged.
158 Goldenrod East Street
Block 19 Lot 2

Background
This cottage was built in 1931 for Henry Wallace Miller, the postmaster at Erickson. He had a wood frame cottage built, which measured 24 ft. 5 in. by 26 ft. 5 in. and a wood frame garage measuring 10 ft. by 20 ft. In 1976, the garage and shed were removed and a new garage constructed. In 1978, a 12 ft. by 14 ft. open sun deck was added onto the cottage.

The cottage is rectangular in plan with a gable roof and asphalt shingles. The cottage rests on a concrete pier foundation, with lattice work inserted between the piers. The exterior sheathing is 6 inch log slab painted siding. The cottage is also finished with log slab corner boards.

The front façade is symmetrical with a central doorway flanked by a pair of fixed sashes on either side of the doorway. The sashes to the left of the doorway are original, with their multi-paned lights, while the sashes to the right of the doorway are replacements with single panes of glass. The front door and windows are protected by a hip roof structure, with a triangle dormer over the doorway, supported by wood brackets. The front door is wood with three horizontal inset panels, and may be original. There is a small window over the doorway at the apex of the gable.

The cottage is situated on a lot, elevated from the main street. The path to the front consists of stone steps which are cut into a stone retaining wall, a prominent landscape feature in the townsite. The lot is well treed.

Heritage Character Statement
This is a very attractive cottage which appears to be very well maintained. The heritage character defining elements include log slab siding with the decorative corner boards, the rectangular plan and gable roof with asphalt shingles. The remaining multi-paned windows should be retained. The heritage character of the cottage would be enhanced if the new window on the front was replaced with a multi-paned sash. The supporting concrete piers and the decorative brackets also add to the character of the cottage. The rustic stone steps and stone retaining wall along the front of the property should be retained in good condition.
The Cottage Area - Type 1

175 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive
Block 19 Lot 5

Background
This cottage was built in 1933 for Leon Elfson, a constable with the Winnipeg City police force. The building measured 24 ft. by 29 ft., built to Plan No. 6051, 14-7-32. It was supported on concrete piers and clad in log slab siding, which had been oiled. The roof was a gable roof with patent shingles. A garage was also built, measuring 10 ft. by 29 ft. and clad in log slab siding to match the cottage. In 1976, a screen porch addition was built and in 1979, a 12 ft. by 18 ft. sundeck was added. In 1994, a bathroom/bedroom addition was built in exchange for converting the backyard cabin to storage, and completely removing the gazebo.

The cottage appears to have been well maintained. Most of the original features have been retained including the multi-paned windows. The main entry door is offset to one side in the front façade and is protected by a gable roof projection with decorative wood work in the open gable end. Lattice work has been inserted between the concrete piers for aesthetic reasons and probably to discourage wildlife from taking up residence underneath the building. The cottage is also decorated with flower boxes beneath the windows.

The building is set well back in the trees at the intersection of Ta-Wa-Pit Drive and Goldenrod Street East. The grassed areas in the yard appear natural, unlike an urban manicured lawn.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is enhanced by the simple rectangular plan, gable roof, the multi-paned windows, the concrete piers, the finish materials and the decorative elements. Finishes such as the log slab siding and decorative elements such as the gable roof projection over the door, with its decorative wood work, should be retained. The site and setting should be kept as natural as possible. Heavily manicured or mown lawns should be discouraged.
155 Dogwood Street
Block 21 Lot 9

Background
This is another example of a cottage built to Plan No. 6046. It was built for Charles Tucker Pedlar, a garage owner in Neepawa, in 1932. Pedlar was also the owner of Danceland, the Wasagaming dance hall which opened in 1932. The cottage originally measured 24 ft. 2 in. by 26 ft. 2 in. and was first added onto in 1961 with a 3 ft. by 7 ft. 6 in. frame addition for a bathroom. A double garage was also built on the lot at the same time as the cottage. In 1979, there were more additions for a bedroom and another washroom.

The cottage is a single storey wood frame structure that rests on concrete piers. The exterior is clad with 6 inch drop siding. The front façade is symmetrical in design with a central doorway flanked by two sets of triple sash windows. The windows are multi-paned and appear to be original. The entry door is protected by a shed roof dormer supported by wood brackets. There is a small triple-paned window over the door, likely to let light into the cottage or for ventilation. The wood entry door may be original as well.

The garage is also a frame building with a gable roof and asphalt shingles. The exterior is clad in vertical wood siding. Additional openings for doors and windows have been created along one wall facing the cottage.

The cottage is neatly tucked into a clearing surrounded by very mature coniferous and deciduous trees. The front edge of the property is bordered by a stone retaining wall known as rip-rapping, a distinctive feature of the Wasagaming townsite.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the cottage is derived partly from its historical association with Charles Pedlar, original owner of Danceland, and also from its simple rectangular plan, gable roof and the symmetry of the front façade. The character is further enhanced by the use of wood siding, the concrete piers, the multi-paned windows and the wood front door. The functional, and also decorative shed roof projection over the front door is also a characteristic element of the 1930's cottages in the townsite. The site should be retained in its natural state and the remnants of the stone retaining wall protected.
155 Dogwood, 1999
154 Columbine Street
Block 22 Lot 4

Background
This log building was erected in 1927 to serve as the principal summer residence and administrative headquarters for the Riding Mountain Forest Reserve. It was used for this purpose until the establishment of Riding Mountain National Park, whereupon it served as the temporary summer residence for James Smart, the first park superintendent. The house was originally located on Block 1, Lot 6 in the lakeshore subdivision surveyed by the Forest Branch. When the cottage area was resurveyed by the Parks Branch in 1931, the lot was made into a right of way to provide public access to the lakeshore. The building was moved to its present location either in the fall of 1932 or the spring of 1933. In March 1933 Smart requested that the building be enlarged and remodeled to make it habitable on a year-round basis. It served as the park accountant’s office, however it is now vacant.

The accountant’s residence was designated as a “Recognized” heritage building by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office in 1985.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the accountant’s residence is largely derived from its historical associations as the only building in the park associated with the Forest Branch’s administration of the area. It is also one of the earliest log buildings in the park and exemplifies the log building tradition associated with the Erickson craftsmen. Character defining elements include the log construction and stone chimney.

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**The Cottage Area - Type 1A**

Type 1A: has a gable roof and rectangular plan with the main entry on the long façade. Plan No. 7043 has many similarities to Plan No. 6046, however note the main entry on the long façade.

Standard Plan No. 7043, 6-2-34, Architectural Division

*(RMNP Realty file 8606/R1 B18-L9)*
The Cottage Area - Type 1A

161 Wasagaming Drive
Block 1 Lot 11

Background
This cottage was built in 1941 for Dr. W.S. Peters. The cottage has not been altered significantly since it was first built. The addition of a bedroom is the only known alteration.

The cottage has a gable roof with exposed rafters and asphalt shingles. The lakeside façade has a central entry flanked by a double set of multi-paned sashes on either side. The entry is protected by a gable roof projection supported by wood brackets.

On the streetside façade, the cottage has a gable roofed section that projects from the main body of the building. The entry door is set to one side of this section, with multi-paned sashes to the right of the main entry. A shed roof projection with exposed rafters and supported by wood brackets, provides weather protection to this entry. A wood deck extends out from the cottage along this façade.

The cottage is clad in drop siding and is supported on a concrete foundation. It is bordered by a stand of mature trees. The yard along the lakeside is an expanse of grass which appears to be mown.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is derived from its rectangular plan and gable roof with exposed rafters. Other heritage character defining elements include the gable roof projection over the lakeside entry, the multi-paned sashes, the gable roofed section with shed roof projection on the streetside façade and the concrete foundation.

The mature trees contribute to the character of the setting. A natural, park-like setting should be retained as much as possible.
The Cottage Area - Type 1A

Streetside

Lakeside
161 Wasagaming Drive, 1999
211 Wasagaming Drive
Block 3 Lot 10

Background
This cottage was built in 1928-29 and was described in the park’s files as being a "well built building on piers, openings between piers filled in with lattice work." The cottage measured 18 ft. by 36 ft. and 8 ft. by 10 ft., with a shingled gable roof and drop siding. The garage, which measured 12 ft. by 18 ft. also had drop siding and shingles.

A bathroom addition was constructed in 1955. On the property was also a guest cabin, a single storey frame building on concrete piers with 6 inch drop siding. The guest cabin was erected at the same time as the main cabin but had a 14 ft. by 18 ft. addition constructed in 1950.

There have been a number of changes to the building to meet functional needs. The central doorway on the lakefront façade has been replaced with a window, and the two flanking sets of windows have been changed from multi-paned to single panes of glass. The remaining windows seems to be intact and are multi-paned. The gable roof projection, which once protected the front entry has been removed.

The cottage still retains its gable roof with an elongated shed dormer on one of the gable slopes. There are two sashes in the shed dormer which have seven lights each. The concrete piers with the decorative lattice work between are still evident.

The front façade faces onto the lake and the back façade onto Wasagaming Drive. The cottage is well screened by the surrounding mature tree growth. A gravel pedestrian path cuts across the front of the lot.

Heritage Character Statement
Although the cottage has been altered from its original appearance, it still retains elements which are consistent with cottages of that period. Those elements include the gable roof, concrete piers with lattice infill, 6 inch drop siding, the shed dormer and the multi-paned windows. Evidence of the central doorway originally centred on the lakefront façade, should be retained.

The guest cottage which is consistent with the main cottage in materials and design should be retained in its present state with the 6 inch drop siding and concrete foundation.

The natural landscape elements should be retained.
211 Wasagaming Drive, 1999

211 Wasagaming Drive, ca 1930 [RMNP file 8606/R1 B3-L10]
231 Wasagaming Drive
Block 4 Lot 10

Background
This is one of the earlier cottages, constructed for Dora Fisher in 1922 before the national park was established. It was constructed as a frame cottage, measuring 23 ft. by 24 ft. 6 in., shingled in 1935 and then painted and further improved in 1936.

In 1954, under new ownership, an addition was built onto the cottage. Although the cottage changed ownership several times until the present, its appearance has remained fairly intact. It has a rectangular plan with a central doorway on the long elevation and is supported by a concrete surface foundation. The roof is gable with asphalt shingles. The exterior is clad in 6 inch drop siding. There are many windows in this cottage, many of which appear to be original as they are divided into many lights. The flower boxes beneath the windows may be a later addition.

A partially finished log garage was removed from the site in 1931. Presently a storage shed and wood shed occupy the same site. The cottage is well screened by tree growth.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is defined by the rectangular plan, gable roof, and the concrete foundation. Typical of this cottage type, the main entry is centred on the long façade and should be retained. Other elements such as the wood drop siding, the concrete foundation and the original windows should be retained. The natural appearance of the site should be protected.
The Cottage Area - Type 1A

273 Spruce Crescent
Block 7 Lot 4

Background
This cottage was constructed in 1934 according to Standard Plan No. 7000 "with some minor changes in the windows and porch which is now facing the lakefront". Built for Henry Morton, it is a frame building measuring 26 ft. by 28 ft., and 12 ft. by 16 ft. It is clad with log slab siding which was originally oiled, and rests on a concrete foundation. The front entryway is centered along the lakefront façade and is protected by a gable roofed open porch. The windows have large panes of glass with horizontal sliding sashes below, indicating that these windows are not original to the building.

Other changes to the cottage include a screened verandah addition in 1973, and another addition to enlarge the cottage, in 1990. A wooden deck along the lakefront façade also appears to be a later addition.

The cottage is surrounded with a significant growth of mature trees and is largely hidden from Spruce Crescent.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the cottage resides in its rectangular plan, gable roof, the symmetry of the lakefront façade with the central doorway and flanking windows and the concrete foundation. The log slab siding is a material that was used in national park townsites quite frequently during this era. When the windows are changed again in the future, it is recommended that they return to the multi-paned type to enhance the heritage character of the cottage. The landscape elements of the site should be retained in their natural state.
The Cottage Area - Type 1A

293 Wasagaming Drive
Block 8 Lot 9

Background
This is another cottage constructed to Plan No. 6069. It was built for John Henry Matthews who originally had planned to build on Lot 6, Block L of the north shore subdivision of Clear Lake. He was then issued Block 9, Lot 6 in the Clark Beach summer resort. That lot was eliminated in the new plan of the subdivision and therefore, he was given the present Lot 9 in Block 8.

In 1932, Matthews erected a log cottage, 27 ft. by 29 ft. and a single garage, 12 ft. by 16 ft. The cottage was "well finished" and built on a stone foundation. In 1958, the lessee installed a concrete 12 foot patio out on the government land. At that time, the lessee applied to build a bathroom, enlarge two bedrooms and provide a hallway to the bathroom. The additions would push the setback to 5 feet, rather than the standard 12 feet, which was considered "an undesirable precedent". To correct the situation the lots were resurveyed and the lessee was allowed to purchase a strip 7 feet wide from his west neighbour so that he could build the bathroom.

The cottage is a very attractive building with saddlenotch corners and an open entry porch along the lakefront side. A large stone chimney is a striking feature on one of the elevations. Some of the multi-paned windows have been retained, however the four sash window to the right of the main entry has been replaced with a single sash of glass. The roof is gable with exposed log rafters and is shingled. The door on the Wasagaming side of the cottage has a small gable projection above it to protect visitors from the elements. The cottage is built on a stone foundation.

The cottage sits in a clearing surrounded by mature trees. The yard on the lakeside appears very natural, however, the yard on the road side has a more urban look with the addition of the concrete pad and lined with small trees planted all in a row.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the cottage is defined by the design and the use of materials. These elements include the log construction with the saddlenotch corners and exposed log rafters, the multi-paned windows, the stone chimney and foundation, and the front entry porch. The rectangular plan with the gable roof and small gable projection over the secondary door also contribute to the character of this cottage.

Any further attempts to increase the amount of hard surfaces in the landscape should be avoided. The site should be kept as natural as possible and the existing tree growth retained.
293 Wasagaming Drive, 1999
The Cottage Area - Type 1A

280 Wasagaming Drive
Block 12 Lot 1

Background
This cottage was built in 1934 for Arthur Neilson, a schoolteacher in Clanwilliam. Mr. Neilson wanted his cottage to be "a little different from the regular stereotype cottages" which had been built during that time period. The Superintendent, James Smart suggested that the cottage have lap siding, and a steep roof in the Habitant or Old English style.

The cottage was built to Standard Plan No. 6093 with the exception of the porch being constructed on the west side of the centre of the house rather than the east side of centre of the house. The cottage has 6 inch lap siding, a gable roof with shingles and is supported on a concrete pier foundation. The entry door is protected by an open porch with a gable roof and supported by two double sets of posts. The windows are multi-paned, however it is uncertain if they are the original windows. An extension to accommodate 3 bedrooms and a bathroom was built in 1971.

The site is a corner lot on Wasagaming Drive and Trillium Street. The cottage is tucked into a mature growth of trees.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the cottage is derived from the simple plan with gable roof and open porch. Other character defining elements include the lap siding, the concrete pier foundation, the multi-paned windows and the steepness of the roof slope. The natural landscape setting also enhances the character of the cottage. Any effort to create a more manicured look with the landscape should be avoided.
272 Wasagaming Drive  
Block 13 Lot 4

Background
This cottage was built in 1955, however it exhibits many of the characteristics of the early Wasagaming cottages. It was built for Percy Harwood, a jeweller from Brandon.

The cottage is a rectangular plan, 24 ft. by 28 ft. with wood drop siding. The gable roof has exposed rafters and asphalt shingles. The main entry is protected by an open porch with gable roof and supported by two wood posts. The front window is made up of a large single sheet of glass flanked by two multi-paned sashes on either side. The larger pane of glass is typical of the 1950's period in which this cottage was built.

In 1972, a screened porch addition was added to the cottage and in 1990, additions were built on the cottage and garage. The cottage is situated on a well treed lot.

Heritage Character Statement
Elements that contribute to the heritage character of the building include the rectangular plan with the gable roof and exposed rafters. The windows and front door appear to be original and should be retained. The open porch at the front entry is also an important element of the cottage architecture. The site should be retained in its natural state.
Background
This cottage was built in 1933 for Charles C. Mitchell, a merchant in Brandon. It was built as a wood frame cottage, 28 ft. by 26 ft. in plan. It was built to standard plan No. 6063A with the exception of a gable roof projection over the side bay window instead of a shed roof projection. In 1963 a bathroom was built and in 1984, a 6 ft. by 8 ft. storage shed was added to the property. A new deck was built in 1993.

The cottage has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and 6 inch drop siding. The windows are multi-paned and appear to be original.

The cottage is set back from the road and is screened by mature tree growth. There are two storage sheds and a wood shed on the site.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character is derived from the rectangular plan, gable roof and drop siding. The windows have a significant influence on the character of the cottage; particularly the multi-paned windows and the bay window with the gable roof projection along one side of the cottage. The natural appearance of the site and mature trees should be protected.
155 Lily Street
Block 17 Lot 9

Background
This is another of the many cottages that were built in Wasagaming during the 1930s. The cottage was built in 1933 for Percy Carl Carlson, a storekeeper for CPR in Minnedosa.

The cottage is wood frame, measuring 22 ft. by 28 ft. and built to standard plan No. 6090. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and is sheathed in 8 inch log slab siding, which was a common sheathing material for buildings in the national parks. The cottage is supported by a cobblestone foundation. The front entry is centred along the façade and is protected by a gable roof projection supported by wood brackets. Some of the original multi-paned sashes have been retained.

In 1959, a 10 ft. by 20 ft. frame addition was built on the cottage and in 1977 a family room was added.

The cottage is situated in a very natural setting surrounded by mature trees, with a small clearing at the front of the cottage.

Heritage Character Statement
One of the more distinguishable heritage character defining elements is the log slab siding. In addition to that, the character of the cottage is derived from its rectangular plan, gable roof with asphalt shingles, the central doorway with the gable roof projection and the multi-paned sashes. The cobblestone foundation was a common material used on early parks buildings for foundations and fireplaces and should be protected. The relatively untouched setting and natural landscape elements should be retained.
155 Hawthorn Street  
Block 18 Lot 9

Background
This cottage was built for Alfred Jalmar Iverson of Minnedosa in 1933. It was built to standard plan No. 7043 on a full concrete foundation, which has been faced with stone. The cottage is wood frame with painted 6 inch drop siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The cottage measures 26 ft. by 24 ft. A storage shed which was a former guest cottage also occupies the site. The shed is clad with 6 inch drop siding painted to match the cottage and rests on a surface foundation. The roof is a gable with asphalt shingles.

In 1958, a bathroom addition was approved for the cottage. Typical of many cottages from this era in Wasagaming, the front entry is protected by an open porch supported on wood posts. The porch has a gable roof with stucco and half-timber pattern in the gable end. The cottage appears to have retained the original multi-paned windows.

The cottage is screened from the road by mature tree growth on the site.

Heritage Character Statement
This cottage is characterized by its simple rectangular plan, gable roof and asphalt shingles. Other heritage character defining elements include the drop siding, the multi-paned windows, the gable roofed porch over the main entry and the stone facing on the foundation.

The natural appearance of the setting with mature trees and grassed yard should be retained.
155 Harebell Street
Block 19 Lot 9

Background
This cottage was built in 1933 for Dr. Earl James Rutledge, a physician and MLA from Erickson, Manitoba. The cottage measured 24 ft. by 28 ft. and was built to standard Plan No. 6065. The cottage has changed very little since it was first built. In 1962 a bathroom was installed.

