RUSTIC BUILDING
PROGRAMS IN CANADA'S
NATIONAL PARKS,
1887-1950

Edward Mills
Architectural History Branch
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CONTENTS

LIST OF BUILDINGS ........................................................................................................ 4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ............................................................................................... 9
INTRODUCTION ............................................................................................................. 11

PART I
THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN IN THE NATIONAL PARKS ...................................... 13
THE RUSTIC IDEA: CABINS AND CASTLES IN THE WILDERNESS ......................... 16
TOURISM, RAILWAYS AND RESORTS ....................................................................... 21
RAILWAY RUSTIC ........................................................................................................ 24
NATIONAL PARKS RUSTIC IN THE UNITED STATES ............................................. 34
NATIONAL PARKS RUSTIC IN CANADA .................................................................... 38
  Early Park Rustic: Wardens' Cabins to Frank Lloyd Wright .......................... 38
  The Town Planning Division and Tudor Rustic ..................................................... 44
  Building Boom in the Great Depression ................................................................. 56
  Rustic Design in Decline ........................................................................................... 62

PART 2
THE RESOURCE: A SURVEY OF PRE-1950 RUSTIC BUILDINGS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS .......... 75

GROUP I: ACCOMMODATION ...................................................................................... 77
  I.a. Basic Shelter (Backcountry Cabins) ................................................................. 77
  I.b. Tourist Accommodation (Hotels, Lodges, Tea Houses and Bungalow Camps) ................................................................................................................................. 114
  I.c. Houses .................................................................................................................. 163
  I.d. Bunkhouses, Dormitories and Hostels ............................................................. 215

GROUP II: RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT .................................................... 225
  II.a. Aquacourts/Bathhouses .................................................................................... 225
  II.b. Museums and Community Buildings .............................................................. 232
  II.c. Sports and Entertainment (Clubhouses, Boathouses, Dancehalls and Cinemas) ................................................................................................................................. 244
  II.d. Shelters, Pavilions and Public Conveniences .................................................. 272

GROUP III: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION ........................................ 293
  III.a. Railway Stations .............................................................................................. 293
  III.b. Park Entrance Buildings and Information Bureaus ....................................... 305

GROUP IV: ADMINISTRATIVE, OPERATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS ........ 321
  IV.a. Park Administration Buildings ....................................................................... 321
  IV.b. Operational and Institutional Buildings .......................................................... 333

GROUP V: SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES IN THE TOWNSITES .................. 349
  V. Shops and Commercial Services ........................................................................ 350

APPENDIX: BUILDING ENTRIES BY PARKS ............................................................. 367
# LIST OF BUILDINGS

## I.a. Basic Shelter (Backcountry Cabins)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>National Park</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.a.1</td>
<td>Deer Lodge Warden Cabin</td>
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## I.b. Tourist Accommodation (Hotels, Lodges, Tea Houses and Bungalow Camps)

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<td>162</td>
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### LIST OF BUILDINGS

#### I.c. Houses

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#### I.d. Bunkhouses, Dormitories and Hostels

<table>
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<td></td>
<td>216</td>
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<td>223</td>
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#### II.a. Aquacourts/Bathhouses

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>229</td>
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<td>Bathhouse, Fundy National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### II.b. Museums and Community Buildings

| II.b.1 | Banff Museum, Banff National Park | 233 |
| II.b.2 | Interpretive Centre, Riding Mountain National Park | 235 |
| II.b.3 | Community Building, Prince Albert National Park | 237 |
| II.b.4 | Nature Centre, Prince Albert National Park | 239 |
| II.b.5 | Visitor Centre/Museum, Fort Beausejour National Historic Site | 241 |
| II.b.6 | Louisbourg Historical Museum, Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site | 243 |

### II.c. Sports and Entertainment (Clubhouses, Boathouses, Dancehalls and Cinemas)

| II.c.1 | Boathouse, Yoho National Park | 247 |
| II.c.2 | Le Pub, Jasper National Park | 248 |
| II.c.3 | Maligne Lake Boathouse, Jasper National Park | 250 |
| II.c.4 | Assembly Hall, Prince Albert National Park | 252 |
| II.c.5 | "Danceland," Riding Mountain National Park | 254 |
| II.c.6 | Golf Clubhouse, Riding Mountain National Park | 257 |
| II.c.7 | Golf Clubhouse, Prince Albert National Park | 259 |
| II.c.8 | Tennis Pavilion, Riding Mountain National park | 261 |
| II.c.9 | Wauldhaus Restaurant, Banff National Park | 264 |
| II.c.10 | Waterton Lakes Opera House, Waterton Lakes National Park | 266 |
| II.c.11 | Park Theatre, Riding Mountain National Park | 267 |
| II.c.12 | Bowling Green Clubhouse, Riding Mountain National Park | 269 |
| II.c.13 | Golf Clubhouse, Fundy National Park | 271 |

### II.d. Shelters, Pavilions and Public Conveniences

| II.d.1 | Picnic Shelters, St. Lawrence Islands National Park | 273 |
| II.d.2 | Interpretation Building, Waterton Lakes National Park | 275 |
| II.d.3 | Golf Shelter, Jasper National Park | 277 |
| II.d.4 | Kitchen Shelter No. 1, Riding Mountain National Park | 278 |
| II.d.5 | Toilet Buildings, Waterton Lakes National Park | 281 |
| II.d.6 | Storage Shed, Riding Mountain National Park | 282 |
| II.d.7 | Jamboree Hall, Riding Mountain National Park | 283 |
| II.d.8 | Pavilion, Elk Island National Park | 283 |
| II.d.9 | Bandstand, Riding Mountain National Park | 286 |
| II.d.10 | Community Kitchen Building, Waterton Lakes National Park | 287 |
| II.d.11 | Caddie Shelter No. 2, Prince Albert National Park | 288 |
| II.d.12 | Pavilions and Garden Features, Cascades of Time Gardens, Banff National Park | 289 |
| II.d.13 | Lone Shieling, Cape Breton Highlands National Park | 291 |

### III.a. Railway Stations

| III.a.1 | CPR Station (Lake Louise), Banff National Park | 295 |
| III.a.2 | CPR Station, Banff National Park | 297 |
| III.a.3 | CPR Station, Glacier National Park | 299 |
| III.a.4 | CNR Station, Jasper National Park | 301 |
| III.a.5 | Former CPR Telegraph Building, Yoho National Park | 304 |
### III.b. Park Entrance Buildings and Information Bureaus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### IV.a. Park Administration Buildings

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<td></td>
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### IV.b. Operational and Institutional Buildings

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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.b.6</td>
<td>Fire Hall, Banff National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.b.7</td>
<td>Fire Hall, Riding Mountain National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.b.8</td>
<td>Fire Hall, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.b.9</td>
<td>Banff Information Centre, Banff National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.b.10</td>
<td>Post Office, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.b.11</td>
<td>Wardens' Operational Centre, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### V. Shops and Commercial Services in the Townsites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.1</td>
<td>Indian Trading Post, Banff National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.2</td>
<td>Harmon's, Banff National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.3</td>
<td>Baxter's Gifts, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.4</td>
<td>Edelweiss Gifts, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.5</td>
<td>Jasper Camera and Gift, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.6</td>
<td>Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.7</td>
<td>Ruffles Boutique, Waterton Lakes National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.8</td>
<td>Wig Wam Restaurant, Riding Mountain National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.9</td>
<td>Arcade Store, Prince Albert National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.10</td>
<td>Meldrum's Store, Riding Mountain National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.11</td>
<td>Golden Fleece Boutique, Jasper National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.12</td>
<td>Pat's Garage, Waterton Lakes National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.13</td>
<td>Esso Gas Station, Riding Mountain National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.14</td>
<td>Park Transportation Company Garage, Waterton Lakes National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I would like to thank David Whiting and Ron Ellis for sharing their knowledge and photographs of backcountry lodges in the mountain parks. Also Pat Buchik and Jim Taylor, whose collaboration on several projects broadened my knowledge of historic buildings in the parks. Jim’s insights on the historical development of the National Parks were of particular help to me in the writing of Part One of this study. Former colleague Elizabeth Moxley, now with the National Archives, located and meticulously inventoried early building records to create a data base that proved invaluable. Finally, I thank my colleagues in the Architectural History Branch for their various contributions, from past building reports and shared research to timely advice and editorial help.
INTRODUCTION

The primary resources of Canada's national parks are the natural environments they preserve. Over the years, a valuable additional resource has appeared in the form of buildings erected by government and private interests. The inclination to regard this built heritage as subsidiary to the natural environment has tended to overshadow its significance, in terms of its architectural quality and history, and in terms of its potential capacity to enhance the park experience.

Current national parks policy stipulates that all cultural resources in the parks, including those on alienated land, be surveyed and evaluated, and that such resources "be safeguarded and presented for public benefit."¹ To date, this process has been applied primarily to the area of archaeological investigation. The development of parallel programs for built heritage has proceeded at a much slower pace. This is due, in part at least, to a long-standing predisposition within the national parks system to perceive cultural resources in prehistorical or pre-park terms. Buildings associated with park development have been traditionally regarded as non-historical, the implication being that the historical process stopped at the time the individual parks were created.

In recent years, this attitude has given way to a recognition of the distinctive qualities that many of these buildings possess and of the need to preserve them as valued cultural resources. One outcome has been the submission of several buildings to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. To date (1994), nine buildings have been designated as being of national historical and architectural significance through this process. A much larger number of publicly-owned buildings has been submitted and reviewed by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO).

The purpose of this study is to provide a base for further evaluation and interpretation of this cultural resource. As the title implies, the parameters are defined by building programs in place between 1887 and 1950, and by the rustic architectural theme that prevailed throughout that period. Although never defined with precision, rustic design was widely held to be uniquely suited to buildings located in natural settings, and consequently shaped the overall character of most buildings associated with the national parks during their formative stages of development.

Part One examines the close ties that exist between early buildings and major historical themes within the national parks. This section traces historical developments and provides an overview of early policies and building practices. Part Two presents 158 examples of individual buildings or building groupings that illustrate the quality and diversity of rustic design that appeared in the national parks system before 1950.

PART 1: THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

Rustic buildings have been closely associated with Canada's national parks since the system was established at Banff in 1887. Indeed, rustic design in its pure form—as an indigenous vernacular building tradition—was already present in the shape of assorted log cabins erected by itinerant trappers, prospectors and railway workers who had settled in the Banff vicinity before the park's formal establishment.

Executives of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the first park superintendent believed that buildings of rustic appearance were best suited to certain aspects of tourist development in the new park. Although the CPR sought to evoke the image of a European château or castle in its Banff Springs Hotel, its initial tourists were greeted with the contrasting image of rough-hewn log railway stations when they disembarked at stops within the park. While cosmopolitan elegance was the objective in the railway's major resort hotels within the Rocky Mountains, rustic structures built from native timber created the ideal backdrop for guests' forays into the surrounding countryside (Figures 1, 2).

In 1887-1888, George Stewart, the first superintendent at Rocky Mountains Park (as the initial reserve was called), directed construction of the original bathing facilities at the Cave and Basin Hot Springs. These structures had the distinction of being the first public facilities in the new park. Constructed of local logs with a novel inlaid parqueted wall treatment, the buildings were undeniably rustic in appearance and, Stewart reported, "in the Swiss style, of timber of the mountains" (Figure 3). While a Swiss-like appearance was considered desirable for tourist facilities such as the bathhouse, Stewart and other early public officials, including the North West Mounted Police detachment, resided in rustic buildings of another sort—rudimentary log cabins constructed at minimal cost by local builders, using methods that had already become indigenous to the region (Figure 4).

Thus two forms of rustic design were present at Banff during its initial stages of development: one drawing on European architectural images in an effort to promote tourism; the other utilizing local materials and building methods for reasons that were primarily economic rather than aesthetic in nature. Both would remain as important aspects of design policy in the national parks for the next 50 years. Viewed in retrospect, the choice of rustic themes for tourist facilities at Banff might seem obvious and logical, but they were both bold and innovative by 1880s standards, shrewdly capitalizing on a rapidly broadening public interest in the North American wilderness and the mythologies surrounding human...
relationships with it. Indeed, it was this fascination, and the corresponding urge of urban North Americans to experience nature first hand, that ultimately led to the creation of national parks systems in both the United States and Canada. The roots of rustic design, and its close links with the parks systems of both countries, can be best understood within this context.

1. The Banff Springs Hotel, as it appeared ca. 1905-10. The initial 1886-88 section was designed by New York architect Bruce Price and established the image of a European château that was elaborated on in later additions and eventual reconstructions. (Canada. National Archives [NA], PA 31580.)

2. The first CPR station and station master's residence at Banff, as they appeared in 1888. (NA, C 24998.)
3. The first Cave and Basin bathhouse, built in 1887-88, was intended to convey a "rustic Swiss" appearance. (Glenbow Archives. NA 387-25.)

4. The initial residence of Park Superintendent George A. Stewart, Banff townsite, 1886-88. (Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. NA 66-268.)
THE RUSTIC IDEA: CABINS AND CASTLES IN THE WILDERNESS

Before the rise of Romanticism and a newly found appreciation of the natural landscape, the word "rustic" was used principally in a derogatory sense, to describe a lack of sophistication or urbanity. When applied to buildings, it generally bore connotations of crudity or mediocrity, except when it referred to the deliberate hatching of stone surfaces to achieve a roughened textural effect. These characteristics were gradually transformed into virtues as cultural attitudes towards nature shifted, whereupon rustic design began to assume a new meaning. A new aesthetic that extolled the virtues of rural life and pre-industrial processes emerged and found a receptive audience among members of affluent society in both England and North America. The theorists of the movement, now commonly described as the English Romantic style, were inspired by the writings of John Ruskin, and advocated a return to historical, pre-industrial references for architectural design. Ruskin's theories struck a strong chord in mid-19th-century America, where his books, along with those of his American disciple, landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, became best-sellers.

The views expressed by Ruskin and Downing had a pervasive influence on American architectural development during the second half of the 19th century. One effect was an increasing concern for the relationship between buildings and their environments, particularly in rural settings. By the late 19th century the notion of buildings harmonizing with their natural surroundings was common currency, as were Downing's views on the most suitable materials and designs for such buildings. For wilderness settings, this perspective translated into the use of native building materials—particularly log and fieldstone—and an enthusiasm for what were construed to be Swiss chalet designs. For Downing, the term "rustic" meant the use of rough, hand-hewn materials, rather than a particular architectural style. While he advocated its application as a decorative device on rural buildings and garden features such as arbors, summer pagodas, observation towers, bridges and so forth, as he had observed in many "parks and pleasure-grounds" of England, he counselled the use of European models such as the Swiss chalet as stylistic references for dwellings in "wild and mountainous regions."

Downing's theories, which were first published in 1841, provided an intellectual basis for the subsequent legitimization of rustic building processes. For the balance of the century the terms "rustic" and "Swiss" were frequently combined by experts to describe the most appropriate design approach for modest buildings in remote wilderness settings. In the same vein, rustic was used to describe a method of building, rather than a rigid style; one that could be applied to a variety of

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5 Ibid., p. 338.

structures, including bridges, fences, benches and furnishings, as well as buildings.

Downing’s architectural concepts were further articulated by Calvert Vaux, an English architect who moved to the United States in 1850 to form a partnership with Downing. This partnership ended with Downing’s death in 1852, but Vaux subsequently joined with landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to design Central Park in New York City. Central Park proved to be a watershed in the popularization of English Romantic landscape principles in North America. A key aspect was Olmsted and Vaux’s dictum that all components, including architectural features, must function as subservient parts of the park as a totality. To this end Vaux designed a series of shelters and garden structures that featured an eclectic array of styles, including Swiss chalets, and cabins and arbors fashioned from unmilled or rough-hewn timbers. In 1864 Vaux published a plan book entitled Villas and Cottages, which revealed the eclecticism that characterized Romantic design. Along with Gothic, Moorish and Italianate designs, he threw in a plan for a “log house,” fashioned along the lines of a stylized pioneer’s residence, but clearly intended for use as a recreational cabin (Figure 5). Through his Central Park designs and his book, Vaux introduced the simple pioneering log cabin into the Romantic architectural vocabulary and pioneered its application for recreational purposes.

Log construction emulated an indigenous building tradition that was closely associated with the pioneering stages of settlement on this continent. Its subsequent popularization as an aesthetic device for recreational buildings was likely hastened by the growing surge of nationalistic sentiments in the United States in the decades following the American Civil War of 1861-1865. The humble log cabin shed its derogatory connotations and assumed the mantle of national icon, as the embodiment of the pioneering spirit that made America great. Log construction was now embraced as an attractive image for the recreational retreats of the rich and famous, at the same time as it went on performing its traditional role as a vernacular building form on the frontier fringes of settlement throughout wooded regions of the continent.

The first bloom of rustic log construction for recreational purposes occurred in the Adirondack region of northern New York State, where affluent individuals began commissioning
large log lodges as summer retreats during the early 1870s.\footnote{Harvey H. Kaiser, "The Adirondack Rustic Style," The Old-House Journal, Vol. XI, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1983), p. 1-33; Robert A.M. Stern, Pride of Place: Building the American Dream (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1986), p. 174-77; and Clive Aslet, The American Country House (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1990), p. 195-211.} Although early specimens were essentially expanded versions of the basic vernacular horizontal log cabin, architects soon seized upon peeled-log construction as a suitable aesthetic device for more elaborate lodges that were otherwise comparable to the large summer homes found in more conventional resort settings of the day. By the 1880s log lodges and summer homes were appearing in resort regions across the continent, from the Laurentians in Quebec and the Muskoka district of Ontario to the American deep south and far west. Their diffusion was accompanied by the appearance of publications that extolled the virtues of log buildings and explained how to construct and furnish them.

The aesthetic objectives of these "camps," as they were widely called, were explained by William S. Wicks in his popular 1889 book entitled \textit{Log Cabins. How to Build and Furnish Them}. "Indeed," he stated, "the structure should be the outgrowth of, and harmonize with the site, so that when your cabin is completed it shall be a new object added by the hand of man to perfect and beautify its surrounds."\footnote{William S. Wicks, \textit{Log Cabins. How to Build and Furnish Them} (New York: Forest and Stream Publishing Co., 1889), p. 8.} Elsewhere in the same volume, Wicks advised that "one essential of both a log cabin and its furniture is, that as far as possible both must be made on the spot and with the material at hand"\footnote{Ibid., p. 8.} (Figure 6).

The popularity of books like \textit{Log Cabins. How to Build and Furnish Them} revealed the widespread public enthusiasm for rustic log retreats by the late 1880s. Not surprisingly, this popularity led to pressures to apply the rustic image to an ever-increasing range of buildings and locations. One of the most conspicuous of these new applications was recreational facilities in the new national parks of Canada and the United States, beginning with the construction of the log bathhouses and CPR stations at Banff between 1886 and 1888. Only a decade later, rustic design entered a new and vigorous stage in its development when American and Canadian railways began adopting and transforming it to create new resort facilities in the national parks. Between 1902 and 1930 a distinctive rustic architectural style emerged out of the efforts by railways and national parks agencies to develop a method of building that was uniquely evocative of the natural environments within the growing network of national parks in both the United States and Canada.

An inevitable consequence of this expanding range of applications for rustic design was an erosion of its initial precepts, in which exterior appearance was intended to be a direct reflection of building processes. Increasingly, rustic elements came to be employed for aesthetic reasons alone. This role as a decorative vocabulary was particularly evident in the Arts and Crafts styles that flourished in England and North America between the 1880s and 1920s.

A conflict soon emerged between the attractions of the image and the structural limitations of the traditional building methods by which it was achieved. To resolve this problem,
designers began to indulge in some judicious conceits, employing rustic images to mask substructures that were technologically modern. This compromise is well illustrated by LeConte Lodge, built for the Sierra Club in 1903 in Yosemite Park, to a design attributed to Mark White and his brother-in-law, Bernard Maybeck, a celebrated luminary of the California Arts and Crafts Movement. In LeConte Lodge, rough-hewn granite exterior walls and exposed roof timbers masked a substructure of reinforced concrete. Within a few years such practices were commonplace, and rustic elements were routinely used for decorative purposes on buildings that were highly sophisticated from a technological standpoint. In Canada, this approach was exemplified by architect Walter S. Painter's innovative design for the 1913 Cave and Basin Spa in Banff National Park, in which locally quarried limestone was applied as a decorative veneer over a highly sophisticated reinforced concrete substructure.

The national parks of Canada and the United States provided the ideal environments for the development of distinctive new forms of rustic design. Between 1902 and the 1930s, vernacular building traditions as well as unique new architectural forms appeared within both systems, as railways and national parks strove to develop architectural themes that were uniquely evocative of natural settings. Before examining this phase in detail, it is worthwhile reviewing the circumstances that gave rise to national parks in both countries.

TOURISM, RAILWAYS AND RESORTS

The national parks systems in Canada and the United States were by-products of a transformation in public attitudes towards recreation. By the 1880s tourism had become a major social preoccupation for the affluent middle and upper classes in Europe and North America. Tourism took two forms: one was the grand tour or voyage; the other was a visit to resort spas. By the mid-19th century in Europe, the traditional continental tour long-favoured by English travellers was supplanted by trips in pursuit of wild and exotic landscapes. The English became obsessed with mountain climbing and alpine hiking, and, starting in 1863, Thomas Cook found a lucrative market for package tours to the Swiss Alps. The Swiss bonanza quickly demonstrated that wild scenery was a potentially lucrative commodity, both for governments and for entrepreneurs who supplied the transportation and accommodation for tourists.

North Americans shared this enthusiasm for touring and wilderness recreation. Innovations in rail travel during the 1870s—notably the introduction of Pullman dining and sleeping cars—made long-distance travel a refined experience in its own right, and an attractive and fashionable pastime for women as well as men. Railways were quick to capitalize on the growing popularity of recreational travel and either built or encouraged the development of resort hotels at key points along their lines, with a particular preference for hot springs sites which offered the opportunity for spa development. The discovery of new hot springs was comparable to the discovery of gold, and railways frequently diverted their routes or constructed spurs to gain access to them.

The proliferation of railway lines had an additional consequence for recreational travel: it made the remote frontier regions of the continent accessible to a fairly broad section of the urban population at a time when a romanticized vision of the wilderness and the American frontier experience was beginning to be embraced. This vision was inspired by the works of writers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, William H.H. Murray and John Muir, and fed in no small part by mythologies such as the humble log-cabin origins of Abraham Lincoln. In the early 1870s affluent Americans began flocking to the Adirondack Mountains of New York State following the completion of a railroad line through the region. Most were seeking wilderness experiences such as hiking, climbing and fishing, but a few of the most affluent cast their eyes on the region as a place to establish private wilderness estates in which they could enact their own frontier retreats on a grand scale.

This growing fascination with the wilderness was further kindled as the routes of the transcontinental railway lines exposed a succession of magnificent natural landscapes to the attention of the general public for the first time. Pressure from altruistically minded conservationists as well as from
profit-minded railroad companies prompted the American government to take the innovative step of setting aside a number of these areas as national park reserves, starting with Yellowstone in 1872. The Northern Pacific Railroad was a major instigator in the creation of Yellowstone Park, and hoped to capitalize on its preferential status when its main line was later built to the vicinity of the park reserve. \(^{15}\) Barred by its charter from direct involvement in subsidiary businesses, the Northern Pacific began to establish tourist operations within Yellowstone through indirectly backed local firms in 1880.

American railroad companies' eagerness to develop tourist facilities in national parks was tempered by recurring scandal and the reaction of conservationists who mounted campaigns to block commercial exploitation along the lines the railroads envisioned. \(^{16}\) These factors, combined with periodic recessions, restricted the scale of resort development in the American parks until after 1900.

The impulses that fuelled recreational developments in the United States were also present in Canada. The wilderness retreats of the Adirondacks had their parallels north of the border, in places such as the Laurentians, Thousand Islands and Muskoka District. Similarly, the American railroad companies' eagerness to exploit the resort potential of newly opened regions was shared by the directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The major distinction in the subsequent inception of Canada's national parks system lay in the facts that this enthusiasm for commercial resort development was unencumbered by a conservationist lobby and was enthusiastically endorsed by the government of the day. This shared objective meant that large-scale resort development took root at a somewhat earlier date in Canada's Rocky Mountains Park, and enjoyed well over a decade of growth before comparable facilities were developed by the CPR's American rivals. During this period the CPR was able to establish a comprehensive infrastructure of resort facilities and a marketing strategy that became the envy of American railroads.

The notion of establishing a series of national parks in Canada emerged in the 1880s as a means of generating much-needed revenue from the costly CPR line through the mountain ranges of Alberta and British Columbia. Sandford Fleming was one of the first to espouse the idea. His 1883 tour of the CPR's proposed railway route impressed upon him the similarities between the Canadian Rockies and the Swiss Alps. Noting the financial benefits that Switzerland was then realizing through the development of its tourist industry, Fleming advocated the establishment of one or more publicly funded national parks situated in scenic areas along the route of the CPR. More specifically, he envisioned a series of resorts surrounded by radiating networks of roads and bridle paths:

In no long time all the aid that art could furnish would be manifested in developing the landscape and in establishing retreats of quiet and repose amid some of the grandest scenes of wild nature. \(^{17}\)

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\(^{16}\) The Yellowstone Story, Vol. II, p. 31-32.

Fleming's vision was shared by members of the CPR executive, in particular general manager William Van Horne, who was advocating the establishment of a park reserve in the mountains west of Calgary as early as 1883. For both men the idea of a national park system was equated with resort hotels situated in places of scenic grandeur. The Dominion government would reserve the necessary land and develop the recreational facilities, following the Yellowstone precedent; the railway would transport tourists to the parks and provide the accommodation. The concept was, in essence, a replication of the Northern Pacific's initially thwarted objectives for Yellowstone, spurred on by the success of the Swiss tourist industry.

The eventual impetus for political action on this idea came with the discovery of hot springs at the future site of the Banff townsite, near the CPR line running through the Rockies. No doubt inspired both by the enthusiasm of the CPR executive and by the recent initiatives of the American government in this direction, the Dominion government moved in 1885 to exclude private development of the hot springs site, then formally established the Rocky Mountains Park in 1887.

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RAILWAY RUSTIC

Wilderness settings imposed special challenges to which some resort developers of the 1880s responded by turning to European architectural references to create exotic and alluring images. The CPR's initial Banff Springs Hotel, begun in the fall of 1886 and completed in the spring of 1888, epitomized this approach. Designed by New York architect Bruce Price, it was a wooden structure, four storeys in height, covered with a steeply pitched hipped roof and decorated with oriel windows, corner turrets and numerous roof dormers that conjured up allusions to European archetypes—variously described by contemporary visitors as those of a French château or a Scottish castle. Price's design was much in step with current resort hotel fashion throughout North America at the time; the European connotations were not dissimilar to those previously used for the CPR's Château Frontenac in Québec City, and for a number of American commissions by Price and his contemporaries during the 1880s and 1890s. 20

For the CPR the château style hotel became a potent symbol, not only for the succession of resorts it built at Banff, Lake Louise and other locations in the national parks, but for its hotel chain across the country. In this sense the company's design priorities were linked less to the notion of a harmonious relationship with a specific environment than with the projection of a corporate image. The CPR's strategy in marketing its new resort developments in the Rocky Mountains was to exploit the obvious scenic parallels with the Swiss Alps.

While luxury hotels could draw tourists, it was the allure of untravelled valleys and unclimbed mountain peaks that would enable the railway to duplicate the remarkable success of the Swiss tourist industry. It was not surprising then that both railway and park officials cultivated a "rustic Swiss" image for facilities in the national parks to reinforce this marketing strategy.

The CPR took its first tentative steps in this direction in 1886 and 1887 when it constructed a pair of small lodges and dining stops in close proximity to the initial park reserve. These were Glacier House, located near the summit of the Selkirk range, and Mount Stephen House, situated at the future Field townsite in the Kicking Horse Valley (Figure 7). The two buildings were of milled frame construction and shared a common plan prepared by English architect Thomas C. Sorby, aided by "many suggestions from William Van Horne who took a keen interest in the project." 21 A contemporary traveller described Glacier House as "a very artistic building of the Swiss chalet type...." 22

While the Swiss allusions were perhaps hazy in these two early lodges, the railway tried a more explicit approach in its design for a lodge at Emerald Lake, which it built between 1902 and 1904. In this case staff designers based in the railway's Montréal head office produced a plan for a massive 50-room chalet, constructed from large-dimension squared

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20 For example, Price's Kenilworth Hotel, built at Asheville, North Carolina in 1891, and the Montezuma Hotel at Las Vegas Hot Springs, New Mexico, designed by Burnham and Root and built in 1885. See Jeffrey Limmerick, Nancy Ferguson and Richard Oliver, America's Grand Resort Hotels (New York: Pantheon Books, 1979), p. 75-79 and 122-25.


PART 1: THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN

7. The CPR's initial Mount Stephen House at Field, B.C., built in 1887 to a design by Thomas C. Sorby. Demolished. (Glenbow Archives, NA 1798-1.)

8. The Swiss imagery evident on the 1902-04 Emerald Lake Chalet coincided with the CPR's tourist campaign that promoted the Rockies as the Canadian Alps. Extant. (Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, NA 71-5231.)

timbers, which displayed the proportions and external features widely associated with European chalet archetypes (Figure 8). 23

Although the CPR was eager to exploit the Swiss theme in its tourist promotions, the Emerald Lake Chalet proved to be an exception to the railway's hotel design practice before 1920, although it served as an archetype for a series of smaller lodges that the railway built after that date. In the meantime, the CPR elected to concentrate on another European theme with rustic connotations. Between 1901 and 1910 it enlarged three lodges—Mount Stephen House, Glacier House and Château Lake Louise—to resemble rambling Elizabethan-style manor houses, replete with half-timbered gables and bays, and prominent chimneys, gables and verandahs (Figure 9). 24 These facilities offered an alternative image, mid-way between the formal opulence implied by the Banff Springs Hotel and the rough-hewn image of the Emerald Lake Chalet. Designed by English-born and -trained architect Francis Mawson Rattenbury, with later additions by American-born Walter S. Painter, these facilities introduced the historically derived

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24 The CPR's early hotels and lodges, aside from the initial Banff Springs Hotel, were designed by two English architects who had based themselves in Victoria, British Columbia. The first, Thomas C. Sorby, had supplied designs for the initial group of lodges in the "Swiss" theme; the second, Francis Mawson Rattenbury, designed the Tudor Revival additions between 1901 and 1906. He in turn was replaced by American W.S. Painter, who contributed the most elaborate of the half-timbered additions to Château Lake Louise. See Anthony A. Barrett and Rhodri Windsor Liscombe, Francis Rattenbury and British Columbia: Architecture and Challenge in the Imperial Age (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1983). p. 127-28.
The Château Lake Louise assumed the image of an Elizabethan manor with 1911 additions by CPR architect Walter S. Painter. This building was destroyed by fire in 1924. (Canadian Parks Service [CPS], Photo Services.)


This six-storey resort was in the Swiss Chalet-Norway Villa tradition, but executed in a very western frontier manner. The exterior of the log frame structure was sheathed with shingles, and the building was heavily articulated with logwork piers and corners. Two stories of projecting dormers protruded from the enormous main gable, which was the dominant architectural feature. The combination of the logwork, shingles, and form resulted in a masterful structure.


By that time, rival American railroads had begun to launch major resort programs of their own, in the course of which they introduced some radically new interpretations of rustic design into the American parks. This program began in 1902 when the Northern Pacific Railroad, acting through its subsidiary Yellowstone Park Association, began construction of the Old Faithful Inn, a dramatic six-storied gable-roofed structure sited near the Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone Park (Figure 10). Although it borrowed from the European chalet form for its massing and detailing, the Old Faithful Inn utilized frontier-style log work that was unprecedentedly bold in its handling and monumental in its scale. Architect Robert C. Reamer’s flamboyant use of native stone, peeled logs, hewn timbers and shingling produced a new archetype for exotic resort design that was quickly adopted throughout the United States, especially for railroad hotels and smaller lodges in the national parks. Far from being straightforward enlargements of the humble log dwelling, the Old Faithful Inn and its progeny were, in fact, eclectic fusions of rustic images and materials with stylistic references borrowed from European and indigenous building traditions, as well as from the avant-garde. Elements from the Arts and Crafts Movement, Shingle style and Prairie style were detectable in some lodges and hotels built by the Northern Pacific, Santa Fe and Great Northern railroads between 1902 and the late 1920s; others borrowed freely from Norwegian and Swiss chalet, Indian pueblo or Mission architecture.

Like the CPR, the American railroads’ primary concern was that their resorts be distinctive in appearance and memorable in the eyes and minds of tourists, and in this reinterpretation of rustic design they found a successful formula (Figure 11).

Although the CPR never followed the lead of American railroads in applying the frontier image of hand-hewn log and
stone construction to its large resort hotels, it nevertheless moved to exploit this theme for an increasingly wide array of smaller facilities, beginning in 1910 with the construction of a second-generation log station at Lake Louise (Figure 12). Over the next 18 years the company built a succession of stations, chalets, tea houses and bungalow camps in Banff, Yoho, Glacier and Mount Revelstoke parks. Although explicit European chalet references were evident in some of these structures, the most striking characteristic among the majority lay in the skilful handling of peeled-log construction, with deliberately exaggerated butt ends and exposed structural members, massive stone fireplaces and other features that had come to be associated with the North American frontier log building tradition (Figures 13, 14).

The influence of American railroads' rustic design initiatives was more overtly displayed in the Canadian National Railways' Jasper Park Lodge, a luxury resort complex begun in 1922 along the lines of a giant bungalow camp, with a large main lodge surrounded by a complex of cabins, recreational

11. Many Glacier Hotel, Glacier National Park, Montana, built in 1914-15 with later additions. This was the largest in a chain of hotels and chalets that the Great Northern Railroad built, using a Swiss alpine theme in combination with massive log construction. (Edward Mills, CPS, Architectural History Branch [AHB], 1989.)

12. The 1910 CPR station at Laggan (Lake Louise) in Banff National Park. This building marked the start of a new phase in rustic log construction by the CPR. Extant. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)

27 The lodge's construction is described in Cyndi Smith, Jasper Park Lodge In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies (Jasper: Cyndi Smith, 1985), p. 15-23.
PART 1: THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN

13. Summit Camp, a small backcountry lodge built in Yoho National Park, ca. 1921-1922, by the CPR. Demolished. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 2247.)
14. CPR tea house at Natural Bridge, Yoho National Park, built in 1925. Demolished. (Glenbow Archives, NA 5157-22.)

15. Jasper Park Lodge and its surrounding bungalows, pre-1952. The main lodge was destroyed by fire in 1952, but remnants of the pre-1930 bungalow complex remain intact. (Jasper Park Lodge.)

16. A row of guest bungalows at Jasper Park Lodge, ca. 1925. The gnarled log verandah supports were later replaced with screened porches. (Jasper Park Lodge.)
1916-1917, while the large-scale bungalow resort concept was concurrently being employed by the Union Pacific Railroad for a lodge complex in Bryce Canyon National Park. In its initial 1922 configuration, Jasper Park Lodge consisted of eight four-room log cabins clustered around a central lodge capable of accommodating 75 guests. Its principal designer was J. Schofield, the CNR’s staff architect based in Montréal, although credit for the central lodge’s design has been attributed to Godfrey Milnes, a draughtsman in Schofield’s office. The facility was subsequently quadrupled in size by a series of additions between 1923 and 1929. In its final shape, the central lodge consisted of a central “rotunda,” from which five separate wings radiated. Each of these wings housed a separate facility: ball room, dining room, 

kitchen and two sleeping wings. When completed, the railway proclaimed it to be "the largest single-storey log structure in the world."\textsuperscript{30} The virtuosity of the log construction of the main lodge was echoed in an increasing array of guest cabins and support facilities designed by Schofield and his associates over a ten-year period. First-generation examples were typified by log construction, with either saddle-notched or vertical-log corner treatment. A variety of sub-themes, ranging from decorative bent-stick detailing to Swiss chalet motifs, was introduced on various structures, with horizontal-log construction universally employed for all facilities, from shelter pavilions on the golf course to a complex of staff dormitories.\textsuperscript{31}

As a result, by 1930 Jasper Park Lodge contained an assortment of log structures that was unrivalled within the national parks in terms of scale, functional diversity and detailing.

Jasper Park Lodge illustrates the extent to which rustic design had become entrenched as a desirable architectural device for resort design by the 1920s. Here the rich and famous of the world, from Hollywood celebrities to British royalty, returned repeatedly to savour the combination of luxurious service and a carefully articulated aesthetic environment that extended from rough-hewn timbers and massive boulderstone fireplaces to stick furniture and hunting trophies on the walls (Figure 17).

Unfortunately, the centrepiece of this complex, the main lodge, was destroyed by fire in 1952. Nevertheless, much of Jasper Park Lodge's early rustic character is retained and illustrated by 26 log structures on the site that date from the 1920s and 1930s.

In Waterton Lakes National Park, the influence of the American railroad was of an immediate nature, for in that park the Great Northern Railroad built a rustic lodge in 1926 that rounded out the chain of resort hotels and backcountry lodges
it had established in the adjacent American Glacier National Park between 1910 and 1915. Connection with the railroad’s other lodges would be by means of a private bus service running between the two adjacent parks. The Prince of Wales Hotel, as the new facility was called, was designed by the Great Northern’s staff architect in the form of a massive Swiss chalet, with steeply pitched roofs and a profusion of dormers and balconies (Figure 18). This design was in keeping with the Swiss architectural theme that the railroad had adopted for its earlier facilities south of the border.

The Prince of Wales Hotel’s presence in a Canadian park is fascinating, from both architectural and historical perspectives, since it represented a symbolic toehold in Canadian territory for the Great Northern, and a challenge to the resort system of the CPR. The Great Northern’s resort system in Glacier National Park was but one facet of a long-standing rivalry between the two systems for regional dominance. The company’s slogan, “See America First,” was aimed in large measure at persuading the American public to choose its resort facilities over those of the CPR.32
NATIONAL PARKS RUSTIC IN THE UNITED STATES

By 1912 both American and Canadian railways had thoroughly demonstrated the evocative appeal of rustic design in the two countries' national parks. Whether linked to European architectural themes or to indigenous building traditions, rustic design had become firmly entrenched as a building form ideally suited to resort developments in the national parks. Public fascination with natural environments as embodied by the parks continued to grow, and with this growth came increasing pressure to create more national parks and to provide more facilities in them. These pressures mounted steadily as automobiles replaced trains as the principal means of travelling to the parks. The initial era of national parks, which had been characterized by restricted access and limited resort facilities, was gradually displaced as roads made the parks accessible to a far broader cross-section of society. This transformation began in the years immediately preceding the First World War, then rapidly gained momentum in its aftermath.

With these changes came new requirements, both for centralized government agencies to administer and enforce park policies and for increased public facilities to accommodate the growing numbers of people who chose to visit the parks. The move to establish administrative agencies occurred in Canada in 1911, and in the United States in 1916. These were key preliminary steps in the development of strategies for dealing with building requirements in the respective park systems. In both cases the new park agencies followed the lead of the railways in advocating the use of rustic designs and building methods for future park facilities. The subsequent development of these architectural programs followed parallel courses in the two parks systems, passing from formative stages during the 1920s to full maturity in the early to mid-1930s, followed by declines that extended from the late 1930s until about 1950. Despite these parallels, the approaches taken in the two systems differed considerably, as did their architectural legacies. These contrasts and similarities reveal some of the distinctive qualities of the rustic architecture in the two systems, and the contrasting attitudes that arose towards cultural resources within them.

