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FHBRO Number 93-107

Banff NP, Alberta

**Clearwater Lakes Warden Cabin**

Banff National Park

The Clearwater Lakes Warden Cabin at the Banff National Park was constructed in 1930 to a 1918 design by James T. Childe, Dominion Parks engineer in Banff. Built to provide overnight shelter for wardens on extended patrols, and also available for public use when unoccupied, this one-storey cabin comprises a rectangular room and verandah. The cabin maintains its original use and is little altered. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 93-1 07.

### **Reasons For Designation**

The Clearwater Lakes Warden Cabin was designated Recognized for its environmental significance, architectural importance, and its historical associations.

The Warden Cabin is strategically located within Banff National Park for backcountry travel with several other warden cabin destinations positioned at intervals along the Clearwater River Trail. With its round rail horse corral, it is an important and distinctive local landmark within an otherwise sparsely populated locality. Built of locally gathered materials, the cabin sits in a clearing of the sub-alpine forest at the base of Mount Harris overlooking Clearwater Lake. By its overall form, scale, construction and finishes, the Cabin integrates harmoniously into, and reinforces, the park's wilderness character.

Small, simple and rectangular in form and characterised by its highly crafted, unadorned paint finished round-log construction, the Warden's Cabin is architecturally a fine early example of a standard Number 3-type rustic one-room overnight patrol cabin. This type, designed in 1918 and built thereafter, with minor variations, through to the 1960's, reflects the aesthetics favoured by National Parks in the west during the early-mid 20th century period. The Cabin features round log walls, saddle-notched and trimmed to improve water shedding at the corner ends, a low-pitched cedar shingle-finished roof projecting at the entrance elevation, cantilevered on extended roof ridge and wall plate poles, to form a verandah over the entrance door.

Historically, the cabin is significant for its association with the National Parks Service and its mounted staff, and the development of the western mountain national parks.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Clearwater Lakes Warden Cabin resides in its site relationships, overall form, scale, rustic design, round-log construction, details, materials and interior.

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The original setting and rustic character of the Cabin and its corral remains intact. Any future developments or landscape alterations should respect and maintain the visual and physical relationships with the surrounding open spruce forest, the Clearwater River tributary and Clearwater Lake. The round log construction of the cabin and corral contributes significantly to the character of the setting site and is to be respected and maintained.

With its simple rectangular plan, massing and proportions, its cedar shingle-finished low pitched roof, and gabled ends, the Clearwater Lakes Warden Cabin is characterised by its rustic style crafted round-log wood construction and red-brown external paint finish with white painted windows and trim, and should be conserved. The high standard of workmanship should be matched in any future works. Feature elements, details and finishes should be respected, maintained and not altered. These include: the entrance gable elevation with the wood deck and entrance door to one side counterbalanced by a small six-lite window; the painted wood cabin sign centred prominently in the upper entrance gable area; and the saddle-notched and trimmed logs at the corners. Chinking between logs should be maintained and repaired to match original detailing.

The Cabin's six-lite windows with their muntin bars, and wood plank door should be maintained and not altered or obscured. If replaced, new windows, door, or elements should match originals in design, materials, finishes, workmanship and operation.

Internally the Cabin retains its original function together with its volume, exposed paint-finished round log framing and walls, ceiling, wood trim and furnishings, which should all be respected and maintained. If replaced, new components should match originals in dimension, materials, tooling, fixings, workmanship and finishes. Any new fixtures and fixed furnishings installed should be consistent with the rustic design character of the cabin and not alter the internal volume or obscure finishes.

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For further guidance, please refer to the FHBRO Code of Practice,.

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