This cottage is very modest, with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The main entry is centred on the long façade and is protected by an open porch with gable roof, supported on wood posts. The exterior of the cottage is sheathed in 6 inch painted drop siding. The building rests on a concrete foundation. The windows are multi-paned and appear to be original.

A storage shed is located at the back of the lot. It is similar to the main cottage in design and materials. It has 6 inch painted drop siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafters and multi-paned windows.

The lot is elevated from the roadway and has a stone retaining wall along the front property line.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is enhanced by the gable roof, the open porch with wood railings, the 6 inch painted wood drop siding, the multi-paned windows and the concrete foundation.

The retaining wall at the front of the property is a character defining element of the townsite and should be protected. There are some imported plant materials on the lot, however the setting remains very natural in its appearance.
Background
Known as the Wilton cottage, this building was purchased by Parks Canada in the 1960's for staff accommodation. The cottage is a wood frame building constructed in 1933. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and is rectangular in plan. The main entry is offset from the centre and is protected by a gable roof projection supported by wood brackets with decorative wood members in the gable end. The exterior sheathing is painted wood drop siding and the building is supported on a stone foundation. The windows on the major façade consist of double sashes which are multi-paned. In the interior, some of the ceiling spaces are covered in varnished wood slabs known locally as Kippan’s Mill ceiling finish.

The cottage is situated on an irregular parcel of land between Wasagaming Drive and Ta-Wa-Pit Drive. The lot is bordered by streets to the south and east with a lane on the west. The site is elevated from the roadway and is lined with a rock retaining wall.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is defined by the rectangular plan, gable roof with asphalt shingles, the concrete pier foundation and the multi-paned sashes. The gable roofed projection over the main entry is an element that is repeated throughout the townsite’s early cottages and should be retained. The natural setting with mature trees and rock retaining wall and stone steps should be protected.
Type 2: characterized predominantly by its hip roof and rectangular plan with the main entry on the short façade.

Type 2A: has a hip roof and rectangular plan with the main entry on the long façade.

A Standard Plan Dated 24-10-30, Architectural Division
(RMNP Realty file 8606/R1 B10-L5)
184 Wasagaming Drive
Block 18 Lot 1

Background
The cottage was built in 1927 for Frederick Wallace Fraser, a farmer, and measured 24 ft. by 28 ft. In 1962, a 6 ft. by 11 ft. addition was built onto the cottage for a bathroom.

The cottage is a one storey frame building with a concrete surface foundation. It has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafters, and a shed dormer along the main façade. The exterior is clad with 6 inch drop siding.

The main façade is symmetrical with a central doorway flanked by two single, multi-paned sashes. A double set of multi-paned windows adorns the corners of the main façade. The windows and front door appear to be original to the building.

The site is elevated above Wasagaming Drive, requiring a stone retaining wall along the front of the lot with stone steps for easy access to the street level. Fraser originally wanted Parks to build the steps, however the Parks felt it would be unsafe and too unsightly to have steps directly onto Wasagaming Drive. Fraser was given permission to build the steps himself if he wanted them.

Heritage Character Statement
This is a very attractive cottage which has been well maintained. The heritage character is enhanced by the hipped roof with exposed rafters and shed dormer. Also characteristic of other cottages in Wasagaming is the drop siding, and the multi-paned windows and wooden front door. Every effort should be made to keep the site as natural as possible. The stone retaining wall is a unique feature to Wasagaming and should be protected along with the stone steps.
Background
Albert Madill, a builder from Bethany, Manitoba constructed a cottage and garage on this lot in 1939. The cottage, measuring 22 ft. by 28 ft., rested on a concrete foundation. In 1964, a bathroom was installed and in 1975, a screened in porch extension was added.

This cottage is a very modest yet attractive building. It has a hipped roof covered in asphalt shingles. The front elevation also has a hipped dormer with a multi-paned wood sash. The exterior is clad with wood slab siding that has a small wooden bead between each horizontal section of siding. The windows appear to be double hung wood sashes with three lights in the upper sashes. The front façade is symmetrical with a small projecting bay to the left of the main entry door. The exterior chimney is covered with concrete which has been shaped and painted to resemble the log slab siding, however, without the intermediate bead.

The lot is bordered by mature trees and has large expanses of grassed areas. The garage is extant and is situated at the back of the lot. It has a gable roof, and log slab siding which has been painted to match the house.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is derived largely from the use of log slab siding with the bead feature, the hipped dormer and the wood multi-paned sashes. Other important elements include the hipped roof with asphalt shingles, the concrete foundation, and the masonry detail around the exterior chimney.

The natural landscape of the lot should be protected. Any efforts to give a manicured appearance to the yard should be avoided.
281 Wasagaming Drive
Block 8 Lot 1

Background
This cottage, constructed in 1933, was built for Miss Elizabeth Knowlton, a teacher from Brandon. The cottage measures 48 ft. by 34 ft. with log slab siding and a solid stone foundation which is faced and pointed. The log slab siding originally had a burnt finish and was oiled. The cottage was built to standard plan No. 6060, however the stucco finish was replaced with log slab siding. The open front porch was placed to the west instead of the east end of the front elevation. The front porch has a gable roof supported by double log posts resting on stone bases. On the rear of the building, a porte-cochere was added. The primary roof is a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The plan is rectangular with the main entry on one of the long façades.

The cottage is very attractive and has many elements of the rustic style. The foundation and chimney are faced with stone, and the log slab siding contributes to the rustic character. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original.

The site is very large with a driveway leading up to the cottage and circling through the porte-cochere. The site is lined with a stone retaining wall, which is a heritage character defining element of the townsite.

Heritage Character Statement
This is a very attractive cottage which has many elements of the rustic style. These include the stone foundation and chimney, the log slab siding, the open front porch supported on log posts and stone bases, the multi-paned windows and the porte-cochere. The exterior of the cottage has not been altered and should be protected.

The site should be retained in its natural state with the stone retaining wall.
The Cottage Area - Type 2

291 Wasagaming Drive
Block 8 Lot 8

Background
This cottage was built for Frank Clement in 1932. The cottage was built to standard plan No. 6029 and measured 28 ft. 4 in. by 32 ft. A garage was also built in the same time period.

The cottage is a one storey log building which rests on a concrete foundation faced in stone. A 10 ft. by 22 ft. frame addition with log slab siding was constructed in 1946.

The logs are saddle notched with alternate log ends extending a considerable distance from the corners. The logs are finished with a coating, which is likely a stain.

The cottage has a screened bay enclosure on the street side and a similar bay projection with windows on the lakeside. The cottage has a medium hip roof with asphalt shingles. The windows are not original to the building as they are modern sashes.

The garage complements the cottage. It is of log saddle notch construction resting on a concrete foundation, with alternate log ends extending out from the corner a considerable distance. The roof is a gable type covered with asphalt shingles. The door is frame construction faced with a half round material which complements the log construction. The windows are new replacements.

The cottage is set in a clearing of the well treed lot. On the street side is a poured concrete sidewalk leading from the end of the garage to the cottage. The concrete extends along the back of the cottage to create a patio. The yard on the lakeside of the cottage has been left in its natural state.

Heritage Character Statement
This is an attractive cottage that is distinguished by its log construction and the alternating pattern of the log ends. Other character defining elements include the medium-hipped roof with asphalt shingles, the bay projections at the front and back of the cottage and the concrete foundation faced in stone.

The garage is characterized by the log construction and alternating log ends, the diagonal wood pattern on the door, the gable roof with asphalt shingles and the concrete foundation.

The site should be kept as natural as possible. Future efforts to create a more manicured look should be avoided. Natural materials, such as stone should take precedent in exposed areas.
The Cottage Area - Type 2

291 Wasagaming Drive, 1999

270 Wasagaming Drive, 1999
270 Wasagaming Drive  
Block 13 Lot 3

Background
This cottage was built in 1935 for Mrs. Edith Lewis of Clanwilliam. The cottage was built as a one storey frame building measuring 22 ft. by 30 ft. with a garage measuring 10 ft. by 16 ft. In 1964, a 8 ft. by 15 ft. bathroom addition was constructed.

The cottage has a hip roof with an offset gable along the front façade. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and the gable end is clad in wood shingles. The structure is clad in drop siding and rests on a concrete foundation that is faced with stone. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original. Flower boxes have been installed below the windows. The front door is protected by a gable roof projection supported by wood brackets. The gable end is enhanced by decorative wood work.

The cottage is situated on a lot bordered by mature tree growth. There is a fairly substantial front yard that is covered in grass. A wood crib and two storage buildings also occupy the site.

Heritage Character Statement
A unique aspect of this cottage is the hip roof with the offset gable roof and the gable roof projection. Other elements that enhance the character of the cottage include the drop siding, concrete foundation with stone facing, the multi-paned windows and the wood shingles in the gable end. The flower boxes below the windows also contribute to the character of the cottage.

The site should be kept in its natural state and any efforts to provide a more manicured appearance to the site should be avoided.
271 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive
Block 13 Lot 6

Background
This is a very picturesque cottage and site in the Wasagaming townsite. It was built in 1934 for Roxy Cosgrove, wife of J.S.Cosgrove, a general merchant from Tilston, Manitoba. The cottage was built to Standard Plan No. 7017 and measured 22 ft. by 32 ft. In 1941, a plan was submitted for a breakfast nook addition and a lattice wood shed was added in 1947.

In 1957, a dormer window was added on the north side of the cottage, for ventilation of the attic storage area. An extension for a utility room and bedroom was added to the cottage in 1976. In 1986, a major addition was constructed.

The cottage is a one storey frame structure which is clad with 8 inch log slab siding that has a decorative wood bead between each slab. The roof is a hip roof with asphalt shingles and an eyebrow eave with exposed rafters over the front entry way. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original.

The cottage is situated in an English cottage setting. The garden was designed by George Lean, who was responsible for the gardens around the Museum. As far back as 1955, the lot has been well manicured and planted with shrubs. The sidewalk is lined with topiary and the lawn is mown. The cottage and site appear to be well maintained.

Heritage Character Statement
This cottage is definitely a landmark in the community. Situated on the corner of Ta-Wa-Pit Drive and Trillium Street, its characteristics include the log slab siding, the multi-paned windows, the hip roof with the eyebrow eave over the main entry and the exposed rafters. The heritage character of the site is partially derived from its association with George Lean, designer of the gardens at the Museum. Although somewhat foreign to the townsite, the topiary and flower gardens complement the character of the cottage.
271 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, 1999.
The Cottage Area - Type 2

157 Goldenrod Street
Block 20 Lot 10

Background
The lot was originally assigned to Mrs. Anna Gusdal, who with her husband started to build a cottage in 1933. Her husband died shortly after and Mrs. Gusdal relinquished interest in her lot, with the concrete foundation already installed.

The lot was then assigned to H.S. Stead, a plumber from Neepawa. He resumed construction on the cottage in 1936 to Standard Plan No. 7053. The design was a departure from the other cottages in that it had two bedrooms in the attic space. Construction of the cottage is attributed to Frank Thaczuk, although O.J. Gusdal was responsible for laying the foundation.

In 1965, a bathroom was installed in the cottage at the Park’s request. A new concrete foundation was poured in 1983.

The cottage is a 1 ½ storey painted log structure with saddle-notched corners. The roof dormers are clad with log slab siding. The cottage has a steeply pitched hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The sashes are double and triple units with multi-paned windows.

The cottage is surrounded by mature trees and has a lawn area in the front yard.

Heritage Character Statement
This cottage is one of a small number of cottages which were constructed from logs. This required that materials were available and skilled craftsman resided in the area. The heritage character is enhanced by the log construction, the log slab siding on the dormers, the steeply pitched roof and the multi-paned sashes.

Any efforts to create a more manicured appearance to the site should be avoided.
153 Crocus Street  
Block 22 Lot 6  

Background  
Originally a cottage, this building is owned by Parks Canada and was used as an interpretation centre. It is a wood frame building constructed in approximately 1935. It has a gabled hip roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafter ends and open soffits. Over the front entry door is a gable roof projection supported on wood brackets. The exterior of the building is clad in painted wood siding with wood corner boards. There is a variety of original and new windows on the building. Some have wooden sashes while others are aluminum. The entry doors are of wood construction and may be the original doors.

The building was constructed on a concrete foundation. A concrete walkway leads up to a concrete landing at the front entrance.

The site elevation is below the streets to the north and east. The building is sheltered by mature trees and has a large grassed area in the front. The lot slopes to the south, providing for a storage area enclosed by lattice under the south side of the building.

Heritage Character Statement  
The character of the cottage is derived from the gabled hip roof with gable roof projection over the front door, the exposed rafter ends and open soffit, the wood siding, wood sashes and wood entry door. The concrete foundation is characteristic of many of the cottages built during this time period.

The natural appearance of the landscaping should be retained and efforts to create a manicured look discouraged.
Type 3: characterized by its pyramidal roof. These cottages tend to be square in plan with all façades being of equal length, although variations in the plan shape do exist. Plan No. 6096 is an excellent example of this type of cottage. Note the dimensions, 26 ft. by 26 ft., and the pyramidal roof.

Standard Plan No. 6096, 5-3-33,
Architectural Division
(RMNP Realty file 8606/R1 B17-L5)
157 Wasagaming Drive  
Block 1 Lot 9

Background
This is an early cottage in the townsite, constructed in 1917-1918 for Carl Johnson of Erickson. He built a 20 ft. by 20 ft. frame cottage with a pyramid roof and an 8 foot verandah across the front façade. The roof was covered with rolled roofing and the walls were clad with 6 inch spruce drop siding. The cottage was a very modest building with one room.

In 1942 the cottage was moved to the rear of the lot to make way for a new, larger cottage to be built. The original cottage was converted into a guest cabin.

The guest cabin appears to be virtually intact. Changes to the building include a new concrete foundation and asphalt shingles.

The setting for the guest cabin is at the back of the main cottage, tucked into the mature tree growth on site.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is partly derived from its association with the very early development of the townsite prior to the establishment of the Park. The heritage character defining elements include the pyramid roof, square plan, and the horizontal drop siding.

As this is an early example of building in Wasagaming, every effort should be made to retain this cabin.
The Cottage Area - Type 3

152 Hawthorne Street
Block 17 Lot 5

Background
This cottage was built in 1933 for James T. McCool, a lumber dealer from Minnedosa. A 25 ft. by 26 ft. wood frame cottage was constructed to standard plan No. 6069. In 1966, a 18 ft. by 22 ft. wood frame garage was built and in 1994, new concrete pads were installed under the original cottage.

This is a very well-maintained and attractive cottage. It is a single storey building of frame construction on a concrete pier foundation. The roof is a pyramid type with asphalt shingles and exposed rafters. The cottage is clad in 6 inch drop siding. The multi-paned wood sash units appear to be original.

A unique feature of this cottage is the two roof projections over the front entry door. The lower projection is shaped like a barrel vault and is supported on wood brackets. The upper projection is a gable roof extension of the main roof. There is a side entry to the cottage which is also protected by a gable roof projection. There is a gable dormer with a narrow strip of windows on the roof of the front façade.

The lot is equally well-maintained. Some perennials have been introduced in the front yard and there is a rock retaining wall with stone steps, bordering the road. A single storey frame shed occupies the site. The shed is clad with 10 inch painted cedar siding and it has a gable roof with asphalt shingles.

Heritage Character Statement
The most unique feature of this cottage is the double roof projection over the front entry door. Other heritage character defining elements include the pyramidal roof with the gable dormer and exposed rafters, the wood siding, the multi-paned wood sashes, and the concrete foundation.

The retaining wall and stone steps along the front of the lot should be protected, and efforts to provide a manicured appearance to the site should be avoided.
152 Hawthorne, 1999
The Cottage Area - Type 3

157 Hawthorne Street
Block 18 Lot 10

Background
The cottage was built in 1935 for Mrs. Gladys M. Rutledge. The cottage measured 33 ft. by 23 ft. 6 in. and was built to standard plan No. 7039. In 1956, a bathroom addition was constructed.

This is another very attractive cottage. It is a one storey wood frame building supported on a full concrete foundation. The exterior of the cottage is clad in 6 inch painted lap siding. The cottage has a pyramidal roof covered with asphalt shingles.

The main entry door is centred along the front façade and is protected by an open porch with a gable roof supported by wood posts. The gable end of the porch roof is clad in board and batten siding. The windows have multi-paned wooden sashes and appear to be original.

The lot is sheltered by mature trees and has open grassed areas adjacent to the cottage. A concrete sidewalk which leads from the road to the front door and along the side of cottage has been installed.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the cottage is enhanced by the pyramidal roof, the painted wood siding, the open porch at the front door, the multi-paned windows and the concrete foundation. The natural landscaping of the lot should be protected and efforts to provide a more manicured appearance to the lot avoided.
Background
This cottage was built in 1933 for Waldive Henry Alldritt, a garage proprietor from Clanwilliam. The 20 ft. by 28 ft. cottage was built to standard plan No. 6007. A garage measuring 12 ft. by 22 ft. with lap siding was built at the same time. In 1950, a 4 ft. by 14 ft. frame addition was added. In 1964 a 16 ft. by 24 ft. addition was approved and in 1978 a 2 bedroom addition was constructed.

The cottage is a single storey frame building with a high pyramidal roof. The building rests on a concrete foundation and is clad in 6 inch painted lap siding. The windows consist of multi-paned wood sashes. The front entry door is protected by a gable roof projection supported on wood brackets. Concrete steps lead up to the front door.

The site is surrounded by mature tree growth and has open grassed areas adjacent to the buildings. Two guest cabins are situated at the rear of the lot.

Heritage Character Statement
Elements which contribute to the heritage character of the cottage include the high pyramidal roof, the wood siding, the multi-paned sashes, the concrete foundation and the gable roof projection at the main entry.

The mature tree growth should be protected and the lot retained in a natural state.
168 Wasagaming Drive  
Block 20 Lot 11

Background  
This cottage was built in 1932 by Olov Olson, a carpenter from Erickson, Manitoba. The cottage measured 24 ft. by 26 ft. and was built to standard plan No. 6022. A frame garage, 14 ft. by 18 ft. feet was also constructed. In 1983 a new concrete patio with curb was constructed. The patio later became the foundation for a 12 ft. by 24 ft. log addition. In 1991, a new replacement storage shed was erected on the site.

The cottage is a one storey building of log construction. The corners are saddle notch with staggered log ends. The logs have been coated with a varnish. The roof is a pyramidal type roof and the foundation is a concrete pier foundation typical of many cottages from this period in the townsite. The front entry is accessed by a wood stairway up to the open front porch. The porch has log half walls and a gable roof with exposed pole rafters, supported on log posts. The gable end of the porch is log infill. The front entry is centered on the façade and is flanked by two large multi-paned sashes.

The cottage is set into the mature tree growth on the site with open grassed areas adjacent to the building. A guest cottage is visible to the right and back of the main cottage. It is of panabode construction with a bay window facing the street side.

Heritage Character Statement  
This is a very attractive and well-maintained cottage. The log construction with the staggered log ends and the log porch establish the predominant character of the building. The character is further enhanced by the pyramidal roof, the multi-paned windows, and the concrete foundation.

The mature tree growth on the site should be protected. Future efforts to create a more manicured appearance to the site should be discouraged.
157 Dogwood Street  
Block 21 Lot 10

Background  
This cottage was built in 1932 for Anne Doner, a schoolteacher from Erickson, Manitoba. A 32 ft. by 28 ft. frame cottage, it was built to Standard Plan No. 6036.