In the American system, building design policies were strongly influenced by an overriding concern to protect natural landscapes from defacement by human incursion. These concerns were first addressed in 1918 when the American National Park Service established an internal design unit called the Landscape Engineering Division to handle the growing need for roads, trails and structures in the parks. Over the next decade and a half, the staff, composed primarily of landscape architects, formulated a distinctive rustic theme that came to be known as the NPS Rustic Style. At the root of this style lay the premise that a harmonious relationship

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33 National Park Service Rustic Architecture, p. 27-52.
PART 1: THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN

19. Front elevation for entrance building and gateway, Tioga Pass, Yosemite National Park, California. The design illustrates the exaggerated stone massing favoured for park buildings in many of the American parks during the 1920s and 1930s. (Albert H. Good, Park and Recreation Structures [US National Park Service, 1938], p. 22.)

between buildings and environments in the parks could best be achieved by emulating the building traditions of indigenous and pioneering occupants of the region in which the parks were located. Author and architect Albert H. Good articulated this concept in his introduction to Park and Recreation Structures, a 1938 textbook that demonstrated the application of rustic design principles to park structures:

We are learning that harmony is more likely to result from a use of native materials. We show signs of doubting the propriety of introducing boulders into settings where Nature failed to provide them, or of incorporating heavy alien timbers into structures in treeless areas.

As we have vaguely sensed these things, we incline to a humble respect for the past. We become aware of the unvoiced claims of those long-gone races and earlier generations that tracked the wilderness, plains or desert before us. In fitting tribute we seek to grace our park structures by adaptation of their traditions and practices as we come to understand them.

As this statement implies, the NPS approach to rustic design grew to encompass a wide range of themes based both on native building materials and on the vernacular building traditions indigenous to the regions in which parks were located. By the mid-1930s, when the NPS rustic program was at its zenith, the range of design references included Indian pueblos, Spanish colonial adobes, and New England colonial frame structures, in addition to log trappers' cabins. These references were applied to all manner of structures, from bridges, fences and entrance gates to staff residences and administrative and service buildings (Figures 19, 20, 21).

The NPS rustic building program spanned approximately two and a half decades, from 1918 until the early 1940s. Its initial stage between 1918 and 1927 was characterized by extensive collaboration between the small initial staff of landscape architects and private California-based designers, and the development of the major rustic principles that would guide subsequent design policy. The Arts and Crafts aesthetics of the private designers meshed well with the design concerns of the Landscape Engineering Division, establishing a vigorous architectural approach that rivalled those of the various railroads.

Between 1927 and 1932 the internal design unit was enlarged and partially decentralized, with landscape architects assigned to districts containing one or more parks. This field

35 National Park Service Rustic Architecture, p. 35.
36 Myers, "The Park Service as Client: I." p. 45.

Although the rustic design program in the American parks continued into the early 1940s, the dictums prescribed in the 1935 textbook, and pursued vigorously by the NPS staff architects up to that time, entered a period of decline by the late 1930s. Continually increasing demands for new park...
facilities began to force compromises in design and construction methods which were compounded by the hiring of numerous new staff designers who did not necessarily understand or sympathize with the tenets of the rustic program. Some later designers went so far as to assert that, far from being a return to honest building traditions, rustic design constituted a self-conscious affectation and "an elaborate protest against progress in architecture."

War-time restraint, the cancellation of the CCC program in 1942, and a growing advocacy of functional realism in architectural design, all worked against continuing the use of the rustic theme in American parks and led to its eventual abandonment in the post-war period.


(Bottom) Floor plan for superintendent's residence, Mesa Verde National Park. "Definitely regional by reason of the technique of its masonry, the projecting vigas, and the shifting parapet levels surmounting flat roofs ... the building seems particularly well suited to site and to region." (Albert H. Good, Park and Recreation Structures, p. 83.)

39 National Park Service Rustic Architecture, p. 104.
Goverment's role in the development of rustic architecture underwent a similar metamorphosis in the Canadian parks, one that can be divided into several distinct phases. The first extended from the system's inception in 1887 until 1911, during which time authority over operational matters, including questions of building design, rested solely with the park superintendent based in Banff. This arrangement technically ended with the establishment of the National Parks Branch in 1911, and the subsequent appointment of J.B. Harkin as the Ottawa-based Commissioner of Dominion Parks. Harkin's efforts to centralize park administration and to develop policies regulating building design and construction were largely thwarted during the next ten years by budgetary constraints imposed during and after the war years of 1914-1918. A third phase began in 1921 when Harkin succeeded in establishing an internal design unit with the capability both to develop architectural guidelines and to enforce them throughout the system. This process began gradually during the early to mid-1920s, then accelerated towards the end of the decade as new parks were created and construction activity increased in volume.

By 1929 a fairly clear set of design guidelines was in place for both public and private buildings in the parks, and the architectural unit's staff architects assumed responsibility for either designing or reviewing the designs for all proposed buildings throughout the park system. A fourth phase began in 1930 with the start of Depression relief building programs in the parks, when federal funding enabled building activities of an unprecedented scale throughout the system. It ended in 1936-1937 when this relief funding ceased and the internal architectural design unit was disbanded. The Branch's rustic design program then entered a period of decline, although it survived vestigially until the late 1940s.

Early Park Rustic: Wardens' Cabins to Frank Lloyd Wright

Before the establishment of the National Parks Branch in 1911, authority over design matters was the domain of the park superintendent based at Banff who prescribed "the rustic design, which is by far the most suitable as well as the prettiest for all buildings in the park..." Just what was meant by rustic design remained ill-defined, and its application within the parks was at best erratic. The initial cluster of "Swiss-style" bathhouses at the Cave and Basin hot springs established a theme which the first two park superintendents at Banff employed for conspicuous public facilities within the townsite, culminating and ending with a combined museum and administration building in 1902-1903, to a design by former CPR engineer John Stocks.
PART 1: THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN

22. Natural History Museum, Banff National Park, built in 1902-03 to a design by former CPR structural engineer John Stocks. This was the most costly public building erected in the national parks before 1910. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services, N-09-93-04-03, 1913.)

Stocks' response to the park administration's desire for an architectural showpiece was to adapt the inlaid stick theme used on the initial Cave and Basin bathhouses to a balloon-frame structure that revealed his 20-year background as a bridge and building superintendent for the railway. The lantern arrangement of the upper storey, its two-tiered bell-cast roof treatment and the brackets supporting the broad eaves overhang are suggestive of the railway depot designs with which Stocks had been intimately involved for so many years. The result is an eccentric structure, delightfully unencumbered by studied notions of stylistic pedigree (Figure 22).

The early park superintendents' insistence on the use of rustic designs was largely confined to conspicuous public facilities and to features such as road-side fences and benches. Private builders in the town sites were left largely unimpeded in their choices of designs, a situation that would later lead to recurring conflict and criticism about Banff's physical appearance. Despite the superintendent's early assurances to the contrary, Banff's predominant building stock was rustic mainly in a ramshackle sense, and was fast attracting criticism from visitors who expected something more pleasing to the eye.

Before 1921, design issues continued to be approached on an ad hoc basis, either by commissioning designs from private architects in the case of major structures, or through the use of local builders using indigenous log building techniques for smaller operational facilities. This approach underscored the distinction which park administrators persistently made between public buildings with tourist associations and those of a more purely operational nature. The cultivation of a studied rustic image was considered important for the former type, while economy and expediency were the primary concerns in

42 Department of the Interior, Annual Report for the Year 1910, Part V, p. 6-7. Improvements that year included "over fifty rustic settees" along various roads and paths in the vicinity of Banff, additions to the rustic aviary on the museum grounds, and, behind this facility, a new rustic lavatory. Also Annual Report for the Year 1904-05, Part V, p. 4. "A substantial and pretty rustic bridge has been completed over Paradise Creek...."

43 In 1905-1906, Superintendent Howard Douglas was "pleased to report that many of the lessees have erected handsome buildings altogether in harmony with the surroundings, and Banff has to-day many rustic homes which for beauty and comfort it would be difficult to rival." Department of the Interior, Annual Report for the Year 1905-06, Part VI, p. 9. Others saw things differently, and in January 1906, Frank Oliver, newly appointed Minister of the Interior, issued a memorandum openly critical of the leasing system which "perpetuates the condition of a town of shacks instead of permitting the conditions of a town of convenient and handsome residences and business places...." NA, RG 84, Vol. 653, File B.2, Part 1. Memorandum. 6 January 1906.

25. Park warden’s residence at Castle Mountain, Banff National Park, ca. 1920-22, to a design by James T. Childe. This cabin features the vertical corner post construction method that Childe specified for many early park buildings. (CPS, Photo Services.)


46 Childe designed a fairly wide variety of operational facilities, primarily for the Banff townsite area, but on occasion for other parks as well. His career in this capacity appears to have extended from ca. 1910 until the mid-1920s.

the case of the latter, which consisted mainly of staff residences, equipment storage garages, wardens cabins and the like.

The first significant step in the development of a design strategy for operational structures sprang out of the formation of the park warden system after 1904. This system created a need for a network of cabins located in remote regions of the parks, some of which would serve as year-round habitations and others as overnight shelters on the wardens' patrol routes. As the wardens were largely recruited from the ranks of local trappers, prospectors and guides, the design and construction of their accommodations were initially left up to them. The results of this arrangement were not always satisfactory, however, and in 1915 a rudimentary plan was produced by James T. Childe, the staff engineer based at Banff, to serve as a guideline for the wardens to follow. Three years later he produced a pair of more detailed standard plans, one for year-round residences and the other for patrol cabins.

Childe's patrol cabin design was simply a standardized variation on a vernacular log-cabin formula widely used in the region (Figures 23, 24). It employed a rectangular plan with a shallow-pitched gable roof that projected at one end to provide a sheltered porch area above the entrance. The cabin interior contained a single room equipped with a wood stove and simple furnishings that were frequently fashioned by the wardens themselves. Childe's plan called for dimensions of 14 feet by 16 feet, with a roof overhang of 6 feet above the verandah area. Although his initial drawings indicated saddle-notched construction, Childe subsequently specified the use of vertical corner posts to which horizontal wall logs were to be toe-nailed. The reasons for this preference are not clear, but Childe consistently prescribed this method (which he referred to as "Half-Breed" or "Metis-style" in his specifications) for a variety of log park structures he designed in the years before 1921 (Figures 25, 26).
While Childe’s standard patrol cabin plan remained the prototype for structures of this sort for several decades, wardens were permitted considerable leeway in its application. Overall dimensions varied considerably, as did the methods of construction, window placement and detailing. Most wardens in the mountain parks appear to have favoured the saddle-notch construction method, although vertical corner post examples were occasionally built. In some instances where logs were not readily available, milled-frame construction was substituted.

The 1918 patrol cabin design proved ideally suited to the purposes for which it was intended and the locations where it was used. In the mountain parks, particularly Jasper and Banff, the basic design continued to be used up to the 1960s when alternative building systems were introduced. In the late 1980s a new variation of Childe’s 1918 formula was reintroduced, in part for aesthetic reasons, but also because the basic form of the shallow-pitched gable-roof log cabin had proven to be ideally suited to remote backcountry conditions. Although initially motivated by pragmatic rather than aesthetic considerations, the warden cabin program helped nurture a log-building tradition in the mountain parks that was unencumbered by conscious external references. It would recur frequently throughout the western parks, culminating in its extensive application for Depression relief camp facilities during the early 1930s (Figure 27).

While a vernacular form of rustic design was prescribed for these and other small operational structures in the interests of economy, the Parks Branch engaged a succession of private architects for major building projects before 1921. This practice began with the hiring of John Stocks to design the aforementioned Banff Museum in 1902. The next occasion was the design of the second Cave and Basin Spa, built between 1911 and 1914 to a design by CPR hotel architect W.S. Painter. In 1913 the Branch commissioned a public recreation pavilion in the Banff townsite, designed by Frank Painter. In 1913 the Branch commissioned a public recreation pavilion in the Banff townsite, designed by Frank Painter. In 1913 the Branch commissioned a public recreation pavilion in the Banff townsite, designed by Frank Painter.
Lloyd Wright in partnership with Ottawa-based Francis Sullivan, as well as an administration building for the newly created Jasper National Park, designed by Edmonton architect Alfred M. Calderon. Each represented a distinctive approach to the concept of rustic design, ranging from the eccentric pagoda-like profile of Stock’s museum to Wright’s ground-hugging Prairie style structure, the log-and-boulderstone approach of Calderon, and the massive stone-clad surfaces and European stylistic references of the Cave and Basin spa (Figures 28, 29, 30).

Two of these buildings, the Banff spa and the Jasper administration building, proved to be seminal in terms of subsequent architectural practice within their respective townsites. Following a precedent begun with Painter’s rebuilding of the Banff Springs Hotel a few years earlier, the spa introduced a long-standing practice of using locally quarried Rundle stone as an exterior wall material for public facilities at Banff. At the same time Calderon’s administration building initiated a log-and-boulder theme at Jasper, which the park superintendent enthusiastically prescribed for buildings within the townsite.

The brief spate of privately commissioned park buildings between 1911 and 1913 proved to be an anomaly in terms of subsequent policy. The onset of economic restraints and war brought this interlude to an abrupt halt, and by the time construction activity had resumed, a new set of priorities was in place. The use of private architects did not occur again until the mid-1930s.

The Town Planning Division and Tudor Rustic

The shift from rail to automobile travel, which accelerated rapidly in the years after 1918, provided the eventual impetus for Dominion Park Commissioner Harkin’s move towards centralization and the ensuing development of a broader architectural policy for the parks. Whereas it had formerly played a subsidiary role to the railway’s resort developments,
the National Parks Branch now took charge of all major facets of park development, including capital expenditures on road construction and the development of an infrastructure of public facilities, along with the regulation of private ones. These capital expenditures were justified on the basis of the potential tourist revenue they would generate, and this in turn gave rise to an increased concern about the appearance of buildings in the parks.52

This predisposition to justify new facilities in terms of tourist promotion contrasted with the more philosophical approach taken in the United States. Stephen Mather, Director of the United States National Park Service, pointed out this distinction during a tour of Canada's mountain parks in 1924:

Our general impression was one of a definite contrast in policy between the Canadian and American National Park Services. The Canadian Parks seem to be administered with the idea of exploitation or utilization for revenue in somewhat the same way as are the American National Forests, as against our own park policy of perpetuating great natural wonder spots for the enjoyment and edification of future generations.53

Canadian national parks administrators' approach to building matters in the parks was influenced by an additional factor not found in the American system: the presence of townsites containing a wide range of commercial and residential buildings erected privately on lots leased from the Parks Branch. There are no counterparts to the towns of Banff, Jasper and the other park communities in the American parks. The administration of Canadian townsites, including the leasing of sites, regulation of building design and construction, and all other functions normally performed by municipal governments, became a major preoccupation for park administrators, even before the advent of automobile travel. As the townsites increased in size and number, so too did the problems and issues associated with appropriate design in them. As a consequence, design policy in the Canadian parks came to be regarded as an adjunct to the town planning

29. Recreation building, constructed in the Banff townsite in 1913 to plans by Frank Lloyd Wright and Francis Sullivan; demolished 1938. (Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, V469-1785.)

52 J.B. Harkin articulated his case for the expenditures on roads and increased park facilities in his annual reports throughout the period.

30. The Jasper Administration Building, built in 1913-14 to a design by Alfred M. Calderon. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

It is no coincidence, then, that the internal design unit established in the Parks Branch in 1921 was called the Town Planning Division, and that its primary tasks were initially described as “the planning of community life within the limits of the national parks and ... the better provision for the needs of tourists....” The issue of improved architectural design was correspondingly couched in terms of meeting “modern ideas of town planning and in harmony with the environments which constitute the settings of the urban districts in the parks.”

This approach was probably unavoidable given the increasing scale of development that was taking place in the townsites, and the problems it raised from the standpoint of developing a harmonious connection between buildings and the park surroundings. Park officials were quick to note that rustic design, if applied with a rigorous insistence on the use of native building materials, would have a devastating environmental impact on the forests surrounding the major townsites in the parks.

These urban problems competed with the desire for an architecture that embodied rustic ideals and principles, and ultimately conspired to dictate a much less idealistic approach in the Canadian national parks than that pursued in their American counterparts during the same period. Whereas the American National Park Bureau assembled a sizable staff of architects and landscape designers, and decentralized many of them in its effort to develop distinctive rustic themes within
specific parks and regions, Canada's National Parks Branch took the opposite tack and concentrated this authority in its Ottawa-based design unit. Until 1926 this unit consisted of a single staff architect whose duties were three-fold: to prepare plans for new park-owned buildings; to develop integrated architectural and site plans for a succession of new campgrounds, bungalow camps, cottage subdivisions and townsites; and to review and revise plans submitted by private builders in the parks. One consequence of having a staff architect was that after 1921 the Branch stopped contracting out designs for its own facilities to private architects.

The architect in question was William David Cromarty, who had learned and practised his profession in England before emigrating to Canada around 1911. In 1914 Cromarty moved to Edmonton where he briefly entered a practice with Alfred M. Calderon, designer of the 1913-1914 Jasper administration building, before joining the faculty of the fledgling school of architecture at the University of Alberta. In 1916 Cromarty moved to Ottawa where he became associated with Thomas Adams, an eminent English town planner then working in Canada at the invitation of the Dominion Government. Initially attached to the Federal Commission of Conservation, Adams became a pivotal figure in the town planning movement in Canada, campaigning for new legislation, preparing studies, and advising individual communities on planning matters, in addition to founding the Town Planning Institute of Canada. Cromarty assisted Adams as a member of his town planning unit within the Commission of Conservation. He subsequently joined the National Parks Branch when Adams' town planning unit was absorbed into it in 1921.

When Adams departed at the end of his contract in 1923, Cromarty assumed charge of the Town Planning Division, which initially consisted of himself and one other staff member whose duties were confined to administering the Town Planning Institute and its journal. As the only trained architect on staff from 1921 to 1926, Cromarty was in a

31. Caretaker's office at Mount Rundle Campground, Banff National Park, ca. 1928. Stepped chimneys and eyebrow entrance hoods were common features on designs by the Branch's Architectural Division during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Demolished. (CPS. Photo Services.)
32. The bathhouse at Beausoleil Island in Georgian Bay Islands National Park utilized a standard plan prepared by staff architects in the early 1930s. The half-timbered dormer and stone entrance surround linked it to the rustic theme being developed throughout the system. Demolished. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

position to exert considerable influence over the architectural standards that the Branch adopted. Inevitably, these standards reflected his personal tastes and background, tempered by the broad objectives and financial resources of the Branch. In 1926 the Branch hired a second architect, K.D. Harris, to assist in the production of plans for Branch facilities and the review of private ones, but he appears to have worked within the design parameters established by Cromarty.61

While Cromarty's output in terms of new designs was comparatively small during his initial years with the Branch (he remained in charge of the architectural unit until 1937), he nevertheless introduced the major stylistic themes that were applied throughout the park system by the mid-1920s. His response to the competing needs for a distinctive rustic theme for public buildings and for enforceable design standards in the townsites was to introduce a set of architectural motifs that could be applied in varying degrees and in different ways as circumstances dictated. It must be added that Cromarty was operating within a hierarchical bureaucratic system with numerous checks and balances. Presiding over it was J.B. Harkin, the Commissioner of Parks, who maintained a remarkably close control over operational matters, judging by Branch records of the period. This involvement extended into the area of architectural design. Most correspondence relating to building matters went out over Harkin's signature, and frequently suggested a personal interest, if not direct involvement, in the design processes. In contrast, Cromarty's views were rarely recorded in written form, either through internal correspondence or direct instructions to builders.

The American approach of using historical building traditions associated with the regions in which the parks were located was not well-suited to the Canadian system. Before the mid-1930s all the major recreational parks were located in regions where no obvious building traditions existed, apart from the log construction methods already in use in the mountain parks. Cromarty's brief affiliation with Alfred M. Calderon while in Edmonton would have exposed him to the potential applications of log and boulderstone through that

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61 NA, RG 84, Vol. 2248, File Y 16.26, correspondence, K.D. Harris, Town planning and Architectural Division, to Mr. Spero. 1926. No biographical information has thus far been located on Harris. His appointment in 1926 is deduced from internal correspondence bearing his signature.
architect's pioneering designs for Jasper Park. Outside the parks, this vacuum in terms of past traditions was being filled in many parts of Canada by English architectural references, a trend that was facilitated both by a predisposition to emphasize links with the Crown, and by the presence of a large contingent of British-born and -trained architects such as Cromarty who were eager to apply the trappings of contemporary English revivalist design, and of the English Arts and Crafts aesthetic, in this country.

Although these tastes embraced a wide range of pre-industrial building elements, it was as Tudor Revival, with conspicuous applications of mock half-timbering, that the movement became known to most North Americans from the late 1880s onwards. Between 1900 and the mid-1920s the Tudor Revival theme was applied to a wide variety of institutional and governmental facilities across Canada, ranging from schools and hospitals to court houses, town halls and customs border-crossing buildings. As we have previously seen, the CPR briefly flirted with it for several of its resort hotels in the mountain parks between 1901 and 1910. By the time W.D. Cromarty began applying it to his designs for public buildings in the national parks, Tudor Revival had already become firmly ensconced as a style well-suited to Anglo-Canadian cultural values.

Cromarty's architectural interests were further shaped by his close associations with Percy Nobbs and Ramsay Traquair, members of the architectural faculty at McGill University, who were also members of the Town Planning Institute. With them Cromarty shared an enthusiasm for both English Arts and Crafts aesthetics and a conviction about the importance of preserving and reviving the historical building traditions found in parts of eastern and central Canada. Traquair's efforts to document the Quebec architecture of the French Regime served as a catalyst for the establishment of a national photographic inventory of Canadian buildings and structures under the auspices of the Town Planning Division in 1925. Cromarty's interest in historical themes proved useful when the Branch became involved in the establishment and

33. This 1923 gatehouse for Kootenay National Park was W.D. Cromarty's first major design as staff architect with the Dominion Parks Branch. It launched the rustic theme he subsequently developed at the Radium Hot Springs townsite in the park. Demolished. (CPS, WRO, Historical Photo File.)
34. The Radium Hot Springs townsite ca. 1929, showing gatehouse and neighbouring structures. Radium offered the first opportunity for staff architects to regulate building design from the outset of development. The site was eradicated with highway redevelopment in the 1960s. (CPS. Photo Services.)


It has been impossible to determine whether the National Parks Branch's adoption of English Arts and Crafts architectural motifs was solely due to the personal preferences of their staff architect, or to an unrecorded policy decision on the part of the Branch's executive. It is clear, however, that the theme fit well with initiatives to promote tourism, particularly from the United States where Tudor Revival was not widely applied to non-domestic architecture and was emphatically absent in the national parks. Branch records of the period indicate that, although concerns were periodically raised regarding architectural compatibility with the settings, the nurturing of distinctive images that would serve the cause of tourism remained the underlying basis on which building expenditures were justified.

Between 1922 and 1936 Cromarty and his assistants applied English Arts and Crafts stylistic elements to scores of

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66 Harrison, Architecture in the Parks, p. 80.
designs for both public and private buildings in the national parks. The degree of application varied, from subtle hints such as a flared eyebrow entrance hood, half-timbered gable or stepped stone chimney on a campground office or bathhouse, to major architectural landmarks—most often museums, park administration buildings and staff residences—on which Tudor Revival elements were combined with native building materials to create conspicuous park landmarks (Figures 31-39). The term “Tudor Rustic” used in this report refers to this stylistic treatment.

Cromarty relied heavily on the use of local materials, either as structural components or as decorative features, to develop distinctive sub-themes within the various parks. Log and stone were widely employed in Banff, Yoho and the later Prince Albert and Riding Mountain parks, while stucco, half-timbering and fieldstone trim were emphasized at Jasper and Waterton Lakes. Major public buildings were purposefully designed to function both as landmarks and as visual cornerstones for the architectural themes being developed within the respective parks. Thus the designs for the RCMP barracks at Waterton Lakes and Jasper launched the stucco-and-boulderstone themes that would dominate subsequent public and private design there throughout the 1930s (Figure 35); Cromarty’s Tudor Revival design for the new Upper Hot Springs bathhouse performed a similar function at Banff (Figure 36), as did the striking log and half-timbered community and museum buildings at Riding Mountain (Figures 37, 38) and Prince Albert parks.

This fusion of native materials and Tudor Revival design elements was primarily applied to conspicuous public facilities in the townsites, but it was also used at prominent locations such as park entrances. For backcountry locations, the Branch consistently prescribed designs that used native
The combined natural museum and community building at Wasagaming townsite, Riding Mountain National Park, features peeled log wall construction in combination with design elements borrowed from English domestic architecture. The Branch’s architectural division applied this formula to a wide variety of new buildings in the park between 1930 and 1936. Extant. (CPS, 67)

During his stay with the Branch, Adams presided over the preparation of a succession of new site plans. The most ambitious of these, namely Jasper, the mining town of Canmore, and a proposed townsite at Miette Hot Springs, were never implemented. Others, including one for the initial townsite at Radium Hot Springs, a revised business district at Waterton Lakes, and preliminary campgrounds along the Banff-Windermere road, were completed. Subsequent site plans by Cromarty adhered to Adams’ planning principles.

Hand in hand with this design policy went the tasks of townsite and campground planning, landscape design, and reviewing plans for privately owned buildings in the parks. In this respect the legacy of Thomas Adams was evident in Cromarty’s consistent prescription of curving road plans that accommodated natural landscape features as much as possible. Town planning assignments which ranged from small commercial bungalow courts and campsites to bungalow subdivisions and entire new townsites offered the greatest opportunities for the Town Planning Division staff to develop systematic approaches to architectural themes and landscapes. This relationship was most fully articulated in the initial Radium Hot Springs townsite that Cromarty and Adams designed in 1923 (Figure 34), and in the townsites of Waskesiu and Wasagaming (Figures 40, 41), created under Cromarty’s direction in Prince Albert and Riding Mountain parks in 1929 and 1930.

By the mid-1920s all plans for private buildings within the parks had to be submitted for review by the Town Planning Division (later known as the Architectural Division). This requirement encompassed a wide variety of buildings, from private cottages and shops to resort facilities proposed by the railways. The park commissioner’s annual reports during the 1920s typically advised that “in the majority of cases drawings showing revisions of elevations were prepared with a view to improving the external appearance without adding to the cost of the building.” In some cases “entirely new designs for various types of buildings were prepared ... principally residences and stores, but ... also hotels, theatres, banks, churches, lodgerooms, tearooms, service stations, and public garages.” In most instances these designs or revisions incorporated visual elements from the theme that the Branch was prescribing for the townsites, tailored to the clients’ budgets (Figures 42-44).
Applications for commercial operations in backcountry locations were closely scrutinized and frequently rejected. In the rare instances that such proposals were approved, the Branch insisted on the use of designs that were considered sympathetic to the natural surroundings. This usually meant the use of peeled-log construction. In most instances the final plans were drawn by the staff architects based on preliminary designs submitted by the applicants (Figure 45).

The Architectural Division's success at regulating design varied from townsite to townsite. In the case of Radium, Wasagaming and Waskesiu, it was comprehensive owing to the Division's involvement from the preliminary planning stages. It was similarly extensive at Waterton Lakes, due in part to its comparatively small scale, but also to Cromarty's direct involvement in the park. Between 1925 and 1929 the architect managed to divide his time between design duties in Ottawa and summers as acting park superintendent at Waterton. In the latter capacity he developed a plan for a coherent architectural theme within the townsite that was to be anchored by a series of substantial buildings, including the RCMP barracks, a public school and the park administration building.69

Operational files dating from Cromarty's term as acting superintendent at Waterton offer an interesting glimpse into the building processes of the period, and into his roles in them. Private lease lot holders would submit their plans to Cromarty in his capacity as park superintendent. Under the regulations then in place, Cromarty would forward these plans to Ottawa for review and approval. Before doing this he gave advice to applicants, occasionally in the form of sketch plans drawn for them on park stationery. These were forwarded to Ottawa where they were transformed into line drawings by K.D. Harris, the assistant staff architect.70

The Architectural Division's achievements were more qualified in the Banff and Jasper townsites where the Branch's objectives frequently came into conflict with those of private developers. At Banff the Division had to contend with the presence of an established building stock, much of which was regarded as inappropriate to the park environment. Over the years relations between the Park administration and local

Park entrance buildings were the most familiar structures to most park visitors, and were carefully designed to be distinctive landmarks. This example, built at Point Pelee National Park in 1936-1937, displays the characteristic Tudor Rustic features of the period. Demolished. (CPS, Photo Services, W.J. Oliver Collection, 1944.)

Banff merchants had frequently become strained over various jurisdictional issues, one of which was building regulations. Banff merchants became increasingly adept at using political influence to counter Park attempts at regulation. Banff lay within the federal riding of R.B. Bennett, Leader of the Opposition from 1927 to 1930 and Prime Minister from 1930 to 1935; Bennett was not reluctant to champion the interests of the Banff merchant community. Despite these complications, the Architectural Division managed to persuade a number of merchants and private institutions along Banff Avenue to follow its design guidelines. The Division also produced plans for several key public buildings within the townsite, including a school and a government garage, in order to reinforce the Tudor Rustic theme (Figure 46). Circumstances were markedly different at Jasper where Colonel Maynard Rogers, the first park superintendent, had attempted to institute an architectural theme at the inception of the townsite back in 1912, then nurtured it over the next decade and a half. Rogers' vision was linked to encouraging the use of local boulderstone and native logs. To this end he was aided, and perhaps inspired, by the skills of Edmonton architect Alfred Calderon, designer of the 1913-1914 park

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71 See NA, RG 84, Vol. 675, File B 16-112-1, correspondence. R.B. Bennett, Leader of the Opposition, to J.B. Harkin, 20 March 1930. For evidence of R.B. Bennett's involvement in relations between the Banff merchants and the National Parks Branch. For further discussion of this topic see Leslie Bella, Parks for Profit (Montreal: Harvest House Ltd., 1987).
PART 1: THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN

40. Proposed expansion plan for the Wasagaming townsite, Riding Mountain National Park, prepared by the Architectural Division, National Parks Branch, in 1935. (PWC. A&E, Plan RM8.)

41. Suggested layout for a proposed automobile bungalow camp at Wasagaming, prepared by the Architectural Division in 1931. (PWC. A&E, Plan RM1.)

administration building. Calderon elaborated on the boulderstone theme in several private commissions within the townsite, including the conspicuously sited Imperial Bank (Figure 47) and the Anglican Church. 72

In 1925 the CNR took this local architectural theme a step further by incorporating boulderstone into the design for its new Jasper station (Figure 48). The fusion of massive stepped chimneys, boulderstone plinths and stuccoed upper walls on this structure suggests the influence of Parks Branch designers. Cromarty had previously introduced the stepped chimney in his 1923 design for the gatehouse in Kootenay National Park (Figure 33). This building established a precedent for later public facilities in Jasper, notably the 1926 RCMP barracks and the 1936 superintendent's residence (Figure 49).

42. A new commercial block in Jasper, ca. 1930. Branch architects encouraged private builders to dress up their shop exteriors with decorative devices like the half-timbering and false roof slope on this example. Demolished. (CPS, Photo Services.)

43. Tinney’s Butcher Shop and the Stanley Hotel in the Waterton Lakes townsite, both built in the late 1920s to designs supplied by the Dominion Parks Branch’s Architectural Division. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services.)

Building Boom in the Great Depression: Spread and Diffusion of the Rustic Theme

As in the American parks, rustic design reached its zenith in Canada’s national parks during the Depression era of the 1930s, when emergency relief programs permitted construction on an unprecedented scale. In Canada this phase began in 1930, a few years before the American CCC program was initiated, and ended in 1937, several years sooner than its American counterpart. The authority exercised by the Parks Branch headquarters peaked during this period, and was reflected in the pervasive influence exerted over all facets of building design by the Branch’s staff architects. The design formulas devised during the preceding decade were now applied to a wide array of new public and private park facilities.
spread throughout a substantially expanded park system that extended east to central Canada and the Maritimes.

Two types of emergency relief aid were made available through federal legislation during this period. The first and longest running of these programs took the form of funding to set up labour camps where unemployed males were engaged in make-work projects. This initiative utilized the parks as convenient places to draw off unemployed males from major urban centres, where their presence in large numbers was regarded as a potential source of social unrest.\(^73\) It also offered work to unemployed persons living in the parks or in nearby communities.

Initiatives in this area began with passage of the 1930 *Unemployment Relief Act* which supplied funds for the establishment of work camps in Banff, Jasper, Waterton Lakes, Prince Albert and Riding Mountain parks.\(^74\) The work camp system was expanded in subsequent years, peaking in 1934-1935 when well over 6000 men were engaged in various projects in the parks.\(^75\)

The two new parks in Manitoba and Saskatchewan experienced the highest volume of construction activity during the Depression relief period. Riding Mountain Park sustained the largest relief camp operation in the park system, employing over 1200 men on various projects in 1934-1935, while Prince Albert consistently ranked second or third in this area. In fact, building construction accounted for a comparatively small proportion of the work activity in the parks, partly because it required skilled labour, and partly because much of the labour was directed towards site clearance, excavation work, and road and highway construction. At Riding Mountain, and to a somewhat lesser extent at Prince Albert, the need to establish an infrastructure of roads, recreational areas and park facilities was facilitated by the presence of an abundant supply

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\(^{73}\) The Federal Government initiated a broad relief camp program in the fall of 1932, based on the recommendation of Major-General A.G.L. McNaughton, Chief of the General Staff of the Canadian Army, who believed that the presence of large numbers of unemployed men was a potential source of revolution in the Canadian cities. Information on the background and establishment of the program is contained in G.N. Lefresne, *The Royal Twenty-Centers: The Department of National Defense and Federal Unemployment Relief, 1932-36.* BA Thesis. Royal Military College. Kingston. 1962.

\(^{74}\) Department of the Interior. *Annual Report for the Year 1931.* Part IV. p. 95.

45. The Mount Edith Cavell Tea Room in Jasper National Park, built in 1928 to a design provided by the Architectural Division. For backcountry locations such as this, the Branch placed an emphasis on harmonizing with the surroundings, usually through the use of peeled log construction. Demolished. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 1488, File J.16-63, vol. 1.)

76 Department of the Interior. Annual Report for the Year 1932, Part III, p. 70; Annual Report, 1933, Part III, p. 68; Annual Report, 1934, Part III, p. 84; also NA, RG 84, Vol. 23, File RM 109. Riding Mountain National Park consistently received the largest financial allocations for unemployment relief during the period, followed by Prince Albert or Banff national parks.


79 Ibid.


...of suitable building logs and of a local contingent of craftsmen skilled in log construction methods (Figures 50-53). At Riding Mountain, many of these craftsmen were Swedish immigrants and their descendants who had settled in the vicinity of the park, particularly in and around the community of Erickson, Manitoba. Their expertise in log and stone construction created a unique opportunity which the Depression relief program enabled park administrators to exploit. These factors encouraged greater construction activity than was taking place in other parks. In Riding Mountain Park alone, 86 buildings of various descriptions were built between 1930 and 1936.76

The second source of Depression relief aid took the form of direct funding supplied through the 1934 Public Works Construction Act. Through it, $2.15 million was made available for "public works and undertakings in the National Parks of Canada, and for works associated with the restoration and improvements of historic sites."77 A large proportion of these funds was in turn allocated for construction of specific types of buildings in the parks, namely administration and community buildings, museums, bathhouses, gateway registration buildings, garages, wardens cabins and staff quarters.78 As a result, building activities peaked in 1934-1935, and were sustained for another year and a half by additional funding made available through supplementary emergency legislation.79

Since all major construction in the parks was subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Parks and his headquarters staff, it was a frenzied period for W.D. Cromarty and his small Architectural Division, one during which scores of designs were produced for both public and private buildings. The sheer volume of construction during this seven-year period offered unique opportunities for applying and expanding upon the architectural themes which Cromarty had formulated during the 1920s.

The bulk of new public construction in the parks stemmed from the establishment of new camping grounds and recreational areas that catered to automobile tourists.80
Besides furnishing building plans, the Architectural Division prepared plans for the sites themselves, specifying the location of access roads and paths, and the placement of the various facilities. Camping grounds and recreational areas were, in essence, scaled-down town planning exercises, in which the staff architects controlled both landscape and architectural themes. Design criteria for buildings in these locations placed a more consistent emphasis on a rustic image than was exercised in the park townsites. Wherever possible this meant the use of native log and stone, although frame construction and milled-log siding were routinely substituted in places where logs were unavailable. Half-timber gable detailing was frequently, but not invariably, applied to conspicuous facilities such as attendants’ cottages, bathhouses and registration kiosks, and to the occasional lavatory as well (Figure 54).

The Public Works Construction Act was particularly useful from an architectural standpoint because it enabled the Parks Branch to embark on a number of major projects that would have been inconceivable under normal circumstances. One of these was the construction of a new administration building at Banff, initially proposed during the 1920s but repeatedly shelved in favour of other priorities. By 1934 circumstances had changed markedly. R.B. Bennett, whose constituency included Banff, was then Prime Minister and supported the construction of a new federal edifice there. By combining the administrative requirements of the Parks Branch with those of a post office and other federal agencies, the Branch could now justify a far larger building than had previously been proposed.  

A commanding 12-acre site at the southern end of Banff Avenue was acquired, and the Branch took the unusual step of commissioning a design for both the building and its grounds from Harold C. Beckett, a private architect based in Windsor, Ontario. Working within design parameters set by Cromarty, Beckett produced plans for an imposing three-storey building in the Tudor Gothic style, clad with local Rundle limestone and replete with a massive central tower, crenellation and mock-buttressing. Rusticism was expressed here through the roughly textured stonework of the wall.

46. The central garage at Banff, built in 1935, reinforced the Tudor Rustic theme within the townsites through the combination of Rundle limestone walls and half-timbered gables. Extant. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

RUSTIC BUILDING PROGRAMS

47. The Imperial Bank Building, Jasper, designed by A.M. Calderon and built in 1928, complements the 1913-1914 Administration Building across the street by the same architect. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services, ca. 1930.)

surfaces and through cedar shingling on the steeply pitched roofs, and amplified through the contrived organic quality of the various kiosks, pergolas and other garden features that dominated the surrounding Cascades of Time gardens (Figures 55, 56).83

For this, the most imposing and highly visible building in the system, the Parks Branch had chosen a design in which rustication was expressed in highly refined revivalist terms that were explicitly British, rather than North American, in reference. The visual effect, while dissimilar from other park facilities, nevertheless embodied the curious fusion that was taking place in parks building design—one in which forms that were urban, quasi-historical, and institutional in allusion were being combined with native materials and hand-hewn craftsmanship to create an architectural landmark that would be associated with both Banff and the national park system as a whole.

The use of revivalist architectural references for major buildings in the western parks underscored Cromarty’s affinity with historicism. Where a distinctive architectural tradition was non-existent, it was expedient to create one, but when parks started to be established in the Maritimes and Quebec during the 1930s, alternative possibilities arose. Overtly influenced by the “living museum” model of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, begun under the auspices of John D. Rockefeller in 1926, the Canadian National Parks Branch used funding made available through the Public Works Construction Act of 1934 to develop new facilities in a series of national historic parks—Fort Chambly in Quebec, Fort Beauséjour in New Brunswick, and the Fortress of Louisbourg and Fort Anne in Nova Scotia.84 Behind these projects lay a long-standing commitment to develop national parks in eastern Canada where unalienated land suitable for wilderness parks was unavailable.

New museums were built at these sites between 1934 and 1936, using designs formulated by Cromarty and his
PART 1: THE ROOTS OF RUSTIC DESIGN

48. The 1925 CNR station at Jasper, designed by the railway’s architects to complement the 1913-1914 Administration Building across the street. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

associates that simulated the historical architecture embodied or implied by the sites themselves. At forts Louisbourg and Beauséjour the free-standing stone buildings created the illusion, at first glance, that they themselves were components of the historical sites that they interpreted (Figure 57). This approach was taken a step further at Fort Chambly where the new museum facility was built as an addition to an existing historical structure within the fortress walls. At Fort Anne in Nova Scotia, Cromarty and his associates indulged in some adaptive rehabilitation by converting an existing 18th-century building within the site to serve as a museum facility.  

New recreational parks were also established in the Maritimes during the late 1930s. For the new park facilities in them, the Parks Branch decided to devise themes loosely based on building traditions associated with founding European settlers, in preference to simply replicating the rustic themes used in the western parks. The ensuing effort to establish a rustic Scottish theme at Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Nova Scotia reveals much about the prevailing attitude towards design in the system as a whole.

