

**92-07**

Banff National Park, Alberta  
**Saskatchewan Crossing Wardens Residence No.1**  
Banff National Park

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Wardens Residence at Saskatchewan Crossing was built in 1939-40 based on designs by James T. Child, the resident engineer at Banff. The exterior of the building and its site have been little altered. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 92-07.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Wardens Residence was designated Recognized because of its significant environmental importance, its historical associations and its architectural integrity.

Due to its age and prominent location along the Icefields Parkway (Highway 93), the Wardens Residence at Saskatchewan Crossing has become a recognizable landmark in Banff National Park. The residence was built following the construction of the highway linking Banff to Jasper, near a traditional fording spot across the Upper Saskatchewan River.

The Wardens Residence bears a direct association with the long history of warden service in the park and reflects a shift in the warden activities from the back country to the front country closer to the highway. The importance of the station at Saskatchewan Crossing increased with the completion of the nearby Thompson Highway (Highway 11). Because of its central position in the district and the centralization of warden services the station grew to accommodate more warden residences and outbuildings.

The utilitarian design of the one-storey structure is adapted from a standardized plan for park residences developed in 1918 by James T. Child. The buildings exterior also reflects a standardization of park buildings in its use of wood siding and standard park colours.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage value of the Wardens Residence at Saskatchewan Crossing derives from its visible location near the intersection of two of the parks important highways and from its distinctive architectural form.

Partially screened from the other buildings at the station by plantings, the Wardens Residence is the most obvious of the group of buildings along the highway. The

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consciously planned visual presence of the station and its relationship to the highway have not been affected by subsequent changes to the landscaping or road allowances. Any changes to the stations landscaping or highway alignment should not compromise views of the building.

The one storey structure presents a modest outline and massing that blend with its alpine setting. The truncated hip roof, wood siding and standardized park colour scheme immediately identifies the structure as an official park building, establishing the presence of the warden service. Any alteration to these defining elements that would jeopardize the established character of the building should be avoided.

The enclosed front porch and placement of the windows derive from the vernacular building tradition, and reflect the residential function of the building. Although several of the buildings multi-paned wooden windows have been replaced with modern units, the structure's exterior character has not been seriously compromised. The proper maintenance of the remaining earlier windows should be assured and the reinstatement of the earlier window design be considered when the modern units are at the end of their service life.

The simple interior floor plan contains two bedrooms, a living room and a combined kitchen-dining room, and remains largely intact. The interior finishes are modest and have been periodically updated, which reflects the practical considerations of the residence.

1996.05.14

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