

Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
Administration Office
Cape Breton Highlands National Park

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Administration Office at Cape Breton Highlands National Park was constructed in 1938-1939. It was among the earliest structures to be built in the recently established park. The Surveys and Engineering Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources was responsible for the design. The building has been altered over the years with the construction of two additions at the rear.

The Cape Breton Highlands National Park is currently the property of Environment Canada Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 90-303.

Reasons for Designation

The Administration Office was designated Recognized because of its important historical association and environmental qualities.

The Administration Office, along with the Superintendent's Residence, mark the establishment of the park. The creation of the National Park had a positive impact on the local development and the tourism industry of Cape Breton Island.

The administration buildings are located in an open, grassed area, overlooking Freshwater Lake. This group of administrative structures has retained its original aspect and appears as a domestic settlement nestled in a pastoral surrounding. As the building nearest to the entry drive, the Administration Office is central to the creation of this atmosphere.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Administration Office is defined by its vernacular type of architecture and its relationship to its setting.

The Administration Office consists of a modest single-storey building with a gable roof, based on a symmetrical plan and façade. While the two additions at the rear of the building alter the original symmetry of the building, their construction are in keeping with the additive pattern associated with vernacular architecture. The stone porch, enhancing the entry, contrasts with the simplicity of the white shingles of the walls. The wooden windows are multi-paned with green trim. Asphalt shingles have replaced the original wooden shingles on the roof. Reinstalment of wooden shingles would greatly enhance the heritage character of the building. A stone chimney still indicates the presence of a fireplace in the superintendent's office.

.../2

A continued maintenance program, with special care given to the regular painting of wooden components, will contribute to the longevity of the building. All the characteristic features should be retained and in the event of their replacement, original designs, material, color, and style should be used.

It is important to maintain the relationship of the building to its site and setting through the preservation of existing circulations paths, landscape and visual connections to other surrounding buildings.

1992.06.30