Following the park’s establishment in 1936, Branch architects were instructed to design a number of structures in the guise of Scottish crofters’ huts, although there was no evidence to suggest such buildings had ever existed in the region. To locate suitable models on which to base this theme, the Branch sought out designs from a recreated crofters’ village on display in Glasgow, Scotland. By way of explanation, the Controller of National Parks wrote:

As you are aware, the main population of Cape Breton is of Scottish descent, nearly all the original settlers having been drawn from the Highlands of Scotland—of the crofter class. We wish to retain this Scottish association for the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and it is thought that if we put into our buildings this Scottish atmosphere it will have great publicity value and be very much in keeping with the traditions of this piece of country. 

In the end just two buildings, a conspicuously sited information bureau and a public shelter, were built along these lines. 85 NA. RG 84. Vol. 215. File PWU 325-6-1. vol. 1. correspondence regarding the design and the construction of the museums at Louisbourg, Beauséjour and Chambly national historic sites, 1934-1935. Also see Shannon Ricketts, "Museum and Caretaker's House, Fortress of Louisbourg National Park, Nova Scotia." FHBRO Building Report 90-304, and Margaret Coleman, "Museum at Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park, Sackville, New Brunswick." FHBRO Building Report 90-89. The Fort Anne redevelopment is documented in Margaret Coleman, "Officers' Quarters. Fort Anne National Historic Park, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia," FHBRO Building Report 88-56.


49. The 1936 superintendent's residence at Jasper continued the design theme introduced by the CNR station and RCMP barracks in the previous decade. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services.)

lines. Both featured the low massing, thatched roofs and stone construction characteristic of traditional crofters' housing in the Scottish Highlands—albeit with simulated thatching (Figure 58). Both were built in 1938, just after the last of the various Depression relief funding programs had ended, and after the Parks Branch had undergone extensive restructuring. Among the many consequences of these changed circumstances was a stringent curb on spending for new facilities in the parks. Although the two stone structures at Cape Breton Highlands were completed, plans for additional ones were cancelled, and conventional frame structures were built in their place, using standard plans similar to those used in the western parks. 88

In 1939 the revamped National Parks administration issued a standardized colour scheme for all park buildings in an effort to retain a degree of visual consistency throughout the system. Excluded from this regimentation were the historic park museums and the new buildings at Cape Breton Highlands where, the Controller of Parks noted, "we are attempting to create some definite atmosphere...." 89 The prescribed scheme varied according to wall materials. Wooden walled structures were to be painted nut brown or coated with a mixture of burnt umber and linseed oil, with green trim and white sashes. Brown trim and white sashes were prescribed for stuccoed buildings, while those built of stone were to have brown or cream trim (depending on stone colour) and white sashes. Roofs on all buildings were to be green in colour, except at sites located among coniferous trees, where brown could be substituted. 90

88 Ibid., File CBH 58, memorandum re. supplementary estimates for Cape Breton Highlands National Park, 6 July 1938.
89 Ibid., File B 58, memorandum, 13 Oct. 1939.

Rustic Design in Decline

The end of the centralized architectural program in the national parks, and of the rustic themes which it had come to embody, was brought about by a sequence of events, beginning with the defeat of R.B. Bennett's Conservative government in
1935. The relief camp program was cancelled in mid-1936, although supplementary funds were made available to complete building projects already under way. Of greater impact to the National Parks system was the dismantling of the Department of the Interior in the same year. The National Parks Branch was reduced to divisional status and incorporated within a newly formed Lands, Parks and Forest Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources. Among the consequences of this shakeup was the abrupt departure of J.B. Harkin, the Commissioner of Parks since 1911, who declined to head the system in this diminished status.

Another consequence of this decline in stature was the dispersal of many activities previously administered within the Parks Branch, including building design. Henceforth, all building matters in the parks came under the direction of an agency known as the Surveys and Engineering Branch which served the needs of the whole department. The dismantling of the former Architectural Division brought an end to the period of centralized control over building design in the parks. Although aspects of the design themes developed by this unit continued to be pursued, as in the case of the Cape Breton Highlands facilities, budget restraints brought major public construction to a halt and eventually led to relaxed regulation over private building design in the parks. At the time of the 1937 shakeup, W.D. Cromarty ended his formal architectural role and became head of the historic sites unit. Despite this change in duties he continued to be informally consulted on architectural matters throughout the 1940s.

During its period of existence the Parks Branch's Architectural Division established a broad reputation for its expertise in recreational building design. By the mid-1930s the Branch was inundated with requests for copies of stock plans and technical advice on log building methods. These enquiries came from private individuals across the country and in the United States seeking design and construction advice and

50. Relief camp construction crews at work on a staff residence at Waskesiu, Prince Albert National Park, November 1934. (CPS, WRO, Webster Collection.)
cottage plans; they came as well from other government agencies ranging from federal departments seeking advice on appropriate exterior designs to provincial parks branches seeking plans on which to base their own park facilities.  

Serving as a postscript is a 1938 letter on file from Thomas Adams, then president of the Institute of Landscape Architects in England, requesting designs and photos of "small wooden cabins that could be erected in the country with Canadian timber." Ironically, the Branch's withdrawal from involvement in rustic design occurred just as word of its expertise in this area was beginning to spread; the response to Adams' request was that he consult a number of American publications on the subject. This trend was reinforced with the publication in 1938 of a revised and expanded edition of the American National Park Service's manual on rustic design, Park and Recreation Structures. Henceforth officials in Canada's National Parks Branch routinely referred both internal and external requests for design advice to this source.

When building construction eventually resumed in the mid-to-late 1940s, it was in a climate where labour shortages, cost restraints and pressures for more public facilities pushed aesthetic concerns into the background. The tenets of rustic design were steadily eroded, although vestigial elements were retained, usually in the form of milled log siding and half-timbered gable treatments.

On one occasion, the establishment of the new Fundy National Park in New Brunswick in 1948, the prevailing building constraints were eased through political pressure. Since the Province of New Brunswick had spent large sums acquiring the property for the park, it was considered expedient that the major initial facilities, specifically the Administration Building and superintendent's residence, be "constructed substantially and in keeping with the best tradition of the district." Herbert Stanley Brenan, a veteran architect from Saint John, New Brunswick, was commissioned to supply the designs for the new buildings at Fundy National Park.

51. The natural history museum at Waskesiu, a Depression relief project under construction in 1934. Extant. (CPS, WRO, Webster Collection.)

95 NA. RG 84, Vol. 2004, Files U 18, Pt. 2, and U 18-3. Federal agencies requesting plans included the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Immigration and Colonization (requiring plans for a log cabin to be built at the Chicago World's Fair), the Department of Transport, and the Forest Branch, Department of the Interior. Provincial requests came from Saskatchewan, Ontario (for Algonquin Park) and Nova Scotia.


97 NA. RG 84, Vol. 690, correspondence, F.H.H. Williamson to Major F.J. Ney, Executive Secretary, National Council of Education in Canada, 24 April 1939.

52. Relief camp workers occasionally turned their skills to smaller projects such as this rustic park bench at Prince Albert National Park. (Prince Albert National Park, n.d.)
53. The combination of Depression relief funding, skilled log craftsmen and abundant logs inspired staff architects to design this six-storey log observation tower for Riding Mountain National Park in the mid-1930s. Funds dried up before it could be built. (PWC, A&E, Plan RM23.)
Part I: The Roots of Rustic Design

54. Plans for toilet buildings at the auto campgrounds in Waterton Lakes townsite, dated 1931. Several examples remain at this location. (PWC, A&E, Plan WL21.)

Parks Branch administrators sent him a copy of the American National Park Service's manual to acquaint him with what they had in mind. A curious aspect of the Fundy park building program was the Branch's decision to invoke a rustic theme reminiscent of the building tradition in the western parks rather than to develop one based on historical models with regional associations, as it had done at Cape Breton and as had been suggested in the initial justification of the project.

Built in 1948-1949, the Administration Building at Fundy National Park incorporated the key visual features of the mature rustic style that had prevailed in both the Canadian and the American national parks systems 15 to 20 years earlier. While the building was domestic in form, its walls and chimneys were clad with irregular fieldstone and its steeply pitched gabled roofs with textured cedar shingles. The desire to establish a link to the rustic theme of earlier Canadian park architecture was underscored by the application of mock half-timbering on the building's gable ends and dormers (Figure 59). In form and appearance the building was evocative of earlier examples in the western parks, such as the RCMP barracks and superintendents' residences at Jasper, Yoho and Waterton Lakes, and the 1913-1914 Administration Building at Jasper.

A succession of other buildings followed at Fundy Park: a superintendent's residence, bathhouse and golf clubhouse. All were built between 1948 and 1950 and incorporated the fieldstone theme established with the Administration Building.

The rustic building tradition in Canada's national parks drew to a close with the completion of the building complex at Fundy National Park. By that time most of the aesthetic precepts on which the rustic program had been based were obscured by other concerns within the parks system. The idea

55. The scale of the 1935-36 Administration Building at Banff was justified in part by the inclusion of accommodation for a post office and other federal government services. Designed by Harold C. Beckett, it introduced a more formal, institutional approach to design for park buildings, but continued the Rundle limestone theme associated with the Banff townsite. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services.)

56. Rock work, pavilion and garden features in the Cascades of Time gardens designed by architect Harold C. Beckett, on the grounds of the Banff Administration Building. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services, W.J. Oliver Collection.)
57. The 1935-1936 museum and attendant's house at Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site were designed to evoke the appearance of historical buildings associated with the site. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services, ca. 1936.)

58. The park entrance lodge at Cape Breton Highlands National Park, built in 1938 in the form of a Highland crofter's cottage. The Parks Branch intended to apply this variation on the rustic theme to other buildings in the park. Extant. (CPS, Photo Services, ca. 1955.)
of developing a distinctive style that harmonized with the landscape and conveyed a recognizable image had become subverted by pragmatic concerns that could be met by casual reference to published design manuals obtained from the United States. The Parks Branch's chief engineer even noted that, in the case of the bathhouse, architect Brenan had gone too far in his reference to the American parks building manual by making a direct copy from it.100

By the 1950s, the Tudor Rustic theme was not only out of favour, but had become a target for derision in Canadian architectural circles. A proposed addition to the Tudor Revival post office in Jasper was described as being in the "silly chalet style" in a 1956 issue of The Canadian Architect.101 An article published the following year in the Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada articulated the changed perception towards appropriate design in the parks, and at the same time pronounced an epitaph for the rustic aesthetic of a by-gone era. While acknowledging that the early log and stone buildings in the parks represented "a proud record of this period in park history," it also categorized them as being "primitive in design and in many cases not too functional." More disparaging, though, was its assertion that the rustic design program had ultimately had a negative effect through its insistence that this particular style alone was suited for use in the parks. "This attitude," the article asserted, "has resulted in buildings attempting to imitate log structure while using modern methods of construction." The article also challenged the long-standing view that parks buildings were secondary in status to the environments in which they were placed. "It has to be recognized," the writer argued, "that the use of buildings in the parks is not merely to ornament the landscape. There exists a case for buildings as architecture."102 To this end, the article proposed the use of contemporary architectural forms in the parks.

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100 Ibid., T.S. Mills to John Smart, October 1948.
102 "The National Parks Service," Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Vol. 34. No. 10 (December 1957), p. 479. My thanks to Janet Wright, Architectural History Branch, CPS, for drawing this and the previous source to my attention.
CONCLUSION

The various building programs initiated before 1950 had an enduring impact on the character of many national parks. Some buildings dating from those decades constitute unique and irreplaceable cultural resources, both for the parks in which they are located, and as reflections of broader values and attitudes associated with the national park system. It is clear, too, that efforts to develop and enforce architectural policies within the national parks were plagued then, as now, by conflicting objectives that were inherent in the system from its outset.

Whereas American park administrators could pursue a consistent policy based on the inviolable priority of preserving the natural landscape, Canadian park officials were continually torn between this objective and the pressures for private development. The spectre of uncontrolled private development, particularly in the Banff townsite, became the impetus for action on the issue of design regulation in the national parks. The creation of a tightly centralized design unit based in Ottawa grew out of the Park Commissioner's efforts to wrestle control over townsite development from local interest groups. In turn, the formulation and regulation of design for public and private buildings came to rest with a small core of park administrators. This approach inevitably led to conflicts as the administration's vision for park development collided with those of local interest groups and private leaseholders. Increasingly, park superintendents bore the brunt of criticism in the course of enforcing these policies.

This friction was a factor in the decision to dismantle the National Parks Branch and to dissolve its internal architectural unit in 1937. While this move was largely motivated by the desire to diffuse tensions in the townsites, it had the additional effect of eliminating professional involvement in the design of public facilities. A long-term consequence of this policy shift was the tendency to treat architectural issues on an ad hoc basis, rather than within the context of broader aesthetic objectives, as was more the case in the American parks. This trend was compounded by the general decline in enthusiasm for the rustic aesthetic, particularly as it was applied during the 1930s. The fact that no other vocabulary emerged to replace it created an architectural vacuum within the parks system during the decades that followed.

Although building practices in the national parks were rarely guided by clear design policies before 1950, they were strongly influenced by a consistent aesthetic model. From the inception of the park system at the Banff Hot Springs in 1887, up to the development of Fundy National Park in 1949, the rustic aesthetic remained the guiding design principle for facilities in most of the parks. The ways and means by which park officials and private developers interpreted this aesthetic shaped the character of the cultural landscape within the parks. At the same time, the unique building opportunities
within the parks encouraged the application of the rustic architectural vocabulary to a variety of building forms not found outside the park boundaries. The individual buildings and building complexes described in Part Two are the legacies of these policies and practices.
PART 2: THE RESOURCE: A SURVEY OF PRE-1950 RUSTIC BUILDINGS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

The pre-1950 building stock in the national parks numbers in the hundreds. The largest proportion consists of houses and commercial buildings in park townsites, followed by service structures and shelters in camping and picnicking areas. Well-known buildings such as administration buildings, museums, entrance kiosks, lodges and bungalow camps comprise a relatively small percentage of the total. This study entailed the documentation and examination of over 250 park buildings and building complexes. From this number, 158 examples were selected for inclusion in a survey of park architecture. This survey is intended to illustrate the rich diversity, in terms of both rustic design and historical themes, embodied in the national parks' pre-1950 building stock.

The buildings are assembled in five broad groups based on the purposes for which they were originally built. These groups are:

I. accommodation;
II. recreation and entertainment;
III. transportation;
IV. park administration, operations and institutions; and
V. shops and commercial services in the townsites.

Within each major group are subgroups that reflect the buildings' original functions more precisely. For example, the accommodation group is divided into four subcategories: basic shelter; commercial accommodation; houses; and dormitories, bunkhouses and hostels. A brief contextual summary introduces the individual entries within each subgroup. The entries are assigned a three-part number based on the group, sub-group and building to aid in retrieval and cross-referencing. The appendix records the distribution of the individual entries within the national parks system.

Some functions clearly lent themselves to greater architectural expression than others. The most vigorous expressions of rustic design tended to appear on buildings directly associated with tourism, park administration and recreation. Conversely, buildings such as private houses and commercial buildings rarely displayed design characteristics that could be uniquely associated with the parks.
I.a. Basic Shelter

1. Legendary guide, trapper, prospector, and park warden Bill Peyto standing by his cabin near Simpson Summit, Banff National Park, in 1913. (Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Photo V497.)

2. Standard plan and elevation for shelter cabins in outlying districts, drawn by James T. Childe, resident engineer at Banff, 1918. (Canada. National Archives [NA], RG 84, Vol. 2124, File U189, vol. 1; redrawn by Wayne Duford, CPS, AHB.)
GROUP I: ACCOMMODATION

I.a. Basic Shelter (Backcountry Cabins)

These small cabins were built by various private organizations or by the national parks as temporary shelters. The majority are located in backcountry locations in the western parks, and are constructed from logs obtained in the immediate vicinity. Many share a simple rectangular plan with few interior partitions and a single entrance located on the gable end.

Buildings in this group embody rustic design in its purest sense: as a direct response to shelter requirements, utilizing local materials and local building practices. The largest number of backcountry cabins were built as wardens' patrol cabins, and embody a distinctive building tradition that dates back to the inception of the park warden service.

Early park wardens were expected to build their own cabins and stables at specified points along their patrol circuits. In so doing they continued the vernacular log building traditions that had been introduced into the park regions by early trappers, prospectors and settlers (Figure 1). After 1914, the park engineer based at Banff began furnishing a series of standardized plans for wardens cabins, leading to the formulation of a set design in 1918 (Figure 2). This plan served as the basic reference for patrol cabins in some parks for the next 30 years or more, although wardens were given considerable leeway in its application. The building traditions of the warden service are well-embodied in the Deer Lodge cabin, the oldest remaining example in the national parks. The cabin built for the naturalist Grey Owl springs from similar building traditions.

Private variations on the basic shelter cabin were built in some of the western parks by various groups and organizations, subject to park approval. The CPR was among the first, erecting several small cabins in Banff and Yoho parks to serve as temporary shelters for hiking, mountaineering and horseback tours that it sponsored. Four cabins included here were products of these early initiatives by the CPR: Wiwaxy Lodge, the Elizabeth Parker Hut, the Abbott Pass Refuge Cabin, and the Shadow Lake Rest House. A fifth, the Shangri-La Ski Cabin, was the product of a similar initiative by a small group of enthusiasts in Jasper National Park. The first three of these cabins became the nucleus of a network of shelter cabins maintained and administered by the Alpine Club of Canada.
I.a.1. Deer Lodge Warden Cabin*

Yoho National Park
Construction Date: 1904; Addition 1924
Original Owner: National Parks

This appears to be the oldest standing warden’s cabin in the national parks system. It was built by Reuben Gable, one of the initial group of part-time game guardians hired in 1904 in an effort to curb infractions against game laws within the parks. This marked the first step towards the inauguration of a game and fire warden system in the parks, which began in a formal sense with the appointment of three full-time wardens in 1909.

The Deer Lodge cabin was originally built for use as temporary accommodation by wardens on patrol. Built long before the formulation of standardized plans, it reflects prevailing vernacular log building practice within the region. In this case, the builder elected to use dovetail-corner notching, a departure from the saddle-notch method commonly found on later cabins of this type.

With expansion of the warden system after the First World War, many early patrol cabins, including this example, were converted to year-round occupancy. In 1924 resident warden John Tocher expanded the one-room structure by subdividing the interior and adding an extension to the rectangular building. Tocher’s addition can be distinguished from the original section by the saddle-notched corner treatment.

The cabin is situated close to the Hoodoo Creek Campground and the Beaver Nature Trail, off the Trans Canada Highway. The building was restored by Yoho National Park in 1961, and an interpretive sign has been installed nearby.

Source:
* FHBRO recognized building
1. Deer Lodge Warden Cabin, Yoho National Park. (Ian Sumpter, Canadian Parks Service, Western Regional Office [WRO], 1983.)

I.a.2. Bill Peyto Cabin

Bookrest Mine Claim Site, Healy Pass Trail
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: ca. 1910
Original Owner: Bill Peyto

This long-abandoned cabin is situated at the site of a mining claim worked by Bill Peyto, a legendary figure who worked variously as a trapper, guide, prospector and park warden in the Banff area. It appears to be the same cabin shown in Figure 1 accompanying the Basic Shelter introduction. The cabin measures 10 metres by 4.5 metres, and was constructed from locally cut spruce logs chinked with mortar. Peyto combined saddle-notched and vertical-post construction on the cabin, and added a novel raised section at one end to afford a better view over his mine site, the remnants of which are still visible.

Remarkably well-preserved when inspected in 1985, the cabin illustrates the improvisational nature of early vernacular log construction in the region. Peyto was among the group of experienced local woodsmen recruited into the initial park warden service. These men applied their building skills to the first shelter cabins in the park (see I.a.1.).


Sources:
Ian Sumpter, personal communication, 8 September 1992.
I.a.3. **Wiwaxy Lodge**

Lake O'Hara Meadow, Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1911-1912
Original Owner: CPR or National Parks

There is some uncertainty as to the origins of this structure, one source attributing it to the national parks, another to the CPR. In either case the cabin was intended as a hiking shelter, primarily for members of the Alpine Club of Canada, which obtained a lease on the site in 1912. The building features a rectangular plan with a gable roof extending at one end to provide a sheltered verandah for the gable-end entrance. This roof extension is supported by peeled log posts infilled with horizontal railings. Cabin walls are constructed of unpeeled horizontal logs, saddle-notched.

Wiwaxy Lodge is one of the oldest surviving backcountry shelter cabins in the national parks. Its design anticipates the standard plan formulated for wardens cabins in the park system in 1918. Wiwaxy Lodge is situated on a subalpine meadow above Lake O'Hara. The meadow initially served as the site for annual camp assemblies staged by the Alpine Club of Canada. In 1919 the CPR acquired the lease and inaugurated the first of its tourist camps there, before relocating to another site on the shore of Lake O'Hara in 1925 (see I.a.4., I.b.2.).

Wiwaxy Lodge has undergone some fairly extensive alterations over the years. Most recent have been the replacement of the roof purlins and roofing membrane, and the installation of a sleeping loft. The roof changes were accompanied by the removal of original gable trim, and the installation of new fascia boards. An internal tie beam was severed to facilitate the installation of the sleeping loft.

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
1. Wiwaxy Lodge as it appeared in the mid-1980s, before roof replacement. (Ian Sumpter, CPS, WRO. Photo 406T1M. n.d.)

2. Wiwaxy Lodge as it appeared in 1992. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)
I.a.4. Elizabeth Parker Hut*

Lake O'Hara Meadow, Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1919
Original Owner: CPR

Construction of this log cabin marked the beginnings of a sustained program by the CPR to develop a network of backcountry lodges in the mountain parks. In this instance, the cabin provided shelter, along with the adjacent Wiwaxy Lodge (I.a.3.), for a summer tourist camp at which customers stayed in tents, weather permitting. The 1919 cabin was the first of a series of resthouses built directly by the CPR. During the early 1920s a series of 11 subsidiary overnight cabins were added as alternatives to the tents at the Lake O'Hara Meadow, transforming the site into a bungalow camp. In 1925 the railway moved these overnight cabins down to a site on the shore of Lake O'Hara, where it developed a new tourist bungalow camp (I.b.2.) In 1931 the CPR donated the two original cabins remaining in the meadow to the Alpine Club of Canada, whereupon the 1919 cabin became known as the Elizabeth Parker Hut.

The Elizabeth Parker Hut has a rectangular plan, with an extension on one side. Its entrance is located on the long side of the main section. All walls are constructed of peeled spruce logs, saddle-notched at the corners. A notable feature is the massive stone fireplace and chimney located on the rear wall. The structure initially rested on a stone foundation, which was replaced by concrete during renovations carried out in the mid-1950s. Subsequent repairs included the installation of a metal roof.

The Elizabeth Parker Hut and neighbouring Wiwaxy Lodge illustrate the contrasting approaches taken to log construction in the park. The meticulous log construction detailing, careful proportioning and massive stone fireplace on the 1919 cabin illustrate the self-conscious approach increasingly taken to rustic design in the interests of tourist promotion, in contrast to the rough-hewn character of its earlier neighbour.

Sources:
Herb and Pat Kariel. Alpine Huts in the Rockies, Selkirk and Purcell, p. 17-23.
* FHSO recognized building
1. Historical photograph of Elizabeth Parker Hut and Wiwaxy Lodge. The two buildings remain on their original sites. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 2248, n.d.)

2. Elizabeth Parker Hut in 1992. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)
I.a.5. Johnson Creek Warden Patrol Cabins
(Old and New)

Banff National Park
Dates of Construction: 1925; 1987
Original Owner: National Parks

In some instances old patrol cabins were converted into tack sheds or barns when new cabins were built to replace them. Such was the case at Johnson Creek. The 1925 cabin is a simple variation on the 1918 standard plan, with an attenuated front roof overhang and no support posts. In this form it is virtually indistinguishable from the cabins built by trappers, prospectors and other early inhabitants of the region. The tight log work and corner notching suggest a high degree of construction skill.

Close by the old cabin stands its replacement, a well-crafted saddle-notched specimen built according to a new standard plan that has recently been devised for patrol cabins in the mountain parks. This return to log construction was dictated partly by aesthetic concerns, but also because log cabins have proven ideally suited to the prevailing mountain conditions found in the mountain parks; they also lend themselves more readily to simple on-site repairs than their pre-manufactured counterparts.

Sources:
NA, RG 84, Vol. 200, File B 189, 1941 patrol cabin inventory.
Gord Irwin, Banff National Park Warden Service.
1. Original 1925 Johnson Creek patrol cabin. (Banff National Park Warden Service, 1990.)

2. 1987 Johnson Creek patrol cabin in foreground, 1925 cabin at rear right. (Banff National Park Warden Service, 1990.)
I.a.6. **Abbott Pass Refuge Cabin***

Abbott Pass, Banff National Park  
Date of Construction: 1922  
Original Owner: CPR

The CPR sponsored construction of this stone cabin at the instigation of the Swiss guides it employed to lead climbing tours in the mountain parks. The guides envisaged the Abbott Pass cabin as the first in a series of high altitude shelters similar to those found in their native Alps, but the Abbott hut proved to be the only one built along these lines and at high altitude during this early period. Cement, lime, timbers and all building materials aside from the stone had to be transported to the 2926-metre-high site by pack horses to the Victoria Glacier, then by foot over the remainder of the route.

The Abbott Pass hut is a simple rectangular structure, massively built from split stone, with a medium-pitch gable roof with minimal overhang. It is said to accommodate up to 40 people in bunks on the ground level and in a sleeping loft. The structure reverted to the Canadian Parks Service in 1968, and underwent major renovations in 1973-1974. The combination of stone construction, close associations with the contributions of the Swiss guides to alpine recreation in the country, and its high altitude location, make it a unique facility within the national parks system.

1. Abbott Pass Refuge Cabin, n.d. (CPS, Photo Services.)

Source:  
Herb and Pat Kariel. *Alpine Huts in the Rockies,* Selkirks and Purcell, p. 13-16.  
* Designated as a National Historic Site
2. CPR plans and elevations for "Alpine Hut of Field Stone construction in Abbott Pass at Lake Louise, Alberta, elevation 9588 feet," n.d. (Yoho National Park.)

3. The Abbott Pass cabin under construction, 1922. (Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Photo V200.)
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

4. Abbott Pass cabin, ca. 1989. (Photo courtesy Ron Ellis, Calgary.)
I.a.7. **Isaac Creek Warden Patrol Cabin**

South Boundary District, Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1927  
Original Owner: National Parks

This is the earliest extant patrol cabin in Jasper National Park. It conforms closely to the standard plan prescribed for patrol cabins from 1919 onwards. Its saddle-notched construction is typical of most warden-built shelter cabins found in the mountain parks, as is the use of comparatively small-diameter logs, in this instance about 10 inches on average. The use of small-dimensioned logs was often dictated by availability within the vicinity of the construction site; they were also easier for two people to handle. Overall dimensions varied from cabin to cabin, although the official plan dimensions were 14 feet by 22 feet. This example measures approximately 18 feet by 24 feet.

1. Isaac Creek patrol cabin, ca. 1988.  
(Jasper National Park Warden Service.)

Source:  
I.a.8. Fay Hut

Kootenay National Park
Date of Construction: 1927
Original Owner: Alpine Club of Canada

This was the first in a series of alpine huts built under the auspices of the Alpine Club of Canada. It was constructed with logs transported by rail from Banff to Marble Canyon, then by pack horses to the site. It was named in honour of Charles E. Fay, a founding director of the American Alpine Club and a frequent participant in climbing expeditions within the region. The Fay Hut was intended as an overnight shelter for club members en route to and from mountain climbing areas in the vicinity.

The Fay Hut was a "one-off" design, with a simple rectangular plan without internal partitions. Walls are of horizontal log construction, saddle-notched.

The cabin is located on a treed bench above Prospector's Valley, and is reached by a hiking trail leading from Marble Canyon on the Banff-Windermere Highway.

1. Fay Hut, Kootenay National Park.
(Kootenay National Park. 1983.)

Sources:
Edward Mills, “Fay Hut, Kootenay National Park.”
FHSO Building Report 86-74.
Herb and Pat Kariel, Alpine Huts in the Rockies,
Selkirks and Purcells, p. 24-27.
I.a.9. **Eva Lake Warden Patrol Cabin**

Mount Revelstoke National Park  
Date of Construction: 1928  
Original Owner: National Parks

This is the only early warden cabin remaining within Mount Revelstoke National Park. Built as a temporary shelter for patrolling park wardens, the cabin's one-room plan, with a roof extension supported by vertical posts at one end, adheres to the basic design formula prescribed from 1919 onwards. In this case the builders deviated from typical construction practice by using squared dovetail corner notching rather than the more common saddle-notch. Another distinguishing feature was the use of larger diameter logs than those found on examples in other parks.

The cabin is situated at the south-west corner of Eva Lake, and is reached by a 7 km hiking trail beginning near the summit of Mount Revelstoke.

1. Eva Lake patrol cabin. (Ian Sumpter, CPS, WRO, Photo 433T5M, n.d.)

Source:  
* FHSRO recognized building
I.a.10. Grizzly Warden Patrol Cabin

Glacier National Park
Date of Construction: 1928 or 1929
Original Owner: National Parks

The builder of this standard-plan cabin employed a dovetailed notch system, with squared log ends. It is the oldest park facility in Glacier National Park. The cabin is still used occasionally by trail crews and by porcupines.

1. Grizzly patrol cabin, Glacier National Park, ca. 1990. (Ian Sumpter, CPS, WRO, Photo 809T1M.)

Sources:
Ian D. Sumpter, Salvage Archaeologist, Canadian Parks Service-WRO, field research, 1990.
W.F. Lothian, A Brief History of Canada’s National Parks (Ottawa: Environment Canada-Parks, 1987), p. 44.
I.a.11. Jackfish River Warden Patrol Cabin*

Wood Buffalo National Park
Date of Construction: 1929
Original Owner: National Parks

Wood Buffalo National Park was established in 1922 to preserve the habitat of the wood bison. In contrast to other national parks, it was administered by the North-west Territories and Yukon Branch of the Department of the Interior, rather than by the National Parks Branch. Park staff consisted of game wardens who reported to the District Agent for Mackenzie District. Like wardens in other parks, these men were responsible for developing trails and building patrol cabins at strategic locations within the park. Unlike their counterparts in the southern parks, they were apparently not guided by the 1918 standard patrol cabin plan issued by the Banff engineer's office.

The Jackfish cabin is the last surviving member of the initial group of 26 patrol cabins built in Wood Buffalo park before 1934, and the only pre-1950 structure in the park. In fact this particular cabin was built to provide year-round accommodation for a warden and his family. This accounts for the cabin's size, which is somewhat larger than most patrol cabins, and its three room interior plan. It is a simple gable-roofed structure, built from spruce logs cut locally by veteran woodsman. Its appearance reflects vernacular building traditions of the region.


Source:
* FHRIO recognized building
I.a.12. **Rocky Forks Warden Patrol Cabin**

South Boundary District, Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1929  
Original Owner: National Parks

Most early patrol cabins were built upon stone or log footings. This well-preserved example features a poured concrete base, likely added at some date after the cabin's construction. Its overall dimensions are 20 feet by 30 feet. It is located at the junction of the Rocky and Medicine Tent rivers.

(Jasper National Park Warden Service.)

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Source:  
I.a.13. Shadow Lake Rest House

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1929
Original Owner: CPR

The CPR built four cabins known as rest houses for the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, an organization conceived of and founded by the railway's publicity agent John Murray Gibbon in 1924. The Shadow Lake cabin was built to provide overnight shelter along a trail between Castle Mountain and the Banff townsite, one of the routes developed for the Trail Riders' packaged horseback tours.

Although the cabin bears an overall resemblance to the shelter cabins built for park wardens, close inspection reveals design and craftsmanship characteristics more typical of the tourist facilities built by the CPR during the 1920s.

Walls were constructed of peeled and scribed spruce logs, with saddle-notched corners. Dimensions of the rectangular plan are 20 feet by 24 feet. The logs were reputedly selected by Bill Peyto, famed Banff pioneer and warden. The moderately pitched gable roof extends forward to provide a sheltered area above the entrance on the gable end. Upper-side wall logs are stepped forward to support this roof extension, a practice not found on early wardens' cabins, while the roof is borne by large-diameter log purlins. Overall construction standards are high. The cabin interior is divided into three rooms—a large living area and two rear bedrooms—and contains a stone fireplace.

The CPR lease on the Shadow Lake Rest House site lapsed in 1934, then was assumed by James Brewster in 1938 for use in conjunction with his commercial trail riding and ski touring activities based in Sunshine Valley. It continues to be operated by members of the Brewster family. It is the only remaining cabin linked to the CPR's trail riding initiatives of the 1920s and 1930s.
I.a.14. Halfway/Ptarmigan Hut

Boulder Pass, Lake Louise Area
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1931
Original Owners: Ski Club of the Canadian Rockies

This log cabin was built by members of the Ski Club of the Canadian Rockies, the first commercial ski organization in the national parks. The cabin was constructed primarily from locally cut logs by Jim Boyce and other members of the crew engaged in the construction of the Skoki Ski Lodge, and bears a close resemblance to contemporary guest cabins located at that site (see I.b.12.). This cabin was intended as a mid-way stop-over point for guests travelling from the Lake Louise station to Skoki Lodge. The Ski Club of the Canadian Rockies intended to build similar cabins as stop-over points along a network of ski trails radiating out from Lake Louise, but this plan was thwarted by the Depression.

The cabin reverted to the national parks upon the expiration of the ski club's lease in the mid-1970s. By that time it had become largely redundant for its original purpose after construction of a road reduced the length of the hike into Skoki Lodge. The cabin's structural condition was recently improved by the installation of new purlins and a new wood-shingle roof.

1. Halfway Hut, also known as Ptarmigan Hut, as it appeared in 1992. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)

Source:
I.a.15. Grey Owl's Cabin*

Beaver Lodge Lake, Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1931
Original Owner: National Parks

In 1931 the National Parks Branch hired naturalist Grey Owl to re-establish a beaver population in Riding Mountain National Park. This cabin was built specifically to accommodate him and his beavers. Grey Owl remained for only six months at this location before moving to Prince Albert National Park (see I.a.16.). The cabin was subsequently used as a shelter by park personnel.

The cabin has a rectangular plan similar to the standard plan long prescribed for wardens' patrol cabins, and features the characteristic roof extension over the gable entrance. In this case the roof extension is borne solely by log purlins, without the aid of vertical posts. Another distinctive feature is the presence of a side extension which was incorporated into the original design to provide direct water access for Grey Owl's beavers. This feature is still evident in the cabin interior.

The cabin was built under the supervision of Gottfrid Johnson, a skilled log builder from the local Swedish community centred at Erickson, Manitoba, just outside the park boundaries. It shows the high level of craftsmanship that characterized Johnson's work on a number of larger park buildings in the Wasagaming townsite. The building underwent extensive repairs during the late 1970s and is an important public attraction within the park.

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building

2. Grey Owl's Cabin, corner detail. No other cabins in the national parks display this staggered log-end treatment. (CPS, PNRO, n.d.)
I.a.16. Grey Owl’s Cabins*

Ajawaan Lake, Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1932
Original Owner: National Parks

These two log cabins were built by Parks staff to accommodate naturalist Archibald Belaney, better known by his assumed name of “Grey Owl,” his wife Anahareo, and his tame beavers. Belaney occupied the cabins intermittently between 1932 and his death in 1938. His grave is located a short distance from the lower lakefront cabin, where a plaque recognizes his contributions in the area of wildlife conservation.

The cabins’ association with Grey Owl have made them a popular attraction within the park.

The main cabin, sometimes referred to as “Beaver Cabin,” occupies a lakeside site, while the second, known as “Anahareo’s Cabin,” is located about 200 feet up an embankment. The lakeside cabin was constructed with one side projecting out over the water to permit the beavers to enter the cabin directly from the lake in all seasons. Both cabins were constructed from locally procured spruce logs, with saddle-notched corners. Aside from the original beaver access arrangement, the cabins were simple in design and execution. Both underwent substantial reconstruction in 1979, which included infilling around the perimeter of the lakefront cabin in the interest of structural durability. It may be noted that another cabin briefly occupied by Grey Owl in 1931 remains standing in Riding Mountain National Park (see I.a.15.).

Source:
* FHRPO recognized buildings
1. Grey Owl in front of his cabins, ca. 1932-35. (CPS, Photo Service, N08-80-09-07.)

2. Brochure cover, showing current appearance of Grey Owl's "Beaver Cabin." (CPS, PNRO, n.d.)
I.a.17. Middle Forks Warden Patrol Cabin

South Boundary District, Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1931
Original Owner: National Parks

Park wardens frequently made modifications to the standard plan provided by national parks when building their patrol cabins. In this case, the builder placed the entrance off-centre, instead of in the middle as prescribed. Another mark of individuality is the method of support for the verandah roof overhang, which varies from cabin to cabin.

1. Middle Forks Patrol Cabin, ca. 1988. (Jasper National Park Warden Service.)

Source:
I.a.18. Shangri-La Ski Cabin

Shovel Pass, Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1936
Original Owner: Maligne Lake Ski Club

This substantial log cabin was constructed by Curly Phillips, a well-known outfitter and log-builder, with the assistance of other tour operators based in Jasper. The building is a rare surviving example of a small-scale private venture in a backcountry location. It was intended as an overnight shelter for ski tours conducted by the Jasper outfitters, and marked the first venture of this type within the park. During the Second World War the cabin saw use as a training base for the Lovatt Scouts, a Scottish regiment. The cabin continues to be operated on a commercial basis, catering primarily to ski tourists.

The cabin sits at 6,600-foot altitude, and was built with small diameter logs cut in the vicinity. Phillips' prowess as a log builder is reflected in the log purlin system he devised to withstand the massive snow loads borne by the cabin roof. Milled lumber for the roof and floor, along with windows and other materials, were transported to the site by pack horses. The cabin has a rectangular plan and measures 18 feet by 24 feet.

Sources:
Bette Weir. Jasper. Alberta, personal communication, November 1990. Ms Weir is the cabin's present owner and a descendent of one of the original owners and builders.
I.a.19. McKinnon Creek Warden Patrol Cabin

Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1938-1939
Original Owner: National Parks

Although log construction continued to be used for warden patrol cabins in some mountain parks, the National Parks Branch increasingly prescribed the use of milled frame structures after 1937. The present example was one of the first to be built according to a standard plan issued in that year. In contrast to earlier cabins, it is built entirely of manufactured wood products, including half-log siding.

1. McKinnon Creek patrol cabin, 1986.
(Mills, CPS, AHB.)

Source:
I.a.20. Stanley Mitchell Alpine Hut

Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1939
Original Owner: Alpine Club of Canada

The Stanley Mitchell hut was the most substantial alpine hut constructed by the Alpine Club within the national parks. Unlike basic examples such as the Fay Hut (I.a.8.), this cabin served as a base facility for summer camp programs and winter ski touring, rather than simply as an overnight shelter. This difference is reflected in its larger size and three-room configuration, which accommodates 32 people. Construction is of horizontal, saddle-notched logs, with a stone fireplace.

The building has undergone periodic renovations, including the installation of a stone foundation and a metal roof in 1961, and the replacement of rotted log sills between 1976 and 1978. It is located in the Little Yoho Valley, alternatively reached by trails from the Whiskey Jack Hostel or from Takakkaw Falls.

I.a.21. Mount Hunter Fire Lookout Cabin
(and Tower)

Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1943
Original Owner: National Parks

This one-room cabin was built to accommodate staff assigned to the adjacent fire lookout tower erected in the same year. The cabin closely resembles the standard wardens' shelter cabins. In this case the walls were built with locally cut spruce logs, employing saddle-notched corners. The roof appears to be constructed from sawn boards resting on log rafters and covered with sawn wood shingles. The cabin and tower are located on the south face of Mount Hunter in the south-western part of Yoho National Park.

Sources:
I.a.22. Egypt Lake Warden Patrol Cabin

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1942
Original Owner: National Parks

The builder of this patrol cabin deviated from standard practice by enclosing the gable end to increase the interior area. All major structural components, apart from the roof covering, were built from peeled logs, including rafters, purlins and the verandah platform.