The cottage is a one storey frame building which rests on a concrete pier foundation. The exterior is covered in painted stucco, which is likely a later alteration as the portion of the front façade within the open porch area is clad with horizontal siding. The cottage has a pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles. The main entry is centered on the front façade and protected by an open porch supported on wood posts. The porch has a gable roof with the gable end having an infill panel covered by stucco. The windows have multi-paned wood sashes and appear to be original.

The lot is elevated slightly from the street and has a rock retaining wall with stone steps up to the lot. A concrete walkway leads to the front door. The site is covered with mature tree growth with some expanses of grassed areas adjacent to the building.

Heritage Character Statement  
This is a well maintained cottage. It’s heritage character is derived from the pyramidal roof, the open porch with gable roof, the concrete pier foundation and the multi-paned windows. The stone retaining wall and stone steps are a characteristic feature of the Wasagaming townsite and should be protected. The natural appearance of the lot with the mature tree growth should be retained.
Type 4: characterized by its square plan and hipped roof with a cupola centred within the hipped roof. The cupola has a pyramid roof.

207 Wasagaming Drive, ca. 1935. [RMNP file 8606/R1 B3-L8]
Background
In 1922, the plans for this building were submitted to the Forest Branch for approval. With the plans was a request to cut 2000 feet of spruce logs to build the cottage. The cottage was constructed in 1923 by Alfred Sjogren. The log cottage measured 36 ft. by 36 ft. with a cupola, twelve feet square and four feet high in dimension, also constructed from logs. Also constructed at the same time were an ice house and garage. In 1964 a bathroom addition was constructed.

This cottage was built for Mabel Smiley and is known as "The Shealing". It is a very attractive building constructed from logs with saddle-notched corners. The roof is a hip with a cupola in the centre of it. The windows are multi-paned and appear to be original. There are two brick chimneys which likely service interior fireplaces. The building rests on a stone foundation. The roof is sheathed with red asphalt shingles. The window and door frames are painted red and, with the logs painted brown, they form a very attractive colour combination.

The two smaller buildings on the lot are also of log construction with pyramid roofs covered with red asphalt shingles.

The site is well treed which contributes to the rustic setting.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is derived from its landmark status, including its locally recognized name, "The Shealing", and from the craftsmanship of Alfred Sjogren, a well-known local log builder. This cottage is very distinctive in appearance with the square plan, log construction, hip roof and cupola. Other elements which contribute to its heritage character include the multi-paned windows, the stone foundation, the red trim colour and roof colour, and the brick chimneys.

The heritage character defining elements of the two smaller structures include the log construction, the pyramidal roof and exposed roof rafters.

The cottage and outbuildings complement the rustic setting.
205 Wasagaming Drive, 1999
The Cottage Area - Type 4

154 Wasagaming Drive
Block 21 Lot 1

Background
This cottage was built in 1928-29 by Eric Hall, a stone mason from Erickson, Manitoba. Hall was involved in a number of the construction projects in the park in the 1930’s. Hall named the cottage Casa Loma and sold it in 1932 to John Anderson, a building contractor from Erickson who was also involved in construction in the park.

In 1944, Casa Loma was run as a tourist home by Mrs. Corinna B. Hougen, who acquired the building in 1941. In 1946, she added a frame addition, measuring 10 ft. by 26 ft. for guest accommodation. The building was acquired by Parks Canada in the 1960s. It is now leased to the Riding Mountain Historical Society as a museum and offices.

The building is a wood frame structure, approximately 26 feet square with a side addition. The second storey has a large cupola centred in the roof which gives the building a distinctive pagoda-type profile. The roof is a medium-pitched hipped roof with exposed rafters and broad eaves overhang. The exterior wall surface is clad with drop siding, typical of many of the early Clear Lake cottages. The building rests on concrete piers which are infilled with wood lattice. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original.

The building is situated at the intersection of Wasagaming Drive and Crocus Street, a block away from the lake. It is a very prominent fixture in the townsite.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is partly derived from its historical association with Eric Hall and his contribution to the early development of Wasagaming townsite.

The heritage character defining elements of this building include the hipped roof with the pagoda-like clerestory and exposed rafters, the large eaves overhang, the drop siding, the concrete pier foundation and the lattice infill.

The building occupies a prominent site in the community. Future efforts to provide a more manicured appearance to the site should be avoided.
Casa Loma - 154 Wasagaming Drive, 1999
Type 5: cottage is characterized by intersecting gable roofs, resulting in three possible plan shapes: L-shaped, cruciform or T-shaped. Plan No. 6064 clearly shows the L-shaped plan.

Standard Plan No. 6064, 30-9-32, Architectural Division
(RMNP Realty file 8606/R1 B20-L4)
298 Wasagaming Drive  
Block 11 Lot 1

Background
This cottage was built in 1935 for and by Frank Thaczuk, a well known builder in the Wasagaming townsite. Built according to standard Plan No. 6067, this log structure measured 32 ft. by 44 ft. At that time, it was noted to be "one of the most attractive cottages in the subdivision." In 1948, a 6 ft. by 9 ft. frame addition was built for a washroom and a 4 ft. by 10 ft. frame verandah was added. In 1955 a log garage was built and in 1987, a deck addition.

The cottage is a one storey log building which rests on a concrete pier foundation faced in cobble stone to match the chimney. The logs are saddle notched and have a varnish finish. The roof consists of two intersecting gables which meet to form an "L" shape. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles and the gable ends are sheathed in wood shingles. There is a gable roof projection over the front entry to the screened verandah. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original.

The garage matches the house in materials. It is constructed of logs which are saddle notched and have a varnish finish. It has a gable roof with exposed pole rafters and asphalt shingles. The gable ends are sheathed with wood shingles. The garage rests on a concrete slab foundation. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original.

The cottage is situated on a well treed lot and is visually screened from Wasagaming Drive. The back yard faces onto an alley and is fairly exposed.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage is partially derived from its association with Frank Thaczuk, a prominent builder in the townsite. This cottage is characterized by its log construction, intersecting gable roof line and concrete pier foundation with stone facing. Other elements which enhance its character include the multi-paned sashes, the shingle siding on the gable ends and the stone chimney. The front verandah with the gable projection over the entry door also reinforces its character.

Heritage character defining elements of the garage include the saddle notch construction, the gable roof with exposed pole rafters and asphalt shingles, the multi-paned windows, the shingle siding on the gable end and the concrete slab foundation.
The lush tree growth along the street side gives the cottage some privacy and should be protected. The back yard is very open but has avoided the manicured lawn appearance which does not fit with the natural park experience.
The Cottage Area - Type 5

154 Dogwood Street
Block 20 Lot 4

Background
This frame cottage was built in 1933 for Mary Edna Booth, a schoolteacher from Erickson, Manitoba. The cottage measured 27 ft. by 35 ft. and was built to standard Plan No. 6064. The garage, measuring 12 ft. by 22 ft. was built at the same time. In 1946, a frame addition was built onto the garage and in 1963 a bathroom was installed in the cottage. A 14 ft. by 14 ft. bedroom addition was constructed in 1980.

The cottage is a single storey building of frame construction supported on a concrete foundation. The roof consists of two intersecting gables which meet to form an "L" shape. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and has exposed rafters. The exterior of the cottage is clad with 6 inch painted drop siding. The front entry is protected by a gable roof projection supported by wood brackets.

The original building plans show a stone chimney and multi-paned sash windows. These have been replaced with a brick chimney and contemporary windows with sliding sashes. There are wood flower boxes beneath the windows which are not original to the building.

The guest cabin appears to be largely intact. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafters, 6 inch painted drop siding, and a concrete foundation. The windows have multi-paned sashes with decorative shutters, both which appear to be original.

The cottage is built on a well treed lot. The front of the lot has a stone retaining wall.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the cottage is defined by the roof configuration of the two intersecting gable sections, the 6 inch drop siding, the gable roof projection over the front entry door, and the concrete foundation.

Similarly, elements which contribute to the heritage character of the guest cottage include the gable roof with asphalt shingles, the 6 inch painted drop siding, the concrete foundation and the multi-paned sashes.

The setting should be retained as natural as possible and the stone retaining wall should be protected.
154 Dogwood, 1999

154 Dogwood, ca. 1935 [RMNP file 8606/R1 B20-L4]
128  The Cottage Area - Type 5

159 Wasagaming Drive
Block 1 Lot 10

Background
A cottage was built on this lot as far back as 1919, but the appearance of the cottage was not up to the Parks Branch standards. In 1939 a new cottage was built for Dr. W.J. Elliot of Brandon. This new cottage measured 30 ft. by 22 ft. and was built to standard Plan No. 7067. In 1956 a bathroom addition was constructed and in 1979 a bedroom was added. The original cottage has become the guest cottage.

This cottage has a cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafters. A hipped roof section has been added to the right side of the cottage. There is a shed roof projection supported by wood brackets over the front and back doors. Both entries have wooden steps and railings to provide access into the cottage. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original. The building rests on concrete piers with wood lattice screening the foundation. The exterior of the cottage is sheathed with wood drop siding.

The setting is a treed lot with an open front yard that provides a clear view from the cottage to the street. The original cottage is situated at the back of the lot and is not visible from the street.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character defining elements of this building include the cross gable roof with exposed rafters, the roof projections over the main entryways, the hipped roof addition, the wood steps and railings at the entryways, the multi-paned window sashes, and the concrete pier foundation and lattice screening.

The natural setting of the lot also enhances the heritage character of the building and site, and should be retained that way.
Background
This cottage was built for Mary Ethel Johnson a school teacher from Winnipeg in 1934. The
cottage measured 26 ft. by 30 ft. and was built to standard Plan No. 7001. A 16 ft. by 20 ft.
garage was built at the same time. In 1979 a sun deck was added to the cottage.

The cottage has a cross gable roof with exposed rafters. The exterior is sheathed with 8 inch log
slab siding with a beading detail. The gable ends of the roof are sheathed with shingle siding.
The front façade has an open porch with a gable roof supported on wood columns. The gable
end of the porch roof is sheathed with vertical wood which is similar to the horizontal beading
detail on the main body of the cottage. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be
original. The cottage rests on a concrete slab foundation.

The garage matches the cottage in materials and motif. It is a single storey building of frame
construction with 8 inch painted log slab siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles.

The site is fairly open with trees situated predominantly on the edges of the property.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character defining elements of this cottage include the cross-gable roof with
exposed rafters, the open porch with gable roof, the log slab siding with the decorative bead, the
shingle siding in the gable ends, the multi-paned sashes and the concrete foundation. The setting
has a very natural appearance which should be maintained.
Background
The original cottage on this lot was built in 1928 for Samuel Albert Harper, a farmer from Brandon, and was destroyed by fire in June 1939. The new cottage was built in October of 1939 to standard Plan No. 7067. The builder was Ted Neilson. In 1960, a 17 ft. by 8 ft. addition was constructed for a bathroom and dining area.

The cottage is a single storey frame building with intersecting gable roofs to form a T-shaped plan. The exterior is sheathed in 6 inch painted drop siding. The front entry is protected by a gable roof projection supported on wooden brackets and with a decorative wood detail in the gable end. The windows have multi-paned sashes and appear to be original. The building rests on a concrete foundation.

The setting is a well treed lot.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character defining elements of this cottage include the intersecting gable roofs, the T-shaped plan, the drop siding, the roof projection over the doorway, the concrete foundation and the multi-paned sashes.

The natural setting enhances the character of the building and site.
Type 6: characterized by its pavilion plan. The main façade is symmetrical with a mid-section set back from two identical side sections. The main entry is in the mid-section. Plan No. 7010 illustrates this building type. Note the two identical ends of the pavilion with the main entry in the mid-section.
The Cottage Area - Type 6

153 Lily Street
Block 17 Lot 8

Background
This cottage is very distinct in that it is built in the pavilion style. It was constructed in 1936 for Hanna Jane Taylor, a housewife from Minnedosa. Measuring 24 ft. by 40 ft., it was built to standard Plan No. 7010. In 1976, an extension was built for a bathroom and bedroom and in 1978 a garage was constructed.

The cottage is a one storey frame building on a concrete pier and cobblestone foundation. The plan shape is a pavilion with one long gable roof intersected by two cross gables. Originally sheathed in 8 inch lapped cedar siding, the two side pavilions have diagonal siding. The mid-section between the pavilions has retained the cedar siding as well as the gable ends of the pavilions. The mid-section also has exposed roof rafters and an eyebrow eave over the front entryway. There are steps and a landing up to the main entry door, however the railing which appears on the plans is missing. The windows appear to have new sashes with false muntin bars.

The cottage is screened from the street by generous tree growth in the front yard. A stone retaining wall separates the roadway from the front of the lot.

Heritage Character Statement
This cottage is distinctive in its pavilion plan shape and the eyebrow eave over the front entryway. Other heritage character defining elements include the gable roof with intersecting gable ends, the cedar shingles, the exposed rafters, the concrete foundation with cobblestone facing, and the 8 inch cedar siding on the mid-section of the pavilion plan.

The natural appearance of the site should be maintained and the stone retaining wall along the front of the lot protected.
Background
There is very little tombstone data on this cottage. Its date of construction is unknown however the
date of the lease is October 1, 1948. The original owner was Henry Melville Doig, a lumber
merchant from Birtle, Manitoba.

The cottage has a distinctive pavilion plan with a gable roof intersected by two cross-gables at the
ends. The building rests on concrete piers which are screened by lattice work. The exterior has been
extensively renovated with new siding, new windows and new deck in the midsection between the
two pavilions. The eyebrow eave over the front entry has been retained.

The building is sited on a well-treed lot that does not have a heavily manicured landscape.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character is defined by the pavilion plan with the mid-section flanked by two cross-
gables on the ends. Other heritage character defining elements include the concrete foundation with
the lattice screening and the eyebrow eave over the front entryway.

The site should be retained in its natural state. Any attempts to achieve a more manicured
appearance should be avoided.
Cottage at Block 17, Lot 8, North Shore Subdivision, ca. 1935.
[RMNP file RM 17-8]
NORTH SHORE SUBDIVISION

Clear Lake No. 2 Subdivision, as it was formally known, was surveyed for the Forest Branch of the Department of the Interior in 1928. Surveyor J. Hardouin laid out a series of U-shaped blocks in two groups, numbered from west to east. The first group, comprising blocks one through six, was situated to the west, near where the road curved north leading to Dauphin. The second group, numbered 15, 17, and 18, was situated one half mile east of the first group. The numbering of the blocks from the west and the early nickname of the subdivision as Dauphin's Beach, suggests that the subdivision was established to cater to communities situated north of the forest reserve. The numbering also suggests that more blocks were planned to meet possible demand. In fact, there were few takers from the Dauphin area, possibly as a result of the ensuing economic depression. Most of the first lessees came from the south so blocks 17 and 18 were the first to be occupied.

The Parks Branch did not like the layout of the North Shore Subdivision, considering it to be too congested for a cottage colony. The passage of the National Parks Act of 1930 also encouraged the attitude that residences should not be encouraged in national parks outside of the townsites. Although they were prepared to honour existing lease agreements, national park headquarters decided that "pending a definite decision regarding the present layout of lots in the North Shore Subdivision it was not considered advisable that any more lots, with the exception of those in Blocks 17 and 18, should be thrown open for entry." Only 21 cottages were built before 1949.

In 1948 parks headquarters decided that all the vacant surveyed lots on blocks one, 15, 17 and 18 should be thrown open for lease. At this time there was no water or sewage service to the lots and there were no immediate plans to develop this expensive infrastructure. As the superintendent explained: "Through the years there has been always the occasional person to whom the North Shore quietness appeals. The spring water is good. I do not think water nor sewer has yet entered the minds of any of these people already resident there." It was agreed, however, that electricity would be extended from the golf course along to the north shore. A small building boom followed, with several more lots being leased and built upon between 1940 and 1956. Still, there are only 33 cottages in this area. Since the 1970s water and sewer facilities have been extended to this subdivision.

The North Shore subdivision has an illogical nature in that it is a secluded, forested setting, containing a few cottages away from other development, while at the same time being laid out on small lots with buildings often situated in close proximity. The suburban nature of the area is reinforced by the narrow crescent roads servicing the lots on each block, the driveways which are sometimes paved, and the planted lawns and gardens. Three of the four distinctive communal water pumps have been removed. Still, there are some fine examples of 1930s rustic building in the area. Key buildings include: block 4, lot 1; block 15, lots 2 and 4; block 17, lots 2 and 3; and block 18, lot 5.

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Block I, Lot 4 - North Shore

Background
This cottage was built between 1932 and 1934 by Gotfrid Johnson loosely based on a design prepared by the Architectural Division. The original cottage measured 24 by 28 feet. It was well-built with log slab siding and vertical log corner posts. A substantial portico dressed up an otherwise plain façade. An addition to the north side was completed at a later date which somewhat spoils the symmetry of the principal façade. The cottage is associated with a large (18 by 18 foot) log slab garage with a fine pyramid roof. This was likely also the work of Gotfrid Johnson, contemporaneous with the cottage.

The first owner was William Ivens, who leased the lot until 1945. Ivens (1878-1958) was a Winnipeg Methodist minister, chiropractor and politician who attained some stature in the history of the province as a political activist. He was associated with J.S. Woodsworth, another Methodist minister, and like him developed a passionate interest in the cause of labour through his experience in the Social Gospel movement. Ivens edited the Western Labour News and formed the Labour Church in 1918. Imprisoned for his role in the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, he nevertheless was elected to the provincial legislative assembly as a Labour candidate in 1920. He continued to sit in the legislature until 1936.

Heritage Character Statement
Although it has been added on to, the cottage and associated garage are a good examples of Gotfrid Johnson’s meticulous craftsmanship. The Rustic style of the buildings contribute to the heritage character of the North Shore community. Character defining elements include the log slab siding with vertical logs, multi-paned windows with slab surrounds and the portico. The cottage is also important for its associations with William Ivens.
Block I, Lot 4 - Garage
Background
This cottage was built in 1932 according to plans prepared by the Architectural Division. The plans called for a rectangular building; however the actual cottage is L-shaped, suggesting its design was modified to provide increased living space. The cottage resembles several cottages designed by the Architectural Division in the Clear Lake No. 1 Subdivision in Wasagaming. The original dimensions were 24 by 30 feet and the cottage was described as having "a substantial English wire-cut fireplace."43

Heritage Character Statement
This cottage is a good example of an Architectural Division standard plan design. Character defining elements include the slab siding, enclosed porch, multi-paned windows and exposed pole rafters.

43RMNP, file RM 15-2
Block XV, Lot 4 - North Shore

Background
This unusual log building was constructed in 1930 for Robert Scott, possibly a ranger for the Forest Branch. The building is an amply proportioned log frame cottage measuring 24 by 28 feet. The plain front façade and absence of a porch sheltering the front door, suggest that this building was designed and built before the Parks Branch assumed authority for the park. The front entrance is protected by the overhanging eave, and the building is further dressed up by the decorative log brackets under the eaves. In front of the cottage is a log slab garage built in 1931. The cottage is unusual in Riding Mountain for the use of split log sheathing, more substantial than the more commonly used slab siding. The construction technique is comparable to that used in the cottage at Block I, Lot 4.

