

***FINAL***

Banff National Park of Canada

The Rustic Lookout Pavilion was constructed in 1935. It was designed by architect Harold C. Beckett. Alterations include the replacement of the shingle roofing in the early 1960s. The building continues in its original use as a garden pavilion within the Cascades of Time Garden. The Parks Canada Agency is the custodian. See FHBRO Case File No. 97-11.

### Reasons for Designation

The Rustic Lookout Pavilion has been designated “Recognized” because of its historical, architectural and environmental associations.

The development of the Rustic Lookout Pavilion is directly associated with the completion of Banff National Park’s Administration Building and its broader setting, the Cascades of Time Garden, in the 1930s. This construction was part of an effort to attract international tourism to Banff National Park. The Rustic Lookout Pavilion is closely associated with this intense period of development, an increase in visitation, and ultimately an important turning point in the history of the park. It was built by unemployed relief workers during this period.

The Rustic Lookout Pavilion is a very good example of rustic design within the national parks program, and is characteristic of Harold C. Beckett’s work set within the realm of landscape design. Very good craftsmanship is evident throughout the structure.

The Rustic Lookout Pavilion is an integral component of the Cascades of Time Garden. Its site has remained virtually unchanged since the original development, with the exception of maturing vegetation. The rustic form and detailing of the pavilion reinforces the Picturesque character of the established garden setting. A key element of the larger site development, the Rustic Lookout Pavilion is a familiar structure to the townsite’s residents.

### Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Rustic Lookout Pavilion resides in the features characteristic of its status as a small gazebo built in the rustic style. Externally, the features characteristic of this building type are the simple massing (an octagonal log frame covered by a turret roof); the detailing of the arcade wall (peeled log posts and top plate with roots inserted at an angle to the post and to the top plate); the decorative railing between posts (the handrail and bottom rail of peeled poles, the balusters of roots); the roof finish of hand-split cedar shakes; an upturned stump as a finial; and, a common lap or close hip treatment of the hip-ridges. These features deserve protection.

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The heritage character of the exterior and interior would be best protected by replacement in-kind of any heavily weathered or mechanically damaged building components, materials and finishes as the need arises. The condition of the stump finial, which is highly vulnerable to the elements, should be monitored on a regular basis.

Internally, the features characteristic of this building type are the exposed roof framing (peeled pole rafters abutted against a shaped block at the apex and tie-beams framed into a peeled pole centre post); the exposed peeled pole laths carrying the shakes; the acorn ornament worked on the termination of the centre post; the flag stone floor; and, the burl specimens (abnormal bulges on the limb or trunk of a spruce tree) utilized for the tie beams and bench legs.

The heritage character of the interior would be best protected by careful maintenance of the shake roof finish and the clearing of any snow accumulation, which on thawing, could be drawn into the walls and accelerate wood decay.

The Cascades of Time Garden is nestled into a hill on the grounds of the Administration Building, its landscape designed in conjunction with the building. The garden was created in the romantic tradition of English Picturesque landscapes, boasting deliberately irregular pools, flagstone walkways and planted clumps of trees that blend with the surrounding forest. The original program for the landscape, although never fully realized, was intended to depict the evolution of life through the geological eras.

The Rustic Lookout Pavilion sits at the northeast corner of the Devonian Plateau atop a rubble rock terraced slope. Simple flagstone pathways connect it to points within the broader garden. The form and materials of these features -- and their relationship to the pavilion -- should be maintained. Furthermore, the views from the pavilion over the Cambrian Pool and towards the Cambrian Pavilion and Cascade Mountain in the distance should be protected.

The larger garden emphasized a wide variety of floral and shrub species which complemented the pavilion and the stonework. The relationship between this pavilion and these naturalistic plantings is important and should be protected.

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