1. Egypt Lake patrol cabin, 1990. (Banff National Park Warden Service.)

Sources:
NA. RG 84. Vol. 200. File B 189. 1941 patrol cabin inventory. (The Egypt Lake cabin is entered as a 1942 project, built at a cost of $750.)
I.a.23. Scotch Camp Warden Patrol Cabin

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1949
Original Owner: National Parks

This patrol cabin adheres to the basic one-room standard plan in use in the national parks since 1918. Many builders favoured the verandah roof support system illustrated here, with vertical posts below each purlin.

1. Scotch Camp Warden Patrol Cabin, ca. 1990. (Banff National Park Warden Service.)

Source:
I.a.24. Medicine Tent Warden Patrol Cabin

South Boundary District, Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1955
Original Owner: National Parks

This relatively late example is one of the few cabins that features the vertical cornerpost construction method prescribed back in 1918. Note the rubblestone foundation and verandah piers. In this instance the cabin dimensions are approximately 12 feet by 22 feet.

1. Medicine Tent patrol cabin, ca. 1988. (Jasper National Park Warden Service.)

I.a.25. Adolphus Warden Patrol Cabin

North Boundary District, Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1957
Original Owner: National Parks

Although the National Parks Branch had phased out log construction for patrol cabins in most parks by the 1950s, the practice was continued in Jasper park where remote sites and the cost or unavailability of transportation made the installation of pre-manufactured alternatives unfeasible. In this park the tradition of log patrol cabins not only survived but actually flourished throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. A succession of fine examples, loosely based on the standard plan of 1918, were built within the park by skilled craftsmen such as Art Allen. The Adolphus cabin was the first of Allen's cabins, and at a distance is indistinguishable from counterparts dating from the 1920s and 1930s. This cabin measures approximately 20 feet by 28 feet in exterior dimensions.

(Jasper National Park Warden Service.)

Source:
I.b. Tourist Accommodation (Hotels, Lodges, Tea Houses and Bungalow Camps)

Tourist accommodations illustrate the full range of approaches taken to rustic design in the national parks. Within this group are hand-hewn backcountry lodges, roadside bungalow camps, townsite lodges and resort hotel complexes. Some were the products of local builder-owners using logs cut on site; others were built according to plans devised by railway architects; another group was designed for individuals by staff architects within the national parks, and reflects that agency’s views regarding appropriate design within the parks.

Eight of the examples included here were built in mountain parks by the railways: six by the CPR, and one each by the CNR and Great Northern. This numerical dominance reflects the major impact the railways exerted over early design practice in Canada’s national parks, and the enduring significance of many of these facilities as important examples of rustic design.

Many of the rustic themes repeated on buildings of all types within the parks first appeared on tourist accommodations. The CPR was an early leader in this respect, introducing the use of native stone and English half-timbering on its pre-1914 resort hotels, then adapting horizontal log to a wide range of outlying lodges, tea houses and bungalow camps in the post-war era. Examples of each of these distinctive sub-types are included in this survey.

The CNR’s Jasper Park Lodge was built as a giant bungalow camp, dominated by an immense central lodge which no longer stands. The surviving log structures on the site comprise a unique complex, rich in rustic imagery, yet diverse in terms of scale and function. The Great Northern was the third railway to create a major architectural landmark within the Canadian parks. The imposing chalet form of its Prince of Wales Hotel at Waterton Lakes linked it to that line’s chain of resort facilities south of the border.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the railways exploited the evocative appeal of their rustic resorts in their promotional literature. In doing so, they reinforced the growing association between the national parks and facilities of this type, and no doubt influenced others to build along similar lines.

While numerous lodges and bungalow camps were built in the parks by private concerns other than the railways, few displayed remarkable design features, and of these, fewer still have survived without major alterations that eroded their original character. Included here are four noteworthy exceptions: two lodges built by a private fish and game club within the present-day boundaries of La Mauricie National Park in Quebec, the Skoki Ski Lodge in Banff National Park, and the former Maligne Lake Chalet in Jasper National Park.
I.b. Tourist Accommodation

2. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Jasper Park Lodge during the 1939 Royal Tour. (Jasper Park Lodge.)
I.b.1. Emerald Lake Chalet

Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1902-1904; Additions 1925
Original Owner: CPR

This was the first log tourist lodge built by the CPR, and marked a departure from the railway's design practice for hotel facilities up to that time. At the time of its construction the railway was developing a Swiss theme in its tourist promotions, drawing parallels between the Canadian Rockies and the Swiss Alps and recruiting Swiss guides to lead climbing expeditions from its hotels. In 1902 plans for a "hewn timber structure, on the lines of a Swiss Chalet" were prepared by the CPR's engineering department in Montréal, for use at Emerald Lake. The railway's intent in creating a rustic facility with overtly Swiss references was evident in both the proportions and appearance of the two-and-one-half-storey structure, and in the use of hand-hewn squared logs for its construction.

The Emerald Lake Chalet was initially operated as a hotel, offering a novel "rustic" alternative to the CPR's hotels at Banff, Lake Louise, Field and Glacier. In 1925 the railway greatly enlarged the original Emerald Lake Chalet by adding a side wing and an extension to one end (See Part 1, Figure 8). These additions were constructed with squared timbers of similar dimensions to the original chalet, but whereas the original timbers were hand-hewn, those on the later sections were sawn. The materials and construction methods used on the 1925 additions closely resemble those found on the near-contemporary CPR lodge at Lake O'Hara (I.b.2.). A succession of sleeping cabins was added around the same time, reflecting the growth of automobile tourism and the railway's efforts to adjust to it.

The CPR sold the Emerald Lake complex in 1959. In 1981 all structures on the site apart from the lodge and an early boathouse (II.c.1.) were demolished. The lodge underwent major renovations during the 1980s.

Sources:
1. Emerald Lake Chalet, ca. 1989-1990, after major renovations. Original 1902-1904 section is at right. 1925 addition at left. (Photo courtesy Ron Ellis.)

2. A trail ride excursion assembling in front of Emerald Lake Lodge, ca. 1925-26. (Courtesy of Canadian Pacific Ltd., photo 16370.)
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

I.b.2. Lake O'Hara Lodge

Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1926
Original Owner: CPR

Lake O'Hara was one of the first sites at which the CPR established overnight accommodations for tours from its large resort hotels in the parks. Its first facilities there consisted of two small log cabins located in an alpine meadow above the lake, currently known as Wiwaxy Lodge and the Elizabeth Parker Hut (see I.a.3. and I.a.4.)

In 1925, the CPR swapped its existing lease on the Lake O'Hara Meadow site for one down by the lake. There it proceeded to develop a new bungalow camp, incorporating several log sleeping cabins moved from the old site alongside a massive new lodge, which it erected in 1926. In this case the railway revived the two-storey chalet form it had first used some twenty years earlier for the Emerald Lake Chalet (I.b.1.). A succession of additional sleeping cabins was added to the complex, beginning in 1929. By 1938 the site contained 30 cabins in addition to the lodge and various outbuildings.

The 1926 lodge at Lake O'Hara was the largest and most costly of the rustic tourist facilities built by the CPR during the 1920s. The craftsmanship and detailing reflect the refinements that characterised the railway's rustic building program during that decade. The CPR sold the Lake O'Hara Bungalow Camp to Brewster and Ford Mountain Lodges Limited in 1954.

The lodge's exterior appearance has been altered somewhat by the enclosure of its perimeter verandah in recent years. The historical character of the site is bolstered by the presence of eleven log guest cabins that date from the lodge's initial construction phase. Six of these cabins were built at the earlier upper meadow site during the early 1920s and relocated to the lakeshore in 1925.

Sources:
1. Lake O’Hara Lodge, ca. 1989-1990. (Photo courtesy Ron Ellis.)

2. Squared timber construction detail, Lake O’Hara Lodge. The perimeter verandah has been partially enclosed in recent years. (Photo courtesy Ron Ellis.)
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

3. Lake O'Hara Lodge, 1992, showing further verandah enclosure. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)

4. Lakefront guest cabins, Lake O'Hara Lodge. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)
I.b.3. Storm Mountain Lodge

Banff-Windermere Road, Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1923
Original Owner: CPR

This is one of 10 bungalow camps established by the CPR within the mountain parks during the 1920s in an effort to capitalize on the anticipated boom in automobile tourism.

Each bungalow camp contained a main lodge, around which was clustered a group of sleeping cabins, bathhouses and service buildings. The main lodges at each bungalow camp were individually designed, and varied considerably in scale and appearance. A few were built with milled lumber, but the majority featured peeled-log construction. Typically, the main lodges contained a kitchen, dining room, and a lounge area. In a few instances they also contained guest rooms, but the overall concept revolved around the use of individual sleeping cabins with adjacent parking for guest vehicles. These cabins, which varied in size and amenities, were usually referred to as auto bungalow cabins. The Storm Mountain camp was among the smallest of these operations, in contrast to the much larger facilities at Emerald Lake and Lake O'Hara.

The railway's superintendent of construction for western hotels obtained approval from the National Parks Branch to construct the Storm Mountain Bungalow Camp in 1923. The main lodge was constructed of logs, saddle notched, with a cantilevered verandah supported by brackets and log corbels, and a massive stone chimney and fireplace. Its dimensions were 28 feet by 28 feet, with a 16-foot-square rear kitchen wing, making it one of the smallest of these facilities. Close by, the railway erected six log sleeping cabins, each with a front verandah and stone fireplace. The railway formulated several plans for auto bungalow cabins in its various camps, of which the Storm Mountain grouping is typical. Log construction was of a high standard, with scribed log construction, saddle-notched corners and front roof overhangs borne by oversized log purlins and vertical corner posts. Some sleeping cabins bear a close resemblance to the standard-plan patrol cabins built by park wardens during the same period. The Storm Mountain Lodge examples differ from most by the inclusion of oversized stone chimneys and fireplaces. In 1929 the Storm Mountain Bungalow Camp (by that time renamed the Castle Mountain Bungalow Camp) was enlarged by the transfer of six log sleeping cabins from the unsuccessful bungalow camp at Vermilion River Crossing (I.b.4.). The facility presently consists of the original main lodge, 12 log sleeping cabins, six staff cabins and two wash houses. It has reassumed its original name.

Sources:
"Banff-Storm Mountain, 1923-51."
1. Historical photo of Storm Mountain Lodge and tourist cabins. (CPS, WRO, n.d.)

2. Storm Mountain Lodge, main building. The perimeter verandah was enclosed at an early date. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)
3. An original guest cabin at Storm Mountain Lodge. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)
I.b.4. Vermilion River Bungalow Camp

Kootenay National Park
Date of Construction: 1923
Original Owner: CPR

The CPR built this bungalow camp in 1923, shortly after completion of the Banff-Windermere Road. Like the contemporary camp at Storm Mountain (I.b.3.), this facility initially consisted of a main lodge and six sleeping cabins. The lodge building at Vermilion River is larger than its counterpart at Storm Mountain, measuring 40 feet by 40 feet. Construction is typical for CPR tourist facilities of this type, featuring peeled logs with saddle-notched corners. A massive stone fireplace enhances the exposed log interior, in keeping with the railway’s efforts to create a rustic atmosphere. A covered verandah was incorporated along three sides of the building, enabling patrons to relax in comfort and enjoy the view. In contrast to most other early CPR lodges in the parks, the verandah on this example has not been enclosed.

In 1929 the CPR closed the Vermilion River Bungalow Camp, apparently due to the lack of an adequate water supply. In December of that year it relocated its log sleeping cabins to the more successful bungalow camp at Storm Mountain. The lodge, which was considered too large to relocate, was left on the site and for a short period was occupied by the RCMP. In 1932 the CPR sold its lease on the site to Victor H. Lord who revived the bungalow camp operation, constructing a series of log cabins over the next 12 years.

The main lodge displays the high construction standards typical of CPR log resort construction during the 1920s, and remains largely unchanged in appearance.

Sources:

2. Verandah detailing, main lodge, Vermilion River camp. (Dave Whiting, 1991.)
3. Guest cabin at Vermilion River camp.  
(Dave Whiting, 1991.)
I.b.5. Twin Falls Tea House*

Upper Yoho Valley, Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1923 and Earlier
Original Owner: CPR

During the 1920s the CPR constructed several small lodges at scenic points along the trails used by hikers and horseback tours. Known as teahouses, these lodges were intended either as stop-over points for patrons of the railway's packaged tours, or as destinations for shorter excursions from CPR hotels and lodges (see Part 1, Figure 14). The Twin Falls and Plain of Six Glaciers tea houses are the only two surviving examples. Both remain essentially unaltered in appearance and function, and are outstanding examples of rustic design.

The Twin Falls Tea House is situated in the Upper Yoho River Valley, a scenic point at the upper end of a popular circuit trail skirting the foot of the Yoho Glacier. The structure consists of three sections: a two-storey log chalet erected in 1923-1924, a one-storey cabin believed to date from 1908, and a small section, probably dating from 1923, that connects the other two. The three sections offer a remarkable display of log construction methods practised at different periods in the parks. Another noteworthy feature is the massive dimensions of the logs used on these buildings, made possible by the large trees found in the vicinity.

Little information has been located on the original section, built of peeled logs, horizontally laid, with double-notched corners. In all likelihood it was built by either the railway or by one of its trailride outfitters as a refuge cabin for climbing or horseback tours to the area. The windows are unusually large for a cabin of this type and age; also noteworthy is the use of large-diameter logs for the surrounds on both windows and doors, suggesting a deliberate effort to exaggerate the rustic character of the building.

The 1923 section employs a chalet plan featuring an upper-floor verandah running the full length of the front facade. Log work on this structure is of exceptional quality, and features squared corner notching and massive log detailing similar to that found on the adjacent section. The facility contains a kitchen and lounge on the ground floor, with four bedrooms above. Similar construction is evident on the one storey section connecting the chalet and the 1908 building. The building has undergone remarkably few external or internal alterations, reflecting the long-standing commitment of Fern Drummond, its current owner, to preserve its historical character and function.

Sources:
* Designated as a National Historic Site
1. Twin Falls Tea House, 1923 chalet section on left; earlier one-storey cabin on right. A comparison of this photo and the 1920s photo accompanying the introduction to this building group reveals no major changes over the intervening years. (Ian Sumpter, CPS, WRO, Photo 404T1M, 1987.)

2. Corner detail, chalet section of the Twin Falls Tea House. (Ian Sumpter, CPS, WRO, Photo 404T2M, 1987.)
3. Twin Falls Tea House, 1923 chalet section. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)

4. Twin Falls Tea House, 1908 section in foreground. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)
5. Twin Falls Tea House, connecting infill section between original 1908 building and 1923 chalet. (Mills. CPS. AHB. 1992.)
I.b.6. Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1924
Original Owner: CPR

This tea house epitomizes the Swiss chalet theme that the CPR occasionally employed for its backcountry tourist facilities within the mountain parks. In this case, the design was likely influenced by the direct involvement of one of the Swiss guides that the railway employed. During the 1920s the guides were based at the Chateau Lake Louise, from which they led hotel patrons on excursions up into the surrounding mountains. The Plain of Six Glaciers lies on the route of a major trail leading from Lake Louise, and guide Edward Feuz expressed an interest in establishing a chalet at that location. The CPR undertook the actual construction, although Feuz apparently had an influence over the design. This may explain the use of stone rather than logs as the building's major structural material, a conspicuous departure from normal building practice for backcountry locations in the parks. This tea house contained only accommodations for its operators—for many years the Feuz family—and a small kitchen-dining area for guests. A few years later a small overnight cabin was added, but the railway was reluctant to introduce extensive overnight accommodations at locations such as this, located within easy walking distance of its resort hotel at Lake Louise.

The CPR eventually relinquished ownership of this and all its tea houses within the parks. The building is unaltered in appearance and continues to be operated as a tea house without guest accommodation.
1. Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House, n.d.
(CPS, WRO, Webster Collection.)
(Photo courtesy Ron Ellis.)

3. Elevation for "proposed rest house, Plain of the Six Glaciers near Lake Louise...", issued by Basil Gardom, Supt. Construction and Repairs, Western Hotels, CPR. Legend notes describe the building as "a stone Swiss Chalet to be used by Mountaineers." (Glenbow Archives.)
I.b.7.  Jasper Park Lodge—Guest Bungalows

Jasper National Park
Dates of Construction: 1923-30
Original Owner: CNR

In 1922 the CNR scrapped earlier plans to build a large resort hotel rivalling the Banff Springs Hotel or Chateau Lake Louise in favour of an alternative formula. In that year it began construction of a giant bungalow camp comprised entirely of log structures. Like the smaller counterparts built by the CPR (I.b.2., I.b.3. and I.b.4.), Jasper Park Lodge consisted of a large central lodge flanked by a network of guest sleeping cabins, recreational and operational buildings.

Until 1952, the focal point of the complex was the large main lodge, a vast rambling building which the CNR advertised as the largest single-storey log building in the world (see Part 1, Figures 15-17). Around it were ranged dozens of log guest cabins of varying sizes, from modest two room cabins to elegant chalets that were larger than any private residences to be found in the national parks. In addition, the railway built a succession of support facilities including a dancehall, golf clubhouse, staff dormitories, medical clinic and powerplant, all featuring horizontal log construction (see separate entries I.d.1., II.c.2., II.d.3.).

The CNR expanded the facilities at Jasper Park Lodge during the decades following its inception, but closely adhered to the rustic log motif introduced with the original group of buildings until 1952. By that time the complex contained 56 guest cabins and 16 operational buildings in addition to the lodge. In that year the lodge was destroyed by a fire and was immediately replaced by a new facility built along contemporary lines. Log-wall construction was similarly replaced by modern milled frame construction for subsequent guest cabin construction on the site.

Jasper Park Lodge currently contains well over 100 buildings, 26 of which date from the 1922-41 log construction phase.

This early building stock is the largest single grouping of rustic log architecture within the national parks system. Included in it are 12 log guest cabins, most built between 1928 and 1931. The cabins display the exceptionally high level of log craftsmanship and rustic vocabulary that became synonymous with this resort.

Of particular note in terms of design quality and structural detail are three large executive guest cabins on the site, known as Point, Outlook and Viewpoint. Built between 1928 and 1930, these buildings were initially used by vacationing dignitaries, from Hollywood celebrities to King George VI. The Outlook and Point cabins feature Swiss decorative trim, while the Viewpoint cabin displays a decorative “crossed stick” treatment that was repeated on smaller facilities throughout the complex. Outlook and Point cabins form part of an impressive grouping of eight early log guest cabins that comprise the last vestige of the resort’s early “bungalow row.”

Sources:
Cyndi Smith, Jasper Park Lodge. In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies (Jasper: Cyndi Smith, 1985).
1. Typical guest bungalows at Jasper Park Lodge, ca. 1950. (Photo courtesy Jasper Park Lodge.)

2. Panorama of "Bungalow Row," Jasper Park Lodge. This grouping contains eight cabins built before 1930. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
3. One of four 10-room cabins in "Bungalow Row." (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

4. Outlook Cabin, built 1927-28, is the largest and most ornate of the guest cabins at Jasper Park Lodge. It was the accommodation favoured for visiting royalty and dignitaries. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
5. Viewpoint Cabin, built in 1930-1931 as an executive guest facility, illustrates the combination of fieldstone, log construction and "crossed-stick" decorative treatment that characterized many of the cabins built between 1927 and 1931. It served for many years as the resort manager's residence. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
I.b.8. Prince of Wales Hotel*  
Waterton Lakes National Park  
Date of Construction: 1926-1927  
Original Owner: Great Northern Railway  

Construction of the Prince of Wales Hotel was a pivotal event in the history of Waterton Lakes National Park. Until its completion, the park lacked the type of large-scale resort facility then commonly associated with Canada's national parks, and regarded as vital to their success as tourist destinations.

From an architectural standpoint, the Prince of Wales Hotel embodies the Swiss Chalet theme which the Great Northern had previously adopted for its network of hotels and subsidiary resorts in Glacier Park, located immediately south of Waterton Lakes in Montana. The Great Northern's resort system consisted of three giant hotels and nine smaller outlying chalets. The Prince of Wales was the last in this chain, and the most overtly Swiss in its visual references. The initial design for the imposing structure was produced by the railway's architect, Thomas D. McMahon, then modified by consulting architect Max Toltz in response to repeated demands from Louis Hill, the Great Northern's president, who took a direct interest in the project.

The hotel's design consists of a seven-storey central section flanked by five-storey side wings. The central section is dominated by a large lobby with a 61-foot-high ceiling and 18-foot-high windows that afford a panoramic view over Waterton Lake. The steep gabled roofline, crowned by a 40 foot-high observation cupola, created a striking profile that exploited the hotel's spectacular setting on a conspicuous bluff overlooking the lakes and Waterton townsite.

The Prince of Wales' dramatic appearance had curiously little impact on subsequent building design within the townsite or the park, where the Parks Branch consistently prescribed variations on its own rustic theme. Just as it was constructed with materials imported by trucks from the nearest Great Northern railhead, so the hotel remained an isolated architectural statement, linked to the Great Northern's rustic program south of the border, but essentially unique in its form and visual impact.

(See also I.d.2. Prince of Wales Hotel staff dormitories.)

Sources:  
Waterton Lakes National Park, Realty File, original building plans and correspondence.  
* Designated as a National Historic Site
1. North elevation of the Prince of Wales Hotel, designed for the Great Northern Railway by Thomas McMahon in collaboration with Max Toltz. (Waterton Lakes National Park.)

2. Prince of Wales Hotel, Waterton Lakes National Park. (Mills, CFS, AHB, 1991.)
3. Prince of Wales Hotel. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)
I.b.9. Maligne Lake Chalet

Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1927, with Later Additions
Original Owner: Fred Brewster

Financial difficulties prevented the CNR and its predecessors from developing a network of backcountry lodges in Jasper National Park comparable to those of the CPR in Banff, Yoho and Kootenay parks to the south. The void was filled to a limited degree by private outfitters including Pat and Fred Brewster. In 1925 Fred Brewster applied to the Dominion Parks Branch for permission to build a log lodge on Maligne Lake, at a site he had previously used as a tent campsite for his horseback tour operation, known as Fred Brewster's Rocky Mountain Camps Limited. The Branch approved, provided that Brewster could secure the financial support of the CNR. The railway agreed to this arrangement with the stipulation that Brewster build according to plans and specifications that met its approval. Brewster and the CNR then submitted plans to the Parks Branch for a log lodge that resembled those the railway was currently using for guest cabins at Jasper Park Lodge (I.b.7.) The Branch insisted on several modifications, including the substitution of a flared bellcast roof for the conventional hipped shape proposed by Brewster. Brewster proceeded with construction of his lodge, a log structure measuring approximately 24 feet by 40 feet (excluding the verandah) in 1927. He subsequently expanded his facilities, adding a wing to the lodge in the early 1930s and a separate four-bedroom cabin directly based on a CNR plan for guest cabins at Jasper Park Lodge, which was built in 1935.

The original 1927 lodge is a single-storey structure with a hipped roof that flares out to cover a 10-foot-wide verandah extending along two sides. The building's walls were constructed with locally cut logs, with plaster chinking and saddle-notched corners. The verandah is supported by massive vertical timbers, infilled with sawn vertical planking to the sill level. Among the amenities described in a 1938 brochure were "... the living room with big open fireplace, dining room seating twenty people, and a well-equipped kitchen" and "a spacious screened-in verandah which affords a splendid view of the lake."

The 1935 sleeping cabins, also of horizontal construction but lacking the flared roof treatment, also remain on the site, along with several smaller log structures of similar age. Vacant and currently owned by National Parks, the grouping is the only early backcountry lodge complex still standing in Jasper National Park.

Sources:
1. Undated historical photo of Maligne Lake Chalet. (CPS, Photo Services, N.09-94-02-03 [10].)

2. Maligne Lake Chalet. (Pat Buchik, PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, WRO.)
I.b.10. **Stanley Hotel**

112 Waterton Avenue  
Waterton Lakes Townsite,  
Waterton Lakes National Park  
Date of Construction: 1927  
Original Owner: Mabel Dilatush

The Stanley Hotel is typical of small commercial establishments that appeared in the national park townsites during the 1920s and 1930s. This was the first in a succession of commercial buildings designed by National Parks architect W.D. Cromarty for the Waterton Lakes townsite. On it he introduced the stuccoed wall treatment and half-timbered gable ends that would serve as key visual motifs for subsequent building designs in the vicinity. The Stanley was a dual-purpose facility, with shops on the ground floor and commercial lodging above.

1. Stanley Hotel, shortly after construction, 1927. (CPS, Photo Services, N.09.92.02.04 [07].)

2. Stanley Hotel, Waterton townsite. (Mills, CFS, AHB, 1991.)
I.b.11. Wabenaki Lodge and Andrew Lodge*

Lac à la Pêche
La Mauricie National Park, Quebec
Dates of Construction: ca. 1886-1914 and 1920
Original Owners: Laurentian Club

Private fish and game clubs were spin-offs of the 19th-century fascination with wilderness recreation. This was especially true in the Laurentian Shield region of Quebec, where such organizations secured large tracts of land for the exclusive enjoyment of their members. Among the most prestigious of these was the Laurentian Club, which was established in 1885 and until 1952 retained control over a large tract of land which became part of La Mauricie National Park in 1977.

The two buildings presently known as les gîtes Wabenaki and Andrew were major components of the building complex developed by the Laurentian Club at lac à la Pêche, and reflect the rustic image that the club sought to project. Both feature horizontal-log wall construction over fieldstone foundations. Le gîte Wabenaki is the older and larger of the two, and functioned for many years as the club's kitchen and dining hall. Although its precise date of construction is uncertain, the building's existence in 1914 is verified, and it may possibly date back to 1886. The origins of its design are similarly uncertain, but stylistic elements suggest the influence, if not the direct involvement, of Edward Maxwell, a leading Montréal architect of the period.

Le gîte Andrew was built to plans furnished by Edward and William S. Maxwell in 1920. Designed as the Laurentian Club's administrative headquarters, the building displays the Maxwell Brothers' masterly fusion of rustic structural elements and sophisticated design.

The two buildings presently serve as year-round lodges for visitors to La Mauricie National Park. They remain in good structural condition and display a high standard of log construction.

Source:
* FHBRO recognized buildings
1. Wabenaki Lodge, east elevation. (CPS, District de la Mauricie, 1990.)

2. Andrew Lodge, front elevation. (CPS, District de la Mauricie, 1990.)
I.b.12. Skoki Ski Lodge*

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1930-1931; Additions 1935-1936
Original Owner: Ski Club of the Canadian Rockies

This log lodge was the first facility built specifically to cater to ski-tourists on a commercial basis in Canada, and possibly in North America. It was built by a group of Banff residents who formed the Ski Club of the Canadian Rockies to manage the operation. Its site was chosen following consultation with the CPR’s Swiss guides, who recommended the Skoki Valley on the basis of its suitability for skiing and on the availability of suitable building logs and water. It received its first guests in the spring of 1931.

In its initial configuration, Skoki Ski Lodge was a single-storey cabin constructed with unscribed spruce logs, with saddle-notched corners. A one-storey kitchen wing, also of log construction, was added in 1931. Two guest cabins of similar log construction were added in 1932. The lodge assumed its present scale and appearance with additions made by Jim Boyce in 1935-36. These included a side addition that doubled the original cabin’s dimensions, along with an upper floor and roof gables. The resulting image was endorsed by the Parks Branch which encouraged other ski resort promoters to copy its general appearance. Boyce also added two more log guest cabins and a bathhouse in 1936. These additions increased the lodge’s capacity to 22 guests. (It may be noted that Boyce, like the builders of several other backcountry lodges in Banff National Park—notably Sunshine and Num-ti-Jah Lodges [I.b.17. and I.b.18.]—started out as a tour guide and outfitter. Boyce subsequently built another log lodge in the Lake Louise townsite in 1938, which he operated for a time as the Lake Louise Ski Lodge.)

Unlike most other backcountry facilities of this type, the Skoki Ski Lodge has remained virtually unchanged in function and appearance since the 1930s. The combination of traditional function and structural integrity, both internally and externally, make Skoki lodge a unique facility within the national parks.

Sources:
Herb and Pat Kariel, Alpine Huts in the Rockies, Selkirks and Purcells, p. 36.
* Designated as a National Historic Site
1. Skoki Ski Lodge, Banff National Park, n.d. (Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.)

2. Skoki Ski Lodge, ca. 1990. (Photo courtesy Ron Ellis.)
3. 1932 guest cabin at Skoki Ski Lodge. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)

4. Skoki Ski Lodge. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)
I. b. 13. Idylwylde Bungalows

Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1932 with Later Additions
Original Owner: E.W. Poole

In 1931, the National Parks Branch started to permit the establishment of small private bungalow camps at specified locations within the western parks. (Previously, the CPR alone had been permitted to build and operate tourist accommodations of this sort.) Idylwylde Bungalows Camp was the first such operation at the new Wasagaming townsite. Both its site plan and original buildings were designed for the owner by the Branch’s staff architects. Curved lanes and varied cabin sizes were prescribed to enhance the camp’s appearance. 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 half-log siding. The architectural division’s involvement is evident in several design features, including the flared eaves treatment above the cabin entrances.

1. Main building, Idylwylde Bungalows, ca. 1932. (CPS, Photo Services.)

Source:

3. Original guest cabins, Idylwynde Bungalows. (Mills, CPS, AHB. 1986.)
I.b.14. **Pleasant Inn**

Waskesiu Townsite  
Prince Albert National Park  
Date of Construction: 1932  
Original Owner: E.F. Fournier

From the mid-1920s onwards, the appearance of new commercial buildings was closely regulated by the National Parks Branch's architectural division. This was particularly evident in the new townsites of Waskesiu and Wasagaming, where the Branch attempted to develop and enforce a consistent rustic theme. E.F. Fournier's Pleasant Inn was built to plans prepared by the branch's architectural staff, and illustrates the pragmatic approach taken in the case of small commercial ventures of this type. Working within the financial limits of the client, the architects usually resorted to simple cosmetic touches to otherwise conventional designs. In this case, these consisted of decorative half-timbered front dormers and gable trim.


Source:
I.b.15. Paradise Bungalows
Lake Louise, Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1935; Additions 1936-40
Original Owner: Alfred Cooper

In 1935 Alfred Cooper was awarded the concession for a bungalow camp at Lake Louise. Cooper then built a main lodge and seven sleeping cabins, using plans prepared for him by the park engineer stationed at Banff and approved by the Parks Branch's architects in Ottawa. Like many private concessionaires, Cooper elected to use conventional frame construction with milled half-log siding rather than log construction to attain the rustic effect prescribed by the Branch. Over the next four years, Cooper added seven more sleeping cabins on the site in response to the growing demand for tourist accommodation of this type in the parks.

The facilities at Paradise Bungalows were typical of most early auto bungalow camps operated by individual concessionaires such as Cooper, although the main lodge was larger than most.

1. Main lodge, Paradise Bungalows, Lake Louise. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Sources:
Richard Friesen and Associates, Banff, Jasper
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

2. Entrance, cabins and lodge, Paradise Bungalows. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
I.b.16. National Training Centre  
(Former Palisades Ranch)*

Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1936 with Later Additions  
Original Owner: A.C. Wilby

This facility consists of 12 buildings associated with a former guest ranch operation established in 1936. Although horse riding was a major recreational attraction in the mountain parks, the Parks Branch consistently opposed the establishment of guest or dude ranches within park boundaries, although it endorsed various commercial trailriding concessions that maintained stables, corrals and cabins within the parks. The Palisades Ranch was a conspicuous anomaly, made possible because it was located on a freehold property originally owned by pioneer homesteader Lewis Swift who had managed to defy National Parks' efforts at expropriation. In 1935 Swift sold his property to an Englishman, A. C. Wilby, who proceeded to develop a tourist guest ranch despite initial assurances to the Park that it would be for his private use only. Because of its freehold status, the Parks Branch was largely powerless to block Wilby's subsequent operations.

In 1936 Wilby commissioned Edmonton architect William Blakey to design a lodge, barn, servant's cottage, bunkhouse and various outbuildings. All were built with peeled logs, horizontally laid, with saddle-notched corners, and set on concrete foundations, occasionally faced with fieldstone. The buildings show a close uniformity from a structural standpoint, but lack the detailing and craftsmanship frequently associated with rustic log buildings in the parks. Designed by an urban architect for an English client, the complex was a studied attempt at a rustic image aimed at urban tourists in search of a dude ranch holiday.

Of the 12 buildings currently on the site, six were built in 1936 or shortly afterwards to Blakey's designs, three or four were added before Wilby's death in 1947, and two were built by subsequent owners during the 1950s. Most initial buildings, including the lodge, servant's quarters, bunkhouse and barn, underwent various alterations during the 1950s when guest ranch operations were phased out and the facilities were converted into a summer resort. In 1962, the National Parks Branch purchased the property, then converted it into a training centre for park employees in 1964.

Sources:  
Kate MacFarlane, "National Training Centre, Jasper National Park." Park Building Report 87-10.  
* FHBRO recognized—one building
I.b.17. Sunshine Ski Lodge

Sunshine Valley, Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1936; Additions in 1938, 1940s
Original Owner: Jim Brewster

The Sunshine Ski Lodge is a composite structure, built in various stages that reflected the expanding scale of ski resort activities at this location. The CPR first constructed a small log rest house on the site in the late 1920s as a stop-over for the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. Jim Brewster acquired the cabin and the site lease in 1935 with the intention of using it for horseback tours in the summer months and as a ski lodge in the winter. In the following year he and his family built an austere two-storey log lodge that incorporated the original CPR cabin as a kitchen wing.

The Brewsters' approach to lodge construction sprang from their background as tour outfitters. Their rough-hewn techniques contrasted sharply with the studied rusticism and meticulous craftsmanship evident in the tourist lodges of the CPR and CNR during the preceding decade. The Brewsters pressed on with later additions, ignoring demands from the Parks Branch that plans be submitted for approval prior to building.

By the late 1940s the Brewsters' operation had been transformed into a complex of eight buildings, some of log and others of milled frame construction. The appearance of the lodge itself was altered by the addition of roof gables, a stone fireplace and a frame addition. Further alterations and additions were made to the building after the family sold the operation in 1952. By the 1970s, it was surrounded by the new facilities that accompanied Sunshine Valley's transformation into a major downhill ski resort. The old lodge is of interest, due both to the Brewster's pragmatic approach to rustic design, and to the role it played in the history of downhill skiing in the Banff region.

Sources:
Edward Mills, "Sunshine Ski Lodge, Banff, Alberta."
I.b.18. Num-Ti-Jah Lodge

Bow Lake, Banff National Park
Dates of Construction: 1919-1925, 1939, 1949
Original Owner: Jim Simpson

In 1919 Jim Simpson, an early guide and outfitter in Rocky Mountains Park, obtained a lease on two acres fronting on Bow Lake and obtained permission to establish a small tourist lodge known as Simpson’s Chalet. This marked a break with previous park policy which was opposed to private resort development outside the park townsites, except by the railways. Simpson’s initial operation consisted of a small, octagonal log lodge and a log boathouse, constructed in 1919-20, to which he added a succession of log and frame cabins over the next five years. Simpson’s choice of an octagonal plan was apparently influenced by the short (10-foot) length of the building logs available on his lease site.

Simpson’s lodge remained isolated until the late 1930s when the Banff-Jasper Highway was constructed nearby. This prompted him to build a larger lodge in 1939, repeating the novel octagonal configuration of his original cabin. This second lodge is a two-storey log building measuring 37 feet by 51 feet, with saddle-notched corners, designed for him by Calgary architect R.G. Hanson. As built, it contained 24 guest rooms. The scale of this building was substantially increased by major additions in 1949, designed for Simpson by Walter S. Painter, architect of the Cave and Basin Hot Springs (II.a.1.), Chateau Lake Louise, and a major section of the Banff Springs Hotel. The 1949 addition increased the overall size of the lodge to 73 feet by 130 feet.

The present-day Num-Ti-Jah Lodge is a composition of the 1939 log structure and later additions and alterations, somewhat tenuously tied together by the repetition of the octagonal theme, but also characterized by a diversity of materials and building methods. Of considerable historical interest are remnants of Simpson’s original operation, including the 1919 octagonal cabin.

Sources:
PART 2: THE RESOURCE


2. 1939 Num-Ti-Jah Lodge, n.d. (CPS, Photo Services, N.09.93.02.03.)
I.b.19. Crandell Mountain Lodge

102 Mount View Avenue, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1939-40; Addition 1944
Original Owner: Unknown

This tourist lodge is strategically placed at the entry point into the Waterton Lakes townsite. Its Tudor Rustic exterior reinforces the architectural tone established by many commercial and public buildings constructed at Waterton during the 1920s and 1930s.


Sources:
Waterton Lakes National Park, Realty File, Lot 13, Block 2.
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

I.c. Houses

Houses account for the largest single group of buildings found in the national parks. The majority are private homes and cottages located on leased lots in the townsites. Houses were subjected to less design review and intervention than other private buildings in the parks, a fact that is evident in the existing housing stock. Before 1921, prospective owners were compelled to meet only basic construction standards. After that date the National Parks Branch architects began reviewing and revising plans by prospective builders, and subsequently offered a free design service as well. The questions of appearance and materials were largely determined by the owners; never did the Branch insist on the use of logs, or on the use of a rustic design, although it certainly encouraged those who chose to build in this manner.

Early national park exponents, including Sir John A. Macdonald, envisioned the original national park reserve at Banff as a spa resort patterned upon European models, with residential lots leased out "to people of wealth, who will erect handsome buildings on them." To this end, a whole section of the initial Banff townsite was subdivided into villa lots. Few, if any, of the many cabins and houses built in Banff and the other national park town sites displayed the architectural pretensions of a villa. Ironically, perhaps, the most imposing homes in many of the parks were, and remain, those built to accommodate the park superintendents and local RCMP detachments during the 1920s and 1930s.

Although numerous houses were built in the national parks before 1950, relatively few display exceptional design qualities that distinguish them from contemporary examples built outside the parks. The most frequent exceptions were those built to house National Parks staff and those built in association with commercial tourist operations. This is reflected in the selection included here, which is numerically dominated by staff housing. Omitted are several noteworthy examples that are more commonly associated with other functions. These include the former superintendent's residence and park administration building at Jasper (IV.a.1.), and several large log residences within the Jasper Park Lodge complex (I.b.7.)

The staff residences divide into two sub-groups on the basis of their designs and construction materials. Five of them derived from the Tudor-Rustic theme devised by Parks Branch architect W.D. Cromarty for the RCMP barracks at Jasper in 1926. While fairly conventional by residential design standards of the period, each of these houses functions as an important landmark within its respective townsite. The remaining three staff houses are of log construction. The Banff residence is the oldest, and displays construction features predating the establishment of the Parks Branch's internal design unit. The other two, located at Prince Albert and Riding Mountain national parks, shared a common plan prepared under...
Cromarty's direction. The private houses and cottages included here have been selected either as outstanding examples or to illustrate variations on the rustic theme as it evolved in the various parks.
I.c.1. **Earnscliffe Cottage/Lady Macdonald Cottage**

Banff Springs Hotel Grounds, Banff National Park  
Date of Construction: ca. 1886  
Original Owner: Lady Susan Agnes Macdonald

Lady Macdonald accompanied her husband, the prime minister, on his 1884 tour along the completed sections of the CPR. Her enthusiasm for the scenery in the Rockies prompted Lady Macdonald to insist on riding through the region on the locomotive's cow-catcher. The tour committed Sir John A. to the idea of establishing a national park reserve around the Banff hot springs, where he envisaged the development of a spa resort along European lines, with adjacent residential sites "leased out to people of wealth, who will erect handsome buildings on them."

Around the time that Macdonald was articulating his personal vision in the House of Commons, his wife was having a small log cottage built for herself on a villa lot overlooking the Bow River, in close proximity to the new Banff Springs Hotel. Perhaps the first summer dwelling within the townsite, the cottage launched the government’s and CPR’s initial vision of the park as an exclusive summer resort.

Built of peeled logs with saddle-notched corners, the cottage was likely constructed by a Winnipeg-based construction crew engaged by the CPR for preliminary projects in the new park reserve. (The same crew was responsible for a succession of log buildings at Banff, including the initial railway stations and park superintendent’s house.) It is a modest one-storey building with a rectangular plan, approximately 24 feet by 30 feet in dimension, with a moderately pitched hipped roof and covered front verandah. The cottage embodied the rustic log image idealized by increasing numbers of city dwellers in the late 19th century, and contrasted curiously with the prime minister’s apparent ambitions for Banff’s architectural future.