Heritage Character Statement
The building is a good example of the Rustic Style in the park distinguished by the split log walls, vertical log corners, decorative eave brackets, finely-wrought rubble stone chimney and multi-paned front window.
Block XVII, Lot 2 - North Shore

Background
This cottage was built in 1929 when Riding Mountain was under the jurisdiction of the Forest Branch. It is one of the oldest buildings remaining in the park. The original owner was Andrew Miller, a farmer. There is no record of the builder. It is well-built of saddle-notched logs. As originally constructed, the front façade on the gable end was left plain. The off-centre portico was added in 1935. The front bay windows with their plate glass panes and the front deck are later additions that are incompatible with the heritage character of the building.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this cottage derives from its age and association with the Forest Branch era in the park. It is a good example of the Rustic building tradition on the North Shore. Heritage defining elements include the saddle-notched log walls, rubble stone chimney and log portico.
The North Shore Subdivision

Block XVII, Lot 3 - North Shore

Background
This cottage was built in 1932 for B.J. Hales, a school principal in Brandon. The builder was described as Mr Johnson, in all likelihood Gotfrid Johnson. The design was prepared by the Architectural Division and described as Plan 6030. The design took advantage of the lot's prime location overlooking the lake and the principal façade faces the lake with a screened in porch running along its length. The cottage is of ample proportions, measuring 36 by 40 feet and is one and a half storeys. It is sheathed in log slabs and has slab trim around the windows and doors and vertical slab end boards. The lot is well treed and has retained much of its rustic character.

Heritage Character Statement
This is a good example of an Architectural Division designed cottage and exemplifies a type of the Rustic building tradition on the north shore. Character defining elements include the log slab siding, the slab trim, multi-paned windows, and projecting porch gables with supporting brackets.
The date of construction of this cottage cannot be verified but was probably 1930-32. Similarly, although the builder cannot be positively identified, the distinctive corner treatment of the logs suggests that the cottage was built by Gotfrid Johnson. The first owners were Bryce and Scrase, the latter owned a store in Wasagaming. The cottage is a large, one-story log building with saddle notched corners. The logs alternate in diameter from thin to thick and alternate in length at the corners from long to short. There are three entrances, a main door on the long façade and one at each gable end. The end facing away from the road has a screened in porch with the distinctive log walls that characterize the rest of the building. A large cobblestone chimney completes the Rustic effect of the building.

Heritage Character Statement
This is one of the best examples of the Rustic building tradition on the North Shore. Character defining elements include the saddle-notch log walls with the distinctive corner treatment, the stone chimney, low front verandah with log supports, screened in log porch and multi-paned windows.
Until 1960 the principal campground in the park was the Clear Lake campground, now allocated to seasonal cabins. It was laid out in 1930-31 and expanded in 1933. In its first configuration it had ten blocks of either 24 or 32 lots. There were 16 kitchen shelters and four washrooms. Later in the 1930s the campground was more than doubled to contain 565 lots. In addition, there were two log refrigerator buildings or ice houses, a rare facility in national park campgrounds. The focal point of the campground was a rustic community building -Jamboree Hall- situated at the head of the campground overlooking the lake. Originally water was pumped from a series of wells. Electricity was brought to 52 lots intended for trailers. Two more kitchen shelters were added in the 1960s.

As the campground took on a more permanent look in the 1970s, the streets became lined with small well-kept cabins. Some of these seem to have been walled in trailers, others bear signs of once having had canvas roofs. Surprisingly, the configuration of the 1930s campground has survived more or less intact. Only the original washrooms have been removed, having been replaced by modern facilities. Jamboree Hall and the kitchen shelters continue their original functions. The two ice houses also remain, although one has been converted into a kitchen shelter and the other is now used for storage.

From the late 1930s until the early 1950s four smaller campground and picnic sites grew up outside of Wasagaming. A 1937 guidebook note the "[l]imited camping accommodation for parties desiring solitude is also available at Lake Katherine."\(^{44}\) The Lake Audy campground was established in 1939 and two small kitchen shelters built. A 1955 guide book notes that "camp grounds less completely equipped [than that at Clear Lake], are also available at Lake Katherine, Moon Lake, Lake Audy and Whirlpool Lake."\(^{45}\) In the mid 1950s services began to be introduced to these primitive campgrounds and picnic sites. Lake Audy got a new kitchen shelter in 1956. By 1959 Lake Katherine had four kitchen shelters, Whirlpool had one, Moon Lake had two and Lake Audy had three. An additional kitchen shelter was built at Moon Lake in 1960. All these kitchen shelters are variations of the same basic design that was developed in Banff in 1952. In 1963 the Lake Katherine kitchen shelters were replaced by six new design shelters designed by Engineering Services Division in Ottawa. These were of a standard plan and were similar to kitchen shelters being erected in semi-serviced campgrounds in the mountain parks. The Lake Katherine campground was subsequently incorporated in Anishinabe Village and the buildings are leased to the band.

The picnic area by Clear Lake, behind the museum, got three large kitchen shelters of the Banff design in 1959 and 1960. Only shelters number one and three remain. Other shelters of this type were built at the group campground, Camp Kippechewin, established at the west end of Clear Lake.

\(^{44}\)Riding Mountain National Park (Ottawa: National Parks Bureau, 1937), 21.
\(^{45}\)Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba, Canada (Ottawa: Canadian Government Travel Bureau, ca. 1955), 6.
In 1962 the newly-opened Wasagaming Campground provided much needed townsite camping spaces for tents and trailers. The new locale included washroom and kitchen shelters specially-designed by Engineering Services Division. The Wasagaming Campground contains 14 kitchen shelters and 12 washroom buildings.

The heritage buildings associated with the campgrounds and picnic sites of Riding Mountain comprise distinct types. The most common structure is the kitchen shelter which is found in almost every site. The kitchen shelters fall into three main periods: the 1930s, 1950s and 1960s; each period with its distinctive type. The 1930s shelters surviving at the old Clear Lake Campground are similar in having log uprights and low pitched roofs. The 1950s shelters found at a number of sites around the park all have the distinctive hipped roof while the 1960s shelters found at the Wasagaming Campground and Lake Katherine are more substantially built and employ more modern materials such as plywood and glazed brick. Washroom buildings are equally ubiquitous but there are fewer examples of the pre-1970 designs. There is one community hall at the Clear Lake Campground and two ice houses in the same area. The community hall and ice houses are rare surviving examples of functional types.
JAMBOREE HALL

Background
In 1930-31 a five acre parcel of land to the west of the Clear Lake townsite was surveyed as a campground. During the next five years a succession of structures was built to provide amenities to the ever increasing numbers of campers, many of whom were coming for longer stays. Facilities included kitchen shelters, ice houses with food storage facilities, washrooms, lavatories and, in 1933, a substantial pavilion-type structure referred to as a community shelter or Jamboree building. This structure, popularly known as the Jamboree Hall, was constructed to provide a social centre for entertainment, lantern slide shows, and other social activities at the campground. It was one of a succession of buildings erected as shelters and community halls in camping and recreational areas within national parks during the 1930s. At least four were based on a standard plan prepared by the National Parks Branch’s Architectural Division. These were built in Prince Albert, Waterton Lakes, Elk Island and Riding Mountain National Parks between 1932 and 1934. A slightly smaller version was constructed in Georgian Bay Islands National Park during fiscal year 1935-36.

The Jamboree Hall displays the peeled log construction methods employed in the park during the 1930-36 period. The roof is supported by a truss system constructed of peeled logs supported in turn by vertical log posts set on a concrete slab and concrete piers. One end and a portion of the sides are enclosed by horizontal logs set between the vertical posts. A stone chimney and fireplace is located at the centre of the enclosed end wall. The remainder of the structure was probably open from the floor to the eaves but is now partially enclosed by low walls rising approximately one metre above grade. Jamboree Hall has been given a "Recognized" rating by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office.

The building has undergone some alterations. In 1956 the walls were enclosed to a height of five feet. At other unspecified times several of the vertical posts were replaced, and the wooden shingles were replaced with asphalt shingles.
Heritage Character Statement
The heritage value of the Jamboree Hall stems from its central function in the community life of the old campground and the seasonal cabin area. Architecturally, it is the most prominent building on the site and its rustic elements of log uprights, open pole rafters and stone chimney contribute to the architectural character of both the seasonal cabin area and Wasagaming. Character defining elements including its siting at the head of the seasonal cabin area, and its rustic features.

Jamboree Hall, 1999
Interior, Jamboree Hall, 1999
REFRIGERATOR BUILDINGS

Background
Two refrigerator buildings were built at the Clear Lake campground, in 1933 and 1934 respectively, using unemployment relief labour. The buildings measure 7.7 metres by 5.3 metres and incorporated sophisticated design techniques compared to the relatively simple designs of the other campground facilities. The buildings contained centrally-placed ice chambers accessible through the large double doors at the end of the buildings. A concrete slab was laid out around the perimeter of the ice chamber, and the exterior walls of the chambers were equipped with lockers where campers could store their perishable food supplies. Public access was through the single door on the other gable end, which was covered with a shed roofed hood. Wall construction was of peeled logs, horizontally laid and butted against vertical corner posts. Refrigerator buildings were phased out of use in national park campgrounds in the 1950s. Due to their robust construction, they have found other uses. One has been recycled at the Waskesiu works compound, in Prince Albert National Park. The Wasagaming ice houses are the only known examples still associated with a campground plan although they too have been recycled. One has been converted to a storage building and the other now serves as a kitchen shelter. This second example has been more heavily altered as it has had one wall removed to open it up along one side.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the former refrigerator buildings derives from the historical relationship with the old campground, and its historical associations with refrigeration before the introduction of electricity to the area. Character defining elements include the materials, colour, window, door and drain details.

Original floorplan for Refrigerator Building
[Parks Canada, Professional Services RM-21]
1930s KITCHEN SHELTERS

Background
A succession of about 26 kitchen shelters was built at the Clear Lake campground between 1931 and 1936. There is some variation in size and design, though all the shelters feature moderately-pitched roofs supported by vertical log posts set on either concrete piers or on slabs. Standard features are a pair of wood stoves of concrete and iron construction placed in the centre, flanked by picnic tables. The number of vertical posts varies from six to eight. These support roof trusses, of either log or milled wood construction, and low-pitched gable or hipped roofs. The eight post variety is the most typical. The shelters are associated with communal water spigots.

The kitchen shelters are located on footpaths running between the rows of cabins and form focal points for blocks of cabin sites. Extended families and friends occupying clusters of cabins use these shelters as communal gathering places in the evenings.

The Clear Lake kitchen shelters are a rare surviving example of a 1930s style. The Waterton Townsite campground has some 1930s kitchen shelters and there are two at the old Patricia Lake campground in Jasper although these are no longer used by the park.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the kitchen shelters derives from their historical relationship with the site blocks, and their traditional use by long term campers and seasonal cottage owners. Character defining elements are the upright log posts with open walls, pole rafters, log gable ends and concrete and iron stoves.
1950s KITCHEN SHELTERS

Background
In 1952 the Banff Engineering Office devised a plan for a large kitchen shelter for use in the mountain campgrounds. This design was soon adapted for use in national park campgrounds across the country. Although the plan varied in its details through the 1950s, the basic design consisted of a rectangular plan, measuring about five by ten metres (16 by 35 feet), with about 14 vertical log posts supporting a hipped roof. The plan describes a half wall formed of horizontal cedar siding with an entrance on the long side. The inside usually had two wood burning stoves. Variations of this plan have windows screening three or four sides or the entrances at the short sides. The very earliest examples of this design had pole rafters. By the mid-1950s two by six dimension lumber was being used for the roof supports. By the late 1950s dimension lumber had replaced logs as the vertical posts.

This form of kitchen shelter can be found at the old Clear Lake Campground (numbers 8 and 9), the Whirlpool Lake Campground, the Moon Lake picnic site and campground, the Lake Audy campground, Camp Kippechewin and the Central Park picnic grounds. A particularly fine example is Kitchen Shelter Number 1 at Lake Audy which has the log posts, cedar shingle roof and windows along three sides. The 1950s design continued to be utilized into the 1960s. New shelters built in 1963 at the old Clear Lake campground are of this type.

Heritage Character Statement
These structures are emblematic of outdoor recreation (camping and picnicking) in the national parks. Character defining elements include the log uprights (if extant), tapered siding, and hipped roof with cedar shingles.
1960s KITCHEN SHELTERS

Background
The Wasagaming Campground which opened in 1964 included 14 kitchen shelters of a remarkably different design from the traditional structures that predated it. Designed by the Engineering Services Division in 1961, they were more spacious than the 1952 design, measuring 12 by eight metres. The massive posts were replaced by slender four by four uprights, the roof was low pitched with a prow gable and the walls were formed of decorative brick. Inside, post and beam construction continued the modern treatment of the structure. A large brick double stove and firewood box formed a centrepiece for the interior space. Twelve toilet buildings were constructed at the same time as the kitchen shelters and form a companion piece, having a similar roof treatment and being clad in the same decorative brick. As washroom buildings are regularly replaced in the national parks, these washroom buildings are among the oldest of their kind in the park.

In 1963 six new shelters were built at Lake Katherine. They are similar to but not identical to the Wasagaming Campground shelters. Also designed by Engineering Services Division, they have plain gables and feature plywood and tapered cedar siding instead of the decorative brick.

Heritage Character Statement
The Wasagaming Campground kitchen shelters are unusual examples of this building type in the national park system. They represent a deliberate move away from the Rustic building tradition, and towards a new expression of modern design idiom. Character defining elements include the post and beam construction technique, decorative brick walls and stove boxes, prow shaped eave. The Lake Katherine examples, although interesting, are not as rare nor as distinctive as those in the Wasagaming Campground.
CLEAR LAKE GOLF COURSE

Golfing emerged as one of the most popular recreational activities in Canada and the United States after the First World War. It quickly came to be regarded as a primary tourist attraction for summer resorts. Golfing made its first appearance in a national park in 1911 when the Canadian Pacific Railway built a course for the use of patrons of the Banff Springs Hotel. The Dominion Parks Branch took over the Banff Springs course in 1917, then built four new courses at other national parks across western Canada during the 1920s and 1930s.\(^{46}\)

At Riding Mountain, plans were afoot to establish a golf course overlooking Clear Lake well before the park was formally established in 1930. The site was selected and work on the first nine holes was begun in 1928-29 during the Forest Branch administration. This preliminary work was prompted by a commitment made by Charles Stewart, then Minister of the Interior, at a picnic held at Clear Lake in August 1928, at a time when prospective sites for a national park in Manitoba were still under consideration.\(^{47}\) Upgrading of the course became an immediate priority during the preliminary developmental phase of the park. In 1931-32, Park Superintendent James Smart reported that temporary greens had been installed and that the nine holes were in play and well-patronized. In the same year, new greens were built, fairways were improved, and work on the second nine holes was begun. The design of the back nine is attributed to Superintendent Smart and Vic Creed, who had participated in the design of the initial nine holes.\(^{48}\)

The development of the Clear Lake golf course (which was known as the Wasagaming Golf Course from its inception until 1993) was one of the largest single Unemployment Relief Act projects undertaken in Riding Mountain National Park. A relief camp was set up on the golf course grounds, and work progressed on the construction of a clubhouse, pro shop, rain shelters and pump house, a water system, greens, tees and fairways. The major task of developing the fairways accounted for a major proportion of the expenditures during the developmental phase which culminated with the opening of the full 18 hole course in August 1934.\(^{49}\) In that year the Wasagaming Golf Club was organized and the first annual golf tournament was held. 1934 also saw the hiring of Johnnie Lawrence as golf professional at Wasagaming, a position he retained until his retirement in 1976. The Commissioner of Parks’ annual report for 1935 noted that the golf course had achieved “a deservedly good reputation since its construction...” Six thousand, four hundred and ninety-three individuals had played the course in 1935, and the second annual

\(^{46}\)The four courses were located at Waterton Lakes, Elk Island, Prince Albert and Riding Mountain national parks. The Banff course was transferred back to the CPR in 1927. A second private golf course was established at Jasper Park Lodge in 1924.

\(^{47}\)Lothian, vol. III, 110.


\(^{49}\)NAC, RG 84, RM 313, Golf Course 1940-1950, Memorandum, O.E. Heaslip, Park Supt., to J. Smart, Controller, National Parks, July 13, 1943. The total construction cost was $167,000, of which $112,000 was spent on development of the fairways.
The Golf Course

tournament had drawn a total of 100 entries.\textsuperscript{50} The golf course became one of the new park’s major showpieces. A 1937 brochure described it as:

One of the greatest attractions to Park visitors...The course is charmingly situated, with a magnificent view obtainable from the clubhouse and course, to the westward down the whole blue length of the lake...\textsuperscript{51}

In addition to attracting golfers, the course and its clubhouse became a popular sightseeing destination for park visitors. The popularity of the clubhouse as a dining and social center made it necessary to double the building’s size within two years of its completion.

The enduring popularity of the Clear Lake golf course can be attributed in part to its spectacular setting at the east end of Clear Lake, and to the overall quality of the course itself. Views from many of the tees and fairways contribute to the pleasure of playing the course. The spectacular setting of the clubhouse made it a popular tourist destination in its own right, attracting park visitors to dine on the balcony overlooking the course and the lake beyond. The land surfaces of the playing course were systematically modified to create the necessary challenges of the game, and presumably reflect aspects of golf course design theory from the successive decades in which it was established and modified. Like other courses located in national parks, the Riding Mountain example represents an evolved cultural landscape in which the tactical requirements of the sport were balanced by the goal of capitalizing on the natural qualities of the surrounding landscape. Between 1946 and the mid-1950s, noted golf course architect Stanley Thompson was commissioned to examine the various golf courses in the national parks. In his 1946 report on Wasagaming, Thompson stated that, “of all the courses in the National Parks of Canada, this course has the most character and has the best chance of getting into the high class bracket and becoming nationally famous...This is the only course on which I would advise a major expenditure, for I believe it is the one with the greatest possibilities.”\textsuperscript{52} Many of Thompson’s recommendations to improve the quality of play at Wasagaming were carried out over the following decade. More recent modifications to the course have sought to accommodate the desires of a wider range of playing skills.

The importance attached to the golf course as one of the park’s major attractions was reflected in the attention given to the appearance of its buildings. The clubhouse, pro shop and rain shelters constructed during the Depression Relief period all display the distinctive rustic log construction employed for key landmark buildings within the townsite and throughout the park. The image of the clubhouse, viewed from the road and framed by the timber entrance arch, became one of the most familiar photographs associated with Riding Mountain National Park.

\textsuperscript{51}National Parks Bureau, \textit{Riding Mountain National Park} (Ottawa: National Parks Bureau, 1937), p. 2.
The architectural character established by the initial buildings was sustained by later structures built within the public areas and course fairways, notably a 1957 refreshment kiosk (currently the electric golf cart charging shed), the current refreshment stand adjacent to the 10th tee and a 1957 replacement tee shelter. Other structures located along the course perimeter (golf pro’s residence, pump house, golf cart shelter and service compound buildings) are utilitarian in character and do not contribute to the heritage character of the course.

The Clubhouse at centre; Cart Charging Shed in right foreground.
GOLF CLUBHOUSE

Background
Plans for the golf clubhouse at Clear Lake were prepared by the Architectural Division, National Parks Bureau, in 1932. It was constructed by an Unemployment Relief work crew led by John Gottfrid Johnson, a log builder, contractor and stone mason who is credited with the construction of many other landmark buildings within the park, including the firehall, tennis clubhouse, and Johnson Bungalows. Another participant was Ole Ramstad, a local stone mason whose initials appear on the building’s fireplace.

