

93-107

Banff, Alberta

Egypt Lake Warden Cabin

Banff National Park

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Egypt Lake Warden Cabin was constructed in the summer of 1942 to a standardized plan developed in 1918 by James T. Childe, Dominion Parks staff engineer. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 93-107.

Reasons for Designation

The Egypt Lake Warden Cabin was designated Recognized for its architectural and environmental qualities.

The cabin at Egypt Lake is one of a network of cabins built to house the wardens as they patrol the backcountry on horseback in summer and on snowshoes or skis in winter. It was situated to minimize the travel time to other cabins. Together, these cabins formed the transportation and communications network that linked the park by patrol district to the farthest reaches of its boundaries.

In its functional qualities and construction materials, the Egypt Lake cabin is an excellent example of everything a backcountry warden's cabin should be. Indeed, at the time of its construction it was felt to set a new standard to which all other cabins should be built.

Located on a terrace two kilometres north of Egypt Lake and looking westward toward the Pharaoh Peaks, the cabin is sited picturesquely in a sub-alpine meadow. A small creek providing fresh water to the site runs past the cabin and through the clearing that contains a corral, tack shed and privy. The cabin is a landmark in this heavily used backcountry area near the boundary between Banff and Kootenay National Parks.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Egypt Lake Warden Cabin resides in its simple utilitarian design, in its materials of construction, and in its site relationships. Its massing is plain: a gable-roofed cabin with a sheltered porch constituting the front third of the structure. The main entrance door is tucked away under the porch roof and situated off-centre. The simplicity of the massing should be respected.

The cabin derives much of its character from the rustic materials of its construction. Wood is the predominant material: round logs with saddle-notched corners. Three

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Egypt Lake Warden Cabin (Continued)

large log columns support the roof of the porch along the front elevation and a balustrade of vertical, small-diameter logs encloses the porch. The ends of the round log roof purlins and the dimension-lumber rafters are visible at the exterior, reinforcing the rustic design motif. Cedar shingles clad the roof. These materials and details merit preservation.

The original multi-pane horizontal sliding windows have been replaced with modern units, and the original rubble-stone foundation has been reworked as a preserved wood foundation. Further departures from the intended rustic approach to construction should be resisted.

The simple paint scheme is traditional, and appropriate to the cabin's rustic aesthetic. The walls, columns, and balustrade are painted dark brown while the fascia boards, balustrade railing, and the endgrain of the wall logs, purlins, and rafters are highlighted in white. These should be retained.

The historic relationship of the Egypt Lake Warden Cabin to its surrounding landscape has remained unchanged. Maintaining these site relationships would contribute to the continuation of the cabin's remote and rustic character.

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