Lady Macdonald made occasional summer use of the cottage until 1893 when she took up permanent residence in Europe. She expressed a wish to sell the cottage in 1895, but retained ownership until 1916 when it was acquired by the CPR. It served for many years as a residence for the manager of the Banff Springs Hotel, and has undergone extensive renovations over the years. It is possibly the oldest structure built for recreational purposes within the national parks.

Sources:
1. Lady Macdonald Cottage, Banff Springs Hotel grounds. (Mills, CPS. AHB, 1990.)
I.c.2. **John Moberley Homestead**

Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: ca. 1890s  
Original Owner: John Moberley

John Moberley and his family settled on the banks of the Athabaska River before the establishment of Jasper National Park, possibly during the 1890s. The westward movement of pioneers like Moberley introduced log building methods and traditions to the mountain region. In this case, Moberley, a Métis, used squared logs with dovetail corner-notching, a method widely employed in Métis river-lot settlements on the prairies. Moberley’s cabin was abandoned following the expropriation of his property in 1907.

1. John Moberley’s house, built ca. 1890s and occupied until 1907. (CPS, WRO, Photo 311R3M, 1988.)

Sources:  
I.c.3. Former Painter Residence

505 Buffalo Street, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1912-1913
Original Owner: Estelle Painter

A
rchitect Walter Painter had this house built for his wife Estelle around the time he was engaged in a variety of major commissions at Banff for both the CPR and the National Parks. These commissions included the Banff Springs Hotel, Chateau Lake Louise and the Cave and Basin bathhouse (II.a.1.). Painter's design, which incorporated stylistic references from both the European chalet and the North American Arts and Crafts style, resulted in a studied interpretation of rustic imagery by a leading architect of the period. The park's building inspector described the finished house as a "modern bungalow" in his 1913 report.

Estelle Painter retained ownership of the house until her death in 1974. Much of its original detailing was lost through major renovations carried out by its subsequent owners, though the basic massing and exterior appearance remain essentially intact.

1. Former Painter residence, Banff townsite. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Sources
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

I.c.4. Swiss Guides’ Cabin

Lake Louise
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1920
Original Owner: CPR

The CPR built this cabin to serve as a summer residence and base of operations for the Swiss guides it employed to lead hiking and climbing expeditions for hotel guests staying at the Château Lake Louise. In addition to their skills as alpinists, the CPR capitalized on the guides’ presence at the hotel, where their traditional Swiss attire contributed to the ambience. In 1912 the railway took this promotional aspect a step further by building six cabins “after the plan of the little Swiss cottages of the Alps ...” on a site alongside the rail line near Golden, British Columbia, which it intended as an off-season home for the guides and their families. In 1920 it built the present cabin on the perimeter of its property at Lake Louise, in clear view of hotel patrons strolling the grounds. Built on a square plan with a cross-gabled roof, the cabin features peeled-log walls with vertical corner posts. The vertical half-log treatment on the gable ends, log eaves bracketing and open verandah were intended to convey a “Swiss” image and provide an attractive backdrop for the guides’ presence at the hotel.

The building currently serves as a residence for hotel management at Château Lake Louise.

1. Former Swiss guides’ cabin near Château Lake Louise, Banff National Park. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Sources:
I.c.5.  **Jackman Residence***

411 Patricia Street, Jasper Townsite  
Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1921-23  
Original Owner: Bessie Maud Jackman

This was the most substantial residence built in the early stages of development at Jasper. Its boulderstone construction reflects the personal influence of superintendent S. Maynard Rogers, who enthusiastically prescribed its use throughout the townsite, beginning with the 1913-1914 park administration building (IV.a.1.).

Rogers endorsed the Jackmans' application to build with this material, stating that "it will be to the advantage of the appearance of both the Administration Building and the expensive houses erected (nearby) if this residence is permitted."

This was consistent with Rogers' long-standing aim of cultivating what he described as "a harmonious and appropriate appearance" of buildings within the townsite. In subsequent years local boulderstone was repeatedly incorporated as a decorative feature on buildings in Jasper, but its use as a major wall material, as in the case of the present example, was infrequent.

As Rogers anticipated, the Jackman residence complements the nearby administration building, and provides an important visual anchor to the Government Reserve area in the townsite, along with the neighbouring Bank of Commerce (V.6), fire hall (IV.b.8.) and post office (IV.b.10.). It is currently owned by the Canadian Parks Service.

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**Sources:**  
correspondence. S. Maynard Rogers to J.B. Harkin.  
10 September 1919.  
* FHBRO recognized building
1. Former Jackman residence, Jasper townsite. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
I.c.6. **Private Cottage**

202 Wasagaming Drive, Wasagaming Townsite  
Riding Mountain National Park  
Date of Construction: 1923  
Original Owner: Mabel Smiley

This log cottage was built by Alfred Sjogren, a talented craftsman and member of the early Swedish settlement in the Riding Mountain area. Sjogren and a number of his countrymen built cottages for themselves and for early leaseholders in the fledgling cottage community at Clear Lake during the 1920s, before Riding Mountain became a national park. Their skills subsequently shaped the character of the Wasagaming townsite during the 1930s.

The horizontal log construction and conspicuous roof lantern of the present cottage make it a distinctive early landmark within the townsite.

1. Private log cottage, 205 Wasagaming Drive, built in 1923. (Photo courtesy of Len Budiwski, 1991.)

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Sources:  
Riding Mountain National Park, Realty File, Block 3, Lot 7.  
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

I.c.7.  Private Cottage

204 Fountain Street, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1924
Original Owner: Nels Erik Ekelund

As at Riding Mountain and Prince Albert national parks, Scandinavian craftsmen contributed to the early character of the Waterton townsite through their log building skills. Ekelund, along with Carl Gustave Carlson, built several small log cottages there during the mid-1920s. Common characteristics were open front verandahs, pole rafters and large external stone chimneys. Ekelund employed vertical corner-post construction on the present example, but saddle-notched corners were more common within the townsite. Log construction was short-lived at Waterton Lakes, where dwindling supplies dictated a change to milled lumber for most cottage construction by the late 1920s.

1. Private log cottage, 204 Fountain Street, Waterton townsite. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1989.)

Source:
Private Residence

712 Patricia Street, Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1924-1925
Original Owner: Oscar Fee

Oscar Fee, an employee at Jasper Park Lodge, built this log house with plans he submitted for Parks Branch approval in the spring of 1924. Staff architect W.D. Cromarty redrew the plans, modifying the proportions and adding touches that he felt would enhance the building's exterior appearance. The house was constructed with horizontally laid logs, saddle-notched, with butt ends that extended out to support a fairly broad roof overhang. Cromarty's hand was evident in the original half-timbered gable treatment, later covered with cedar shingles, and in the configuration of the hip-roofed verandah facing the street.

Upon its completion the park's superintendent described Fee's house as "a very substantial and fine-looking log residence" in his correspondence to the park commissioner in Ottawa. Though somewhat modified over the years, the house embodies the major characteristics of rustic design prescribed for private dwellings in the park townsites during the 1920s.

1. Oscar Fee's log house, shortly after completion in 1925. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

Source:
Jasper National Park, Realty File C
8599/J1/2-12-10.
2. Former Fee residence as it appeared in 1990. (Mills, CFS, AHB.)
I.c.9. Private Residence

410 Pyramid Avenue, Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1925
Original Owner: Fred Brewster

This is the largest of five log houses grouped along Pyramid Avenue. It was designed and built by Fred Brewster, a prominent outfitter and businessman in Jasper, as his summer home and office. Brewster used the same saddle-notched construction method he had previously employed on several of his commercial facilities, notably Maligne Lake Chalet (I.b.9.). In this instance he applied it to a conventional one-and-one-half-storey domestic design with an L-plan, enlivened by a massive cobblestone chimney, shingled gables and bracketed eaves. Brewster's house demonstrated the adaptability of log construction, and possibly encouraged some of the attractive examples that subsequently appeared along Pyramid Avenue and elsewhere in the townsite.

1. Log house built by Fred Brewster in 1925, shortly after completion. (CPS. Photo Services, n.d.)

Sources:
Merna Forster. Jasper ... A Walk in the Past, p. 44.
I.c.10. Jasper Municipal Library
(Former RCMP Headquarters)

Corner Elm Avenue and Robson Street,
Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1926
Original Owner: RCMP

Local RCMP detachments were regarded as important fixtures in the national park townsites, partly because of their law-enforcement duties, but also because they were major tourist attractions. The fact that the Mounties occupied crude, often ramshackle, quarters in the townsites became a source of embarrassment, both to the force and to the National Parks Branch. To redress this problem at Jasper, the Branch's architects designed this imposing residence built in 1926.

The building is of particular interest in terms of the Parks Branch's subsequent design policy, both in Jasper and in other western parks. In this instance staff architects rejected the use of rustic peeled log construction in favour of a studied application of architectural references borrowed from the English domestic Arts and Crafts Movement. These included the use of stucco and local stone as exterior wall materials, a steeply pitched hipped roof broken by asymmetrically placed gables and dormers, and a prominent, stepped stone chimney that dominates the front facade. Although the conspicuous application of cobblestone followed a local theme introduced on the Jasper administration building back in 1914 (IV.a.1.), the English domestic references seem to have been borrowed from a more recent source—the new CNR station built at Jasper in the preceding year (III.a.4.).

The National Parks Branch was obviously pleased with the image projected by the Jasper RCMP headquarters, for it employed variations on the same formula for a succession of other residences in park townsites, including an RCMP headquarters at Waterton Lakes, and superintendents' residences at Yoho and Jasper (I.c.13., I.c.18., and I.c.28.).

The RCMP occupied the building until 1974. It was converted into the Jasper Municipal Library in the following year.

Sources:
Merna Forster. Jasper ... A Walk in the Past, p. 47.
1. Jasper Municipal Library (former RCMP detachment headquarters), built in 1926. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
I.c.11. Private Residence

217 Mount View Road, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1926-1928
Original Owner: Walter B. Foster

The building opportunities in national parks townsites attracted skilled artisans who made a living from government projects and by building and selling cottages and homes. This is the most sophisticated of a succession of log houses that Walter Foster built at Waterton during the 1920s. Foster submitted preliminary sketch plans for the building in 1925. These formed the basis for the final plan produced by staff architect W.D. Cromarty. The completed house combined unmistakable elements of Cromarty's design with Foster's craftsmanship in log and stone.

Foster lived in the house while completing it. His decision to build a house of such striking appearance on a choice lakefront lot next to the park administration building was based on the assumption that it would be purchased as headquarters for the Rocky Mountains Club. This plan fell through, and Foster sold the house as a private residence in 1929, then began work on yet another imposing residence within the townsite (I.c.20.).

Currently used as a staff dormitory for a nearby hotel, the house is neglected and run down in appearance.

1. Historical photo of Walter Foster's log house, with park administration building in background at right. (CPS, Photo Services, ca. 1930.)

2. Former Walter Foster residence, Waterton townsite, detail of front facade. (C. Cameron, CPS, AHB, 1984.)
I.c.12. Superintendent's Residence*

313 Buffalo Street, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: ca. 1920-1921;
Additions 1936-1937, 1958
Original Owner: National Parks

This was the third residence built to accommodate the park superintendent at Banff. Documentation is unusually scanty for a building of its scale and prominence within the park. The design was prepared by Major and Stacey Judd, Calgary architects, and construction occurred in 1921, using logs salvaged from the previous superintendent's house.

The building was a departure from usual design and construction practice within the national parks during the 1920s. This is the only known instance in which a plan produced by a private architectural firm was used for a park-owned building during this period. Virtually all other public facilities were designed by staff architects between 1921 and 1931. This deviation is reflected in the design itself. Walls are constructed of peeled logs set horizontally between vertical corner posts—a method advocated by the Banff engineer's office for various park structures from 1918 onwards. Past building practice is also recalled in the crossed-stick verandah railings, which echo a similar motif used on first-generation park facilities such as the original Banff bathhouses and the 1902 museum (see II.b.1.). Conversely, the two-storey configuration, gabled roof, and recessed vestibule/balcony arrangement represented departures from earlier staff residences in the parks. The decision to use log construction for this prominently sited residence suggests that park officials preferred to convey an image of continuity with past public building practice in the vicinity, as embodied in the nearby museum (II.b.1.).

The residence underwent alterations in 1936-37 which included the addition of a one-storey rear bay and the partial enclosure of the front verandah. A stone plinth and patio were added in 1958.

The building's design is suggestive of early rustic log construction in the park, and offers an interesting contrast in appearance and technology to contemporary superintendents' residences constructed in other parks.

Sources:
NA, RG 84, Vol. 941, File B 56 (1).
Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Historic Building Survey, realty file records.
Banff National Park, 1926 building plan on file.
Public Works Canada, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, elevations for alterations to Superintendent's residence at Banff, 1936.

*FHSO recognized building.
1. Superintendent's residence, 313 Buffalo Street, Banff townsite, Banff National Park. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
I.c.13. RCMP Detachment Headquarters*

202 Waterton Avenue, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1927-1928
Original Owner: RCMP

The construction of this imposing and conspicuously sited quarters for the RCMP detachment at Waterton Lakes was consistent with a policy of upgrading the force's headquarters in each of the park townsites. In this instance the National Parks Branch used a plan prepared two years earlier by its architectural staff for a similar facility at Jasper (I.c.10.). In keeping with the Branch's policy of maintaining a distinction between the major buildings in each of the parks, the architects revised the plan somewhat for Waterton Lakes. The major changes lay in the reversal of the plan, subtle changes to the massing of the front chimney and front entrance detailing, and the application of half-timbering as a decorative detail on the front gable and dormer, and on side ground-floor bays. The half-timbering on the RCMP building launched an architectural theme which Chief Architect W.D. Cromarty pursued with a succession of designs for public and private buildings in and around the Waterton Lakes townsite over the next ten years (see Part 1, Figure 35).

The building continues to house the local RCMP detachment during summer months. A contemporary former stable at the rear of the property reinforces its role within the park.

1. RCMP detachment headquarters,
Waterton Lakes townsite. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1989.)

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
I.c.14. Private Cottage

303 Evergreen Street, Waterton Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1927-1928
Original Owner: A.O. Frache

This log cottage was designed for its owner by W.D. Cromarty, chief architect for the National Park Branch, who spent several summers during the late 1920s as acting park superintendent at Waterton. In this case Cromarty drew a preliminary sketch plan on park stationery for the applicant, then forwarded it to the Ottawa headquarters for redrafting and formal approval by the Commissioner of Parks. The completed cottage closely resembled Cromarty's original design, and remains largely unchanged in exterior appearance.

1. A.O. Frache's log cabin, shortly after completion in 1928. (CPS, WRO, Webster Collection, n.d.)


Source:
Waterton Lakes National Park, Realty File. Lot 2, Block 29.
I.c.15. **Accountant’s Residence**  
(Former Forestry Cottage)*

154 Columbine Street, Wasagaming Townsite  
Riding Mountain National Park  
Date of Construction: 1927, Altered 1932-1933  
Original Owner: Forestry Branch,  
Department of the Interior

This log cabin was built to serve as the operational headquarters for the Riding Mountain Forest Reserve, before its conversion into a national park in 1930. Even as a Forest Reserve, Riding Mountain was attracting summer vacationers from the surrounding plains, and the Forestry Branch responded by establishing a cottage subdivision and some recreational facilities at Clear Lake. For this building, the Branch secured the services of Albert Rognan, a log builder from the nearby Swedish settlement at Erickson, Manitoba.

A contemporary Winnipeg newspaper noted that the cottage was constructed from Riding Mountain spruce, “neatly peeled and troughed, with marine oakum strung between ....,” the corners were double-dovetailed, and the ceiling was “ingeniously knitted without the aid of a ridge pole.” The design was said to be based “on the plan of the famous log cottages at Banff....” This reference might possibly be to the lodges, tea houses and bungalow camps then being built by the CPR, or to private cottages located in the Banff townsite. Regardless, it does suggest that the rustic log building then taking place in the mountain parks—and in Banff in particular—was becoming well-known and was establishing models for recreational designs elsewhere in the country.

In 1932-1933 the cottage was moved to a new location within the townsite, where it was enlarged and remodelled to make it habitable on a year-round basis by park personnel. The current front porch, chimneys and concrete foundation were added at that time.

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Sources:
* FHHRBO recognized building
1. Accountant’s residence, 154 Columbine St., Wasagaming townsite. (Mills, CPS. AHB, 1986.)
I.c.16. Mackenzie King Cottage*

Prospect Point Subdivision, Waskesiu Townsite
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1928
Original Owner: William Lyon Mackenzie King

The establishment of Prince Albert National Park in 1927 fulfilled a commitment Prime Minister King made to constituents of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, prior to his election as their member of Parliament. In recognition of his role in the park's creation, a group of Prince Albert citizens raised funds to build this log cottage to present to him on the occasion of the park's official opening in August 1928. The cottage was the first to be built in the new Prospect Point cottage subdivision at Waskesiu.

The cottage is a rectangular structure with horizontal log walls, saddle-notched, and a medium-pitched gable roof. The roof extends to cover an open verandah on one facade, where it is borne by vertical logs infilled with decorative stickwork. Boulders collected from the lakeshore were used to construct a substantial fireplace and chimney. The stonework was also applied to the entrance surround situated near the chimney. Although the origins of the design are not known, the stone work, general proportions and log handling suggest the involvement of the National Parks Branch's architectural staff.

The cottage donors named each of the cottage's rooms after Saskatchewan communities which contributed funds towards its furnishing: "Melfort the kitchen, Humboldt a bed-room, Regina the living-room, Saskatoon the verandah, Battlefords a bed-room and Moose Jaw the dining-room...." King spent just one night in the cottage, although he retained ownership until 1950 when he transferred his leasehold to John Sanderson, one of the principal backers of its construction and the person who had borne the cost of its maintenance over the years.

Unchanged in exterior appearance, the cottage epitomizes the idealized "rustic cabin in the wilderness" extolled in literature of the period.

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building

2. Verandah detail, King cottage. (S. Siepman, CPS, PNRO, 1984.)
This house is the sole remnant of the original building group located at the Radium Hot Springs townsite. This group, which included a park entrance building, the original hot springs bathhouse and various lodges, tea houses, shops and cottages, was the first major project undertaken by the Parks Branch's architectural and town planning office following its establishment in 1921. The development of this site offered architect W.D. Cromarty his first opportunity to formulate a co-ordinated visual theme, combining rustic imagery with architectural elements borrowed from the English Arts and Crafts Movement.

A shortage of suitable building logs within the vicinity prompted Cromarty to substitute the use of half-log siding at Radium. This was the earliest application of the material in the national parks. All buildings were constructed of nailed frames, sheathed with combinations of log siding and stucco trimmed with local fieldstone and half-timber detailing. The latter was applied in varying degrees on most buildings in the townsite.

The park superintendent’s residence was a fairly late addition to the townsite, and adhered to this prevailing architectural theme. It is a one-and-one-half-storey building with an L-shaped plan and a medium-pitched gable roof. The walls are sheathed with log siding, and feature half-timbered ground-floor bays and gables. The design is further enlivened by fieldstone trim around the main entrance, on the chimney, and on the foundation walls. Other features such as a round-headed entrance, flared entrance hood and mock purlins are typical decorative features used by Cromarty and his staff during the late 1920s and 1930s.

The character of the Radium Hot Springs site was radically altered by the destruction of the bathhouse and entrance building, and by highway redevelopment that took place in the 1960s. All remaining early buildings with the exception of the superintendent’s residence were removed at that time.

Sources:
1. Historical photo of former superintendent's residence at Radium Hot Springs Townsite, Kootenay National Park. (CPS, Photo Services, ca. 1930.)
I.c.18. Superintendent's Residence*

Field Townsite
Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1929-1930
Original Owner: National Parks

The design for this residence followed the formula previously used for the RCMP headquarters at Jasper and at Waterton Lakes, but in reduced size. Like those earlier versions, it incorporated stylistic elements from English domestic Arts and Crafts design, along with the use of local stone which was applied on lower wall surfaces, on the main entrance surround, and on a massive stepped chimney on the front facade.

Conspicuously located on a spacious site enclosed by a pebblestone wall, the superintendent's residence has long served as a conspicuous reminder of national parks authority in the community. A variation on this design was subsequently used for the superintendent's residence at Jasper (see I.c.28.).


Sources:
*FNAO recognized building.
I.c.19. **Superintendent’s Residence***

Prospect Point Subdivision, Waskesiu Townsite
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1929-1930
Original Owner: National Parks

This was the second residence built in the Prospect Point subdivision, following the nearby Mackenzie King cottage (I.c.16.) by a year. It was the first permanent staff facility built in the new park, and was intended to set a standard for future privately built cottages in the subdivision.

Like the King cottage, the superintendent’s residence was built from local spruce logs, horizontally laid over a stone-faced foundation. It is covered with a broad hipped roof, bell-cast at the eaves, with hipped dormers on the rear and sides. The rustic effect is heightened by a massive boulderstone fireplace and chimney, and by the use of peeled log and stick decorative elements which include curved stick brackets on the vertical verandah supports. Its design was prepared by the Parks Branch’s Architectural Division, and was adapted for the superintendent’s residence built two years later at Riding Mountain Park (I.c.22.). The house occupies a conventional subdivision lot, diminishing its stature as a landmark.

1. Elevations for superintendent’s residence, Prince Albert National Park, dated 19 May 1929. (PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, Plan PA 8.)

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Sources:
NA, RG 84, Vol. 1759, File PA 56-1 (plans and elevations).
* FHBRO recognized building
2. Superintendent's residence, Prince Albert National Park. (S. Siepman, CPS, PNRO, 1984.)
I.c.20. Private Residence

128 Evergreen Street, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1929-1934
Original Owner: Walter B. Foster

This conspicuously sited stone house is one of Waterton’s best-known landmarks. It was built by Walter Foster, a local craftsman, using plans furnished by the Park Branch’s Architectural Division. The building is a striking example of the Tudor-Rustic style which the Branch was then promoting within the townsites. Rarely was it applied so fully for private residential designs.

Foster took almost five years to complete the house. In the meantime, he was engaged in a number of other construction projects, including the park registration building which features similar materials and techniques (see III.a.4).

1. Stone house built by Walter Foster. 1929-1934, Waterton townsite. The perimeter deck is a recent addition. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Source:
I.c.21. Catherine and Peter Whyte Residence

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies
Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1931
Original Owners: Peter and Catherine Whyte

Artists Peter and Catherine Whyte hired log artisans Earl Spencer and Spud White to construct this house as their summer residence and studio. Its walls were fashioned from peeled logs, laid horizontally with saddle-notched corners, in a manner similar to that used by the same builders on the contemporary Skoki Lodge (I.b.12.). The simple rectangular gable-roofed design was enhanced by two fireplaces, chimneys and lower wall detailing constructed with local Rundlestone. In 1945 the Whytes enlarged the building for year-round use by adding a second floor.

The Whytes' enthusiastic support for the arts, culture and history made their home a popular gathering place for Banff residents and visitors, including members of the Group of Seven. The couple subsequently founded the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies and constructed a modern facility to house it on land adjacent to their home.

The Whyte residence is noteworthy, both as a good example of domestic design in log within Banff National Park, and for its role in the cultural life of the region.

1. Whyte residence, Banff, in 1992. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)

Source:
Like its counterpart at Prince Albert National Park (I.c.19.), this superintendent's residence was purposefully designed to set a standard for residential design within the park and to reinforce the status of its occupant. Whereas the Prince Albert example was built on a standard lot within a cottage subdivision, the Riding Mountain superintendent's residence was spectacularly sited in a park-like setting at the head of Clear Lake, close by the golf course and at some distance from the Wasagaming townsite.

The design employed here is an enlarged and slightly modified version of the one devised for the Prince Albert National Park superintendent's residence two years earlier. Major differences included the insertion of an additional side dormer, an attached vehicle garage, and the front porch treatment; otherwise, the two houses share similarities in terms of log wall construction, roof shape, and chimney placement. While the house's peeled-log exterior expressed the rustic theme that the National Parks Branch wished to develop at Riding Mountain, its floor plan was comparable to those of modern suburban dwellings of the period, with features such as an L-shaped living room, separate kitchen and dining room, bathroom, and attached garage. The living amenities provided for the park superintendent at Riding Mountain were similar to those of his counterparts in the large mountain parks, although the setting, amidst spacious, manicured grounds that included an English garden, convey a manorial air that is not evident in examples in other parks.

Like most products of the early log building program at Riding Mountain, the superintendent's residence displays the high construction standards made possible in the park by the presence of a group of skilled log builders, the majority recruited from the nearby Swedish community of Erickson, Manitoba. In this case the primary builders were Helge Holmberg, Gottfried Johnson, Alex Erickson, Herb Johnson and Frank Thaczuk.

Sources:
Canadian Parks Service, Professional Services. building plans and elevations. RM 11.
* FHBRO recognized building
1. Superintendent's residence. Riding Mountain National Park, shortly after its completion in 1932. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

3. Superintendent's residence, side elevation showing attached log garage. (CPS, Heritage Recording Services, 1991.)
I.c.23. RCAF Pilots' Cottage*

Deep Bay (Aeroplane Bay)
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1934
Original Owner: National Parks

In the early 1930s the National Parks Branch made an arrangement with the Royal Canadian Air Force to operate an aerial patrol service during periods of high forest fire hazard. This log cottage was built on the shore of Clear Lake in 1934 to provide summer accommodation for the pilots engaged in this activity. It remained in use for this purpose until the late 1930s when the aerial surveillance program was replaced by a network of fixed observation towers.

The design of the cottage was furnished by the Parks Branch's Architectural Division. It features a medium-pitch hipped roof, with two gabled wings projecting from the front and rear to create a modified “T” plan. The cottage bears the characteristic features of National Parks Branch plans for this park during the Depression-relief period: peeled-log construction, stone-faced foundations, and decorative half-timbering on the two gables.


Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
I.c.24. Whirlpool Warden's Residence*

Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1933-1934
Original Owner: National Parks Branch

This is one of two log houses built to provide year-round accommodation for wardens stationed in outlying districts within the park. Both were positioned near highway entry points where they were highly visible to motorists. (Its twin, the Moon Lake Warden’s Residence, was recently demolished and reconstructed.)

The present house was built as a Depression relief project to a plan prepared by Parks Branch architects. A nearby house, built to accommodate the gate keeper at the eastern (Norgate Road) entrance to the park, uses a modified version of the same plan (see I.c.25.). Both houses share construction and design features with other park facilities built at Riding Mountain during the Depression-relief construction phase. Walls are constructed with peeled logs with saddle-notched corners, resting on poured concrete foundations that were sheathed with randomly coursed fieldstone. The eaves overhang is fairly broad, with exposed log rafters on the eaves and mock-log purlins on the gable ends. The front porches are of log construction, resting on stone-faced piers, with vertical log roof supports. The end gables and front porch gables all feature the half-timbered treatment that characterises most public buildings at Riding Mountain dating from this period.

The warden’s house, gatekeeper’s cabin and nearby park entrance portal comprise an impressive grouping at the park’s eastern entrance.

1. Whirlpool warden’s residence. (S. Siepman, CPS, PNRO, 1984.)

Sources:
Canadian Parks Service, Professional Services, Plans RM-10 and RM-20.
* rmso recognized building and component of National Historic Site
I.c.25. Gatekeeper's Cottage*

East Gate Entrance Complex
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1933-1934
Original Owner: National Parks

This log cottage was built to accommodate the gatekeeper of the nearby entrance kiosk on the Norgate Road leading into Riding Mountain National Park (III.b.1.). It was built by relief camp crews, using peeled logs obtained within the park boundaries, and according to a plan prepared by Parks Branch architects. This plan was a variation on the one employed for two park wardens' houses in the park, one of which remains situated immediately across the road from the gatekeeper's cottage (I.c.24.)

The gatekeeper's cottage was designed for summer use only, unlike the wardens' houses. It was somewhat smaller in size and initially lacked the rear wing found on the other two. It was later modified for year-round use, and a rear wing was added.

Sources:
PWC. Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, Plan RM 20.
*FHBRO recognized building and component of National Historic Site

1. Historical photo of gatekeeper's cabin, n.d. (CPS, Photo Services.)
2. Gatekeeper's cabin as it appeared in 1991. (CPS, Heritage Recording Services.)
I.c.26. Staff Residence (Four-plex)*

150 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1934-1935
Original Owner: National Parks

This building was constructed to accommodate permanent staff employed at Riding Mountain National Park. Its design displays the characteristic features of the architectural theme prescribed for public buildings in this park during the Depression relief period. Notable features include typical peeled-log wall construction, balanced by fieldstone facing on the foundation walls, around the front entrance and on a large chimney. The recurring half-timber motif shows up here on the front porch dormer.

Initially designed as a duplex, the building was modified into four units in 1938 through the addition of a large rear dormer.

A similar staff duplex remains at Waskesiu, Prince Albert National Park. Also built in 1934-1935, it has been converted into the park's visitor centre.

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
I.c.27. Caretaker's Cottage

Upper Hot Springs Bathhouse
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1934-1935
Original Owner: National Parks

This hip-roofed cottage was designed to complement the architectural character of the Upper Hot Springs Bathhouse which opened in 1932 (II.a.2.) To accomplish this at minimal cost, the branch architects specified the application of decorative half-timbering over the stuccoed wall surface on the front facade of an otherwise simple wood-frame cottage. Random-coursed Mount Rundle limestone, the major wall material on the bathhouse, was used for the walls of the front porch, and half-timbering was applied to the porch gable. The hipped roof was covered with milled wood shingles. The cottage was built as a Depression relief project, funded by the Public Works Construction Act, 1934.

The original intent of the design has been eroded by later changes, notably the replacement of the half-timbered veneer with milled wood siding, and the installation of a wood shake roof. These alterations have diminished the visual connection between the cottage and the bathhouse.

1. Original appearance of caretaker's cottage at Upper Hot Springs Bathhouse. (CPS, Photo Services, N.09.93.02.05., n.d.)

Sources:
2. Caretaker's cottage as it appeared in 1990. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)
I.c.28. Superintendent's Residence*

510 Robson Street, Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1936
Original Owner: National Parks

This was the last of four residences built to plans prepared along English domestic lines by the National Parks Branch's Architectural Division. Like the others, it is characterized by an asymmetrical plan, a broad hipped roof pierced on three sides by hipped dormers, extensive stone trim highlighted by a prominent stepped chimney, a round-headed main entrance, and stuccoed wall surfaces above the ground-floor sill level. The masonry on this example utilizes split fieldstone, in contrast to the rounded cobblestone treatment used on the nearby RCMP barracks.

The Branch initially commissioned plans for the Jasper residence from architect A.M. Calderon, designer of a succession of Jasper buildings including the 1912 administration building. It abandoned Calderon's design when construction bids exceeded the authorized expenditure of $11,000, and opted instead for "a less pretentious building ... from plans prepared in this office." These plans were based directly on one devised a few years earlier for the superintendent's residence at Field in Yoho National Park (I.c.18.), with several modifications including front and side vestibules and an enlarged sunroom. Apparently disappointed at the abandonment of the Calderon plans, the Jasper superintendent took the liberty of adding a few changes of his own, inflating the cost and incurring the wrath of the Commissioner of National Parks in the process.

This house and the former Jasper RCMP barracks occupy adjoining lots within the townsite, and consequently reinforce the visual impact of one another.

Sources:
* rmso recognized building
I.c.29. Crean Lake Warden’s Cabin

Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1938-1939
Original Owner: National Parks

I.c.30. Sunwapta Warden’s Headquarters Cabin*

Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: ca. 1939-1948
Original Owner: National Parks

These two wardens’ residences were based on a standard plan used for over a decade, beginning around 1938. The policy of using a single plan and milled lumber became feasible in many parks as roads improved the accessibility of cabin sites, ending a reliance on locally cut logs. This shift towards standardization and manufactured materials characterized building policy in the parks following the disbanding of the internal Architectural Division in 1936-1937. Rustic design was increasingly regarded strictly in decorative terms, and was usually expressed through the use of milled half-log siding.

Sources:

*FHBRO recognized building
2. Sunwapta warden’s headquarters cabin, Jasper National Park. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
I.c.31. Wardens' Operation Centre
(Former Fish Hatchery)

Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1947
Original Owner: National Parks

I.c.32. Staff Residence

312 Evergreen Street, Waterton Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1947
Original Owner: National Parks

These frame houses were products of the Parks Branch’s design policy during the 1940s. They share a common plan prepared by staff architect Charles E. Buck in 1942, but not put to use until the post-war years. This is a conventional residential design of the period, to which Buck added several embellishments in an effort to harmonize with past building practice in the parks. As these two examples illustrate, the exterior appearance was altered to suit demands at different locations. The Waterton house adheres closely to the original plan, characterized by the shallow gabled bay and flared roof hood above the entrance. The Jasper example was sheathed with milled-log siding to match the nearby hatchery building, but lacks the flared roof detail.

Though modest by residential standards of the 1930s, the hatchery manager’s house nevertheless raised eyebrows among park officials of the post-war period. As the Director of the Surveys and Engineering Branch, the agency then responsible for building projects in the parks, put it:

The ... house authorized for the officer-in-charge of the Hatchery here has developed into quite a place. Many high ranking officials in the government service at Ottawa would be proud to have it for a residence.... I have understood from the beginning that Mr. Cable (the manager) would be provided with a comfortable cabin, but I did not think that he would be given accommodation on the scale now provided....

Sources:

2. Staff residence, 312 Evergreen Street, Waterton townsite. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)
I.c.33. Superintendent’s Residence

Fundy National Park
Date of Construction: 1950
Original Owner: National Parks

With its establishment in 1947, Fundy National Park became the first addition to the national parks system in almost 10 years. Following past policy, park officials prescribed a distinctive “rustic” image for buildings at the new park. To accomplish this, the National Parks Division contracted the services of H.S. Brenan, an architect from Saint John, New Brunswick, who prepared plans for a series of park buildings, including the superintendent’s residence. Brenan probably worked within parameters prescribed by the Parks Division, which resulted in the use of split-stone facing for wall surfaces. This, coupled with the use of forms loosely based on English domestic architecture, formed the basis of the late adaptation of the rustic theme reflected in the superintendent’s residence.

In form and appearance, the superintendent’s residence is indistinguishable from domestic housing built in suburban settings throughout the country at that time. Within the park’s context, it complements the visual theme established by the 1948 administration building and reinforced by other public facilities constructed between 1948 and 1950 (see II.a.3, IV.a.4.)

1. Historical photo of superintendent’s residence shortly after completion in 1950. (CPS, Photo Service, n.d.)

Sources:
(Fundy National Park.)
I.d. Bunkhouses, Dormitories and Hostels

Bunkhouses and dormitories figured prominently in park development before 1950. Networks of work camps were established in western parks to accommodate men engaged in tasks ranging from road building and land clearance to landscaping and building construction. The majority of these camps were built as temporary quarters, in association with a succession of voluntary and involuntary labour programs. The best known and most extensive of these were unemployment relief camps established between 1930 and 1937. These were followed by alternate service camps for conscientious objectors and by prisoners-of-war camps, some of which occupied facilities left over from the unemployment relief phase.

The advent of the unemployment relief camps dictated the formulation of plans for bunkhouses, cook houses and other facilities within the parks. The actual buildings were constructed quickly and at minimal cost, using camp labour. The buildings varied considerably in appearance. Many were built with wood frames and covered with tar paper. Log construction was used in some locations where the material was abundant and capable builders were available. In these instances, a vertical log construction method was used, occasionally using log halves nailed to horizontal sills (see Part 1, Figure 27). Though none of these camp buildings has survived, they illustrate a distinctive aspect of rustic design in the parks—as a vernacular response to the need for basic shelter.

Existing work camps in the parks date from a later phase, when the National Parks Branch took steps to provide permanent accommodation for seasonal park workers. This type of facility is represented here by an example located in Prince Albert National Park.

Staff dormitories represent another aspect of seasonal labour in the parks. Most were built to accommodate staff working in the various resort hotels and lodges in the western parks. Some, like the examples at Jasper Park Lodge, were purposefully built to harmonize with the lodge's architectural character.

Hostels, the third type represented here, were a later introduction to the parks, first making their appearance during the late 1930s, but mostly dating from after the Second World War. In many instances, hostels occupied adapted buildings, many of them relocated from other sites.
I.d.1. Staff Dormitories

Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper National Park
Dates of Construction: 1923-1941
Original Owner: CNR

The construction method which the CNR adopted for its buildings at Jasper Park Lodge (horizontal log infill between vertical posts) enabled it to erect log buildings of considerable scale. While the railway claimed that its main lodge was the largest single-storey log structure in the world, some of its staff dormitories were likely candidates for the status of the world’s longest. The earliest dormitory extends 150 feet in length; the most recent member of the group, built in 1941, is 267 feet long.

The CNR established the dormitory complex, commonly referred to as the “Helps Compound,” in 1923, and constructed additional buildings as required. The complex currently contains buildings dating from successive phases of development, from 1923 up to the 1970s.

The pre-1950 buildings in the compound include four log dormitories dating from 1923 to 1930, a dining and laundry building (1925), recreation building (1924/1926), and a 1941 dormitory. All but the latter feature horizontal log construction; the 1941 building is a frame structure, skilfully clad with a half-log veneer to blend with its earlier neighbours. In fact, the various members of the group illustrate the subtle changes in construction methods used at Jasper Park Lodge prior to 1950. The earliest examples combine saddle-notched corners with a simple vertical log mortising system; those from the late 1920s display a more refined mortise system and vertical corner posts, along with subtle changes in roof design. Although originally intended only for summer use, the dormitories have been internally renovated for year-round occupancy, with minimal changes to their exteriors.

2. Staff Dormitory G, one of four near-identical staff dormitories built at Jasper Park Lodge between 1929 and 1930. (Pat Buchik, PWC, Engineering and Architectural Service-CPS, 1992.)
3. Staff Dormitory L, built 1940-1941. This 267-foot-long structure contains a milled-frame substructure, meticulously sheathed with a half-log veneer to blend with its earlier neighbours. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
The dormitory complex at the Prince of Wales Hotel consists of three two-and-one-half storey dormitory buildings and a one-storey cottage, all constructed in 1927-1928. The exteriors of the buildings were designed to complement the appearance of the hotel, as well as the rustic architectural theme that the Parks Branch was attempting to develop in the nearby Waterton Lakes townsite. This was reflected in the application of mock half-timbering to the gable ends and dormers of all four buildings. Branch architects also advised the Great Northern Railway that the common plan for the staff dormitories should be varied somewhat to create more visual interest within the complex. To accomplish this, the Branch architects prepared modified elevations for one of the dormitories, substituting a hipped-gable roof for the gable treatment used on the other two buildings.

The one-storey cottage was designed and built as a recreational facility for the hotel staff, then was subsequently converted into a staff residence. It complements the dormitory grouping and is an attractive example of rustic cottage design in its own right.

Sources:
2. Staff dormitory, Prince of Wales Hotel.
(Mills, CPS. AHB, 1989.)
I.d.3. **Whiskey Jack Hostel**  
*Former Yoho Valley Camp Staff Dormitory*

Takakkaw Falls  
Yoho National Park  
Date of Construction: ca. 1932  
Original Owner: CPR

The CPR built this frame structure around 1932, possibly as a staff dormitory for its Yoho Valley bungalow camp. The CPR operated the camp until the 1950s when it was acquired by Ford-Brewster Mountain Lodges Ltd., which ran it as the Highline Bungalows and Yoho Valley Lodge. National Parks acquired the facility in 1967, and subsequently removed all buildings on the site except the staff dormitory and a small cabin, which it leased to the Canadian Youth Hostelling Association. The dormitory was then renamed “Whiskey Jack Hostel” and opened to hostellers each summer.

Although the CPR used log construction for the majority of its backcountry lodges and bungalow camps, it employed milled frame construction at some sites, including the Yoho Valley Camp. At this location the railway built a succession of frame cabins (approximately 31 in all) between 1922 and 1938, relying on decorative elements such as half-timbered gables and painted wood trim to assert a rustic character. The Whiskey Jack Hostel, with its gabled side pavilions and covered verandah, fit in with this theme.