When completed in 1933, the clubhouse was a rectangular log structure covered by a gable roof with a partial hip on the entrance façade and a hip-roofed open sided verandah that enveloped the south end and half of the side walls. Single gabled dormers were located in the middle of both roof slopes. All exterior walls were of peeled horizontal log construction, with saddle-notched corners and exposed roof rafters and purlins. Foundation walls were faced with split field stone, and the verandah roof was supported by log posts resting on cobble stone piers. The fireplace and chimney were also built of cobble stones. The building’s rustic design and log construction linked it with other landmark buildings being constructed within the townsite and throughout the park during the Depression Relief period.

The popularity of the clubhouse dictated major additions and alterations which were carried out in 1935. These included the lengthening of the building and the addition of gable-roofed wings on both sides. The original roof line was extended to cover the addition on the northern end of the building. The hipped treatment used on the original design was discarded in favour of a conventional gable treatment on the new north façade, and the original dormers were replaced by pairs of shed-roofed dormers on both roof slopes. The cobblestone treatment was applied to the new foundation wall surfaces and to corner piers on the side wings. In addition, cobble piers were incorporated in the design for the entrance portico on the north façade. Decorative log-bracketed window hoods add further visual interest on the north façade and on the side wings.

The exterior appearance of the clubhouse remains substantially unchanged since the completion of the 1935 additions, although the building has undergone periodic renovations over the years. In 1945 the interior was altered to increase the size of the kitchen and dining facilities. The perimeter verandah was enclosed at this time. In 1956-57, rotted logs were replaced with log siding on the verandah, and further interior alterations were made to the kitchen, dining and locker room facilities. Most recently, extensive structural restoration was carried out on the entrance portico and wall sections on the north façade.

The clubhouse is a Recognized FHBRO building.

53Ringstrom, p. 63.
54Ibid., p. 61.
55NAC, RG 84, Vol. 1913, File RM 313, Pt. 4.
Heritage Character Statement

The golf clubhouse is an important architectural landmark within the park. Constructed from local spruce logs and field stone by skilled craftsmen drawn from the surrounding area, the building was a major component of the rustic architectural theme which emerged at Riding Mountain during the Depression Relief era. Within the immediate environs, the building establishes a rustic motif that is reinforced by the nearby pro shop and various subsidiary structures scattered throughout the golf course grounds.

The building's heritage character derives from the skillful melding of horizontal log and field stone construction. The log wall surfaces are complemented by various decorative and structural elements that heighten the visual interest of the building's exterior: exposed log purlins and rafters, pole roof decking (a highly distinctive local technique of the period), and log window hoods. The use of cobblestone piers lent a distinctive rustic quality to this building, presenting a subtle variation to the combination of log and split stone found on most other contemporary landmark buildings in the park. The architectural qualities of the building are well suited to its site and setting, a promontory overlooking Clear Lake, which is surrounded by the well-manicured greens and wooded margins of the golf course.

Clubhouse - North elevation.
PRO SHOP

Background
The pro shop was built in 1934-35 to provide an office and storage facilities for the golf professional who was hired in that year. Designed by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch, the structure was built as part of the Unemployment Relief initiative engaged in constructing the golf course.

In its original configuration, the building was a rectangular log structure covered by a bell-cast hipped roof with a broad eaves overhang that provided a sheltered area around the perimeter. The building initially contained two rooms, one for use as an office for the golf professional, and the other as his sleeping quarters.

The design and construction method employed on this building is of interest. In a departure from usual practice in the park, the walls were constructed of log slabs set between vertical log posts, possibly using a mortice and tenon system similar to Red River frame. The broad roof overhang is supported by log brackets attached to the vertical posts. The brackets in turn support a log railing that runs around the perimeter of the eaves and serves as a carriage for the exposed log rafters. Despite its novel construction, the building’s rustic appearance complemented the design of the nearby golf clubhouse.

The building’s history reflected technological changes in the sport and the growing popularity of the Wasagaming course. By the mid-1940s, golfers had switched from shoulder bags to wheeled golf carts to carry their clubs. The carts created demands for increased storage space within the pro shop. This was partially resolved by providing a separate residence for the golf pro in 1948, thereby freeing up his former sleeping quarters in the pro shop. Two years later, golf course architect Stanley Thompson recommended that the pro shop be enlarged by 200% to provide changing facilities for golfers, a canteen, lavatories and increased storage for golf clubs and carts. Approval for this expansion was delayed until 1957 when funds were made available for the construction of eight and one-half foot extensions on both ends of the building. The additions were of conventional milled frame construction, but were externally sheathed with log siding to simulate the wall surfaces of the original section. The roof line of the original structure was similarly repeated, complete with the distinctive bracketing system. The building assumed its present “T” configuration with the construction of a wing containing a lounge and sitting area in 1984. This section replicated the walls surfaces, eaves details and roof profile of the original building.

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58RG 84, Vol. 168, File RM 313, corresp., R.A. Gibson to J. Smart, 13 Sept., 1948; also memorandum re. pro shop, 12 October 1948.
60Parks Canada, PNRO, FHBRO information docket 85-54-4.
Heritage Character Statement

The pro shop dates back to the initial developmental phase of the golf course. Built as a Unemployment Relief project in 1934-35, the building’s later enlargement reflected changing requirements brought on by increased public use and changing technologies. The building is a composite structure composed of an original log section, with milled frame extensions added in 1957 and a further milled frame wing constructed in 1984. Character-defining elements include the log bracket and carriage system, exposed pole rafters and pole roof decking, the implied mortice and tenon wall system and bell cast hipped roof.

The building presents a cohesive rustic appearance, novel due to its distinctive roof profile and log wall treatment yet complimentary to the nearby club house. The pro shop contributes to the rustic ambiance of the golf course.
REFRESHMENT KIOSK and CART CHARGING SHED

Background
These two small buildings appear to share a connected history. The refreshment kiosk is located on a site situated between the golf course access road and the tenth tee on the course. The golf cart electrical charging shed is located adjacent to the golf pro shop.

In 1958 members of the Wasagaming Golf Club submitted a suggestion to the park superintendent that a small refreshment kiosk be installed near the tee on the tenth hole to help alleviate congestion problems at the tenth tee. The National Parks Branch agreed to the installation of a kiosk at this location for a one year trial period. Preliminary plans for the structure, based on “the type of architecture which is utilized on some of the buildings in the golf course, particularly the pro shop” were submitted by the park superintendent and refined by the Branch’s Engineering Services Division. The plans called for a wood frame structure, approximately 10 feet by 12 feet in dimension, with peeled log corner posts and clapboard or log siding. The structure was covered with a low-pitch hipped roof that flared outwards to create a sheltered perimeter area similar to the pro shop. The eaves overhang was supported by stick corner brackets that imitated the more elaborate system found on the pro shop. The kiosk contained a single room from which an attendant sold soft drinks, cigarettes, candy and sandwiches. At the end of the trial period the kiosk was deemed to be a success and a decision was made to permit its operation the following year.

The structure described above bears a close resemblance to the building in current use as the electric golf cart charging shed. The shed displays the roof profile, corner posts and bracketing detail and overall proportions specified in the original design. The kiosk was presumably relocated to its present location at an undetermined time and eventually adapted to its current use.

The refreshment kiosk near the tenth tee is a more recent installation (date undetermined). The building is of milled frame construction, sheathed with log siding. It is covered with a bell-cast hipped roof that is clearly intended to echo the roof profile of its predecessor and of the pro shop. More than double the size of its predecessor, the kiosk contains a walk-in refreshment area and two public lavatories. A shed roofed addition projects from the lavatory section of the building. The building is located on the edge of a grass embankment, and features a sun deck where patrons can sit and admire a glimpse of the lake while or wait to proceed with their game.

61 NAC, RG 84, RM 313, Pt. 5-6, corresp., K.B. Mitchell, superintendent, to Chief, National Parks Service, 28 April, 1959.
62 Ibid., Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources, National Parks Branch Engineering Services Division, “Golf Course Canteen, RMNP,” dated 1 April 1959.
Heritage Character Statement
Both of these structures contribute to the overall architectural character of the golf course area through their repetition of architectural motifs and elements established by the club house and pro shop. These include the use of bell-cast hipped roofs with broad eaves overhangs, vertical corner posts and brackets (in the case of the cart shed), and log siding. These elements, in combination with a uniform colour scheme (brown wall surfaces, white window and door surrounds, and green roofs) contribute positively to the overall character of the golf course area.
THREE GOLF RAIN SHELTERS

Background
Rain shelters were common features on golf courses during the decades before electric golf carts replaced walking as the principal means of following the course. Such structures were selectively placed at strategic spots where they could provide shelter from rain or a shaded place to relax while on the course. On golf courses in the National Parks, shelters were almost invariably built from native materials and occasionally offered an opportunity for local craftsmen to display their skills with fewer design constraints.

Park records indicate that four shelters were constructed on the Wasagaming golf course in 1934 by Unemployment Relief labour crews. Two of these were described as octagonal structures, while no description was given of the other two. A 1957 document indicates that the two octagonal shelters were to be replaced with new ones of similar design in that year. No other records of shelter replacements at this golf course have been located, suggesting that the existing structures date from 1934-35 and 1957-58.

The golf course currently contains three rain shelters. Two are square structures with pyramidal roofs. Both are in deteriorated condition and likely date from 1934-35. The third features an octagonal design and is presumably one of the two replacement structures built in 1957. The octagonal shelter is described in park asset records as Rain Shelter #1, and is located close to the 5th tee. The two older structures (described as Rain shelters 2 and 3) are situated near the 11th green and behind the 14th tee respectively.

The octagonal design of Rain Shelter #1 is apparently based upon the design of two 1934 shelters. This structure features a frame of peeled log vertical posts linked on seven sides by morticed horizontal railings. An exposed roof substructure of pole rafters rests on horizontal rails attached to the vertical posts. The roof decking is constructed with milled lumber. Panels constructed from milled half log siding enclose the seating area to the level of the upper morticed railing.

The building materials and construction characteristics of Rain Shelters 2 and 3 link them to the Depression Relief developmental period. Both structures feature vertical peeled log posts linked by morticed rails with cris-cross log infill. The cris-cross motif is a recurrent design element on

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64 Motorized golf carts remained absent from the Wasagaming course throughout the 1950s. In 1957 the park superintendent reported “No one has requested permission to use powered carts on our greens and I feel that we should avoid them as long as possible.” RG 84, RM 313, B. Mitchell to Chief, National Parks Service, 24 May, 1957.


66 NAC, RG 84, Vol. 1913, RM313, Pt. 4, Memorandum re. replacement of two shelter buildings at golf course, RMNP, 3 April 1957. “These are small octagonal buildings which provide shelter to golfers during rain showers. The proposed shelters will replace two similar old buildings and will be constructed of native materials.”
Depression Relief log structures within this park and throughout the National Park system. Of particular note, however, is the use of small-dimension stick sheathing as the roof decking material on both structures. This locally-manufactured material lends a distinctive rustic quality to a number of Depression Relief era buildings in Riding Mountain Park, including the information centre, the golf clubhouse and the pro shop.

**Heritage Character Statement**
The three rain shelters on the Clear Lake Golf Course reinforce the rustic architectural theme established by the clubhouse and pro shop. The heritage character of all three structures stems from the use of native materials (peeled spruce logs) and from the log craftsmanship that links them to the rustic building tradition associated with Riding Mountain.
The East Gate

East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site
The East Gate

EAST GATE REGISTRATION COMPLEX NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (including Whirlpool Warden Station)

This site is comprised of the East Gate entrance building, the former gate keeper’s cabin, and the house and service buildings associated with the Whirlpool warden station. The entrance building, gate keeper’s cabin and warden’s residence form a distinct grouping on the basis of their shared architecture and history. The importance of this grouping is reflected in its designation as a national historic site. All three log structures are also recognized FHBRO buildings. The remaining structures date from 1960-61 and are associated with the ongoing operations of the Whirlpool warden station.

The East Gate complex is located at the park boundary on the Norgate Road (Highway 19), initially the main access route to the park for motorists traveling from Winnipeg. One of the early concerns in the development of Riding Mountain National Park was its susceptibility to poaching at road access points. The rationale for establishing registration buildings at each of the three primary road entrances was partly based on this concern. To facilitate the combined functions of visitor registration and wildlife protection, warden stations were established at the North and East Gate entrances. In the case of the East Gate facility, this entailed the construction of a residence and outbuildings to accommodate a park warden and a second residence to accommodate the gate attendant. Wardens’ duties at entry points such as the East Gate were inevitably modified by the higher degree of public exposure. Wardens stationed at this location were required to monitor vehicles entering and leaving the park, as well as issuing various licences and offering assistance to motorists. When wardens went on back country patrols, their spouses were expected to assume these duties.

The East Gate Registration complex and associated Whirlpool warden station occupy forest clearing on both sides of the Norgate Road. The area immediately surrounding the entrance building is currently flanked by shrubbery. Before its recent restoration, four rock-lined flower beds were maintained in the areas adjacent to the kiosks. The cleared areas surrounding the attendant’s cottage and warden’s residence are currently covered with grass. Until the 1960s, both sites contained fenced enclosures where occupants maintained vegetable gardens. The agricultural area associated with the warden’s residence was more extensive, reflecting the fact that it was occupied on a year-round basis. Wardens and their family raised vegetables and kept livestock in an area to the rear of the house. A corral enclosure and pasture at the rear of the barn reflect aspects of the site’s horse patrol operation and former agricultural pursuits at the station.

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67 NAC. RG 84, Vol. 220, RM 60, Roads, Pt. 2, J.B. Harkin to Williamson, 21 Feb. 1931. “...with regard to registration it appears to me that it will be almost necessary to have a point of registration say at each of the three entrances. It would be possible, if there is no registration say at the north side of the Park or the east side, persons could enter the Park, molest game, and then make their exit from the Park at the same point as they entered.”

68 Bruce Hoskins, A Land Use History of the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site (Winnipeg: Parks Canada Western Canada Service Centre, 2000), p. 21.
EAST GATE REGISTRATION BUILDING

Background
Park entrance buildings, or registration buildings as they are often called, appeared in the national parks as by-products of automobile tourism. The National Parks Branch quickly saw their value in both functional and symbolic terms, and made considerable efforts to design them as visual landmarks that heralded motorists' arrival at the park boundaries. The buildings' primary purpose was to accommodate park attendants who registered incoming vehicles, advised visitors of park regulations, and dispensed information. Since entrance buildings were often situated at considerable distance from townsites, living quarters were provided in the entrance building or in a separate cabin built nearby.

Park entrance buildings were intended to display the architectural theme being developed within each park. As a result, there was considerable variation in their appearances. For Riding Mountain National Park, staff architects devised a portal design that consisted of twin kiosks linked by an overhead bridgework. Peeled log construction in combination with fieldstone corner piers linked the buildings to other public facilities being constructed throughout the park. This design was used for facilities at all three primary road entry points to the park, and was unique to Riding Mountain. The three portals were constructed in 1931, 1933 and 1936 as unemployment relief projects.69

Although the Norgate Road was a major access route to the park, traffic through the East Gate entrance declined following completion of Highway 10, the north-south route through the park. Steadily increasing traffic on that road led to the removal of the original South and North Gate registration buildings in the 1950s, but lessened pressure on the East Gate, thereby ensuring its survival. Unlike the North and South Gate, the East Gate was always limited to seasonal use, between mid-May and mid-September. By the 1960s, only one of the building's two kiosks was used for vehicle registration; the second kiosk was converted into a storage area for the adjacent warden station. In 1987 major restoration work was carried out on the portal. This entailed the reconstruction of the twin cupolas and bridgework.70

The East Gate Registration Building is situated at the foot of the escarpment that marks the eastern boundary of the park. From this point the Norgate Road stretches eastward in a straight line across flat prairie farmlands. Immediately inside the park boundary, it begins a winding ascent through forested land to the summit of the escarpment. From either approach, the entrance building is a highly visible landmark, visible from a long distance when approached from the east, and emphatically marking the park border after the descent from the west.

The East Gate, early 1930s. [Parks Canada Photo Services]
Heritage Character Statement
The registration building is one of the primary architectural landmarks in Riding Mountain National Park. Its historical importance stems from its associations with early auto tourism, both at Riding Mountain and within the National Park system, and with the Depression Relief phase of construction in the park. From an architectural standpoint it is notable as the last remaining portal entrance building within the National Park system. Its design displays the various elements of the Tudor Rustic theme developed by National Parks Branch architects for this park. These are expressed through the use of native materials—peeled spruce logs for exterior wall surfaces and for the twin roof lanterns and bridgework, and split field stone for the corner piers of the two kiosk sections. The building also demonstrates the building skills of local craftsmen employed in the park during the Depression Relief period.

The heritage character of the East Gate Entrance Building also derives from the sustained character of the site, notably the relationship between the building, the neighboring staff residences, road corridor and surrounding grounds, and the escarpment setting.
The East Gate

GATE ATTENDANT’S COTTAGE

Background
The gate attendant’s cottage is located in a clearing on the south side of the Norgate Road (Highway 19), just inside the park boundary and immediately adjacent to the East Gate Registration Building to which it was operationally linked.

This log cottage was built to accommodate the attendant stationed at the East Gate Registration Building. It was built in 1933-34 by Depression Relief work camp crews, using peeled logs obtained within the park boundaries, and according to a plan prepared by the National Parks Branch’s Architectural Division. This plan was a variation of the one prepared for the warden’s residence situated on the opposite side of Norgate Road. The gate attendant’s cottage was slightly smaller in size and lacked a second chimney, basement, rear wing and finished upper floor because it was not initially intended for winter occupancy.

The cottage is a rectangular building with a medium-pitch gabled roof. Its walls were constructed from peeled logs with saddle-notched corners. A gabled front porch is of similar construction. The building sits on a poured concrete foundation sheathed with split field stone. The building features half-timbered end and porch gables that typify the decorative Tudor Rustic elements characteristic of public buildings constructed in Riding Mountain between 1930 and 1936.

Although initially occupied only between May and September, the cottage was pressed into service as a year-round residence for the gate attendant during the late 1940s and early 1950s. After 1960s it was frequently used to accommodate a park warden stationed at the Whirlpool station, and the cottage was assigned the radio name Whirlpool South. In 1962 the crawlspace was excavated to create a full basement capable of accommodating an oil furnace, and a shed-roofed addition was added to the rear of the building. A staircase was installed and two bedrooms were created in the attic area. A vehicle garage was also added around this time.

The park stopped stationing either gate attendants or wardens at the cottage around 1980, and it remained unoccupied until 1996. By that time its condition had seriously deteriorated. Restoration work carried out in 1996 entailed the replacement of rotted logs and foundation repairs. A new cedar shingle roof was installed at this time. It is currently occupied by a seasonal warden.

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72Parks Canada, Engineering and Architectural Services, Plan RM 20.
73Hoskins, p. 17.
Heritage Character Statement
The gate attendant's cottage is an integral component of the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site. Its heritage character stems from the distinctive combination of Tudor Rustic design and log construction which compliment the nearby registration building with which it was operationally linked. The building exemplifies the high level of craftsmanship that characterized public facilities built by Depression Relief crews at Riding Mountain.
Proposed design for the Gate Attendant's Cottage, at East Gate.
[Architectural Division, National Parks of Canada, Ottawa, 1933, Index 20 R.M.]
WHIRLPOOL WARDEN'S RESIDENCE

Background
The Whirlpool Warden Station occupies a site on the north side of the Norgate Road (Highway 19), just inside the park boundary and adjacent to the East Gate Entrance Building. The 1933-34 warden's residence is located across the road from the gate attendant's cottage and in close proximity to the Registration Building.

This is one of two log houses that were built to provide year-round accommodation for wardens stationed at road entry points to Riding Mountain National Park. Both were positioned in close proximity to registration gates in order to assert the enforcement of park regulations and to serve as deterrents to poaching within the park. The twin of the Whirlpool warden house was located at the Moon Lake Warden Station. In 1931-32 the Branch's architectural division devised a special house plan specifically for application at the entry points in Riding Mountain. This design incorporated the various elements of the Tudor Rustic theme that was being prescribed for major public facilities within Riding Mountain during the park's developmental phase. The design created a visual association with the nearby registration buildings and asserted the authority of the warden service at these locations. At the Whirlpool station, the visual impact was reinforced by the construction of a gate attendant's cottage of similar design. Like the nearby registration building, this design was unique to Riding Mountain National Park.

The warden's residence shared construction and design features with other park facilities built at Riding Mountain during the Depression-relief construction phase. Walls are constructed with peeled spruce logs with saddle-notched corners, resting on a poured concrete foundation that is sheathed with randomly coursed field stone. The eaves overhang is fairly broad, with exposed log rafters on the eaves and mock-log purlins on the gable ends. The front porch is of log construction, resting on stone-faced piers, with vertical log roof supports. The end gables and front porch gable feature the half-timbered treatment that characterizes most public buildings at Riding Mountain dating from this period.

Although the warden district system was phased out of operation in 1970, the Whirlpool warden station continued to serve as accommodation for park wardens and their families. In 1995 the building underwent restoration. Rotten walls were replaced, the roof was resheathed with cedar shingles, the chimney was rebuilt, and the interior was upgraded to current standards.
Heritage Character Statement
The Whirlpool warden’s residence is an integral component of the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site. It bears direct associations with the warden operations that formed a basis of the site’s initial development and its subsequent history. The building is an excellent example of Tudor Rustic design as it was applied and executed at Riding Mountain National Park during the Depression Relief era. The combination of peeled log wall construction, stone work and roof and gable detailing illustrate the skills of local craftsman engaged in its construction and contribute to its importance as an architectural landmark within the park.

WHIRLPOOL WARDEN STATION OUTBUILDINGS
(Barn, Vehicle Garage/Workshop, Tractor Shed, Oil Shed)

Background
The Whirlpool Warden station contains four outbuildings that bear associations with the former operations and activities that took place at the site. When the station was established in 1933-34, a small log barn was constructed at the rear of the warden’s residence to accommodate the horses required for back country patrols conducted from this location. This building was demolished in the late 1950s because it was in a deteriorated condition and was considered too small for current requirements.\(^{76}\)

All the existing outbuildings at the site were constructed between 1960 and 1962 as part of a general upgrade of facilities at warden stations in the park. A major component of this upgrading was the construction of new milled frame barns based on standard designs prepared by the Engineering Services Division of the National Parks Branch in 1957.\(^{77}\) The design for this building was devised to accommodate three horses, a feed bin and tack storage. The gambrel roof design accommodated a substantial hay and feed loft. A succession of barns based on this design were constructed in various western parks during the late 1950s and 1960s.\(^{78}\) The Whirlpool barn is one of four remaining examples at Riding Mountain. The other three are located at the Deep Lake, Moon Lake and Sugar Loaf station sites (see separate entries).

Park records indicate that the barn and a two bay garage/workshop were constructed in 1961.\(^{79}\) This date corresponded with the stationing of a second warden at Whirlpool, which presumably increased the facility requirements at the station. The barn was enclosed within a fenced paddock area referred to as the exercise yard on the site plan. The other two buildings are small gable-roofed sheds built to shelter a garden tractor or snowmobile and fuel oil respectively. Both these structures were built ca. 1960 and feature generic designs used repeatedly for similar facilities at warden stations within the park.

All four existing outbuildings at the Whirlpool station were placed along a service lane which extends from Norgate Road to a gate opening onto a pasture clearing at the rear of the station. This pasture and the adjacent exercise yard were developed between 1961 and 1964.\(^{80}\) Previously, station wardens had used a smaller enclosure to pasture their horses and milk cows.

The Whirlpool barn is a substantially built structure measuring 22 feet by 24 feet. The exterior walls are clad with tapered siding. The stable entrance is centrally placed on a side wall; a double

\(^{76}\) Hoskins, p. 23.
\(^{78}\) A surviving example, originally constructed at the Belly River warden station in Waterton Lake National Park, remains in that park’s upper compound area.
\(^{80}\) NAC, RG 84, RM 189, Plans, pt. 2, “Site Plan, Whirlpool Warden Station, showing proposed pasture area and exercise yard,” November 1964.
door provides access to the loft on a gable end. The building is covered with a gambrel roof clad with cedar shingles. A cupola located on the roof ridge provides ventilation for the loft area. A distinguishing feature of this barn’s design is the relatively low height of the side walls and the slight bell-cast flare of the roof. These features contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the design.

The two-bay garage/workshop is one of two built to a standard plan in 1961. The other example is located at the McKinnon Creek warden station.) The building is of wood frame construction and sits on a concrete pad. The walls are sheathed with tapered siding similar to the material used on the contemporary barn located nearby. The garage has a generic appearance and clearly reflects its intended purpose as a combined vehicle garage and workshop. This building likely replaced a smaller vehicle storage facility at the station. The two smaller sheds are also of wood frame construction and are generic in appearance.

**Heritage Character Statement**

The heritage value of the four outbuildings at the Whirlpool station resides primarily in their associations with warden operations at this location. All four buildings are characteristic of the extensive upgrading program that saw most original service structures replaced in the Park between 1956 and 1967. Of particular note is the barn and its associated corral enclosure which sustains a clear association with the long tradition of back country horse patrols from this station. The historical function and architectural appearance of this building make it a complimentary component of the East Gate complex.
Barn at Whirlpool Warden Station, 2000.

 Until the 1970s, the Warden Service accounted for a large proportion of the buildings situated outside the townsites in most of the national parks in western Canada. These buildings were integral components of the decentralized warden district system that was developed within each of the parks. Each district contained a warden station that served as the base of operations and the place of residence for the district warden, his family, and for seasonal or assistant wardens. A warden station contained a cluster of buildings associated with warden activities. These included one or more year-round residences, a barn, and an assortment of outbuildings. The number and variety of outbuildings varied according to the location of the station site and over time. In general, stations located on or near major roads tended to accumulate a larger number and variety of buildings than their more remote counterparts. From the mid-1930s onwards, automobiles and trucks played an increasing role in warden operations, and this was reflected in the appearance of vehicle garages at all road-accessible stations. In addition to the station site, each warden district also contained a series of patrol cabin sites intended for temporary accommodation. These sites were located at strategic places along the network of back country trails within the district. Each site contained a small cabin, a stable and possibly a tack shed, in addition to a corral. The third type of facility within the warden districts consisted of a network of fire towers and fire observer’s cabins. This system, which came into existence in the 1930s, was linked to the warden station by a telephone system that was maintained by the wardens.

Riding Mountain’s geographical location presented a distinctive set of challenges for the warden service. Unlike the mountain parks, Riding Mountain was surrounded by a settled agricultural region. Over the decades preceding the park’s establishment, local inhabitants had become accustomed to hunting within its boundaries. The economic hardships of the Great Depression reinforced the temptation to continue this tradition despite the creation of the park. Park wardens were faced with the challenge of enforcing national park regulations, including the protection of wildlife, in a vast park area that was accessible by roads and trails along its lengthy border. The gravity of this situation was made manifest by the murder of park warden Lawrence Lees in 1932. Over the next few years, Riding Mountain acquired “the unenviable but well-earned reputation as the most heavily poached park in the federal system.”

The poaching issue shaped the organization of the warden district system at Riding Mountain. Beginning with the establishment of the new district warden stations at Whirlpool (East Gate) and Moon Lake (North Gate) in 1933-34, all warden stations were located on or in close proximity to road or trail entry points into the park. From the 1930s until 1945, the park contained six warden districts. The system reached its peak size in the early 1960s when the park contained 13 stations located on or near the park boundary. Because of limited road development within the park, all but four of the warden stations could be reached by road only

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83 Ibid., pp. 192, 234.
Riding Mountain National Park, Early 1930s
from outside the park.\textsuperscript{84} As a result, all warden patrols were conducted on horseback or sleigh at these stations, while contact with the park headquarters in Wasagaming required lengthy drives around the perimeter. The warden district system was based on the assumption that a resident warden’s familiarity with his district made him more effective in the tasks of protecting the forests and wildlife: “The warden came to know his district intimately and usually developed a sense of personal responsibility for its protection. He knew which route poachers would most likely use, and where they might hunt or trap.”\textsuperscript{85}

Before 1960, the type and quality of facilities found in each of the districts varied considerably. This was particularly true in the case of living accommodation. For 25 years following the park’s establishment, district warden houses ranged from rudimentary cabins, some dating from the forest reserve era, to three room frame houses built in the late 1930s. At the top rung were the two log houses built as public showpieces at the Whirlpool and Moon Lake Stations. The low overall standard of accommodation and poor access to schools made family life challenging at most of the warden stations until the 1950s.\textsuperscript{86} In that decade the process of replacing and upgrading the residences and operational facilities began at all stations in the park. This entailed the construction of new houses, garages, barns and outbuildings at all stations except Moon Lake and Whirlpool, where the 1933-34 log residences were retained and refurbished. As a consequence, the overall architectural character at most warden stations in the parks reflects the National Parks’ design policies of the 1950s and 1960s. These were characterized by a pronounced emphasis on generic designs that mirrored prevailing architectural tastes and trends, in marked contrast to the earlier efforts to create a rustic imagery that was unique to the park. The generic appearance of most warden buildings was underscored by a departure from the standard national park colour scheme for station residences and many outbuildings dating from the 1950s onwards. This break with previous building traditions further emphasized the physical resemblance between many of the stations and neighboring farm complexes located around the perimeter of the park.

Despite the shift towards conventional building designs, the warden stations in Riding Mountain developed a distinctive character unlike those in other national parks. This character stemmed from the predilection of most wardens and their families to plant vegetable gardens and raise poultry and livestock. This inclination possibly reflected the fact that many of the recruits to Riding Mountain’s warden service were drawn from neighboring farming communities. In fact, many of the stations developed a closer resemblance to neighboring farmsteads than to national park facilities. In 1956 Superintendent Bruce Mitchell noted that most of the stations had gardens and that many wardens raised livestock, lending a distinctly rural and agricultural appearance to the facilities. Mitchell subsequently banned pigs but endorsed the keeping of a milk cow and chickens in suitable enclosures.\textsuperscript{87} An additional characteristic of Riding Mountain

\textsuperscript{84}These seven stations were Baldy Lake, Deep Lake, Sugarloaf, Ranch Creek, Vermillion, Ochre River and MacKinnon Creek.

\textsuperscript{85}Burns, pp. 203-04.

\textsuperscript{86}Ibid., p. 238.

\textsuperscript{87}Ibid., p. 309.
Warden Stations and Backcountry Cabins

Warden stations was the long standing practice of assigning seasonal wardens to assist the resident wardens at peak times of the year. Beginning in 1932, two assistant wardens were hired for the fire season (April, May and onwards as required), and one assistant was assigned to each district for the hunting season (August to winter). These seasonal staff increases dictated additional facilities at each of the stations. These consisted of small relief cabins (similar to back country cabins in design) and combination workshop/garages.

In 1970, the National Park Warden Service adopted a new operational approach which entailed a shift from the warden district system to a resource management system run from centralized headquarters located in the townsites. Although this meant the formal demise of the district system, and of the warden stations in many parks, the distinctive circumstances at Riding Mountain dictated a modified approach to the restructuring process. The lack of internal access roads to most parts of the park, coupled with the ongoing poaching issues, presented a strong case for the retention of operational stations along the park borders. This necessity, in combination with the relatively modern facilities at each of the stations, made it desirable to keep wardens assigned to the stations although the district system was technically dismantled. At the present time, nine of the former warden stations retain their primary buildings and continue to provide accommodation for members of the warden service, seasonal staff and for two or three patrol horses. Two former stations (Ochre River and Ranch Creek) were phased out of service and had most of their buildings removed. Two other former stations on the southern boundary of the park (Rolling River and Heron Creek) have been totally dismantled.

A network of back country patrol cabins was an integral part of the district warden system in Riding Mountain Park before 1970. Following the standard procedure established in the mountain parks, these cabins were built at intervals roughly corresponding to a day’s riding distance from the station or between each other. Alternatively, cabins could be placed at locations that required the presence of a warden or seasonal employee for a limited period of time. The total number of patrol cabins built in Riding Mountain between 1931 and 1970 is undetermined.

The system began with a rudimentary system of patrol trails, cabins and stables inherited from the Forestry Branch, then was steadily expanded over the next four decades. A distinctive feature of the patrol cabin system at Riding Mountain was the tendency to relocate and recycle patrol cabins. When road access permitted, buildings at obsolete or redundant sites were occasionally moved to other locations. This characteristic was not unique to Riding Mountain, but seems to have been used repeatedly here, particularly during the years between 1959 and 1961 when the construction of a central fire trail and four artery trails linking up to the Bald Lake, Deep Lake, Sugarloaf and Ranch Creek warden stations prompted a reorganization of back

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88Burns, p. 192.
89Glenn Schmidt, Backcountry Manager, RMNP, telephone communication, 23 January 2001.
country patrol practices in the western half of the park. The need for patrol cabins declined at Riding Mountain after 1970. At present, seven of these sites still retain buildings and remain in service. In addition, seven of the warden stations contain seasonal cabins, some of which have been relocated from former patrol cabin or fire tower observer’s cabin sites. The surviving cabin stock dates from two construction phases (1938-39 and 1957-1961) and features standard designs characteristic of these two periods.

A further component of the warden district system was the network of fire towers and observer’s cabins that was established in 1938-39 and which remained operational until the early 1970s. By that date a total of 16 towers were located in the park or just outside its borders. The towers were operationally linked to the warden districts in which they were located. Riding Mountain currently retains four fire towers and several cabins associated with that system. It should be noted that the design used for the 1938-39 observers’ cabins was similar to the one used for patrol cabins in the park during the same period. Some existing patrol cabins possibly started out as observers’ cabins then were relocated following the closure of the fire tower system (see Gunn Lake patrol cabin entry below).

Although building reports and heritage character statements have been prepared for all the extant stations, four can be singled out as having strong or highly representative heritage characteristics: Whirlpool, Moon Lake, McKinnon Creek and Sugarloaf. (It should be noted that the Whirlpool station is part of the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site and is discussed in that section.) The Gunn Lake warden patrol cabin site is the only example of its type which displays a strong combination of architectural and historical associations. Among the surviving fire towers, the example at the Sugarloaf station has been identified as having the best interpretative potential.

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91RMNP Annual Report, 1960, “Trails,” p. 8. “Central Fire Trail—This trail, planned to expedite heavy equipment in case of forest fires to the remote Warden Districts in the western areas of the Park, is now nearing completion. Work was done in the most westerly districts on the access trails leading to Bald Lake, Deep Lake and Sugarloaf Warden Stations...Preliminary location was made of the Ranch Creek access trail...”
Riding Mountain National Park, Early 1960s
BALDY LAKE WARDEN STATION
(formerly known as Bald Lake Warden Station)

Background
This station is located at the end of a secondary road that crosses the southern boundary of the park a few kilometers south of Baldy Lake. The station is located approximately 1 kilometer inside the park boundary. A 10 kilometer trail extends northward from the Baldy Station site to a junction with the Central Trail near Gunn Lake. The district still retains its 1938 fire observation tower (see separate report). Historically, this station served as the operational headquarters for the Rossburn Warden District.

All buildings currently located at the Baldy station date from 1958-59, and apparently replaced earlier structures on the site. The complex is comprised of a 1958 warden’s residence, a 1958 barn, a double car garage built in 1958 or 1959, and a relief cabin built in 1958. The residence is a one storey frame structure resting on an excavated concrete basement and covered with a moderately-pitched hipped roof. The house is generic in appearance and highly typical of suburban designs dating from the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The two bay garage is a generic milled frame structure clad with tapered siding and covered with a moderate pitch gable roof. Adjacent to the garage stands a seasonal staff cabin displaying the standard plan prescribed for a series of patrol and relief cabins built in Riding Mountain between 1958 and 1960. The cabin displays the distinctive roof hood, three-bay side window arrangement and exterior finish that typifies these structures.

The 1958 barn at this site is a milled frame building with high side walls, exposed roof rafters and a medium-pitch gambrel roof. Exterior wall surfaces are clad with tapered siding. Although probably based on a standard National Parks design, this barn differs somewhat from contemporary examples in the park in the placement of the door on a gable end, directly below the loft entrance. The barn is encircled by a pole fence and remains in active use.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the building cluster at the Baldy warden station resides primarily in its ongoing association with warden operations in the park. The generic character of the individual designs lacks obvious associations with building traditions in the park, although the designs of the barn and relief cabin are clearly linked to specific standardized plans associated with Riding Mountain warden stations as they evolved during the 1950s and 1960s.

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92 Katharine Kinnear, Riding Mountain National Park field research (Parks Canada–Western Canada Service Center, July 2000), on file.
93 An earlier warden’s residence on this site was sold and moved to a neighboring farm where it currently serves as a workshop.
Relief cabin at Baldy Lake Warden Station.

Barn at Deep Lake Warden Station.
DEEP LAKE WARREN STATION

Background
This former warden station is located on a gravel road that enters the eastern side of the park along its southern boundary. The road extends several kilometers northwards, providing access to picnic and unserviced camping sites at Deep Lake and Bob Hill Lake. The station is situated near the park boundary and served as the operational headquarters for the Russell Warden District in the western end of the park from 1931 onwards. It currently contains a cluster of four buildings: a warden’s residence built in 1969, a garage built in 1966, a 1964 barn, and an oil storage shed, also dating from 1964.

The warden residence at this location is a one-storey wood frame structure with a low pitch gable roof. The design is highly generic and typical of suburban residential styles of the late 1960s. The most notable building on the site is the gambrel roof barn, one of the built at Riding Mountain during the 1960s to a standard plan prepared by the National Parks’ engineering and architecture unit. Identical buildings are located at the Sugarloaf and Whirlpool stations. The barn is surrounded by an rail fenced paddock and continues to be used for horse accommodation.

The remaining two buildings, a vehicle garage and an oil shed, are generic buildings with no distinguishing architectural features.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this site resides in its longstanding role as a warden station, and in the sustained associations between the existing building cluster and ongoing warden operations in the park. The existing building cluster reflects design and building practices at warden stations in this park during the final stages of the warden district era. The barn alone bears clear architectural and functional associations with warden activities in Riding Mountain.
LAKE AUDY WARDEN STATION

Background
The Lake Audy warden station is one of four that were located at park entry points on arterial roads leading into the park. This station is situated on the Lake Audy Road, near its entry point on the park’s southern boundary. The station currently contains four buildings dating from its period as a district warden station: a staff residence constructed in 1955, a 1958 relief cabin, a 1967 barn, and a combination workshop/garage built in 1979. An additional three bay garage located on the site is of recent construction (1993).