**Sources:**  
I.d.4. Recreation Hall/Library
(Former Bunkhouse No. 1)
and Dining Hall

Permanent Camp, Waskesiu Townsite
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1935-1936
Original Owners: National Parks

Possibly because Prince Albert National Park was in its early development stages, the Parks Branch decided to establish a permanent work camp there in 1935 while the Depression relief camp program was still in operation. Funds and labour for the project were obtained under the Public Works Construction Act, 1935, and through supplementary funding. This was the first permanent camp built in the national parks, and the only one in existence before the late 1940s.

The permanent camp at Waskesiu was built to designs prepared by National Parks staff architects, using stud-wall construction and half-log siding. This marked a departure from previous design practice in the park, where log construction had been prescribed for most major facilities.

Though austere in appearance, an effort was made to ensure that the buildings' exteriors harmonized to some degree with the rustic log buildings in the townsite. The camp consists of two main buildings (currently the recreation hall and dining hall) and three smaller structures. All share a uniformity in terms of detailing and exterior materials.

Sources:
"Government Buildings at Waskesiu ... April 1936-March 1940."
Maligne Canyon Hostel

Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1948
Original Owner: Canadian Youth Hostelling Association

In 1948, the Alberta Youth Hostelling Association began to develop a chain of hostels through the Rocky Mountains with the co-operation of the National Parks which provided both sites and facilities for the venture. Some of the initial facilities were recycled prisoner-of-war dormitories; others were prefabricated units built by commercial firms, based on plans furnished by the national parks.

Three of the four buildings comprising the Maligne Canyon Hostel were among the initial group of prefabricated units. They are based upon a set of plans prepared for this purpose by staff architect Charles E. Buck in 1944, and manufactured by North American Buildings Ltd. Purposefully designed to be inexpensive and to provide minimal accommodation, the cabins were nevertheless intended to blend in with their setting. (Many of the prisoner-of-war cabins initially slated for this purpose were rejected or replaced on the basis of their shabby appearance.) This was accomplished through the use of half-log siding and a regulation paint scheme prescribed by the national parks (brown walls with green trim). The fourth building was moved to the hostel complex in 1971 from a former hostel at the community of Entrance, east of the park.

1. A prefabricated cabin erected as part of the Maligne Canyon Hostel in 1948. (Photo courtesy Merna Forster, Jasper National Park, 1987.)
GROUP II: RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

II.a. Aquacourts/Bathhouses

Although few in number, bathhouses are among the most conspicuous and best-known buildings within the National Parks system. The first national park reserve was in fact created around the sulphur hot springs at Banff; the initial Cave and Basin bathhouse was the first public facility built there. The national parks system ultimately contained four hot spring spas—the Cave and Basin and Upper Hot Springs at Banff, Radium Hot Springs in Kootenay National Park, and the Miette Hot Springs in Jasper. The National Parks Branch constructed bathing facilities, interchangeably referred to as bathhouses or aquacourts, at each of these locations, and each in turn became a major tourist attraction within its respective park. (See Part 1, Figures 3, 28, 36, and Figure 1 below).

The status of the hot springs as primary park facilities was reflected in the attention lavished on their designs. The existing Cave and Basin facility was the first major architectural project undertaken by the National Parks Branch, and one of the most costly. Its design was purposefully intended to rival the elegance of the contemporary Banff Springs Hotel reconstruction, and to reinforce the hot springs’ stature as an international tourist attraction. Its later counterpart at the Upper Hot Springs was similarly intended as a major architectural landmark, and is one of the best examples of the Tudor Rustic style the Branch was promoting at that time.

Hot springs aquacourts consist of two major components: one or more bathing pools, and a changehouse. The bathing facilities include shallow soaking pools and deeper plunge baths. Just two of the four existing hot springs aquacourts predate 1950: the Upper Hot Springs and the Cave and Basin facilities at Banff. The Branch built just one aquacourt apart from those situated at hot springs sites in the mountain parks. This is the heated salt-water pool and changing facility at Fundy National Park, opened in 1950.
II.a. Aquacourts/Bathhouses

1. The original bathhouse at Radium Hot Springs, W.D. Cromarty, architect. Demolished. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 1651, File K 56-20.)
II.a.1. Cave and Basin Hot Springs Bathhouse

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1912-1914; Additions and Alterations 1933-1935
Original Owner: National Parks

Construction of this facility was the first major undertaking of the National Parks Branch following its establishment in 1911. The impetus for the project lay in the Cave and Basin’s status as the major public tourist attraction in the national parks, and in the CPR’s expansion of the Banff Springs Hotel. The hotel additions introduced a new scale and architectural vocabulary into the Banff townsite, which park officials decided to emulate in the new Cave and Basin Bathhouse.

The Branch hired Walter S. Painter, designer of the Banff Springs additions (which included a large pool facility) to design the new aquacourt. Painter drew on his expertise with reinforced concrete construction to devise a stable substructure. This entailed the driving of 300 piles into the porous underground tufa, and the fabrication of a system of arches to transfer pressures from the rear to the front walls. A veneer of rough-hewn Rundle limestone was then applied over the exterior concrete wall surfaces so that the building “would harmonize with the surroundings and scenery ...” in a manner similar to the new Painter additions to the Banff Springs Hotel. This stone treatment launched a Branch policy that prescribed Rundlestone as a decorative or structural element for most conspicuous public buildings within the park (see III.b.3, IV.a.3, IV.b.6. and IV.b.9.).

Sources:
RUSTIC BUILDING PROGRAMS

2. Cave and Basin bathhouse, pool interior. (CPS, WRO, n.d.)
II.a.2. Upper Hot Springs Bathhouse

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1931-1932
Original Owner: National Parks

Like its counterpart located further down the face of Sulphur Mountain (II.a.1.), this bathhouse was purposefully designed to reflect its importance as a major recreational facility within Banff National Park. In this case the designer was W.D. Cromarty, the National Parks Branch's chief staff architect. This is the largest single building which Cromarty personally designed, and illustrates his particular approach to the question of rustic imagery on parks facilities.

The bathhouse is symmetrical in plan, with broken-coursed Rundle limestone walls and a medium-pitch hipped roof that flares slightly at the eaves. The front facade is dominated by a central half-timbered gable that pierces the roofline above a buttressed entrance porch. This half-timbered element, with its English connotations, became a signature on public facilities throughout the national parks system during Cromarty's tenure as chief architect. The open air bathing pool immediately below the changehouse is enclosed by a retaining wall also sheathed with Rundle limestone. A caretaker's cottage overlooking the far end of the pool was originally half-timbered to reinforce the imagery on the bathhouse gable (see I.c.27.)

1. Upper Hot Springs Bathhouse, W.D. Cromarty, architect. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Sources:
* n.p. recognized building

229
II.a.3. Bathhouse

Fundy National Park
Date of Construction: 1950
Original Owner: National Parks

This building and an adjacent salt-water swimming pool were built as part of the initial development at Fundy National Park. Along with several other major buildings, including the superintendent's residence and park administration building (I.c.33., IV.a.4.), the bathhouse was designed by Saint John architect Herbert S. Brenan, and shares common features with other park buildings.

In order to create a distinctive theme for the park, the National Parks Branch instructed Brenan to utilize local stone as a primary wall material on major buildings. To further acquaint him with what they had in mind, park officials sent the architect a copy of manuals on park building design which the United States National Park Service had published in the late 1930s and 1940s. In the case of his bathhouse design, Brenan apparently took the advice to heart, leading to subsequent complaints that the design was a direct copy of one found in the U.S. publication.

On this building, the rustic element consists of the randomly coursed stonework on an otherwise comparatively restrained and formal design.

Sources:
NA, RG 84, Vol. 141, File 156-1, correspondence.
T.S. Mills to J. Smart, October 1948.
The American publication in question was Albert H. Good, Park and Recreation Structures (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938), Vol. II.
2. Bathhouse, Fundy National Park.
(Fundy National Park, 1990.)
II.b. Museums and Community Buildings

Two types of museums are found in the National Parks system: natural history museums, which were established in several park townsites in western Canada, commencing at Banff in 1895; and a parallel group of historical museums which the National Parks Branch began building during the mid-1930s as interpretation centres at national historic parks in eastern Canada.

Because they were regarded as major tourist attractions and recreational facilities, museums frequently received special attention from a design standpoint. At the townsites of Banff, Wasagaming and Waskesiu, park museums were purposefully designed to be conspicuous landmarks, anchoring the rustic themes prescribed within the respective parks. The Banff Museum is the oldest public facility within the National Parks system, and has been commemorated as a National Historic Site on advice of the HSMBC.

In addition to displaying collections of regional flora and fauna, the natural museums in the western parks were designed to function as social centres for park visitors. To this end, they were equipped with facilities such as public reading rooms and lecture halls. In Prince Albert and Riding Mountain national parks, the buildings were envisioned as combined museums and community buildings, although only the Wasagaming example was actually built along those lines; at Waskesiu, separate buildings were constructed to house the two functions. The former museum at Wasagaming is one of the finest examples of the Parks Branch’s Tudor Rustic style, and anchors a cohesive architectural theme that was applied at Wasagaming with a consistency and on a scale unmatched in other park townsites.

The approach taken for the historical museums was considerably different. In some cases (Fort Ann and Fort Chambly), the Branch developed new museum facilities within the fabric of the historic sites themselves. At others, notably Louisbourg, Fort Beauséjour and Fort Malden, it erected freestanding buildings that were intended to evoke historical associations with the respective sites, and to lend character to the parks that the Branch was developing around them. This approach was consistent with the design philosophy followed by the Branch up to 1937, in which design traditions associated with founding European cultural groups were to be incorporated into parks themes. Linkages of this sort were readily available in the case of the historic parks being developed in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario.
II.b.1. Banff Museum**

Banff Avenue, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1902-1903
Original Owner: National Parks

The Banff Museum occupies a unique niche in the history of the national parks system. It is the oldest public building in the system, and the oldest museum in western Canada. Its design, with its unusual inlaid crossed-stick wall treatment and distinctive pagoda-like profile, dates from the initial construction phase at Banff, when the park superintendent prescribed a "rustic Swiss" style for conspicuous public facilities situated in the townsite. The museum was by far the largest and most costly building project undertaken during this initial construction phase, which drew to a close in 1911 with the establishment of the (then) Dominion Parks Branch.

The museum, along with an early bathhouse at the Upper Hot Springs, was designed by John Stocks, a former CPR bridge and building engineer, who evidently brought his previous experience with railway station construction to bear in the design for this structure. Among its notable features is the two-tiered bell-cast roof crowned by a lantern. This aesthetic was sometimes described as a "Van Horne roof," a label coined in reference to a similar roof treatment used on a number of preliminary CPR log stations built in the park during the 1880s, to plans ascribed to CPR superintendent William Van Horne.

The roof lantern provides natural lighting for the cantilevered mezzanine level of the interior display area. The building was erected to a high level of workmanship, using clear B.C. fir as the principal building material, in marked departure from the later preference for local materials. At the time of its completion Park Superintendent Howard Douglas reported that the museum "has been described as the most handsome of all western public buildings, having regard to the size and cost of constructing it...."

The museum originally housed a public reading room and the park superintendent's office, in addition to a collection of fossils, flora and fauna established in 1895 with the aid of the Geological Survey of Canada. The museum's early history is closely interwoven with the career of Norman B. Sanson, curator of the collection from 1896 until his retirement in 1932, and advisor for many years afterwards.

Sources:
** Designated as a National Historic Site; FHBRO classified building
II.b.2. Interpretive Centre
(Former Museum and Community Building)*

Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1933-1934
Original Owners: National Parks

The influence of the National Parks Branch's Architectural Division was especially strong at Wasagaming, where staff architects exercised direct control over both the architectural theme and the layout and landscaping of the townsite. The Interpretive Centre was designed to be an architectural showpiece within the townsite, embodying the rustic formula of peeled log and English stylistic references which were repeated in varying degrees on smaller public facilities throughout the park (see Part 1, Figures 37, 38).

The building’s imagery was enhanced by the surrounding government reserve, which was landscaped with “broad lawns, picturesque walks, artistically designed flower beds and pergolas....” At the rear of the building, unemployment relief labourers installed a small garden, “landscaped in the English style, containing a fountain and a rustic summer house with thatched roof,” while a flower garden in front of it was sculpted to form the initials of the King.

The building was designed as a multiple-purpose facility, containing a hall that could be used for church services, public lectures and meetings, a public reading room, and a natural museum. Craftsmanship on the building was of a high standard, and extended to the fabrication of specially designed furniture and display cases that complemented the style of the building. This high quality was made possible by the extensive Depression relief funding then available for projects in the park, and by the availability of skilled log and stone craftsmen within the vicinity.

The building remains a conspicuous landmark, anchoring an architectural theme that still defines the character of the Wasagaming townsite. In addition, it is the most ambitious building constructed to plans prepared by the National Parks Branch’s Architectural Division during the Depression relief period. As such it embodies the fullest expression of the rustic theme envisioned and developed under the direction of chief architect W.D. Cromarty.

Sources:
* FHBRO classified building
1. Front elevation drawing for the Museum at Riding Mountain National Park. The finished building differed only in the dormer roof treatment. (PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, Plan RM 7.)

2. The museum and community building shortly after completion. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

3. The Riding Mountain Interpretive Centre in 1984. (C. Cameron, CPS, 1984.)
II.b.3. Community Building*

Waskesiu Townsite  
Prince Albert National Park  
Date of Construction: 1933-1934; Additions 1936-1937  
Original Owner: National Parks

This building was initially intended as a combined museum and community building, employing a variation on the plan previously devised for the example built at Wasagaming (II.b.2.) However, a mix-up over the building's site resulted in a hasty change of plans after its construction was well underway in 1933. The Parks Branch's chief engineer had ordered its construction on a low-lying site mid-way between the public picnic area and camp grounds. "After all," he reasoned, "the building is being erected primarily for the use of campers and will be used more on days when the weather is bad than at any other time...." The Minister of the Interior disagreed, and ordered that the museum be placed on a more conspicuous site and be more comparable in scale and prominence to the one at Riding Mountain. This led to the construction of a new museum building on a lakefront site adjacent to Waskesiu's commercial zone (see II.b.4.), and the conversion of the original building into a single-purpose community hall.

In its original configuration, the community hall featured the standard rustic treatment developed by staff architects for this park. The walls were built with peeled spruce logs, saddle-notched at the corners, over a poured concrete foundation that was faced with local beach stones. Similar stone was applied to the front porch and to the chimneys. The medium-pitched hipped roof, along with an eyebrow dormer, was repeated on other major public facilities in the townsite during this period.

The building was substantially enlarged by an addition in 1936-1937, in which similar materials were used. The interior is dominated by a log-sheathed open hall with an open truss system, also crafted from peeled logs.

Sources:

* nms recognized building
1. Community Building, Waskesiu, as it appeared in 1934. (CPS, Photo Services.)

2. Community Building as it appeared after 1936-37 addition. (CPS, Photo Services, N.08-80-02-08[10].)
II.b.4. Nature Centre
(Former Natural History Museum)*

Waskesiu Townsite
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1935
Original Owner: National Parks

Natural history museums were identified as priority facilities in the first stages of development at both the Waskesiu and Wasagaming townsites. Park administrators envisioned them both as major tourist attractions and as prominent architectural features. Like its slightly earlier counterpart at Wasagaming (II.b.2.), the museum building at Waskesiu incorporated the log construction and English design elements that the Branch’s Architectural Division was prescribing for public facilities in the park.

On this building, leaded windows and half-timbering above the sill level on the side walls were combined with random-coursed stonework and horizontal log wall construction. The design incorporated virtually all architectural motifs and materials applied in varying degrees on smaller public buildings in and around the Waskesiu townsite between 1930 and 1936. Like most of these buildings, the museum was built with funds and labour supplied through federal Depression relief legislation.

Unlike its Wasagaming counterpart, this building was intended only as a natural museum, housing a collection of indigenous flora and fauna and a small theatre for lectures and slide shows. Other social activities took place in a separate community hall located near the townsite campground (see II.b.3.).

The building continues to be used for display purposes and interpretive programs during the summer months. It occupies a conspicuous lakefront site in the centre of Waskesiu.

Sources:
* FHRB recognized building
1. The Nature Centre (originally the Natural History Museum), Waskesiu townsite, Prince Albert National Park, built in 1935. (CPS, WRO, Webster Collection, n.d.)

2. Interior of the Natural History Museum, Waskesiu, ca. 1936-1938. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)
II.b.5. Visitor Centre/Museum*

Fort Beauséjour National Historic Site  
Aulac, New Brunswick  
Date of Construction: 1936; Additions 1938 and 1948  
Original Owner: National Parks

Along with its counterpart at Louisbourg (II.b.6.), this building was designed to evoke a sense of history without being an accurate reconstruction of a specific building. At Beauséjour, built by the French in 1751-1755 and subsequently captured and enlarged by the British, the National Parks Branch decided to employ an architectural image roughly based on a medieval French chateau. This theme seemed particularly appropriate at the time, since it had already been embraced for a series of railway hotels across the country and for several major federal government buildings in Ottawa.

The museum at Fort Beauséjour was built in three stages. The original section, a rectangular one-storey structure with sandstone walls and a steeply pitched hipped copper roof, became an instant landmark, conveying a sense of venerability to a site devoid of architectural features apart from the archaeological ruins of the old fort. The building was constructed with funds obtained through the Public Works Construction Act, 1934. Construction was directed by the Department of Public Works, which was also involved in development of its final plans, using preliminary drawings and directions supplied by the architectural staff of the National Parks Branch. Branch architects were in turn directed by the recommendations of Dr. J.C. Webster, the Nova Scotia representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and the museum’s long-time proponent. The museum’s appearance met the approval of national parks officials of the day, who noted that it had “a general air of quaintness, in keeping with the purpose for which it was erected.” Later additions followed the design of the original section, and created the building’s present “H” configuration.

The use of architectural images loosely tied to historical antecedents for the museums at Beauséjour and Louisbourg paralleled the National Parks Branch’s efforts to evoke a specific rustic image through the use of native materials and English design references in the western parks.

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building

241
1. Museum and fortifications, Fort Beauséjour National Historic Site. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

2. Visitor Centre/Museum, Fort Beauséjour National Historic Site. (CPS, Photo Services, ca. 1990.)
II.b.6. Louisbourg Historical Museum*

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site,
Nova Scotia
Date of Construction: 1935-1936
Original Owner: National Parks

This facility, consisting of a museum and caretaker’s house, was built as a Depression relief project, in association with the stabilization of the fortress ruins at Louisbourg. The two projects were seen as means of alleviating high unemployment in the area and increasing the site’s attraction to tourists.

Park officials wanted the museum and residence to evoke the character of the French colonial era. To achieve this, the structures were sheathed with local fieldstone and covered with steeply pitched hipped roofs clad with copper. The roofs are slightly bell-cast, and embellished with gabled entrances and dormers which underscore the French historical associations (See Part 1, Figure 57).

Although the final plans were drawn in the office of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, they were based on conceptual drawings and plans supplied by W.D. Cromarty, chief of the National Parks Branch’s architectural division, and reflect his long-standing interest in historic design traditions. Like its counterpart at Fort Beauséjour (II.b.5.), this facility illustrates the approach taken to the interpretation of historic sites during the early stages of their management and development within the National Parks system.

Like their earlier counterpart at Banff, the museums at Beauséjour and Louisbourg have become artifacts in their own right, depicting prevailing attitudes towards conservation and interpretation during the 1930s.

1. The museum and caretaker’s residence at the Fortress of Louisbourg, as it appeared in 1948. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 1056, File FB 318, vol. 5.)

Sources:
* naco recognized building
II.c. Sports and Entertainment

1. The Banff Springs Golf Course, with the clubhouse and the hotel in the background, ca. 1937-1938. (CPS, Photo Services.)

2. Elevation for the dancehall at Waterton Lakes National Park, prepared by National Parks Branch architects in 1927. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 2187, File 21-4-8.)
II.c. Sports and Entertainment
(Clubhouses, Boathouses, Dancehalls and Cinemas)

Various forms of recreation and entertainment were introduced into the national parks in conjunction with efforts to develop them as tourist resorts. Horseback riding and boat rentals were among the earliest commercial activities to appear in the parks, and were initially run by private concessionaires in association with the early railway resorts. The Parks Branch was directly involved in the establishment of most facilities for club sports such as golf, tennis and lawn bowling, while amusements like cinemas, dancehalls and roller skating rinks were built in park townsites by commercial interests, subject to Branch approval.

In most parks, golf clubhouses were among the largest and most elaborate recreational facilities, reflecting their prominent roles as tourist attractions. In Banff and Jasper, golf courses were developed in close proximity to the Banff Springs Hotel and Jasper Park Lodge, and gained renown from the well-publicized patronage of dignitaries and celebrities. These facilities in turn set precedents for the development of golf courses at other parks: Waterton Lakes, Elk Island, Riding Mountain, Prince Albert, Fundy, Cape Breton Highlands, and Prince Edward Island. In each case, the construction of an attractive clubhouse and subsidiary structures became major priorities. Clubhouses were designed to harmonize with their manicured surroundings, and with the architectural themes of nearby facilities.

At Banff and Jasper, the golf courses were taken over by the railways, which erected clubhouses that complemented the styles of their resort facilities. In the other parks, the courses were developed and owned by National Parks and the clubhouses accordingly followed the rustic themes being developed in their respective parks. Of four pre-1950 golf clubhouses still standing in the parks, the example at the Waskesiu golf course in Prince Albert best illustrates the rustic design tradition associated with the national parks (II.c.7.). Perhaps reflecting their lesser stature as tourist attractions, tennis and lawn bowling facilities usually received less attention from a design standpoint, with the notable exception of the tennis pavilion at Riding Mountain National Park (II.c.8.).

The first cinema was opened in the Banff townsite in 1910. It was followed by others in Jasper, Waterton Lakes, Wasagaming and Waskesiu. Dancehalls appeared somewhat later. The earliest freestanding example was built in association with Jasper Park Lodge in 1924 (II.c.2.); others were established at Banff, Waterton Lakes, Waskesiu and Wasagaming during the late 1920s and 1930s. The National Parks Branch did little to regulate the appearance of these types of facilities until the mid-1920s. Afterwards, it scrutinized design proposals closely, with builders usually
employing designs prepared for them by Branch architects. As a result, cinemas and dancehalls built during the 1930s closely reflect the Branch's design aims at that time. This aspect of rustic design in the parks is best embodied in the two adjacent structures at Wasagaming, Riding Mountain National Park: “Danceland,” and the Park Theatre (II.c.5. and II.c.11.).

3. The Waterton Lakes Dancehall as it appeared in ca. 1930; the Prince of Wales Hotel is visible in the background at left. This dancehall was destroyed by fire in 1938. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)
II.c.1. **Boathouse**

Emerald Lake Chalet  
Yoho National Park  
Date of Construction: Pre-1912  
Original Owner: CPR

Many lakefront lodges in the parks offered boat and canoe rentals to their patrons. The CPR’s Emerald Lake Chalet was one of the earliest backcountry resorts, opening for business in 1904 (see I.b.1.). This building, a simple rectangular structure surrounded by a perimeter deck, accommodated a boat rental operation at Emerald Lake from the early stages of the lodge’s operation, and is the only early outbuilding remaining on the site.

1. Emerald Lake boathouse as it appeared in 1992. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)

Source:  
II.c.2. Le Pub
(Former Dance Pavilion)

Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1924;
Dismantled and Reassembled on Present Site in 1926
Original Owner: CNR

The CNR originally built this dancehall on a lakefront site immediately below the main lodge. Within a year of its completion, railway executives ordered its removal, citing patrons' objections to having to leave the main lodge in order to dance as justification for incorporating a new dance facility into a wing of that building. Accordingly, the dancehall was dismantled and reconstructed in modified form within the staff dormitory compound (see I.d.1.).

This was the first freestanding dancehall built in a national park, and anticipated a succession of others that appeared in other parks over the following decade. It is by far the best-preserved of the three examples that remain standing.

Le Pub displays the primary structural characteristics associated with the first stage of log construction at Jasper Park Lodge. Walls are of peeled spruce log construction with saddle-notched corners on the front section; side walls feature horizontal logs set between vertical half-logs. Vertical corner posts at the rear of the building may be a modification introduced at the time of the 1926 reconstruction. The building rests on a solid field stone foundation typical of the earliest building phase at the lodge site.

Le Pub well illustrates the distinctive characteristics of early dancehalls. The dance floor occupies the central one-and-one-half-storey section, while the lower side sections accommodated perimeter seating and refreshment areas. A series of double doors along each side permitted air circulation and easy exits from the building. The intact interior is highlighted by a remarkable open hall space supported by a log truss system, replete with curved stick brackets. Roof dormers provide natural lighting for the dance area below, while balconies add to the overall ambience of the rustic log environment. Though run-down in appearance, Le Pub's interior remains essentially intact, offering a rare glimpse of early dancehall design and of the rustic log interior treatment for which the original 1923 main lodge at Jasper Park Lodge was famed.

Sources:
Jasper National Park. Jasper Park Lodge realty files and original building plans.

248
1. The original dancehall and boathouse facility at Jasper Park Lodge, ca. 1924. (Photo courtesy of Jasper Park Lodge.)

2. Le Pub, located in the staff dormitory compound, was built in 1926 with components of the lakefront dancehall. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
II.c.3. Maligne Lake Boathouse

Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1928-1931
Original Owner: Donald (Curly) Phillips

Tour boat and boat rental businesses were popular attractions in many of the parks. The Maligne Lake Boathouse is a rare surviving example of this type of facility. It was built by Curly Phillips, Jasper's first licensed guide and outfitter, who was also noted for his log building skills (see I.a.18.) Phillips built his own boats, and operated a modest cruise boat business on Medicine and Maligne Lakes until the mid-1930s.

Phillips' boathouse rests on piers embedded in the lake bottom. The building features vertical log corner posts, infilled with sawn board panels. Below the window sill level, Phillips applied an overlay of sawn logs in a crisscross pattern. Peeled log posts with protruding branch stumps support the overhanging roof covering the perimeter deck. These decorative rustic elements convey a rough-hewn character that suited Phillips' operation in this remote location.

1. Undated historical photo of the Maligne Lake Boathouse. (W.J. Oliver photo, CPS, Photo Services, Photo 09.94.07.19.)

Sources:
2. Maligne Lake Boathouse at it appeared in 1990. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)
II.c.4. Assembly Hall
(Former Terrace Gardens Dancehall)*

Lakeview Drive, Waskesiu Townsite
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1931
Original Owner: William Schon

This former dancehall illustrates the pragmatic approach taken towards commercial facilities in the park townsites. Development of the new Waskesiu townsite coincided with the onslaught of the Great Depression. Park officials accordingly relaxed some of the regulations regarding commercial establishments, although they continued to insist that applicants submit their plans for approval, or have plans drawn for them by staff architects. William Schon took the latter route, and plans were prepared for a simple frame hall that could be built at minimal cost. The resulting building resembles similar facilities that appeared in resort areas across the country during the 1920s and 1930s, in response to the rising popularity of dancing as a social activity. The building's plan consists of an open rectangular dance floor flanked by promenade areas that run along each side. On warm nights, shutters would be opened to admit fresh air and to provide patrons with a glimpse of the lake. In this case the rustic character derived more from the structure's barn-like simplicity than from intentional design elements.

The building remained in operation as a commercial dancehall until 1970, when it was acquired by the park and converted to a public assembly hall. Its exterior remains unaltered in appearance.

1. The Terrace Gardens Dancehall as it appeared in the 1930s. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 1736, File PA 21.1.7., n.d.)

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
2. The former dancehall as it appeared in 1986. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)
II.c.5. “Danceland”

Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1934
Original Owner: Charles T. Pedlar

The National Parks Branch’s staff architects prepared plans for several commercial dancehalls during the 1920s and 1930s. The largest and most elaborate of these were built at Waterton Lakes and Wasagaming in 1925-1926 and 1933 respectively, based on a similar plan. Danceland’s former counterpart at Waterton Lakes was destroyed and rebuilt along different lines in the late 1930s.

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 pitch covers the perimeter section. A gable-roofed 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. Its exterior appearance has been changed in recent years by the replacement of original tapered siding with milled half-log siding, by the enclosure of its clerestory windows, and by extensive modifications to its main entrance. The building’s most remarkable structural feature is its interior dance floor, which is dominated by the log structural system. Moreover, it continues to perform its original function as a commercial dancehall.

Sources:
1. Danceland as it appeared in 1935, a year after its completion. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 1913.)

2. Danceland's main entrance in 1988, showing the original half-timbered gable, clerestory windows, and wall sheathing. (Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Historic Resources Branch.)
3. Danceland in 1991. Half-log siding has been applied to outer wall surfaces, covering original features including the front gable and the clerestory windows. (CPS. Heritage Recording Services, 1991.)

4. Log columns and roof truss system, Danceland. (CPS. Heritage Recording Services, 1991.)
II.c.6. **Golf Clubhouse**

Wasagaming Golf Course  
Riding Mountain National Park  
Date of Construction: 1933; Additions 1935  
Original Owner: National Parks

This clubhouse sits on a prominent ridge overlooking Clear Lake, and is surrounded by the golf course greens. It was built in two stages and assumed its present configuration and appearance in 1935. Much of the work is attributed to Gottfrid Johnson, a log builder, contractor and stone mason who supervised many construction projects in the park during the 1930s (see I.c.22., II.c.8.). Walls were constructed of peeled spruce logs, saddle-notched at the corners. Local fieldstone was used extensively on the building, as a sheathing material for the foundation walls, fireplace and chimneys, and for piers supporting the perimeter verandah and front entrance porch.

Although the materials and construction methods link the clubhouse to other public facilities built at Riding Mountain during the Depression relief period, it lacks the stylistic motifs such as half-timbered gables typically found on buildings designed by the Parks Branch architects at this time.

1. Golf clubhouse at Wasagaming, Riding Mountain National Park, as it appeared in the 1950s. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 1913.)

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Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
(CPS, Heritage Recording Services.)
II.c.7. Golf Clubhouse*

Waskesiu Golf Course
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1934-1935
Original Owner: National Parks

This clubhouse was built by work crews stationed in unemployment relief camps located in Prince Albert National Park during the Depression relief period. Its design was prepared by the Parks Branch's architectural division in 1934, and bears stylistic resemblances to other major rustic facilities built during the same period at Riding Mountain and Prince Albert parks, most notably the museum at Waskesiu (II.b.4.) and the museum/community building at Wasagaming (II.b.2.) Like these structures, the clubhouse displays the fusion of horizontal log construction, split boulderstone trim, and English domestic design references that characterised many National Park facilities built during the 1930s, and referred to in this report as "Tudor Rustic."

The clubhouse is located on the edge of the golf course, surrounded by a grove of trees and golfing greens, and overlooking Waskesiu Lake. Exterior changes have been minimal, apart from the installation of glazing on the front verandah.

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
2. Historical photograph of the golf clubhouse at Waskesiu. (W.J. Oliver photo. CPS, Photo Services, N.08-80-02-08 [03].)

II.c.8. Tennis Pavilion*

Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1934-1935
Original Owner: National Parks

Although tennis courts have long been fixtures in many national parks, they were rarely accompanied by substantial clubhouses or changing facilities. This building at Wasagaming is a notable exception. Designed by staff architects, it was a product of the log building program pursued in Riding Mountain between 1930 and 1936. It, along with nearby beachfront bathhouses, the park administration building, and the museum/community building (II.b.2.), embodied the distinctive “Tudor Rustic” theme, based on the combination of peeled-log wall construction complemented by half-timbered and fieldstone trim.

The tennis pavilion was built by Gottfrid and Herb Johnson, log builders from Erickson, Manitoba, with the assistance of relief labour crews funded under the Public Works Construction Act, 1934.

The pavilion’s design is highlighted by saddle-notched walls, a perimeter verandah borne by vertical log posts, with exposed log rafters and curved stick bracketing. The half-timber motif is incorporated in the gabled hood above the front entrance, and on a projecting bay on the rear facade. The hipped roof was originally clad with milled shingles, laid with decorative horizontal bands at three-foot intervals. This roof treatment, which was applied on major public buildings at Wasagaming, has been discontinued. Otherwise, the pavilion’s exterior is unchanged in appearance.

The tennis pavilion is located on the perimeter of the Government Reserve area in Wasagaming, in close proximity to the contemporary Interpretive Building. The present structure complements and reinforces the character of that building.

Sources:

* FHBRO recognized building
1. The tennis pavilion as it appeared in the 1950s. (CPS. Photo Service, n.d.)

3. Tennis pavilion, Riding Mountain National Park. (CPS, Heritage Recording Services, 1991.)
II.c.9. Wauldhaus Restaurant  
(Former Golf Clubhouse)

Banff Springs Hotel Golf Course  
Banff National Park  
Date of Construction: 1936-1937  
Original Owner: CPR

The CPR established a golf course in 1911 for the use of patrons at the Banff Springs Hotel. In 1917 the Dominion Parks Branch took it over, then expanded and ran it for the next 10 years. The course then reverted to the CPR, which hired Stanley Thompson, a Toronto-based golf course designer, to completely redesign it. The course subsequently became one of the hotel’s major attractions. Its rise in prestige prompted the CPR to replace the original 1911 clubhouse with a much more imposing facility in the 1930s. This building, set on the perimeter of the greens below the hotel, was designed both to complement the imposing scale and character of the Banff Springs Hotel and to be an architectural landmark in its own right (See II.c. introduction, Figure 1).

To this end a highly picturesque design was devised which incorporated the varied textures of Rundle limestone, brick, stucco and half-timbering found on sections of the hotel. A conical tower, along with an open rotunda that afforded patrons a panoramic view of the course and the Bow River valley, are noteworthy features of the design.

The building was replaced by a new clubhouse in the 1970s; it is currently used as a restaurant.

Sources:
The construction date was supplied by hotel staff, Banff Springs Hotel.  
2. Wauldhaus Restaurant, front facade. (Mills, CFS, AHB, 1990.)
II.c.10. Waterton Lakes Opera House  
(Former Alpine Theatre)

309 Windflower Ave., Waterton Lakes Townsite  
Waterton Lakes National Park  
Date of Construction: 1935-1936  
Original Owner: Unknown

By the mid-1930s cinemas had become standard fixtures in all the park townsites. Most were of conventional design, built alongside other commercial blocks on the principal business streets. The example at Waterton Lakes illustrates the approach taken by Branch architects for buildings of this type. The applicant initially submitted a crude design of his own, with a streetfront facade that would have been commonplace in any small town of the region. The staff architects reworked the plan, substituting a new facade treatment that incorporated a stone veneer on the ground floor, a false gabled roofline, and decorative half-timbered upper floor bays. In this manner, staff designers ensured that the building would harmonize with the Tudor-Rustic theme they were attempting to develop within the townsite.

The cinema continues to operate in summer months, and retains much of its original character.

(Mills, CPS, AHB.)

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Sources:  
NA. RG 84, Vol. 2180. File W 21-2-26 (includes plans and elevations)
Log commercial buildings are rarities within the park townsites. The Park Theatre was the only cinema built of this material within the parks, or for that matter anywhere in the country. It was built from locally cut spruce logs, using a design prepared for its owners by National Parks Branch staff architects. Chief contractor for the Park Theatre was John Anderson, who had built the neighbouring Danceland two years earlier (see II.c.5.)

The building’s T-shaped plan consists of two sections. Facing the street is a rectangular one-and-one-half-storey block housing the ticket booth, foyer, projection room and two retail shops. This section is covered with a broad hipped roof, broken on the front by a gabled dormer above the entrance foyer. The auditorium section, measuring approximately 78 feet by 40 feet, is covered by a somewhat higher gabled roof. All walls were constructed with horizontally laid logs, saddle-notched at the corners. Concrete buttresses were incorporated on the side walls of the auditorium to bear the outward thrust of the roof.

The building continues to be operated as a cinema during the summer months. It, and the nearby dancehall, are remarkable vestiges, both in terms of the entertainments for which they were built and continue to provide, and as major by-products of the National Parks design policies during the Depression years.

Sources:
2. The Park Theatre ca. 1986. (CPS, PNRO.)
II.c.12. Bowling Green Clubhouse

Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1948
Original Owner: National Parks Branch

This facility illustrates the changing approach taken to public facilities in the parks during the 1940s. Whereas log construction and a specific design theme had been possible during the Depression relief period of the 1930s, financial constraints and changing priorities dictated a switch to milled frame construction after 1937. In this case building plans specified the use of milled half-log siding for the exterior walls, while mock half-timbering on the gable ends continued the motif used on 1930s designs. The building contained similar facilities to those found in the tennis pavilion completed 13 years earlier in Wasagaming (see II.c.8.).

In 1957 the building was resheathed with tapered siding and its front verandah was enclosed, reducing its visual associations with other pre-1950 public buildings at Riding Mountain.

1. Lawn bowling at Riding Mountain, ca. 1950. (CPS, Photo Services.)

Sources:
Public Works Canada. Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, building plan RM 42.
1. The bowling clubhouse as it appeared in 1984. (S. Stepman, CPS, PNRO.)
II.c.13. Golf Clubhouse

Fundy National Park
Date of Construction: 1950
Original Owner: National Parks

This clubhouse, along with a nine-hole golf course, were among the major projects undertaken at Fundy National Park between 1948 and its official opening in July 1950. The National Parks Bureau retained Stanley Thompson, a Toronto-based landscape and golf course architect, to design both the course and the grounds surrounding the park administration area. Thompson had previously designed a succession of golf courses in the national parks, most notably at Banff and Jasper.

Like most other major buildings constructed in the park between 1948 and 1950, the clubhouse featured random-coursed sandstone as a major component (see I.c.33., II.a.3., III.b.7.) In this case, the stonework is applied to lower wall surfaces, a vestibule and the chimney. Walls above the window sill level are clad with bevelled siding. The design is attributed to Herbert S. Brenan, architect for the other initial buildings in the park.

(Fundy National Park, 1990.)

Sources:
L.L. Milburn, Fundy National Park. FHBRO
W.F. Lothian, A Brief History of Canada’s National Parks, p. 113.
II.d. Shelters, Pavilions and Public Conveniences

This group includes small secondary facilities located in gardens, picnic areas, campgrounds and golf courses. The majority are open-sided pavilions, some used as shelters for campers, picnickers or golfers, others as bandstands or garden features in landscaped public areas. Also included are various public conveniences built in conjunction with campgrounds and golf courses.

These types of buildings were commonly found in public parks throughout North America, and rustic designs were routinely prescribed for them on the assumption that they should blend in with their surroundings. "Rustic" pavilions were key recreational facilities within early parks, where they often served interchangeably as picnic shelters and bandstands for summer concerts (Figure 1). Because they were inexpensive to build and were less constrained by building regulations, pavilions offered considerable scope for flamboyant designs and individualistic touches, characteristics that are evident in several examples found in the national parks, particularly those built by unemployment relief work crews during the 1930s.

As the campground and golfing movements grew, so too did the applications for structures of this sort, and they consequently became common features within the national parks. During the 1920s and 1930s, staff architects devised standard plans for many such structures, consistently prescribing the use of peeled log construction, occasionally trimmed with stone where these materials were locally available. In later years, these materials were increasingly phased out in favour of milled frame construction, although log siding and decorative trim continued to be applied to sustain a rustic appearance within the campgrounds and recreational areas.

1. Campers at a kitchen shelter, Beausoleil Island, Georgian Bay Islands National Park, n.d. (CPS, Photo Services, N.06-61-07-04 [55].)
II.d.1. Picnic Shelters

Gordon Island and Grenadier Island
St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Ontario
Dates of Construction: 1904-1905;
Alterations ca. 1936
Original Owner: Department of the Interior

In 1904, the Department of the Interior purchased nine islands in the Thousand Islands chain "for park purposes," and contracted J.D. Warwick of Brockville, Ontario, to build a series of wharves and seven picnic pavilions on them. Warwick apparently used a single plan for all seven pavilions. They featured octagonal plans, milled frame construction, and conical roofs with gables on two sides.

As built, the pavilions were open sided, with paired milled wood columns supporting the roofs. In this configuration they showed no evidence of rustic design.