The existing building cluster illustrates a number of distinctive characteristics associated with Riding Mountain warden stations. The generic design of the 1955 residence typifies the policy of the day that placed an emphasis on providing modern, comfortable accommodations for wardens and their families without reference to architectural traditions within the park. The combination workshop/garage is one of several similar facilities built at Riding Mountain stations during the 1950s and 60s in response to the distinctive operational and staffing requirements in this park. Similarly, the adjacent 1958 relief cabin is one of a series of identical buildings constructed in the park between 1958 and 1960 to accommodate seasonal staff at the stations and to serve as warden patrol cabins at back country locations. The 1967 barn utilizes one of two standard plans employed for warden stations at Riding Mountain between 1957 and 1967. This example features a high side wall plan that was used for identical buildings at McKinnon Creek, Ochre River, and Ranch Creek. The gambrel-roofed design accommodates three stalls, tack and feed storage areas on the main floor, with a hay loft above. Like other active station facilities, the barn is surrounded by an exercise area enclosed by a wooden rail fence.

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of the site resides in its ongoing associations with warden operations in the park. These are embodied in the range of facilities that remain on the site, rather than in the architectural qualities of the individual structures. The horse barn and relief cabin are based on standard plans that were used repeatedly in Riding Mountain during the 1950s and 1960s, and are representative examples of these building types.
Warden Stations and Backcountry Cabins

MCKINNON CREEK WARDEN STATION

Background
The McKinnon Creek station is located at the entry point of a secondary road on the eastern boundary of the park. Around 1960 this road was extended several kilometers westward beyond the park border in association with the development of the Agassiz Ski Hill. This commercial development was a probable factor in the upgrading of facilities at the McKinnon Creek station in the early 1960s.

The station currently contains five buildings: a warden residence constructed in 1961, a combination workshop/garage built in 1961, a 1956 barn, a 1953 fire shed, and a relief cabin built in 1938-39. The residence features a generic suburban residential plan typical of the period. It is a one storey ranch-style bungalow with a moderate-pitch gable roof. Like contemporary residences on other stations in Riding Mountain, the building reflects the 1960s initiative to improve the living standards of wardens and their families at remote stations. The contemporary workshop/garage building is one of several built at stations in Riding Mountain during this period. Combination structures of this type were distinctive features of several Riding Mountain warden stations. Adjacent to the workshop/garage is an older frame garage that was relocated to its present site in the 1980s. Park asset records indicate that the building was constructed in 1953. This date corresponds with the overall proportions of the building (steeper roof pitch), door and window treatments, and exterior wall finish. The building currently houses fire fighting equipment.

The barn at McKinnon Creek was one of two built at Riding Mountain warden stations in 1956 to a standard plan generated by the National Parks Directorate (the other example is located at the Ranch Creek station). This high-wall gambrel roof plan was used on at least two other occasions at Riding Mountain, for the 1957 barn at Ochre River (extant) and the 1967 example at the Lake Audy station (extant). The design is distinguishable from other gambrel roofed examples in the park by its relatively low roof pitch and straight (as opposed to bell-cast) roof line, and higher side walls. Like the other examples built during this period, the barn is clad with tapered siding and features a centrally-mounted cupola on the roof. A wood rail fence encloses an exercise yard around the perimeter of the building.

The relief cabin at McKinnon Creek was one of three patrol cabins built in the park in 1938-39. The building is a rectangular structure covered with a medium pitch gable roof. Its exterior finish bears typical design features dating from the late 1930s construction phase at Riding Mountain. Characteristic features include milled half-log siding as the wall covering. The off-center entrance is covered by a gabled hood supported by milled wooden brackets, while the roof rafters are exposed. Six-light casement windows and the entrance are framed by wide surrounds.

95 The building may have originated as the vehicle garage at the East Gate attendant’s cottage.
The building also retains the standard colour scheme prescribed for National Park warden facilities constructed before the mid-1950s: dark brown walls, contrasting white window and door surrounds, and a green roof. In 1962 this cabin was moved from its original backcountry location to its current site where it was adapted for use as a relief cabin for seasonal staff assigned to the McKinnon Creek station.  

**Heritage Character Statement**  
The building complex at the McKinnon Creek warden station is highly characteristic of Riding Mountain warden stations in terms of building types and representative designs. The designs and materials displayed on the barn, workshop/garage and relief cabin reflect operational characteristics of warden stations in the park. The visual integrity of the facility is further enhanced by the use of the traditional brown and white colour scheme for all outbuildings on the site. The 1938-39 relief cabin offers a tangible link with design and building practices that is absent in most other stations in the park.

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MOON LAKE WARDEN STATION

Background
This station is located near the northern highway entrance to the park. This was one of two locations at which new warden's facilities were built during the initial stages of park development at Riding Mountain. As major road entry points into the park, the East Gate (Norgate Road) and North Gate (Dauphin Road) were identified as sites for vehicle registration buildings and adjacent warden stations. The rationale for combining the two functions was to deter poaching and to assert the law enforcement authority of the warden service within the park. To accomplish this objective, park authorities relocated two initial warden stations from sites that had been established during the previous Forest Reserve era to sites where the new access roads were being constructed. In 1933-34 the Whirlpool warden station was shifted from Whirlpool Lake to a site adjacent to the East Gate registration building on the newly-completed Norgate Road, while the former Dauphin warden station was transferred to its current site near the East Gate on the new Route 10. In that year identical log residences were built at both locations to accommodate the district wardens.98 Like its twin at Whirlpool, the Moon Lake warden's residence was purposefully designed as a conspicuous showpiece that complemented the appearance of the nearby registration building. Both buildings were constructed by Depression Relief work crews and displayed the distinctive combination of native materials, rustic design and high construction standards that characterized park buildings at Riding Mountain dating from the early 1930s. The Moon Lake and Whirlpool residences were by far the largest and most sophisticated warden accommodations in the national park system at the time of their construction.

When completed in 1934, the Moon Lake warden station consisted of the residence and a small barn capable of accommodating the patrol horses, feed, hay and equipment. Over the following decades, the building complex was enlarged by the addition of other structures. A 1961 site plan indicates that the station contained two garages and a barn, in addition to the 1934 residence, at that time.99

The station currently contains six buildings: two residences, two garages, a combination garage/office building, and a horse barn. The most conspicuous building on the site is the house referred to in Park records as the north residence. This is a 1990 replica of the 1933-34 log residence, which was demolished in the late 1980s due to advanced log deterioration. The replica presents a faithful duplication of the original exterior design and occupies a site approximately 30 metres south of its predecessor.

The second house, known as the south residence, is a one storey frame building with a low pitch gable roof and an enclosed front porch. Although the park asset record provides a construction

date of 1948 for this building, the design, proportions and exterior finish suggest a later construction date, possibly in the 1960s. Since the building does not appear on the 1961 site plan, it is possible that it was relocated from another site within the park and was extensively renovated. The south residence displays a generic appearance similar to that of most second generation houses currently found at warden stations in the park.

An important component of the Moon Lake Station is the combination garage and office building, a multi-purpose structure located at the rear of the north residence and built in 1953. This is a substantial milled frame building clad with tapered siding and covered with a medium pitch hipped roof. Two vehicle bays occupy one end of the building. A workshop and warden office are located in the other half. This is the largest of the combination buildings found at several warden stations in the park. The station also contains two single bay vehicle garages with construction dates of 1954 and 1955. Both garages appear to have been relocated to their current sites since 1961.

The horse barn is located in a paddock area at the rear of the station. The building is one of two identical structures built to a standard National Parks design in 1961. (See Whirlpool Warden Station). The barn is distinguished by a medium pitch gambrel roof with a slight bellcast flare at the eaves. Exterior walls are sheathed with tapered siding, while the roof is clad with wood shingles. A ventilator cupola is centrally placed on the roof ridge. The building shows no evidence of alterations from the original design and continues to serve its original function. It is surrounded by an exercise area enclosed by a wooden rail fence.

With the exception of the south residence, all buildings at the Moon Lake station display the standard park warden colour scheme (brown walls, white trim and green roofs).

**Heritage Character Statement**

The current building complex at the Moon Lake warden station illustrates the major components associated with warden operations from the 1960s up to the present time, with the exception of a seasonal relief cabin. The need for a seasonal cabin at this station was probably eliminated with the installation of a second permanent residence. In this respect the Moon Lake station closely parallels the East Gate (Whirlpool) facility where the gate attendant’s cottage was adapted to serve the same purpose in the 1960s.

The office/garage building and barn reflect current and historical operations at the station. The barn is a good example of the three-horse design formula used repeatedly in this park, while the combination building is associated with the vehicle patrol component that was an integral aspect of warden operations at the portal stations. The standardized colour scheme enhances the visual unity of the building complex at this station.

The 1990 replica log house provides a visual link with historical building traditions in the park, and sustains a link with the rustic design theme that was previously expressed at the North Gate by both the registration portal and warden’s house.
Moon Lake Warden Station - residence

Moon Lake Warden Station - Barn
Background
This station site is located on the north east boundary of the park, approximately mid-way between the McKinnon Creek and Moon Lake stations. Road access to the station was by means of a gravel road that stopped at the park border. Park records indicate the construction of a warden cabin at the Ochre River station site in 1939. A fire tower bearing the same name was built in the same year at a site outside the park boundaries. The facilities at Ochre River were replaced during the late 1950s. New buildings included a warden’s residence, garage, relief cabin and a horse barn. This station was decommissioned in the 1970s, and the house and garage were subsequently removed from the site. The 1957 relief cabin and the 1957 horse barn were retained for warden patrol purposes.

The relief cabin is a small one room structure with a low pitch gable roof. It is based on a standard design prescribed for virtually all patrol and relief cabins built in Riding Mountain between 1957 and 1961. In this instance, the original design was slightly modified by extending the roof forwards to create an open porch area. The standard door hood was partially covered by this addition, but its brackets were left intact. The cabin displays the standard vertical wood sheathing, door and window arrangements used on these one room structures.

The 1957 horse barn remaining at the site features the standard high wall plan used for at least four warden barns constructed at Riding Mountain between 1956 and 1967 (comparable examples are located at the Lake Audy, McKinnon Creek and Ranch Creek stations). The building displays the standard door, window and loft arrangements, along with the moderate pitch gambrel roof and cupola which characterized all of these buildings. A rail fence enclosure surrounds the barn.

Heritage Character Statement
Both surviving buildings are typical examples of the standard plans prescribed for use at Riding Mountain warden stations during the 1950s and 1960s. Loss of other station facilities has diminished the site’s historical association with warden operations in the park. The site’s heritage character is currently linked to its role as a patrol cabin site.
Warden Stations and Backcountry Cabins

Relief cabin at Ochre River Warden Station.

Barn at Ochre River Warden Station.
RANCH CREEK WARDEN STATION

Background
This station site is located on the northern boundary of the park, mid-way between the stations at Vermilion and Sugarloaf. Vehicle access was confined to a loose surface lane extending south to the station from a secondary road running parallel to the northern boundary. The Ranch Creek Station was one of the initial group of six established during the years following the park's establishment, and serviced the Gilbert Plains Warden District. Park records indicate that a relief cabin was built at the station in 1938-39.\(^{100}\)

The Ranch Creek warden station underwent a succession of building upgrades during the 1950s and 1960s, including the replacement of the warden’s residence and the construction of a new garage/workshop and a horse barn. The station remained operational until the mid-1990s when it was declared surplus due to financial and staff cutbacks. The garage/workshop and residence were subsequently removed from the site. At present, the 1956 barn is the only structural remnant at this location. It is a gambrel-roof building clad with tapered siding. The profile, window and door configuration and high side walls identify it as one in a series of at least four identical warden barns built in Riding Mountain between 1956 and 1967 (see Lake Audy, McKinnon Creek and Ochre River entries). Remnants of the wood railing fence enclosure remain intact, but the building appears to be abandoned.

Heritage Character Statement
The barn's design reflects the standard plan used for several warden station barns within the park. Otherwise, the site lacks strong associations with its past history as a warden station.

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\(^{100}\) Annual Report of the Department of Mines and Resources, 1939, p. 109; Annual Report for 1940, p. 97. The cabin was identical to the surviving example at McKinnon Creek.
Warden Stations and Backcountry Cabins

SUGARLOAF WARDEN STATION

Background
This station is located on the northern boundary of the park. Road access is by means of a loose surface lane that runs southward to the boundary from a secondary road (# 366). Historically, this station served as the operational center for the Grandview Warden District which covered the extreme north-west section of the park. A unique feature of this station is the location of the district fire tower within the station site. In other districts, the tower was located at a separate location, often at a considerable distance from the station.

The station building complex is currently comprised of six structures: a 1969 residence, 1965 garage, 1964 oil shed, 1964 barn, 1958 relief cabin, and the 1939 fire tower. The residence is a one storey gable-roofed building of comparable design to contemporary examples at other stations in the park. Its generic design bears no reference to building traditions in the park. The adjacent combination garage/workshop is similarly of generic appearance and appears to be based on the same design as the examples at Whirlpool and Baldy Lake.

The 1964 barn at the Sugarloaf station displays the configuration and proportions common to a series of horse barns built at the park’s warden station between 1956 and 1967, notably the examples at Ranch Creek, Ochre River, McKinnon Creek and Lake Audy. Although it shares the high side wall configuration, window and door placement and roof pitch with these buildings, the design has been altered slightly by the incorporation of a slight bell cast flare at the eaves. The exterior walls are clad with tapered siding, and the roof is covered with cedar shingles. A ventilator cupola is centrally located on the roof ridge. The building remains operational and is surrounded by a rail fence enclosure. A pasture clearing extends to the rear of the barn site.

The 1958 relief cabin at Sugarloaf is a well-preserved example of the standard plan portable cabins that were built to meet seasonal or temporary staff requirements at warden stations, patrol cabin sites and at fire observation tower sites throughout the park between 1957 and 1961. At this station, the cabin probably saw double service for assistant wardens and for fire tower observers. The nearby steel fire tower is one of five examples remaining in the park (see separate entry below).

Heritage Character Statement
The heritage character of this site derives from the operational integrity of the building complex which contains components common to warden stations at Riding Mountain after the upgrading of the 1950s and 1960s. Key elements at this station include the garage/workshop, barn, relief cabin and fire tower. The latter structure is a unique feature of this station and contributes to the overall interpretive qualities of the site. The visual qualities of the operational facilities are enhanced by the standard warden colour scheme applied to the barn, oil shed, and relief cabin.
Warden Stations and Backcountry Cabins

Barn at Sugarloaf Warden Station

Relief Cabin at Sugarloaf Warden Station
VERMILION RIVER WARDEN STATION

Background
The history of the Vermilion River warden station extends back to the Forest Reserve era when it was selected as a site for one of the forest ranger patrol cabins in the park. The site’s initial importance was tied to the fact that this was one of the initial road entry points into the park. Until the completion of Highway 10 in 1935, access to Clear Lake from the north was by means of a route known as the Strathclair Road that crossed the park boundary at the Vermilion station, meandered southwards to Lake Audy, then looped eastwards around Clear Lake. Traffic on this road declined after the opening of Highway 10, and ended with the destruction of a bridge over the Vermilion River by spring floods in 1949. This washout had the added effect of severing vehicle access to the Vermilion River warden station. This was partially resolved when the district warden built a temporary bridge that was usable only during periods of low water. At other times, the warden and his family crossed the river by boat to leave the station. This situation persisted until the mid-1960s when a new bridge was built to provide access to this station.

Three of the four buildings currently on the Vermilion River station date from 1952 to 1955, making them the oldest station structures with the exception of the residence at Whirlpool and the relief cabin at McKinnon Creek. This station was consequently the first to undergo extensive refurbishment, and this is reflected in the designs, which predated the standard plans used for buildings at all other stations in the park. The sole exception is the 1961 relief cabin, which is a typical example of the standard plan portable cabins built throughout the park between 1957 and 1961.

The warden’s residence at this station was built in 1952, then enlarged by an addition in 1960. The original section utilized a conventional one-and-one-half storey house plan that was typical of compact post war designs. The 1960 addition elongated the plan and the gable roof line. A gabled front porch was possibly added at that time. The building has undergone periodic renovations and alterations, including the installation of new windows and exterior sheathing. It has a generic appearance that bears no connections to earlier design traditions within the park.

The barn and single bay garage were both constructed in 1955 and bear similarities to one another in terms of roof pitch, gable and eaves treatment and exterior wall cladding. Both are clad with beveled siding with vertical corner boards. This material differed from the tapered siding used on later counterparts at the other stations. The barn features an earlier design than its counterparts at other stations in the park. Although it is of similar dimensions, the building lacks the higher gambrel roof found on barns dating from 1956 onwards, and as a result it lacked the hay storage capacities of its later counterparts. This deficiency was addressed by a side addition that almost

101 W.F. Lothian, A Brief History of Canada’s National Parks, p. 76.
doubled the length of the building.

The origins of the relief cabin at Vermillion River are unclear. It does not appear on a 1964 site plan of the station, suggesting that it was probably moved to its current site behind the garage from a patrol cabin site or a fire tower site in the park.¹⁰³

Heritage Character Statement
The building cluster at the Vermillion River Station illustrate the operations carried on from this station. The barn and garage illustrate building design and construction practices during the decade following the Second World War, and offer a contrast to the standard plans introduced to the park in 1956. As one of the oldest warden station sites in Riding Mountain, the Vermillion River station sustains the longstanding role of fire and wildlife protection in this isolated section of the park.

¹⁰³ NAC, RG 84, RM189. Site Plan-Vermillion River Warden Station, December 1964.
Riding Mountain National Park, Warden Stations and Fire Towers (Extant)
BACKCOUNTRY PATROL CABINS AND FIRE OBSERVER’S CABINS

Background
Patrol cabins were integral features of the warden system in all large national parks in western Canada. In the mountain parks, a standard plan was devised in 1915 and then refined over the following several years. This design, which was characterized by a simple one room plan, log wall construction and a gable roof which projected forwards to create a covered verandah area, served as the archetype for countless examples that were constructed, often by wardens themselves, over the next five decades in all of the mountain parks. This design was not transplanted to the two prairie parks (Prince Albert and Riding Mountain) following their establishment, probably due to differences in climate and operational requirements. At Riding Mountain, early patrol cabins dispensed with the open front verandah arrangement and placed the entrance on the side wall, occasionally flanked by windows. This arrangement is illustrated by a vacant log cabin built in the early 1930s and relocated to its current site at Aeroplane Bay in 1939 (see RCAF pilot’s cottage entry in Isolated Landmarks Section below).

In fact, log cabins such as the example at Aeroplane Bay were relative rarities in Riding Mountain, where milled frame construction was favoured for back country facilities from an early date. Park records indicate that the nucleus of the patrol cabin system in Riding Mountain consisted of four frame cabins built by the Forest Branch and inherited following the establishment of the park. None of these Forest Reserve cabins remains on the park’s asset inventory, although a former cabin currently employed as a stable at the Gunn Lake patrol cabin site bears design and structural characteristics consistent with building practices at Riding Mountain during the Forest Reserve period. Like the log example at Aeroplane Bay, this cabin features a centred side wall entrance flanked by symmetrical windows. A 1932 topographical map of the park indicates that Gunn Lake was one of the four Forestry Branch cabin sites inherited by the park, suggesting the possibility that the current stable may be one of those original four structures.