The St. Lawrence Islands park was not formally incorporated into the national parks system until 1911, when the newly created Dominion Parks Branch assumed responsibility for its administration. Over the next three decades the number of pavilions in the park increased, some of the original ones were replaced, and the others were modified. At present, three of the original 1904 pavilions remain, on Gordon and Grenadier islands and at Mallorytown Landing. While all three retain the distinctive original roof shape, they bear evidence of considerable modification over the years, including the introduction of rustic elements during the late 1920s and 1930s. This entailed the replacement of four of the original eight paired columns with random-coursed fieldstone piers. At Mallorytown Landing, the stone piers were extended several feet, which partially enclosed the structure, and the remaining walls were enclosed with milled wooden panels. This former pavilion now serves as the park information centre. The sides on the remaining two pavilions were partially enclosed, though the paired columns remain visible.

These are the earliest remaining facilities of this type within the national parks system.

Sources:
W.F. Lothian. A Brief History of Canada's National Parks, p. 82-83.
1. Undated historical photo of Mallorytown picnic shelter. (CPS, Ontario Region.)

2. Gordon Island picnic shelter, ca. 1990. (CPS, Ontario Region.)
II.d.2. Interpretation Building
(Former Community Building)*

This was the first in a series of community buildings to be erected in campgrounds in the national parks. Its enclosed plan and domestic appearance contrast with later examples which were typically open-sided pavilions (see II.d.7. and II.d.8.)

The townsite campground played a major role in the historical development of the Waterton Lakes townsite. From the park's inception, camping was the most popular form of accommodation, and the continuous presence of the public campground exerted an influence over the townsite's development. In 1925 the campground was redeveloped into one of the first facilities known as "automobile campgrounds" within the national parks.

The present building was the first major permanent facility to be built following this reorientation. It was built to a plan prepared by W.D. Cromarty, chief Branch architect, who was then serving as acting park superintendent at Waterton Lakes during the summer months. In 1928 the building was doubled in size by an addition to one end and the installation of a rear wing. Initially, the building functioned as a multipurpose facility within the campground, with a two-room suite for the campground attendant, a large room for interpretive activities and social gatherings, and staff offices.

The building was originally sheathed with half-log siding, and featured various design elements that Cromarty frequently applied to public and private building designs in the Waterton townsite. Among them were an eyebrow hood above the side entrance and exposed rafters. Alterations performed in 1960-1961 replaced the half-log siding with tapered siding and eliminated the original eaves treatment. The building nevertheless retains its 1928 configuration and contributes positively to the character of the campground area.

Sources:
FHBO Building Report 90-235.
* FHBO recognized building
1. Plan and elevations for community building at Waterton Lakes, as built, dated 22 May 1926. (PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services, CPS, Plan WL 8.)

2. Interpretation Building, Waterton Lakes, showing 1928 addition, new siding. (Waterton Lakes National Park, 1990.)
II.d.3. Golf Shelter

Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: ca. 1928-1930
Original Owner: CNR

This substantial pavilion features a square plan, rather than the octagonal format frequently used for structures of this sort. Its construction and materials are similar to those used on other buildings at Jasper Park Lodge. In this case, four cobblestone corner piers are linked diagonally by stone walls which serve as bench frames. The pyramidal roof is borne by grouped vertical posts which are embellished with decorative, curved-stick brackets.

1. Golf shelter, Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Sources:
II.d.4. **Kitchen Shelter No. 1**

Clear Lake Campground, Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1930
Original Owner: National Parks

**Kitchen Shelters***

Townsite Campground, Waterton Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1932
Original Owner: National Parks

Sandy Beach Picnic Area/Campground
Elk Island National Park
Date of Construction: ca. 1939-1940
Original Owner: National Parks

Kitchen shelters were among the earliest and most numerous structures to appear in campgrounds and picnic areas within the national parks. Although designs varied from park to park and changed somewhat over time, the basic formula remains essentially unchanged up to the present. It consists of a covered pavilion-type shelter, open-sided or partially enclosed, and containing one or more wood-burning cookstoves, tables and benches.

The example at the Clear Lake Campground, Wasagaming, illustrates a rudimentary approach which was followed without much variation for numerous kitchen shelters in several parks. The structure consists of six (in some instances eight) vertical peeled-log posts supporting log purlins, stringers and a shallow-pitched gable roof. The vertical posts rest on a concrete pad, upon which a pair of concrete stoves was constructed, with metal stove pipes rising through the roof.

A more sophisticated plan was used a few years later at Waterton Lakes. Here, kitchen shelters feature milled frame construction, enclosed walls on three sides, half-log siding, and metal stoves. The example at Sandy Beach, Elk Island National Park, illustrates yet a third variation, widely used throughout the system from the late 1930s onwards, and characterized by a medium-pitch hipped roof and partially enclosed walls. Milled wood construction was used in this instance; in other parks, peeled vertical log posts were frequently used.

Design practice for kitchen shelters has varied comparatively little over the years, and recent examples are frequently indistinguishable from their earlier counterparts.

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Sources:
Canada. *Annual Report for the Department of the Interior ... 1931,* III. p. 106.
* FHBRO recognized buildings

3. Kitchen shelter at Elk Island National Park, built 1939-1940. (I. Sumpter, CPS, WRO, Photo 504R1M.)
II.d.5. Toilet Buildings*

Townsite Campground and Playground,
Waterton Lakes
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1932
Original Owner: National Parks

As with other public facilities in campgrounds and picnic areas, toilet buildings (also known as comfort stations) were usually built to standard plans, in part for economy and efficiency, but also to ensure a measure of uniformity of appearance. Such facilities were occasionally constructed with peeled log, but milled frame construction with half-log siding was commonly used by the early 1930s. Toilet buildings were frequently embellished with decorative touches such as stone trim and half-timbered gables, making them readily identifiable as national park facilities.

Few early examples of this particular building type survive. The present examples were built to a standard 1931 plan that continued to be used throughout the national parks system, with few variations, for at least three decades (see Part 1, Figure 54).


Sources:
Public Works Canada, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, Building Plan W 21, dated 1931.
* FHBRO recognized buildings
II.d.6. Storage Shed
(Former Refrigerator Building)

Clear Lake Campground, Wasagaming
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1933 or 1934
Original Owner: National Parks

Refrigerator buildings were important features within large national park campgrounds until the 1960s when they were phased out of service. Most, including the present example, were based on a design produced by the Banff engineer’s office in the early 1920s. This plan incorporated an internal ice chamber, which was enveloped by lockers in which campers could store their perishable food. Wall construction was of peeled logs, horizontally laid and butted against vertical corner posts. This method of construction was a departure from standard log construction at Riding Mountain.

This refrigerator building was converted into a storage shed by the installation of a double door.

Sources:
II.d.7. **Jamboree Hall***

Clear Lake Campground, Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1933
Original Owner: National Parks

II.d.8. **Pavilion (Former Recreation Building)**

Sandy Beach
Elk Island National Park
Date of Construction: 1933-1934
Original Owner: National Parks

Large campgrounds were by-products of the growth of automobile tourism during the 1920s and 1930s. Large shelters intended for various social activities were among the various amenities provided in the automobile campgrounds located in the national parks. In 1932, staff architects prepared a plan for an open-sided version which was used for at least four such buildings between 1932 and 1934, all of which were built using unemployment relief funds and labour.

The basic plan used in each case consisted of a medium-pitched hipped roof supported by rows of vertical posts. One end was enclosed, and contained a large stone fireplace. Three of the pavilions were constructed of peeled logs (including the Riding Mountain example), while the Elk Island pavilion was built with milled timber and sheathed with half-log siding. In each case these pavilions functioned both as recreational centres and as shelters during inclement weather. Their designs reflected the prevailing approach toward rustic design in the parks, particularly as it was applied to recreational facilities.

1. Elevations for recreation shelter at Elk Island, 1934. (PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services, CPS.)

**Sources:**

* PBHO recognized building
2. Elk Island recreation shelter in 1984. (R. Stuart, Environment Canada-Parks, 1984.)

3. A campground gathering at Jamboree Hall, Riding Mountain National Park, date unknown. (CPS, Photo Services.)
II.d.9. Bandstand

Government Reserve (Central Park),
Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1934-1935
Original Owner: National Parks

This bandstand was built in association with an extensive landscaping project on the lakefront in the Wasagaming townsite. This area contained the new park administration building, the museum/information centre (II.b.2.) the tennis courts and pavilion (II.c.8.), and two bathhouses, in addition to manicured lawns, paths, flower beds and garden structures. Like other structures on the site, the bandstand was built with funds and labour provided through emergency unemployment relief legislation passed by Parliament between 1933 and 1935.

The bandstand's design complements the architectural theme devised by the Parks Branch's architectural division, and was probably a product of that office. The building consists of a stone-faced base and piers which support a log superstructure. An individualistic touch was added with the inclusion of a decorative frieze of musical notes and bars, fashioned from stick-wood and inserted between the horizontal logs and eaves on each side of the eight sides.

The bandstand continues to be used for musical performances during the summer months.


Sources:
II.d.10. Community Kitchen Building
(Former Community Shelter Building)*

Townsite Campground, Waterton Lakes
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1935-1936
Original Owner: National Parks

This facility performed a function similar to the contemporary open-sided community pavilions at other parks (II.d.7. and II.d.8.), but differed considerably in design. In this instance a closed-wall design was used because of the exposed and windy nature of the setting. Massive stone fireplaces and chimneys were placed at each end of the building, which was sheathed with half-log siding. A notable feature is the blind cross gable, with decorative bent-stick bracketing.

Like other campground facilities of the period, this building was constructed as a Depression-relief project.


Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
II.d.11. Caddie Shelter No. 2

Waskesiu Golf Course
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: ca. 1936
Original Owner: National Parks

This small octagonal structure was probably built by unemployment relief labourers engaged in the landscaping of the Waskesiu Golf Course. The basic structure consists of a conical roof constructed with milled lumber and supported by nine vertical peeled-log posts (one centre post and eight perimeter posts). The builders then proceeded to embellish the structure with decorative wall panels, screens, brackets and benches, all of small-dimension log-and-stick construction. Each of the seven panels features a different parqueted design, while the benches and screens display a whimsical approach, rarely, if ever, seen on larger park structures (See Part 1, Figure 52).

Caddie shelter no. 2 is situated between the 13th and 14th fairways. It lacks concrete footings and has consequently deteriorated over the years.

1. Caddie shelter no. 2, Waskesiu Golf Course. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1986.)

Source:
II.d.12. Pavilions and Garden Features

Cascades of Time Gardens,
Administration Building Grounds, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1935-1937
Original Owner: National Parks

These rustic shelters were designed by Harold C. Beckett as ornamental features in his landscaping scheme for the Administration Building grounds. Beckett envisioned the garden as "a series of naturalistic pools ... on varying levels, (representing) the geological history of the Rocky Mountains from the early Cambrian through to the Cretaceous eras." Set among these pools and various botanical and geological displays, Beckett placed four pavilions, two bridges, and various fences, arbors and pergolas. The largest of these features is the Cambrian Pavilion, built with shale and other "early Cambrian rock, with a combination of rustic timbers in posts, rails and roof framing."

The pavilions and other structures within the Cascades of Time Gardens embody Beckett's personal, idiosyncratic landscape vision, and also harmonize with his design for the Administration Building which dominates the site (see IV.a.3.)

Sources:
2. Stone shelter pavilion, Cascades of Time Gardens. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1989.)
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

II.d.13. "Lone Shieling"*

Cape Breton Highlands National Park
Date of Construction: 1939
Original Owner: National Parks

Park officials were determined to develop an architectural theme in this park that played on the Scottish origins of many settlers in the region. This plan produced two buildings with conspicuous Scottish references before it was abandoned due to financial constraints (also see III.b.5.).

This public shelter was closely modelled after the traditional dwellings of crofters (tenant farmers) in the western Highlands of Scotland, and derives its name from the Scottish word referring both to the land and to dwellings which these people once occupied. The design was based on photographs of stylized examples then on display in an exhibition in Glasgow. The Lone Shieling features the low, massive random rubblestone walls, rough-hewn internal timbers and thatched roof (in this case made of thatch-covered shingles rather than straw) that characterized these buildings.

Sources:
"FHBRO recognized building"
GROUP III: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

III.a. Railway Stations

Before the completion of access roads, virtually all visitors to Banff, Yoho, Glacier and Jasper national parks arrived and departed by train. Many were drawn to the parks by the promotional campaigns that the railways ran to attract visitors to their resort facilities. Because railway stations were the initial entry and exit points for visitors to the parks, the CPR and CNR went to considerable lengths to convey distinctive images through these buildings. This practice started when William Van Horne, the CPR's first general manager, directed that the initial group of stations at Banff, Laggan (known as Lake Louise after 1912) and Field be built of logs, to special plans, in order to create a rustic image that would be uniquely associated with these places (See Figure 1, also Part 1, Figure 2).

These stations, all built between 1887 and 1890 by the Winnipeg-based firm of Peter McDermid and Company, launched the rustic log theme which the CPR subsequently applied to a wide variety of resort-related facilities in the parks. The choice of a rustic log image was a bold departure from standard practice by North American railways, as were the more sophisticated log designs used for a series of second-generation log stations built two decades later.

The last of the three original stations stood at Lake Louise until the early 1970s when it was dismantled and removed to Calgary's Heritage Park. The three CPR facilities included in this section all date from the second phase of construction. All three served as depots for major CPR resort hotels located in the parks: the Banff Springs Hotel, Chateau Lake Louise and Glacier House.

The CNR similarly employed a special design for its 1925 station at Jasper. It linked the building to the rustic boulderstone theme already established in the townsite, but introduced new architectural features of its own.

The four stations included here played important roles in shaping architectural development within the mountain parks. The Lake Louise station introduced a bold new approach to log construction that was subsequently adopted for a wide range of tourist facilities; the Banff station was the first major building in the parks to incorporate fieldstone as a design element; similarly, the CNR station at Jasper introduced English Picturesque design elements that subsequently appeared on a succession of buildings at Jasper and in other national parks.
III.a. Railway Stations

1. The first CPR station at Laggan (later renamed Lake Louise Station). (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

III.a.1. CPR Station, Lake Louise*

Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1910
Original Owner: CPR

The construction of this station marked the start of a new phase of rustic design in the national parks. Its design revealed a bold new approach to the handling of log construction, which the CPR subsequently applied to a succession of tourist facilities during the 1920s. This approach entailed the fusion of log building technology with sophisticated architectural designs. In the case of the Lake Louise station, the design exploited the inherent aesthetic potential of horizontal log construction in a manner not previously seen in the parks.

Wall construction is of peeled logs of uniform dimension, assembled with a scribed fit that dispensed with the need for exterior chinking. Split logs were also used to frame structural openings. (These methods were subsequently employed on a succession of CPR lodges and guest houses in the parks (see I.a.13., I.b.2., I.b.4., I.b.5.).

The horizontal lines of the 168-foot log building are enhanced by the broad gabled roof that extends well beyond the walls to cover the perimeter platform. This eaves overhang is borne by log corbels, brackets and roof purlins that are integral design features. The roof of the main section is intersected by a slightly elevated cross gable, crowned by a cupola, that covers the former passenger waiting room. The front and rear walls of this section feature three-section leaded glass windows that afforded views of the spectacular scenery from the waiting room.

The rustic treatment extended to the interior of the passenger waiting area. This was highlighted by log walls, maple floors, and a massive brick chimney with hearths in the general waiting room and adjacent smoking room and ladies' waiting room. Like most of the railway's facilities in the parks, the station was designed by staff in the office of the CPR's assistant chief engineer, western region.

The meticulous integration of interior and exterior detailing reflected the railway's desire to create an attractive facility at this location. The majority of its users were patrons arriving or departing from stays at the CPR's Chateau Lake Louise, located several miles away. The distance between the station and hotel meant that visitors were likely to linger here while waiting for trains or transportation to the hotel. In 1912, the railway installed a narrow gauge tramway to negotiate the steep route from the station to the hotel. This system remained in service until 1930 when it was replaced by gasoline-powered buses. The station remained in active service as a passenger depot until 1968.
The original impact of the design derived in part from the consistent use of natural materials. This effect has been eroded in recent years by the unfortunate replacement of its wooden shingle roof with metal sheathing, and by interior alterations which converted the passenger waiting rooms into crew accommodations. The roof has also been extended to provide an open shelter area on one end of the building. This addition, carried out in 1972, is sympathetic to the original design.

1. The Lake Louise Station as it appeared in 1972. (CPS, CIHB.)

2. The Lake Louise Station in 1991. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)

Sources:
Canadian Pacific Railway, Pacific Region, Engineering Department, original building plans dated November 1909.
* Designated under the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act.
III.a.2. CPR Station*

Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1910
Original Owner: CPR

Construction of this station preceded the CPR's major redevelopment of the Banff Springs Hotel, which began in 1911. Echoing the transition from wood to stone as the primary exterior wall feature on the hotel was the shift from the log image of the original Banff station to fieldstone and stucco on its larger replacement. The scale and detailing of the Banff station reflected the importance that the CPR attached to it as the main entry point for visitors to both the park and to the flagship of the railway's resort system.

In profile, the Banff station bears a generic resemblance to intermediate-sized designs commonly used at divisional points along the line. In essence its plan is an elongated rectangle covered by a broad hipped roof with a wide eaves overhang borne by brackets. This roof in turn is surmounted by a row of three cross-gables placed at the centre of the building. As in the case of the Banff Springs Hotel, the rustic element is primarily tied to the use of local stone as an external feature. On the station, it was applied to the lower wall areas, creating a base that contrasts with the stuccoed surfaces above.

Another novel visual feature was the insertion of two massive stone chimneys, one projecting from the centre of the gabled roofs, and the other situated against the track-side facade and piercing the roof overhang. These features linked the building to the stone motif which were used on the hotel and then later adopted for numerous buildings within the Banff townsite. The station marked the first major application of this material as a decorative feature within the townsite.

Apart from relatively minor additions and alterations, the Banff station retains its original character, and remains an important fixture within the Banff townsite.

Source:
*Designated under Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act
1. Banff station, pre-1950. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

2. Banff station in 1990. (Mills, CPS, AHB.)
III.a.3. CPR Station*

Glacier Siding
Glacier National Park
Date of Construction: 1916
Original Owner: CPR

In 1916 the CPR completed construction of the Connaught Tunnel beneath Mount Macdonald, a major engineering feat which overcame a hazardous section of the rail line over the Rogers Pass. This rerouting created a need for a new station to replace the original one that serviced Glacier House, the CPR resort hotel situated on the original route. The site selected for the new station was known as Glacier Siding, and was situated near the southern entrance to the Connaught Tunnel. A new carriage road was built connecting the station to Glacier House, while another led to the Nakimu Caves, a popular tourist attraction in the park.

Between the 1920s and 1950s, Glacier Siding functioned as an important operational centre for the CPR's Selkirk Division, and a townsite composed of workers' houses, a school and a post office, along with a variety of CPR operational buildings, was built in close proximity to the station. This offset the impact of the closure of Glacier House in 1925. Most structures at the townsite were dismantled during the 1950s and 1960s during construction of the Trans-Canada Highway, leaving the station as a conspicuous but isolated remnant. It presently functions as a dining facility for CPR work crews.

The CPR's design formula for the station at Glacier Siding was similar to the one used at Lake Louise several years earlier. The building's walls were constructed from peeled logs, saddle-notched, with log ends and roof purlins extending out to support a broad roof overhang. On the end walls, the visual effect of the broad gabled roofline is heightened by extensions that cover projecting bays. As at Lake Louise, the rectangular plan of the main block is broken by a cross-gabled section placed slightly off centre, which initially housed the passenger waiting room. A log cupola remains in place on the ridge of this cross-gabled section.

The fabric of this building has undergone few changes, apart from the replacement of its original wood-shingled roof with metal cladding.

Sources:
Canadian Pacific Railway, Pacific Regional Office. original 1915 building plans.
*Designated under Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act
(Mills, CPS, AHB.)
III.a.4. CNR Station*

Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1925
Original Owner: CNR

Unlike other townsites within the national parks, Jasper has served two primary roles, as the administrative and commercial centre for the park, and as a divisional headquarters for the railway. This dual identity is reflected in the town's layout and appearance. Its original section is laid out on a simple grid system that runs parallel to the railway tracks in a manner similar to those of countless towns and villages scattered across the Prairies. And, as in such places, Jasper's railway station occupies the most conspicuous site in town, set between the tracks and the main street. On the opposite side of the main line are sidings and remnants of the once-extensive operational facilities associated with Jasper's status as a divisional headquarters for the CNR.

Construction of the present Jasper station was precipitated by the burning of its predecessor, a modest frame structure built by the Grand Trunk Pacific in 1912. By 1925 circumstances were rapidly changing at Jasper. The CNR had completed construction of Jasper Park Lodge, located several miles away, and launched promotional campaigns to attract tourists to the park. In marked contrast to other national parks, Jasper continued to be accessible only by rail until the late 1930s, so virtually all arrivals and departures were channelled through the Jasper station. The railway maintained a fleet of touring cars to transport Jasper Park Lodge guests to and from the station. In 1926, the first year of the new station's operation, a total of 15,336 passengers made use of this service.

Its anticipated role, both as a major transportation link and as a local landmark, prompted the railway to devise a distinctive design for the new station. Perhaps because of the building's conspicuous relationship to the townsitie, the CNR elected (or was compelled by park officials) to tie its appearance to the theme being promoted within the townsitie and embodied in the 1912 park administration building across the street, rather than to link it to the rustic log image of Jasper Park Lodge. In a press release prior to construction, the CNR noted that the station's style would be "in keeping with that of the park administration building ..." (see IV.a.1.).

The visual connection to the administration building was confined to the use of local fieldstone as a secondary wall feature. In massing and detail, the building borrowed from the English Picturesque building tradition. This is evident in the profusion of dormers and gables, steeply sloping and varied roofline, and the combination of stone and stuccoed wall surfaces. The result was a distinctive structure that introduced a new architectural vocabulary and infused new life into
Jasper's rustic building tradition. Within a year of its completion, the National Parks Branch's staff architects produced plans for a new RCMP barracks in the community that borrowed on the English Picturesque elements featured on the station (l.c.10.). The style was reapplied for several other conspicuous buildings within the townsite in later years, notably for the 1935 superintendent's residence (l.c.28.).

The Jasper station remains in use as a passenger facility, and is substantially unchanged in appearance. The building retains an impressive passenger waiting hall.

1. CNR station at Jasper. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)

2. CNR station at Jasper, street facade. (Mills, 1991.)

Sources:
*Designated under Heritage Railway Station Protection Act
3. CNR Station at Jasper, trackside facade. (Mills, 1991.)
III.a.5. Former CPR Telegraph Building*

Field, B.C.
Yoho National Park
Date of Construction: 1939
Original Owner: CPR

This brick-and-stone building was constructed by the railway to house a telegraph dispatch office and repeater station at Field, a divisional point on the CPR mainline. Initially, the CPR's telegraph facilities at Field had been located in the railway's resort hotel known as Mount Stephen House, and in the railway station. The existing building was one of a series constructed to accommodate a booster system required to meet the increasing demands of teletypes, newswires and radio transmission. It was eventually made obsolete by new technological developments, and currently stands vacant.

The telegraph building's simple rectangular plan was enlivened by the use of local stone for the entrance stairs, corner buttresses and surround trim on the windows and door. This feature, along with decorative bracketing and wood trim, suggests an effort to make the building blend in with the rustic design theme developed on several national parks buildings in the townsite, notably, the superintendent's residence (1.c.18.) and an RCMP detachment headquarters.

The building remains a conspicuous landmark within the community.

1. Former telegraph building, Field, B.C. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1992.)

Source:
* FHBRO recognized building
III.b. Park Entrance Buildings and Information Bureaus

1. "The Mountains Shall Bring Peace to the People." Inscription on the former entrance building at Radium, Kootenay National Park, demolished for road widening in the early 1950s. (CPS, WRO, ca. 1929-1930.)
III.b. Park Entrance Buildings and Information Bureaus

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 took increasing pains to design them as visual landmarks that heralded motorists' arrival at the park boundaries (Figure 1; also see Part 1, Figures 33, 39, 58).

The buildings' primary purpose was to accommodate park attendants who registered incoming vehicles, advised visitors of park regulations, and dispensed information. Since many of the buildings were situated at considerable distance from townsites, they frequently contained basic living accommodation for attendants. In a few cases, separate cabins were built nearby to meet this need.

Entrance buildings assumed a variety of forms. The simplest configuration consisted of a single structure placed either on one side of the road (the earliest approach) or on an island between incoming and exiting road lanes. Occasionally, these buildings were accompanied by free-standing timber arches bearing the park's name. In a few instances, groups of two or more structures were arranged on opposite sides of the road and on centre traffic islands to better regulate incoming and departing traffic. The third approach entailed combining entrance and exit facilities into more imposing gate structures by linking them with a roof or bridgework straddling the road. This latter group were often referred to as portals, and are represented by the lone surviving example located in Riding Mountain National Park.

Although a fairly substantial number of entrance buildings were constructed over the years, relatively few early examples survive, and fewer still remain in operation for their original purpose. This has been due to road widening and changing operational requirements.

Five park entrance facilities are included here. Each embodies the rustic design theme prescribed for its respective park. The three-building East Gate complex at Banff National Park is by far the best known of these facilities. Rivalling it in character and design integrity is the less-familiar log complex at the eastern entrance to Riding Mountain National Park.
III.b.1. East Gate Entrance Complex  
(3 Buildings)**

Norgate Road  
Riding Mountain National Park  
Date of Construction: 1933  
Original Owner: National Parks

This three-building complex consists of a portal-style entrance building and two nearby staff residences. The grouping well-illustrates the rustic theme prescribed for Riding Mountain National Park during the Depression relief period of the 1930s. For entrance buildings in this park, staff architects devised a portal design which consisted of twin kiosks linked by an overhead bridgework. This design was used for facilities at all three road entry points to the park, and was unique to Riding Mountain. The buildings were constructed in 1931, 1933 and 1936 as unemployment relief projects. The East Gate example is the only one that has survived.

As in the case of other entrance buildings constructed during this period, this one closely mirrored the construction program then taking place throughout Riding Mountain National Park. Peeled log construction in combination with fieldstone corner piers link the building to other public facilities within the townsite and in the immediate area.

Just inside the park boundary, and in close proximity to the entrance structure, stand two substantial log houses built to accommodate the gatekeeper and a park warden. Both houses were built around the same time as the entrance building, and were based on a plan devised by Parks Branch architects. Both houses feature saddle-notched log wall construction and half-timbered gable trim which link them to both the entrance building and to the rustic theme evident on other park-owned facilities at Riding Mountain (see I.c.24, I.c.25.)

The distinctive character of the East Gate entrance complex is enhanced by its dramatic siting at the foot of the Riding Mountain escarpment. As in the case of the contemporary example at Prince Albert National Park, the survival of this grouping is due to a decline in vehicle traffic along this route to the park.

Sources:  

** Designated as a National Historic Site; FHSRO recognized buildings
1. East Gate entrance building, ca. 1934. (CPS, Photo Services.)

2. East Gate entrance building in 1991. Warden's residence is visible to rear of right kiosk. (CPS, Heritage Recording Services, 1991.)
3. Three-quarter view of East Gate entrance building. (CPS, Heritage Recording Services, 1991.)

4. Gatekeeper's cottage, entrance building in centre background. (CPS, Heritage Recording Services, 1991.)
III.b.2. South Gate Registration Building*  
Highway 263  
Prince Albert National Park  
Date of Construction: 1933  
Original Owner: National Parks

This building was constructed to plans prepared by the Architectural Division, and closely followed the design theme that was then being applied to key public structures in Prince Albert National Park. The front section of the T-shaped structure contained the attendant's office, while public lavatories were located in the rear section. Walls were constructed of locally cut spruce logs, laid horizontally and saddle-notched at the corners. The log superstructure rests on a poured concrete foundation faced with fieldstone. The front entrance porch is also faced with stone, as is the chimney. Other notable features are the half-timbered motif on the front porch and side gables, and the bellcast roof treatment. These various design elements were applied to other park buildings constructed in the Waskesiu townsite during this period, and stamped the registration building as a national park facility.

The building sits on its original site, a traffic island between the entry and exit lanes on a highway which was formerly the principal access route into the park. The building was originally the main entry point into Prince Albert National Park. The construction of an alternative route reduced traffic on this road, and probably contributed to the building's survival. It remains unchanged in appearance.

Sources:  
* FHSN recognized building
III.b.3. East Gate Registration Building Complex  
(3 Buildings)*

Trans-Canada Highway  
Banff National Park  
Date of Construction: 1934-1936  
Original Owner: National Parks

The eastern highway entrance to Banff National Park has long been the most heavily used within the national parks system. The three-building complex located there is among the most familiar of national park facilities. Two of the buildings are situated on opposite sides of the divided highway, while a third is located in the middle of the traffic island separating the lanes. The most easterly of the buildings was used to register incoming motorists and to house public lavatories. The centre building was used to check-out departing vehicles, and the westerly building served as the attendants' residence.

In a departure from standard practice up to that time, the East Gate buildings were designed by a private architect in accordance with specifications supplied by the Parks Branch. The architect in question was Harold C. Beckett, who also designed the park Administration Building during the same period (IV.a.3.) The East Gate buildings reflect Beckett's approach to the Tudor Rustic theme that the Branch was then pursuing for conspicuous public buildings within the park. The use of split stone as the primary wall material and of half-timbered gable ends, linked the building to major contemporary structures, such as the Upper Hot Springs Bathhouse, and to the Administration Building itself. The burled wood decorative trim reinforced the rustic image, and at the same time further distinguished these facilities from registration buildings in other parks.

Despite the widening of the Trans-Canada highway in recent years, the East Gate complex remains a highly conspicuous landmark and continues to perform its original function.

Sources:  
* FHSRO recognized buildings
1. East Gate registration complex. (CPS. Photo Services, n.d.)

2. 1952 publicity photograph. East Gate, Banff National Park. (CPS, Photo Services.)
III.b.4. Registration Building  
(Former Main Park Entrance)*

Waterton Lakes National Park  
Date of Construction: 1935  
Original Owner: National Parks

This registration building was constructed with funding supplied by the Public Works Construction Act, 1935. Its design was prepared by the Parks Branch's Architectural Division, and incorporated key elements of the design theme the Branch was promoting within the Waterton Lakes townsite.

Its plan combined a front section containing the registration office with a staff bedroom and public lavatories in a rear wing. The front section is clad with local pink fieldstone to the level of the window sills, with half-timbering and stucco infill above. Oriel windows on each side enabled the attendant to talk to motorists on either side of the building. The rear lavatory section is clad entirely with pink fieldstone and is covered with a hipped roof. All windows were originally glazed with leaded glass.

The building has a charming residential appearance which is enhanced by the contrasting colours of the pink fieldstone, stucco, half-timbering and wood-shingled roof. This residential character was particularly evident in past years when the building was occupied in summer months by a resident park attendant. Early photos show motorists parked beside the ivy-covered building to register or receive information from the uniformed attendant.

The building’s site has been radically altered by road changes which have eliminated its centre island location. The building is no longer in use; registration operations have recently been relocated to a new site several miles away.

1. Registration building, Waterton Lakes National Park, ca. 1958. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

Sources:  
NA, RG 84, Vol. 2209, File W 56-26, enclosure.  
Public Works Canada, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, Building Plan WL 27.  
* npsa recognized building
III.b.5. Entrance Lodge/Information Bureau*

Ingonish Entrance
Cape Breton Highlands National Park
Date of Construction: 1939-1940
Original Owner: National Parks

This was one of the original buildings constructed in Cape Breton Highlands National Park following its establishment in 1936, and was intended to launch a Scottish theme that would be followed in the park. The building's design was produced by staff in the Engineering and Construction Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, which had assumed responsibility for engineering and architectural works within the national parks in 1937. The design was loosely based on photos obtained from a recreated Scottish crofters' village then on display at a Glasgow exhibition. The high cost of stone construction curbed the Branch's enthusiasm for the Scottish crofter theme, and just the present building and a public shelter known as the Lone Shieling (II.d.13.) were constructed along these lines before the theme was abandoned in favour of more conventional wood frame buildings.

The information building was constructed with thick load-bearing rubblestone walls, with stone chimneys projecting at both gable ends. The Scottish allusions were originally enhanced by the use of shingles with simulated thatching, which flared to form curved eyebrows over each of the building's four entrances (see Part 1, Figure 58). Slate roofing has now replaced the simulated thatching, and the eyebrow eaves have been removed. Otherwise, the building remains essentially unchanged in exterior appearance.

The building interior is divided into an information bureau and public lavatories. The chimney at one end vents the stone fireplace, the focal point of the bureau area, where the rustic atmosphere is enhanced by rough-hewn ceiling beams. The chimney at the opposite end serves as a vent for the lavatories.

The rustic stone theme established by the information building and Lone Shieling was continued on a variety of minor features scattered throughout Cape Breton Highlands National Park: roadside fences, retaining walls and abutments, park bench supports, cairn markers and sign bases.

Sources:
NA, RG 64, Vol. 193, File CBH 56.
* nsno recognized building
1. Entrance Lodge, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, shortly after construction. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

2. Entrance Lodge, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, ca. 1990. (CPS, Photo Services.)
III.b.6. Rescue Building*  
(Former Information Bureau)

Connaught Drive, Jasper Townsite  
Jasper National Park

Date of Construction: 1948-1949  
Original Owner: National Parks

Completion of roads linking Jasper to Edmonton and Banff prompted the decision to construct a tourist information bureau in the townsite in 1940, but this plan had to be shelved due to wartime constraints. It was revived after the war, and the facility was built on a prominent site on Jasper's main thoroughfare, alongside the CNR station and across from the 1912 Administration Building. This location permitted the building to serve tourists arriving either by road or rail.

This was one of the first public facilities built in the national parks following the Second World War, and its design reflected prevailing notions of appropriate appearance for such buildings. In this instance a conscious effort was made to link the building to past building traditions through the use of cut ashlar for exterior wall surfaces, and by the application of half-timbering on the gable above the front entrance. The building's massing and symmetrical plan nevertheless contrast with the asymmetrical plans and more literal English Arts and Crafts references of earlier Jasper buildings such as the CNR station and the Administration Building.

The building originally housed an information bureau in its middle section, flanked by public lavatories on each side. With the removal of the information service to the old administration building across the street, it now functions as a storage facility and public lavatory. In 1965 the building's appearance was altered by the removal of approximately 4.5 feet from the projecting front bay. The facade was then rebuilt to resemble the original.

The building bears associations to a transitional stage in the park's history, when cars and buses were beginning to displace trains as the principal means of transportation. It also reinforces the overall architectural character of earlier neighbouring buildings.

Sources:  
*FHSRO recognized building
(CPS, Photo Services, N.09.94.02.03.)
III.b.7. West Entrance Information Centre

Fundy National Park
Date of Construction: 1950
Original Owner: National Parks Branch

As new national parks were established in the Maritimes, the Parks Branch sought to develop architectural themes that could be associated with early European settlers of the area. In the case of Fundy National Park, the attempt was tenuous, and tied to a single conspicuous structure: the 1950 information building. Rather than a studied reproduction of a specific building form, the design simply incorporated elements that could be associated with traditional French domestic building practices. This was achieved through the use of a flaring bellcast roof that projects to shelter a front porch area. Original plans prepared by E.L. Burgess indicate that the exterior walls were to be sheathed with board and batten siding.

In 1987 the building was moved from its original site and substantially renovated. Exterior alterations were performed, which included the installation of new windows, doors, and tapered siding.

1. West Entrance Information Building at Fundy National Park, shortly after completion in 1950. (CPS, Photo Services.)

Sources:
Lorne Milburn. Fundy National Park.
Public Works Canada, Architectural and Engineering Services-CPS, Building Plan CB 22.
2. West Entrance Information Building, 1991. (Fundy National Park.)
GROUP IV: ADMINISTRATIVE, OPERATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

IV.a. Park Administration Buildings

Administrative facilities were not initially regarded as high priorities within the parks. Early park superintendents conducted their business from rooms within their residences, or from offices in multipurpose buildings. At Banff, for example, the superintendent occupied a small office in the museum building until the mid-1930s, when the current administration building was constructed. At Jasper, Colonel Maynard Rogers, the first park superintendent, secured permission to build a large administration building in 1913 by combining space for an office, museum, and his personal residence within a single building. The scale and elegance of that particular building was due to Rogers' decision to increase its size (and cost) without approval from Ottawa, a move that contravened branch policy and earned him a stern reprimand. Not until the construction of a separate superintendent's residence in the mid-1930s did this building become primarily dedicated to administrative uses.

Administrative facilities in other parks were invariably minimal and frequently makeshift throughout the 1920s. Park headquarters at Field were eventually acquired through the purchase of a former bank building. At Waterton Lakes, a succession of additions to the original 1919 superintendent's cabin transformed it into a combined information bureau and park headquarters by the mid-1920s (Figure 1).

The practice of constructing single-purpose administrative buildings began in the late 1920s, with the creation of Riding Mountain and Prince Albert national parks. Administration buildings were among the first new facilities to be built at both parks, and both introduced the Tudor-Rustic theme that was subsequently used on other buildings (Figure 2). Significantly, however, neither building was conceived of as a dominant landmark within its respective townsite; at both Wasagaming and Waskesiu, this role was allotted to nearby museum and community buildings (II.b.2. and II.b.3.). Both initial log administration buildings in these parks were replaced by larger buildings during the 1970s.

The notion of creating conspicuous landmarks out of park administration buildings began in the mid 1930s, with the decision to construct a massive new administration building at Banff. Although financial constraints prevented the construction of a facility of similar scale at Jasper during the mid-1940s, substantial administration buildings were prominent features of the new parks developed in the Maritimes towards the end of that decade.

Only four pre-1950 administration buildings remain standing, and of these, only three continue to be used for this purpose. This reflects the growing scale of administrative
activities in parks over the past four decades. As office requirements outgrew the original buildings, new ones were built in several parks. At Jasper, the original administration building was vacated in favour of rented quarters, and the old building was converted to other uses.

Two of these buildings are of particular significance within the context of rustic design within the national parks. The 1913 Jasper administration building (presently known at the Information Building) is among the most important examples of rustic design in the national parks. Architect A.M. Calderon's bold handling of boulderstone and log construction on this building created an enduring landmark for Jasper and introduced national parks officials to the potential applications of rustic design.

Similarly, the Park Administration Building in Banff was purposefully designed as a conspicuous landmark. While its scale, siting and Collegiate Gothic design achieved this end, the building was a departure from past and subsequent rustic design traditions in the national parks apart from its conspicuous use of native building stone.
IV.a. Park Administration Buildings

1. The park Administration Building at Waterton Lakes National Park, ca. 1930. Extant; radically altered. (CPS, Photo Services, W.J. Oliver Collection.)

2. The first administration building at Waskesiu, Prince Albert National Park, ca. 1930. Demolished. (CPS, Photo Services.)
IV.a.1. Information Centre  
(Former Administration Building)**

Jasper Townsite  
Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1913-1914  
Original Owner: National Parks

This building is one of the earliest and finest examples of rustic design in the national parks. Designed by Edmonton architect A.M. Calderon, the building was intended to serve both as a landmark and as an example for future buildings in the new townsite. This vision of a unified architectural theme within the park was novel when first expressed by Maynard S. Rogers, Jasper's first park superintendent, in 1913. Rogers' goal was to encourage "a rustic style of architecture, either logs or boulders," which, he asserted, "will result, in after years, in our having a harmonious and appropriate appearance in the class of buildings, of which the Administration building, now nearly completed, will be the leader."

With this goal in mind, Rogers substituted local cobblestone for peeled logs as the primary wall material, and in so doing doubled the cost of the building. Otherwise, the building adhered closely to the original drawings prepared by Calderon. The building features a rectangular plan, with a one storey corner wing projecting at a 45° angle, and a pyramid-capped corner tower at the opposite end. The main section is covered with a broad gable roof that extends forward on one side to cover an open verandah. Three dormers on the front roof slope, one with a gable roof and two with curved eyebrow roofs, heighten the building's visual appeal and eccentricity. Other features, including peeled-log verandah supports, stone corner buttresses, and front porch supports fashioned from large boulders, convey a whimsical character that was uncharacteristic of most rustic design in the parks until that time. This notion of a playful and vigorous handling of native building materials had its origins in the American Arts and Crafts Movement of the early 1900s, and appears to have influenced architect Calderon's approach.

The building housed numerous facilities during its first several decades of use. The ground floor contained various administrative offices and, until 1931, the superintendent's living quarters. The upper floor accommodated a museum, library and drafting room, while the partial basement housed the furnace, storage rooms and a fish hatchery. The latter operation remained in place until 1941. From 1931 until 1972 the building was primarily dedicated to administrative offices. Since 1972 it has functioned as the park's information centre.

From an architectural standpoint, the Jasper Administration Building exerted a direct influence over subsequent building practice at Jasper, and an indirect one over rustic design throughout the system. Calderon's design
introduced Canadian park officials to the expanding possibilities of rustic design, and influenced the Tudor-Rustic approach later formulated by staff architect W.D. Cromarty, who worked briefly with Calderon before moving to Ottawa.

1. Information Centre (former Park Administration Building), Jasper National Park. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)

2. Jasper Information Centre. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)

Sources:
Kate MacFarlane, "Four Jasper Buildings, Jasper Townsite, Jasper National Park, Alberta." naso Building Reports 87-134 to 87-137.
NA, RG 84, Vol. 635, File 130-93.
** Designated as a National Historic Site; naso classified building
3. Jasper Information Centre, wall and porch detail. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)
IV.a.2. Park Administration Building

215 Mount View Ave., Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Dates of Construction: 1919; 1925; 1928-1929; 1935-1936
Original Owner: National Parks

The existing Administration Building at Waterton Lakes is a composite structure built in four stages that corresponded to the growth of administrative services in the park. The original section, built of logs in 1919, was based on a standard warden's cabin design issued by the Banff engineer's office. The cabin provided a single office for the park superintendent, with a rear room to store equipment and park records. In 1925 the cabin was enlarged by the construction of a one-room addition on the side (See IV.a. introduction, Figure 1). This addition occurred as Waterton Lakes was experiencing its first major construction boom. Three years later the Parks Branch built an information bureau which it attached to the rear of the cabin. This new section was of milled frame construction, and featured an imposing round-headed stone front entrance and stone walls to the level of the window sills (See Figure 1 below).

In 1935, Depression relief funding enabled the Parks Branch to enlarge the building again. A new gable-roofed section was added, wholly enveloping the 1928 information bureau, and transforming the appearance of the 1919 cabin and its side wing. The new block was clad with local fieldstone below the sill level, stucco above, and half-timber detailing above a new front bay window and main entrance porch (Figure 2). The log walls of the earlier sections were encased with stucco and stone, and their roof pitches were altered to conform with the appearance of the new section. This cosmetic face-lift linked the building to the Tudor-Rustic theme that the Branch was promoting within the townsite. In its expanded form, the building housed the park's increased administrative activities, in addition to the information bureau and a park museum.

Sources:
PWC. Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS. Building Plan WL 32.
1. Information bureau addition to Waterton Lakes Administration Building, ca. 1928. (CPS, Photo Services.)

2. Waterton Lakes Administration Building after 1935-1936 addition. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

3. Waterton Lakes Administration Building. (W.B. Yeo, CPS, WRO, 1983.)
IV.a.3. Park Administration Building*

Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1935-1936
Original Owner: National Parks

This is the largest public building in Canada's national parks, apart from the nearby Cave and Basin Spa facility. Its scale reflects Banff's rapid growth during the 1920s and 1930s, both as an internationally renowned tourist destination and as a community. Along with Banff's growth came demands for more public services and new facilities to house them. The idea of a new administrative building was raised in the 1920s, but was deferred due to a lack of funds. It was revived during the early 1930s when funds were made available through Depression relief legislation and when the project received the personal support of Prime Minister R.B. Bennett, whose constituency included Banff.

The case for a new administration building was bolstered by the additional need for a new post office at Banff. In fact much of the building's justification ultimately rested on the perceived requirement for a post office/federal building "in keeping with the importance of the place as a world tourist centre." To this end, the Department of Public Works was authorized to acquire a 12-acre site commanding the south end of Banff Avenue, and Harold C. Beckett, a private architect from Windsor, Ontario, was hired to design the new building and a landscaping plan for its grounds.

The Banff Administration Building's design was a departure from that of other public buildings in the national parks. In this case the architect employed a fairly literal adaptation of the Tudor Revival style to create an imposing architectural landmark. A contemporary newspaper article noted that "a modernized Tudor form has been used which takes advantage of the surrounding scenery and harmonizes with the mountain background. The predominating central tower and moderate use of Gothic help considerably to achieve this intention." (See Part 1, Figure 55.)

The rustic aspect here consisted of the use of locally quarried limestone for exterior wall sheathing, with contrasting sandstone trim. These wall surfaces linked the building to the local theme introduced on the Banff Springs Hotel, CPR station and Cave and Basin Spa two decades earlier. In the surrounding gardens, architect Beckett incorporated a series of rustic pavilions and garden features that served as linkages between the main building and its landscape (See II.d.12.)

The building's exterior bears closer resemblance to contemporary designs for institutional buildings such as schools, and to large suburban mansions, than to buildings commonly associated with the parks. The choice of this style likely reflected the desire to create an imposing facility that bolstered the federal presence in a townsitie then dominated by the massive scale of the CPR's Banff Springs Hotel.

Sources:
PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, Building Plan B27.
"New Home of Banff Post Office and Administration Offices," Western Canada Contractor (March-April 1936). p. 4-5.
* FHBRO recognized building
1. Park Administration Building, Banff, shortly after its completion. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

2. Park Administration Building, Banff. (CPS, Photo Services, 1985.)
IV.a.4. Park Administration Building*

Fundy National Park
Date of Construction: 1948-1949
Original Owner: National Parks

This was the first building constructed at Fundy National Park following its establishment in 1948. It was built to accommodate park administrative offices, staff living quarters, public lavatories and an information bureau. It was also intended to serve as a visual landmark, anchoring an architectural theme within the new park. The Province of New Brunswick expressed its desire that the first buildings in the park (the administration building and superintendent’s residence) be “constructed substantially and in keeping with the best tradition of the district.” Although local building tradition embodied wood construction, stone was prescribed for the new park buildings in order to convey an image of permanence and substance.

To these ends, architect Herbert Stanley Brenan, of Saint John, was hired to produce a design that used local stone as a primary wall material, and incorporated stylistic references to past design practice in the western parks. The administration building at Fundy National Park was, in effect, a late variation on the Tudor Rustic theme employed by Parks Branch architects during the 1920s and 1930s. The building’s exterior bears a resemblance to a number of earlier and more elaborate designs, including the 1913-1914 Administration Building at Jasper (IV.a.1.) and the superintendents’ residences at Yoho and Jasper (I.c.18. and I.c.28.). The combining of numerous functions within the building suggests further parallels to the Administration Building at Jasper.

The administration building is prominently situated on landscaped grounds at the north entrance to the park. It remains a conspicuous landmark owing to its design and to its ongoing role as a public reception centre and the park’s administrative headquarters.

Sources:
NA, RG 84, Vol. 141, File 156-1.
* FHBRO recognized building
1. Park Administration Building, Fundy National Park. (CPS, Fundy National Park, 1990.)
IV.b. Operational and Institutional Buildings

The scale of operational and institutional requirements in the parks grew steadily in the wake of highway development and the growth of residential populations in the townsites.

To meet these demands, staff architects were called upon to design, or review and modify, plans for an expanded range of facilities such as vehicle service garages, firehalls, schools, post offices and churches. These buildings frequently became important character-defining elements within their respective townsites, displaying the rustic architectural themes that the Branch was encouraging private builders to adopt. For this reason, these buildings were frequently placed on conspicuous sites where they complemented the designs of major park facilities such as museums and administration buildings.

1. The first fire hall at Jasper, ca. 1914. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 1611, File J 56-8.)
IV.b.1. Elementary School

Clematis Avenue, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1925; Additions 1928, 1935
Original Owner: National Parks

This was one of the earliest institutional designs produced by W.D. Cromarty during his career as chief staff architect with the Parks Branch. The building was auspicious for two reasons. It heralded the Branch's commitment to establishing the townsite as a year-round community. Previously, the lack of a school made it unfeasible for most park staff and other residents to remain beyond the summer months. It was also one of the first buildings in the townsite to display the Tudor-Rustic theme that Cromarty prescribed for major public and commercial facilities at Waterton Lakes (see I.c.13. and IV.a.2.).

The building contained a single classroom when it opened in 1925. An addition in 1928 added another room and the arcaded front portico. The building's exterior features the stone-faced plinth, stuccoed upper wall surfaces, and half-timbered front gable that were synonymous with Cromarty's designs at Waterton. Although the building has been altered by the installation of new windows and numerous later additions, it retains early design elements that made it a conspicuous local landmark.

Sources:
PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS,
Building Plan WL10.
IV.b.2. Church of St. Mary and St. George*

Geike Street, Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1927; Tower Added 1932
Original Owner: Anglican Diocese

This church is one of a series of important early Jasper buildings designed by Edmonton architect Alfred M. Calderon. Calderon is said to have based his design on sketches of a 14th-century English Gothic church forwarded to him by the Reverend Edwards, the Anglican clergyman at Jasper. The architect combined the Gothic elements and form desired by the congregation with a blend of local stone, stucco and half-timbering. The resulting design fit well with the rustic theme that Calderon had inaugurated in the townsite with his design for the 1913 Administration Building (IV.a.1.).

The church’s Gothic appearance was enhanced by the construction of a massive crenellated tower in 1932, dedicated to the memory of nurse Edith Cavell. The tower project was in fact the product of a campaign launched in 1927 (the year of the church’s construction) to erect a memorial chapel in Cavell’s memory at the base of Mount Edith Cavell. Calderon prepared plans for the proposed chapel, but the project foundered due to a lack of funds. The moneys raised were channelled instead into the tower on this church.

Sources:
Merna Forster, Jasper ... A Walk in the Past, p. 51-52.
IV.b.3. Rundle Memorial United Church

302 Buffalo Street, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1927
Original Owner: United Church of Canada

As in the case of the Anglican church in Jasper (IV.b.2.), this building’s design incorporated local building stone as a major exterior design feature. In this instance the application of Mount Rundle limestone to the exposed basement walls, side buttresses and entrance surrounds underscores the associations implied by the church’s name. The design complemented the efforts of the Parks Branch to encourage the use of Mount Rundle stone on buildings within the townsite.

1. Rundle Memorial United Church, Banff. (W.J. Oliver photograph. National Archives Photo Collection, 57161, 1930.)

Source:
Reverend Larry Scott, Rundle Memorial United Church, Banff.
IV.b.4. Storage Building  
(Former Fish Hatchery Building)  

Waterton Lakes National Park  
Date of Construction: 1927-1928  
Original Owner: National Parks

Sport fishing was one of the primary attractions in Waterton Lakes National Park. This fish hatchery was built to facilitate the replenishment of dwindling fish stocks in the park. It was located on Spring Creek, a short distance north of the Waterton River Bridge and the main park entrance. The Dominion Parks Branch was eager to promote this operation as a tourist attraction, and this was reflected in the designs for the hatchery building and the adjacent staff residence. As designed by W.D. Cromarty, the hatchery was an attractive rustic facility, with fieldstone lower walls and chimneys, and a stone perimeter wall. Decorative eyebrow dormers and a half-timbered front porch enlivened the design and linked it to the architectural theme in the park.

The hatchery operation proved to be unsuccessful at this location. Beaver dams disrupted the flow of water and reduced tree shading along the creek. The creek flow ultimately proved inadequate, leading to the operation’s closure and relocation in the mid-1930s to a site on Cameron Creek, near the townsites campgrounds. The hatchery building was subsequently converted into a storage and office facility. Practically all rustic features of the original design were lost in the course of this conversion and subsequent renovations. These alterations reflected a general disinterest in sustaining the rustic architectural image developed in the 1920s and 1930s.

1. Historical photograph of the fish hatchery building (right) and attendant’s cottage (left) at Waterton Lakes National Park. (CPS, Photo Services, N.09.92.02.08 [14]), n.d.)

Sources:  
FWC, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS. Building Plan WL10.  
Canadian Parks Service, WRO, Webster Collection, Waterton Lakes Development Inventory, March 1958.
2. Former fish hatchery building. Waterton Lakes. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1991.)
IV.b.5. Wardens' Equipment Building  
(Former Government Garage)*

Waskesiu Townsite  
Prince Albert National Park  
Date of Construction: 1933-1934  
Original Owner: National Parks

Large garages were built in many of the national parks during the 1920s and 1930s to service and store the growing fleets of service vehicles. During these years it was common practice to locate such buildings in conspicuous central locations. At Waskesiu, the garage was placed next to the park administration building in the heart of the townsite. This prominent location influenced staff designers to ensure that the building's appearance harmonized with that of other public buildings in the vicinity. Accordingly, the building was constructed of peeled logs and was covered with a broad hipped roof. A series of roof dormers provided natural lighting for the four vehicle bays, and reinforced the building's resemblance to contemporary facilities such as the administration building, staff residence, RCMP headquarters and museum.

By the late 1930s, park administrators recognized the problems inherent in locating storage and service facilities in conspicuous public areas, and began to relocate and consolidate them in work compounds located outside the townsite cores. The garage's substantial construction and attractive appearance ensured its survival and conversion to other uses after vehicle maintenance activities were relocated to the works compound at Waskesiu in the mid 1950s.

1. Historical photo of government garage, Waskesiu. (CPS, Photo Services, N.08-80-02-08 [01].)

Sources:
Public Works Canada, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, Building Plan PA 54.
* FHBRO recognized building
IV.b.6. Fire Hall

(Former Central Garage)*

Corner Beaver and Cariboo Streets, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1935
Original Owner: National Parks

The former central garage occupies a conspicuous corner in the heart of the Banff townsite. Built as a service and storage facility for park vehicles, it was purposefully designed in the Tudor-Rustic style that the Parks Branch favoured for public facilities during the 1930s. It was hoped that the garage, along with other key buildings such as the nearby school auditorium (IV.b.9.), would encourage private builders to adopt it. The garage demonstrated that the basic trappings of the theme—Rundle limestone wall trim and decorative half-timbering—could be used to enliven the exterior wall surfaces of utilitarian facilities.

The building served its original function until 1960, when it was converted into Banff’s fire hall.

1. Banff Fire Hall (former Central Garage).
(Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
IV.b.7. Fire Hall*

126 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: 1935-1936
Original Owner: National Parks

The fire hall at Wasagaming is a small single-storey building. Like most other public facilities constructed at Wasagaming during the 1930s, the fire hall was built primarily from locally cut spruce logs. 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 attenuated roof slope on the front facade 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.

The project was carried out under the direction of Gottfrid Johnson, a noted local craftsman and builder. 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 original pyramidal roof of the hose drying tower was truncated, reducing its visual effect. The integrity of the original structure was further eroded by an unsympathetic rear addition in 1982.

Sources:
Public Works Canada. Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS. Building Plan RM 34.
* FHBRO recognized building
1. Architectural rendering for fire hall at Wasagaming, Riding Mountain National Park, as built. (PWC, Engineering and Architectural Services-CPS, 1935.)
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

2. Fire hall at Wasagaming, shortly after its completion, 1935. (CPS, Photo Services, n.d.)

IV.b.8. Fire Hall*

Corner Patricia Street and Elm Ave., Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1936; Additions 1948, 1982
Original Owner: National Parks

This building replaced Jasper’s first fire hall, a simple log structure that was rendered obsolete by the community’s growth during the 1920s and early 1930s. The 1936 building was designed to accommodate the vehicles of the local volunteer fire brigade on the ground floor, with living quarters and a recreational hall above. The exterior walls were sheathed with stucco, with brick trim around the vehicle entrance bays. Stone was originally specified, but was rejected to reduce costs. The key element linking the building to the Tudor-Rustic architectural theme was the half-timber treatment on the upper section of the hose-drying tower. This trim was also applied to the side dormers.

The Jasper fire hall was enlarged by additions in 1948 and 1982 which added a third vehicle bay on the left side and additional office space. The building has housed a variety of services in addition to the fire brigade, ranging from staff quarters to a weather bureau and a court room.

1. Jasper Fire Hall. (Mills, CFS, AHB, 1990.)

Source:
* PHBRO recognized building
IV.b.9. Banff Information Centre
(Former Banff School Auditorium)*

224-226 Banff Avenue, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Date of Construction: 1939-1940
Original Owner: Banff School District

This building was designed as a combination auditorium and educational facility. When it opened in 1940, the classrooms on the lower level were used for secondary school courses in domestic science, music and typewriting. In addition, the facility provided initial accommodation for the newly founded Banff School of Fine Arts.

Although the building's construction occurred after the dismantling of the Dominion Parks Branch's Architectural Division, it nevertheless closely adhered to the Tudor Rustic motif that staff architects had prescribed for major public facilities in the townsite during the 1930s. In this case, the theme was embodied in the extensive use of Rundle limestone for lower wall surfaces, the front entrance portico and wall buttresses, and the application of half-timbering to upper wall surfaces. This building, and the nearby fire hall (former central garage), are highly conspicuous remnants of the style within Banff's commercial core area.

1. Banff Information Centre, built 1939-1940. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Sources:
Sophie Drakich, “Information Building (Former Auditorium Building/School).” 224 Banff Avenue, Town of Banff, Banff National Park. FHRMO Building Report 91-106.
* FHRMO recognized building
IV.b.10. Post Office

502 Patricia Street, Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1939; Addition 1956
Original Owner: Department of Public Works

Jasper’s importance, both as a resort community and as a divisional headquarters for the CNR, resulted in the presence of a sizeable year-round population. By the late 1930s, the townsite’s size justified the construction of a substantial post office. Previously, this service had been located in a local drugstore. During the Depression years it was fairly common practice for the Department of Public Works to commission designs for public buildings of this type from private architects. In this instance the architect was W.C. Sylvester, who was undoubtedly supplied with design guidelines by Parks Branch officials. The completed building harmonized well with the Tudor Rustic character of neighbouring institutional buildings, including the Administration Building, firehall, RCMP barracks and the Imperial Bank.

The building features stuccoed walls over a foundation sheathed with local fieldstone. Tudor Revival detailing, in the form of half-timbered gables, decorative bracketing and leaded glass bay windows, reflect the intention to complement the local architectural theme. Also noteworthy is the fine carved detailing on the front porch fascia. The initials “GR” above the east entrance commemorate King George VI's visit to Jasper in the year that the post office was built.

In 1956, the building was enlarged by a sizeable addition on its left side. The addition is remarkable for its sympathetic adherence to the original design, a departure from usual practice during the 1950s that aroused criticism within Canadian architectural circles at the time.
1. Jasper Post Office. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
IV.b.11. Wardens’ Operational Centre  
(Former Fish Hatchery Building)*

Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1942  
Original Owner: National Parks

This fish hatchery replaced a modest operation previously housed in the basement of the park Administration Building (see IV.a.1.) As in several other mountain parks, angling was regarded as an important tourist attraction in Jasper National Park, and hatchery facilities were justified on the basis of replenishing the stock. The concern for tourist revenues was sufficient to justify a substantial expenditure on this facility at a time when most other building activity in the parks had come to a standstill due to wartime restraint.

Because the hatchery was intended to serve as a tourist attraction in its own right, considerable attention was given to the aesthetic appearance of the building and its setting. To this end, the building’s symmetrical one-and-one-half-storey plan was clad with half-log siding and embellished with roof dormers and a gabled front entrance. The exterior treatment is typical of prevailing design practice in the parks during the late 1930s and 1940s, in the wake of spending restraints and a diminished enthusiasm for the rustic theme of the preceding decades.

The hatchery ceased operations in 1972 due to a viral disease in the water system.

Sources:
* FHBRO recognized building
GROUP V: SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES IN THE TOWNSITES

This group includes a sampling of the commercial buildings in the national park townsites that display rustic design characteristics. As in the case of residential designs (i.e.), this category contains few buildings with design qualities that can be uniquely associated with the national parks. Those included here are either direct products of the Parks Branch’s architectural unit, or clearly reflect the influence of the Branch’s design policies before 1950.

It was a growing concern about the appearance of this type of building that gave rise to the initiation of a design policy within the National Parks. Before the First World War, the rows of business blocks along Banff’s main street resembled those of countless new towns in western Canada, and were a source of mounting criticism from park visitors. In a report commissioned by the Dominion Parks Branch, English landscape architect and town planner Thomas H. Mawson advised that steps should be taken to relieve the “monotonous horizontal skyline” created by rows of flat-roofed buildings. To accomplish this, he advocated the introduction of varied materials, particularly local stone, and the encouragement of asymmetrical plans that incorporated gables or false gables.\(^1\)

Mawson’s recommendations were not directly acted upon, but they correctly anticipated the policy that the Dominion Parks Branch pursued between 1922 and 1937. During those years, all plans for commercial and institutional buildings were reviewed by staff architects in order to develop an appearance more suited to the townsites’ natural settings. Some were designed by private architects, others by owners, then modified or redrawn by the Parks architects to conform to the rustic design themes prescribed within the various townsites. Usually, staff alterations were confined to the exterior appearance of the proposed structures. In many instances, prospective builders took advantage of the free plan service offered by the Branch, thereby avoiding possible delays in securing plan approval (see Part 1, Figures 42-47).

The association between Tudor Rustic design elements and local historical traditions has encouraged a revival of the cosmetic trappings of the style in some townsites in recent years.

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\(^1\) NA. RG 84, Vol. 629. File 578443. Correspondence, Thomas H. Mawson to J.B. Harkin, 29 January 1915.
V. Shops and Commercial Services

1. The International Coffee Shoppe and Gas Bar, Waterton Lakes National Park, built to a design prepared by Parks Branch architects in the late 1930s. Demolished. (NA, RG 84, Vol. 2170.)
V.1.  **Indian Trading Post**  
*(Former Sign of the Goat Curio Shop)*

Corner Cave and Birch Streets, Banff Townsite  
Banff National Park  
Date of Construction: ca. 1905; Moved to Present Site pre-1914.  
Original Owner: Norman Luxton

This is one of the oldest retail shops remaining in the national parks. The building originally stood across the street from the 1903 Banff Museum. Luxton sought to repeat some of the features of the museum in the design for his shop, including the roof lantern, sweeping roof overhang and brackets, and diagonally inlaid wall panel treatment.

The building was relocated across the river to a conspicuous site travelled by visitors to the Banff Cave and Basin. The building's distinctive profile, age and location make it a highly familiar landmark within the community. It is also a vestige from the first phase of rustic design in the park.

1. Indian Trading Post, Banff National Park. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Sources:
Alberta Culture. "Banff Townsite Inventory." information sheet.  
Banff National Park, Central Registry, Realty File.
V.2. Harmon’s
(Former Harmony Tea Room and Harmon’s Drugs)

111 Banff Avenue, Banff Townsite
Banff National Park
Dates of Construction: 1920;
Renovations and Addition 1937;
Subsequent Alterations
Original Owner: Byron Harmon

This building replaced an earlier store, also owned by noted Banff photographer Byron Harmon, which burned in 1917. Harmon’s 1920 building adopted the boulderstone and half-timber motif first introduced into the townsite by the Banff Springs Hotel and CPR station. This motif was elaborated upon with the construction of an arcaded side addition in 1937. The building is a distinctive architectural remnant located in the heart of Banff’s principal commercial strip.

1. Harmon’s Tea Room and Drug Store, shortly after completion. (CPS, Photo Services, N.09.93.02.04., n.d.)

Source: Alberta Culture, “Banff Townsite Inventory.”
V.3. Baxter’s Gifts
(Former Jasper Park Pharmacy)

614 Connaught Drive, Jasper Townsite
Jasper National Park
Date of Construction: 1924
Original Owner: Mrs. S. Sampson

This simple one-storey shop fit in well with park superintendent Maynard Rogers' vision for the Jasper townsite. Edmonton architect Edward Underwood simply added a veneer of local boulderstones to produce what Rogers described as "a very excellent building" in his report to the Commissioner of Parks. The building's stone exterior makes it a conspicuous feature on Jasper's main commercial thoroughfare.


Source:
V.4. **Edelweiss Gifts**  
(Former Province of Alberta Liquor Store)

611 Connaught Avenue, Jasper Townsite  
Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1924  
Original Owner: Province of Alberta

The design for this small shop, prepared in the office of Provincial Architect Richard P. Blakey, was intended to harmonize with the rustic theme then being developed in the Jasper townsite. To an otherwise conventional design for a frame-walled commercial shop, the provincial architect's staff added a twin-gabled street facade embellished with a boulderstone plinth and chimneys, and mock half-timbered upper-wall surfaces, fashioned from split half-logs. A utilitarian residential section was added at the rear of the building in 1925 to accommodate the liquor vendor and his family.


Source:  
2. Edelweiss Gifts (former Alberta Liquor Store), Jasper. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)
This building epitomizes the approach advocated for commercial buildings in national park townsites during the 1920s and 1930s. Architect A.M. Calderon created a colourful streetfront facade by incorporating a sloping roof line, broken by a dormer and truncated turret on one side and by a half-timbered gable on the other. These decorative devices, along with the use of stone piers on each side of the ground-floor shop front, make this one of the most eye-catching buildings on Jasper's main thoroughfare.

V.6. **Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce**
(Formed Imperial Bank)

Connaught Drive, Jasper Townsite  
Jasper National Park  
**Date of Construction:** 1928  
**Original Owner:** Canadian Imperial Bank

The Imperial Bank commissioned architect A.M. Calderon to design this building on a prominent site facing both the CNR station and the park administration building. The building displays Calderon’s characteristic skill in combining English Picturesque architectural elements with local boulderstone construction. The building is a key component in Jasper’s attractive architectural grouping that includes the CNR station, administration building, fire hall and post office.


**Sources:**  
Mema Forster. *Jasper ... A Walk in the Past.* p. 22.  
Jasper National Park, Interpretation Centre.  
Historic Building File.
V.7. Ruffles Boutique
(Former Butcher Shop)

114 Waterton Avenue, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1928
Original Owner: Mabel Dilatush

This small shop was built for the owner of the adjacent Stanley Hotel (I.b.10.) and, along with that building, anchored an important section of Waterton's principal business section. The building's design was prepared by Parks Branch architects. The shop front features a round-headed entrance and projecting square bay window beneath a half-timbered gable. The half-timbering and stone trim linked the building to the Tudor Rustic theme that the Branch was promoting in the townsite in the late 1920s.

1. Ruffles Boutique, Waterton Lakes townsite. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1989.)
V.8.  Wig Wam Restaurant

Wasagaming Townsite  
Riding Mountain National Park  
Date of Construction: 1930  
Original Owner: Oswald Gusdal

The Wig Wam was one of several businesses established at Wasagaming in the early 1930s by descendants of Swedish settlers from the neighbouring district. Builders Ernest Gusdal and Herb and Gottfrid Johnson built the restaurant with plans obtained from the Parks Branch. This was Wasagaming's first restaurant, and its opening was described at length by a local historian:

It was a gala occasion in the park when all of Erickson and the surrounding area gathered for the celebration. The building was not quite completed, the rafters still open but a picture showed the gaiety and importance of the auspicious occasion in the social life of the park and area residents at the time. The Erickson orchestra was in attendance; Oscar Olson, a grain buyer in Erickson, was on the trumpet; teacher, Miss Lindquist on the piano; Irvin Johnson, farmer, on the saxophone; Wilfred Magnell, farmer, on the guitar....

The Wig Wam has remained in continuous use as a restaurant, with minimal exterior changes, up to the present.

1. Wig Wam Restaurant, Wasagaming, 1990. (Photo courtesy Manitoba, Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch.)

Sources:
V.9. Arcade Store

Lakeview Drive, Waskesiu Townsite
Prince Albert National Park
Date of Construction: 1931
Original Owner: Ivor Frigstad

This was one of the first shops built in the Waskesiu townsite's business section. Local carpenter and entrepreneur Ivor Frigstad erected it using a plan supplied by the Parks Branch's Architectural Division. This plan was a variation on a formula used repeatedly for commercial buildings during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The basic unit consisted of a gable-ended shop, with a square bay window flanked by a side entrance, as illustrated by Ruffles Boutique at Waterton Lakes (V.7.) and Meldrum's Store at Wasagaming (V.10).

The Arcade Store in Waskesiu consists of two such units linked by a cross gable section to create a row of three shops. As originally built, the two end shops featured square bays with stone-veneered plinths; the centre unit featured similar rock facing below the two windows. A flared eyebrow hood above the centre door is another recurring feature of Parks Branch designs from this period. The building's facade has been altered by the replacement of multi-paned windows on the two end units, and by the replacement of the windows on the centre unit by stone-faced panels.

1. Arcade Store, Waskesiu. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1986.)

Sources:
NA, RG 84, Vol. 1784.
Bill Waiser, Saskatchewan's Playground. A History of Prince Albert National Park, p. 64.
The middle section of this three-gabled building was constructed in 1932, using a plan supplied by the Parks Branch's Architectural Division. The design closely resembled the formula used for similar commercial facilities in other park townsites during the same period (see V.7. and V.9.). In this case the design was modified by the insertion of a lower sub-gable covering the window bay and side entrance. Later additions on both sides repeated the facade treatment and configuration of the original section, with interconnecting cross-gabled sections. In this instance, the Tudor-Rustic motif was sustained, creating a visually cohesive three-bay unit.

V.11. Golden Fleece Boutique  
(Former Photo Shop)

630 Connaught Drive, Jasper Townsite  
Jasper National Park  
Date of Construction: 1936  
Original Owner: G. Morris Taylor

This building illustrates an approach frequently taken to commercial shop design in the park townsites. In this case a decorative facade containing a sham roof slope and twin gables was applied to an otherwise conventional two-storey block. Both gables are supported by paired columns fashioned from peeled logs, which also framed the two shop entrances. The application of local fieldstone beneath the shop's bay windows linked the building to a theme that was well entrenched in Jasper by the mid-1930s. The building's design was prepared by Edmonton architect William G. Blakey, then forwarded to Ottawa for Branch approval.

Early store facades are highly prone to periodic face-lifts which typically entail the replacement of original multi-paned windows with modern plate glass. While the present example has lost one of its original entrances, it retains its original window arrangement.


Source:  
V.12. Pat’s Garage
(Former Waterton Motors)

Mount View Road, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1928
Original Owner: Tay Ellison

V.13. Esso Gas Station
(Former Texaco Gas Station)

Wasagaming Townsite
Riding Mountain National Park
Date of Construction: ca. 1935
Original Owner: Unknown

Gas stations began to appear in the national parks during the late 1920s. As in the case of other commercial facilities, their owners were compelled to use designs that met the approval of the Branch’s Architectural Division. Frequently, staff architects prepared the final plans, based on preliminary designs submitted by the owners. The two buildings included here typify the appearance of such business in the parks. In both cases rustic design elements linked the buildings to aspects of the rustic themes being developed in the respective townsites: boulderstone trim in the case of the Waterton example, and half-timbering on the somewhat later Wasagaming station. Much of the stonework on Pat’s Garage was removed during renovations, but the basic design remains intact.

3. Former Texaco (currently Esso) gas station, Wasagaming. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1986.)
PART 2: THE RESOURCE

V.14. Park Transportation Company Garage

219 Mount View Road, Waterton Lakes Townsite
Waterton Lakes National Park
Date of Construction: 1952
Original Owner: George Baker, Park Transport Co.

George Baker founded the Park Transportation Company in 1930 to capitalize on the anticipated tourism resulting from the completion of the Prince of Wales Hotel and the eventual completion of a highway link between Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Park in Montana. Starting in the mid-1930s, Baker's company operated a bus service between the two parks. Baker built this garage in 1952, following an increase in business in the post-war years. Its prominent lakefront site, two doors down from the park administration building, dictated that he use a design that harmonized with the Tudor-Rustic theme that had been introduced during the 1920s.

The building's exterior features stuccoed walls framed by fieldstone piers, with half-timbered detailing on the gable ends. These details link the building to design and construction practices of the 1930s, and belie the fact that the building features a modern truss system that permitted an unobstructed interior space for the servicing of buses.

1. Park Transportation Company garage, Waterton Lakes. (Mills, CPS, AHB, 1990.)

Source:
Lot 16.
APPENDIX: BUILDING ENTRIES BY PARK

Banff National Park (Alberta):

I.a.2. Bill Peyto Cabin
I.a.5. Johnson Creek Warden Patrol Cabins
I.a.6. Abbott Pass Refuge Cabin
I.a.13. Shadow Lake Rest House
I.a.14. Halfway/Ptarmigan Hut
I.a.22. Egypt Lake Warden Patrol Cabin
I.a.23. Scotch Camp Warden Patrol Cabin
I.b.3. Storm Mountain Lodge
I.b.6. Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House
I.b.12. Skoki Ski Lodge
I.b.15. Paradise Bungalows
I.b.17. Sunshine Ski Lodge
I.b.18. Num-Ti-Jah Lodge
I.c.1. Earnslcliffe Cottage
I.c.3. Former Painter Residence
I.c.4. Swiss Guides' Cabin
I.c.12. Superintendent's Residence
I.c.21. Whyte Residence
I.c.27. Caretaker's Cottage
II.a.1. Cave and Basin Hot Springs Bathhouse
II.a.2. Upper Hot Springs Bathhouse
II.b.1. Banff Museum
II.c.9. Wauldhaus Restaurant
II.d.12. Cascades of Time Garden Pavilions
III.a.1. Lake Louise CPR Station
III.a.2. Banff CPR Station
III.b.3. East Gate Registration Building Complex
IV.a.3. Administration Building
IV.b.3. Rundle Memorial Church
IV.b.6. Banff Fire Hall
IV.b.9. Banff Information Centre
V.1. Indian Trading Post
V.2. Harmon's

Cape Breton Islands National Park (Nova Scotia):

II.d.13. Lone Shieling
III.b.5. Entrance Lodge

Elk Island National Park (Alberta):

II.d.4. Kitchen Shelter
II.d.8. Pavilion, Sandy Beach

Fort Beauséjour National Historic Site (New Brunswick):

II.b.5. Visitor Centre/Museum
FORT LIVING PROGRAMS

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park (Nova Scotia):
II.b.6. Historical Museum

Fundy National Park (New Brunswick):
I.c.33. Superintendent's Residence
II.a.3. Bathhouse
II.c.13. Golf Clubhouse
III.b.7. Information Centre
IV.a.4. Park Administration Building

Glacier National Park (British Columbia):
I.a.10. Grizzly Warden Patrol Cabin
III.a.3. Glacier Siding CPR Station

Jasper National Park (Alberta):
I.a.7. Isaac Creek Warden Patrol Cabin
I.a.12. Rocky Forks Warden Patrol Cabin
I.a.17. Middle Forks Warden Patrol Cabin
I.a.18. Shangri-La Ski Cabin
I.a.24. Medicine Tent Warden Patrol Cabin
I.a.25. Adolphus Warden Patrol Cabin
I.b.7. Jasper Park Lodge—Guest Bungalows
I.b.9. Maligne Lake Chalet

Jasper National Park (Alberta):
I.b.16. National Training Centre, Palisades Ranch
I.c.2. John Moberley Homestead
I.c.5. Jackman Residence
I.c.8. Private Residence, 712 Patricia
I.c.9. Former Brewster Residence
I.c.10. Jasper Municipal Library (ex-RCMP)
I.c.28. Superintendent's Residence
I.c.30. Sunwapta Warden's Headquarters Cabin
I.c.31. Wardens' Operation Centre
I.d.1. Staff Dormitories, Jasper Park Lodge
I.d.5. Maligne Canyon Hostel
II.c.2. Le Pub, Jasper Park Lodge
II.c.3. Maligne Lake Boathouse
II.d.3. Golf Shelter, Jasper Park Lodge
III.a.4. CNR Station
III.b.6. Rescue Building
IV.a.1. Information Centre
IV.b.2. Church of St. Mary and St. George
IV.b.8. Fire Hall
IV.b.10. Post Office
IV.b.11. Wardens' Operational Centre
V.3. Baxter's Gifts
V.4. Edelweiss Gifts
V.5. Jasper Camera and Gifts
V.6. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

368
V.11.  Golden Fleece Boutique

Kootenay National Park (British Columbia):
I.a.8.  Fay Hut
I.b.4.  Vermilion River Bungalow Camp
I.c.7.  Wardens’ Headquarters, Radium

La Mauricie National Park (Quebec):
I.b.11.  Wabenaki Lodge and Andrew Lodge

Mount Revelstoke National Park (British Columbia):
I.a.9.  Eva Lake Warden’s Cabin

Prince Albert National Park (Saskatchewan):
I.a.16.  Grey Owl’s Cabins
I.b.14.  Pleasant Inn
I.c.16.  Mackenzie King Cottage
I.c.19.  Superintendent’s Residence

Prince Albert National Park (Saskatchewan):
I.c.29.  Crean Lake Warden’s Cabin
I.d.4.  Recreation Hall/Library
II.b.3.  Community Building
II.b.4.  Nature Centre
II.c.4.  Assembly Hall
II.c.7.  Golf Clubhouse
II.d.11.  Caddie Shelter No. 2
III.b.2.  South Gate Registration Building
IV.b.5.  Wardens’ Equipment Building
V.9.  Arcade Store

Riding Mountain National Park (Manitoba):
I.a.15.  Grey Owl’s Cabin
I.a.19.  McKinnon Creek Warden Patrol Cabin
I.b.13.  Idylwylde Bungalows
I.c.6.  Private Cottage, 202 Wasagaming
I.c.15.  Accountant’s Residence, 154 Columbine
I.c.22.  Superintendent’s Residence
I.c.23.  RCAF Pilots’ Cottage
I.c.24.  Whirlpool Warden’s Residence
I.c.25.  Gatekeeper’s Cottage
I.c.26.  Staff Four-Plex, 150 Ta-Wa-Pit
II.b.2.  Interpretive Centre (former Museum)
II.c.5.  “Danceland”
II.c.6.  Golf Clubhouse
II.c.8.  Tennis Pavilion
II.c.11.  Park Theatre
II.c.12.  Bowling Green Clubhouse
II.d.4.  Kitchen Shelter No. 1
RUSTIC BUILDING PROGRAMS

II.d.6. Former Refrigerator Building
II.d.7. Jamboree Hall
II.d.9. Bandstand
III.b.1. East Gate Entrance Complex
IV.b.7. Fire Hall
V.8. Wig Wam Restaurant
V.10. Meldrum's Store
V.13. Esso Gas Station

St. Lawrence Islands National Park (Ontario):
II.d.1. Picnic Shelters

Waterton Lakes National Park (Alberta):
I.b.8. Prince of Wales Hotel
I.b.10. Stanley Hotel
I.b.19. Crandell Mountain Lodge

Waterton Lakes National Park (Alberta):
I.c.7. Private Cottage, 204 Fountain
I.c.11. Walter Foster Residence
I.c.13. RCMP Detachment Headquarters
I.c.14. Private Cottage, 303 Evergreen
I.c.20. Walter Foster Residence
I.c.32. Staff Residence, 312 Evergreen
I.d.2. Staff Dormitories, Prince of Wales Hotel
II.c.10. Waterton Lakes Opera House
II.d.2. Interpretation Building
II.d.4. Campground Kitchen Shelters
II.d.5. Campground Toilet Buildings
II.d.10. Campground Community Kitchen
III.b.4. Registration Building
IV.b.1. Elementary School
IV.a.2. Park Administration Building
IV.b.4. Former Fish Hatchery
V.7. Ruffles Boutique
V.12. Pat's Garage
V.14. Park Transportation Co. Garage

Wood Buffalo National Park (Northwest Territories):
I.a.11. Jackfish River Warden Patrol Cabin

Yoho National Park (British Columbia):
I.a.1. Deer Lodge Warden Cabin
I.a.3. Wiwaxy Lodge
I.a.4. Elizabeth Parker Hut
I.a.20. Stanley Mitchell Alpine Hut
I.a.21. Mount Hunter Lookout Cabin
I.b.1. Emerald Lake Chalet
I.b.2. Lake O'Hara Lodge
I.b. 5. Twin Falls Tea House
I.c. 18. Superintendent's Residence
I.d. 3. Whiskey Jack Hostel
II.c. 1. Emerald Lake Boathouse
III.a. 5. CPR Telegraph Building