The first documented record of extensive backcountry cabin construction in Riding Mountain dates from 1938-39. The annual report for that year noted the completion of three new patrol cabins and four fire tower observer’s cabins. The patrol cabins were described as being of wood frame construction and measuring 16 feet by 24 feet in size. The observer’s cabins were of similar construction but measured 12 feet by 16 feet. Three of these buildings remain in service within the park: the former tower observer’s cabin at Clear Lake, which was relocated to Gunn Lake in 1974 to serve as a warden patrol cabin; the former Deep Lake tower observer’s cabin, relocated to Long Lake to serve as a warden patrol cabin; and the McKinnon Creek patrol cabin,

\[104\] Report of the Department of Mines and Resources...for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1940, p. 97. This report noted the relocation of a warden’s patrol cabin from the Whirlpool District to Wasagaming. This is probably the building in question.


\[106\] Report of the Department of Mines and Resources...for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1939, p. 109; also RG 84, Vol 282, Riding Mountain.
relocated to the McKinnon Creek warden station in 1962 to serve as a relief cabin. All three of these cabins share similar construction and design features that can be readily associated with the standardized designs devised for use in the National Parks in the period immediately following the end of the Depression Relief construction phase in 1937. During this period log construction was largely abandoned in favor of milled frame construction, though the rustic architectural theme was sustained through the use of milled log siding, exposed roof rafters, entrance hoods and eaves brackets. A series of cabins displaying these features were built in most national parks in western Canada between 1937 and 1939, although the application for backcountry patrol cabins appears to have been primarily confined to Riding Mountain and Prince Albert parks. At Riding Mountain, milled lumber used in the construction of the cabins was produced at Kippan's Mill located within the park boundaries.¹⁰⁷

A third and final phase of backcountry cabin construction occurred at Riding Mountain between 1957 and 1961. All patrol and fire tower cabins introduced during this period were based on single standard plan for a "portable cabin.²"¹⁰⁸ The design features a rectangular plan with a low-pitch gable roof. The entrance is on a gable end and is covered by a hood that matches the pitch of the cabin roof and is supported by wood brackets. Window openings consist of thee bay units on both side walls. Exterior walls are clad with vertical tongue and groove boards. Many of the cabins feature metal chimneys installed on the right roof slope. On two examples (Kay's Lake and Inglis), sheet metal panels have been attached on the wall corners, possibly to prevent damage by wildlife. A notable feature of these cabins was their intentional portability. In fact, the units may have been prefabricated and transported by truck to the selected sites. This procedure was made feasible by the construction of the central fire trail and its various arteries in the late 1950s. Of the eight portable cabins remaining in the park, five are currently located at warden stations, while three remain at abandoned back country patrol sites. Some of the station examples were purposefully installed at those sites to serve as relief cabins for seasonal staff; a few may have been moved to the stations from former backcountry sites.

The relocation and recycling of back country cabins to meet shifting requirements was a common practice in all the western parks. Many of the surviving examples at Riding Mountain reflect this process. In the case of such buildings, relocation is often an integral aspect of their history, and should take precedent over original site integrity in evaluating their heritage value.

Current patrol cabin sites and construction dates for their cabins are as follows:

- Gunn Lake (1938)
- Inglis (1960)
- Kays Lake (1960)
- Long Lake (1938)
- Rennicker (1960)

¹⁰⁷ Long Lake Patrol Cabin log book.
Heritage Character Statement
The patrol cabins, fire observers' cabins and relief cabins formed important components of the warden service in Riding Mountain National Park. The remaining back country cabins are associated with the horse patrol systems that formed the primary method of surveillance within the park until the 1960s.

The patrol cabin system is represented by four distinctive cabin types dating from successive stages of development within Riding Mountain. The stable at Gunn Lake bears design and structural features suggestive of the Forest Reserve era; the log cabin at Aeroplane Bay has design links to the Depression Relief phase; the cabins at Gunn Lake, Long Lake and the McKinnon Creek warden station are associated with the 1938-39 expansion phase, and the cabins at Kays Lake, Sugar Loaf and Lake Audy are typical examples of the standard portable cabin introduced to the park between 1957 and 1961.

The patrol cabin and stable combination at Gunn Lake appear to offer the best combination of architectural and historical associations with the patrol system in Riding Mountain.
Patrol Cabin at Gunn Lake.

Barn at Gunn Lake.
Background
Forest fire lookouts were occasional features of forest reserves in the 1920s. There was a lookout tower in Riding Mountain Dominion Forest at Gilbert Plains, in the northwest corner of the reserve. Forest fire lookouts were rare in national parks until the late 1930s when the Dominion Forest service introduced a system of standard plan towers throughout the western parks. Generally these lookout towers were comprised of an octagonal cabin, eight feet in diameter, perched on top of a 40 or 50 foot steel tower. The cabins were prefabricated out of plywood to facilitate their installation on the site. Plywood panels formed the lower part of the cabin, while a series of window sashes filled the upper portion. The cabins were constructed so that the window sash could slide down into the lower portion of the cabin. Although the towers were introduced by the Forest Service, the design came from the Engineering Services Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources. The parks were responsible for erecting the towers and the operation of them came under the jurisdiction of the park warden service. Each tower was connected to a district warden station by a telephone and the lookout man reported to the district warden. In the event of smoke being detected, the lookout would inform the warden who then was responsible for organizing the response.

Around 10 towers were built in Riding Mountain National Park in 1938-39. The exact number is difficult to determine because some of these were built outside the park boundary and some of the names have more than one possible affiliation. The names of the known fire towers are listed below along with the name of the associated warden station in brackets.
- Sugar Loaf (Sugar Loaf)
- Baldy Tower (Bald Lake)
- Ranch Creek (Ranch Creek)
- Vermilion River, outside park boundary (Vermilion R.)
- Dauphin district Tower (Moon Lake)
- Ochre River Fire Tower, outside park boundary (Ochre R.)
- McCreary Tower, outside park boundary (McKinnon Creek)
- Heron Creek Fire Tower, also possibly known as Seech (Heron Creek)
- Clear Lake Fire Tower, on north shore of lake (possibly connected to HQ)
- Whirlpool (Whirlpool)

In 1949 the Rolling River and the Heron Creek towers were built, each associated with a similarly named warden station. These lookouts differed slightly from the earlier towers in that their cupolas had horizontal drop siding on the walls in place of the plywood panels.

Fire lookouts were largely phased out in the 1970s and many of the lookouts were removed. Only five remain in the park: Baldy, Clear Lake and Sugarloaf, all built in 1938, and Heron Creek and Rolling River dating from 1949. Most have lost the associated cabin that provided living quarters for the lookout man with the exception of Sugarloaf which is part of the warden station complex bearing the same name.
Heritage Character Statement
The five lookouts are associated with the theme of fire protection in the national parks. They are the oldest remaining towers in the western parks. Character defining elements include the octagonal shape, the sliding sash windows and plywood walls. The Sugarloaf tower has added significance because of its location within the Sugarloaf warden station grounds.
Isolated Landmarks - Riding Mountain National Park
ISOLATED LANDMARKS

This section examines three notable buildings that do not fit into larger categories due to their unique functional roles in the park and/or their geographical isolation. They are: the park superintendent’s residence; the RCAF pilots’ residence; and Grey Owl’s cabin. All three buildings were constructed during the early 1930s and represent excellent examples of the rustic log construction practices that shaped Riding Mountain’s architectural character during the Depression Relief period. All have been accorded “Recognized” status by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office.

The superintendent’s residence is particularly notable, both for its architectural qualities and for the associated landscape features which echo the design themes being developed within the Government Reserve area of the Wasagaming townsite during the same period. The former RCAF pilot’s cottage is a good example of the Tudor Rustic architectural theme developed by the National Parks Branch’s architectural division for application in Riding Mountain during the Depression Relief era. Its design qualities are complemented by its unique historical associations with early aerial fire surveillance in the park. The log cabin built to accommodate the famed naturalist Grey Owl similarly bears strong associations both with the log building traditions in the park and with a notable historical theme. In marked contrast with the RCAF cottage, the Grey Owl cabin has become a well-known tourist destination in the park due to wide-spread public awareness of its historical associations.
Isolated Landmark Structures

RCAF PILOTS’ COTTAGE
(also known as the Forestry Cabin)
Deep Bay (Aeroplane Bay), Clear Lake

Background
During the early 1930s the National Parks Branch made an arrangement with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) to operate an aerial patrol service in Riding Mountain and Prince Albert National Parks during periods of forest fire hazard.\textsuperscript{109} By this arrangement the RCAF supplied pilots and floatplanes to the two parks during the dry summer months. The value of the aerial patrols was two-fold, according to the Parks Branch annual report for 1934:

Not only is aerial observation of the utmost value in the detection of incipient fires but the presence of these observers in the sky has a psychological effect upon travellers and campers in the park and upon persons in the adjoining districts, prompting them to be careful with fire...\textsuperscript{110}

At Riding Mountain, the aerial surveillance operation was based in a bay on the south-east shore of Clear Lake, about two kilometers east of the Wasagaming townsite. Initially known as Aeroplane Bay, this site offered sheltered anchorage for the RCAF floatplanes. The present cottage was built on the lake shore at Aeroplane Bay in the spring of 1934 to provide accommodation for the RCAF pilots. It continued to be used for this purpose until the late 1930s when the aerial surveillance program was replaced by a network of fixed observation towers. The building was subsequently used as a seasonal residence for the staff of the Dominion Forest Service experimental station which was established on the opposite side of Ta-Wa-Pit Drive in 1939. This association, which lasted until the closure of the station in the mid-1940s, led to the cabin being renamed the “Forestry cabin.”\textsuperscript{111} In later years it was intermittently used as a seasonal residence for staff of the Canadian Wildlife Service. It has been vacant for over a decade and is now in a seriously deteriorated condition.

The cottage is located on a lakefront site commanding a view across Clear Lake. The site lies just beyond the easternmost end of the Clear Lake cottage subdivision, and is secluded from view by surrounding forest. This seclusion has had the unfortunate effect of diminishing the building’s status as an important architectural landmark in the park. A public trail to the lake runs beside the cottage and has made the cottage vulnerable to periodic acts of vandalism in its current abandoned state. A log cabin of similar age was moved to a site immediately to the rear of the RCAF cottage in the late 1930s, in association with the Forest Service experimental station (see Warden Service–back country cabin section).

\textsuperscript{109} The aerial surveillance program was initiated at Prince Albert in 1930 and at Riding Mountain in 1931. It was discontinued in 1938.
\textsuperscript{111} Report of the Department of Mines and Resources...for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1940, p. 98.
Detail from plan for Proposed Quarters for Personnel of Royal Canadian Air Force, Riding Mountain National Park [Architectural Division, National Parks of Canada, Ottawa, 15-2-34]

The pilot’s cottage was one of the major landmark residential buildings designed and constructed during the first stage of park development at Riding Mountain. A design was specifically prepared for the building by the Branch’s Architectural Division under the direction of W.D. Cromarty (Figure ). It was one of four log residences constructed in the park in 1933-34 by skilled labour crews funded by the Unemployment Relief Acts of 1933 and 1934. (The three other building were the Whirlpool and Moon Lake Warden residences, and the East Gate gatekeeper’s cottage. All three of these buildings were based on a common plan.)

The pilot’s cottage is a one storey building covered by a medium-pitch hipped roof, with two gabled wings projecting from the front and rear façades to create a modified “T” plan. The eaves treatment is typical of buildings designed for Riding Mountain during this period, with a fairly broad overhang and exposed peeled log rafters. The gable ends feature milled fascia boards with exposed log purlins. Both gables also display the half-timbered treatment that was a signature feature of the Tudor Rustic designs produced by the Architectural Division during the early 1930s. The hipped roof also covers a screened front porch that extends along the front of the living room section. Walls were constructed from seasoned and peeled spruce logs, horizontally-laid and saddle-notched at the corners, and rested on a concrete foundation faced with split stone. Casement windows were arranged in two and three sash units, with six lights per sash.

Heritage Character Statement

The cabin is the only facility directly associated with the phase of RCAF forest surveillance in the national parks. This special purpose evidently dictated a design that differed from the series of contemporary gable-roofed cottages erected for park personnel at Riding Mountain, but bears clear stylistic associations with both the park museum building and the staff four-plex constructed during the same period (see separate entries in the townsite section). The cottage is an excellent example of the Tudor Rustic architectural theme used on key public buildings in Riding Mountain National Park during its formative stage of development. It also displays the skilled craftsmanship and high quality of local materials used on these buildings during the Depression Relief period.

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GREY OWL'S CABIN
Beaver Lodge Lake

Background
In 1931 the National Parks Branch hired the naturalist Archibald Belaney, better known as Grey Owl, to re-establish a beaver population in Riding Mountain National Park. Although formerly common in the area, beavers had become an endangered species due to poaching and the destruction of their dams to drain hay meadows within the park boundaries. It was believed that Grey Owl's presence would generate favourable publicity for the new park and serve the cause of wild life conservation. This cabin was built specifically to accommodate Grey Owl, his wife Anahareo, and his tamed beavers. The site selected for the cabin was located on a small lake (later named Beaver Lodge Lake) where the prerequisites of food, shelter, isolation and suitable drainage appeared to exist. Here, an Unemployment Relief construction crew constructed a substantial two room cabin. Its design is attributed to Gotfrid Johnson, an accomplished log builder from the local Swedish community centred around Erickson, Manitoba. The cabin has a rectangular plan similar to the standard design long prescribed for wardens' patrol cabins in the mountain parks, and features the characteristic roof extension over the gable entrance. In this case the roof extension is borne solely by projecting log purlins without the aid of vertical corner posts. Another distinctive feature is the presence of a side wing which was incorporated into the original design to provide direct water access for Grey Owl's beavers. The cabin displays the high level of log craftsmanship that characterized Johnson's work on a number of larger park buildings in the Wasagaming townsite, including the original park administration building (demolished), the fire hall, and the golf clubhouse. The cabin walls were constructed of peeled spruce logs, horizontally laid and saddle-notched at the corners in typical Riding Mountain fashion. A minor variation was the corner treatment, in which the log ends were cut at alternating lengths, unlike the flat treatment found on other contemporary log examples in the park.

Grey Owl's period of residence in the cabin was shortlived. In October 1931 he was granted a transfer to Prince Albert National Park after spending just six months at Riding Mountain. The ostensible reason for his abrupt departure was his stated belief that the site was unsuitable for his beaver program because the water table was too low and the lake froze too deeply at the selected site. Grey Owl was unhappy with his situation at Riding Mountain and sought a transfer to a more remote location in Prince Albert where he lived for the next six years.

Grey Owl's cabin at Riding Mountain saw little use in the years after his departure. A second attempt was made to establish a beaver colony on the lake, and a horse barn and two privies were

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116 Tabulenas, p. 13; additional information on Johnson can be found in Emma Ringstrom, Riding Mountain Yesterday and Today, p. 63.
built near the cabin in the winter of 1933. The installation of these structures suggests that the cabin was still viewed as a potential tourist attraction and was also used for warden patrol purposes. A steady revival of interest in Grey Owl and his writings prompted growing interest in the cabins he had occupied in Riding Mountain and Prince Albert parks. Perhaps because it was more accessible, the cabin at Riding Mountain attained somewhat earlier status as a public attraction than its counterpart at Prince Albert.¹¹⁷

Although periodic repairs had been made to the building, the first documented renovations took place in 1974 when the roof was repaired and a new front porch was laid over the old one. These measures were prompted by a report entitled “A Grey Owl Interpretation Plan for the Canadian National Parks,” which stressed the need to respond to the growing public interest in the man by utilizing the historical resources directly associated with him in the parks.¹¹⁸ A thorough structural investigation followed in 1977, and the cabin underwent extensive repairs in the following years.

The cabin is a recognized FHBRO building.

**Heritage Character Statement**

Although his stay in Riding Mountain was brief, public fascination with Grey Owl and the popularity of the causes he championed have made his cabin a popular hiking destination and significant interpretative resource within the park. Interior features such as the beaver entrances and living chambers contribute to the building’s historical value. In addition, the building’s log construction bears association with the high standard of log construction produced by Gotfrid Johnson and other members of the Swedish community living in and near the park.

¹¹⁷ NAC, RG 84, vol. 1770, File PA 272, vol 2, internal correspondence re: Grey Owl’s cabins.
PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE AND GROUNDS
Glen Beag Drive

Background
In the national parks in western Canada, superintendents’ houses were designed to set a standard for residential design within the park and to reinforce the status of the occupant as the senior administrator. Nowhere was this practice more evident than in the example at Riding Mountain. Whereas superintendents’ houses in other parks were typically built on lots within a residential subdivision, the Riding Mountain superintendent’s house was spectacularly sited in a park-like setting at the head of Clear Lake, close to the golf course and at some distance from the Wasagaming townsite.

The design prepared by W.D. Cromarty and the Architectural Division was an enlarged and slightly modified version of the one devised for the superintendent’s residence built at Prince Albert National Park in 1929-30. The house built at Riding Mountain in 1931-32 was designed in the Rustic building tradition, with saddle-notched log walls, rock-faced chimney, foundation and porch wall surfaces, exposed pole rafters and bentwood brackets, all superbly executed by local craftsmen including Helge Holmberg, Gotfrid Johnson, Alex Erickson and Frank Thaczuk. The design also incorporated elements of the Anglo-Indian bungalow tradition with its large bell-cast hipped roof, broad eaves overhang, wrap-around verandah and sleeping porch. A further design feature that distinguished this house from its counterparts in other parks was the inclusion of an attached vehicle garage in the original design.

Superintendent’s residence - elevation to lake, [Architectural Division, National Parks of Canada, Department of the Interior, 1931.]

Isolated Landmark Structures

Far from being a rustic log cabin in the wilderness, this was a spacious, well-appointed residence comparable to an English manor house yet cast in a New World environment. This quality was carefully reinforced by the surrounding grounds which were formally landscaped and included an English garden similar to the one established on the grounds of the museum. The lawns and fairways of the neighbouring golf course reinforced the manorial quality of the building and its grounds. In effect, the superintendent’s residence, its site and setting, were carefully orchestrated to echo the visual effect established by the museum and park administration buildings within the Wasagaming townsite. As such they comprise an important cultural landscape and highly recognizable landmark feature within the park.

The exterior of the superintendent’s residence remains largely unchanged from the time of its construction, with the exception of the glass enclosure of the perimeter verandah. A detached garage/workshed located at rear of the superintendent’s residence was built in 1959 to accommodate an additional vehicle and gardening equipment. This frame structure is covered with a hipped roof and clad with log siding to complement the architectural appearance of the residence.

Heritage Character Statement

The heritage character of the residence derives from the combination of design, construction and landscape elements which convey a clear expression of the values and objectives associated with Riding Mountain’s initial development as a park. The fusion of English and North American design traditions to create a specific architectural image for the park is demonstrated here by the combination of Anglo-Indian bungalow roofline, perimeter verandas, horizontal log and native stone construction, and rustic design elements such as stick bracketing and exposed pole rafters. The surrounding grounds amplify the English pastoral associations and echo the landscaping theme that was being developed at the same time in the Government Reserve areas of Wasagaming.

Isolated Landmark Structures

Park Superintendent’s Residence, 1999.