

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

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

Reasons for Designation

The Superintendent's Residence was designated Recognized because of its historical association and environmental qualities.

The Superintendent's Residence, along with the Administration Office, 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.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Superintendent's Residence is defined by its vernacular type of architecture and its relationship to its setting.

The Superintendent's Residence consists of a two storey building with a gable roof, based on a symmetrical plan and façade. The structure is finished with white shingles and has two porches, one at the front and another at the back which was added later on. The wooden windows are multi-paned; some have green shutters matching the asphalt shingles of the roof and dormers. Originally, the roof, dormers and porch were finished in wood shingles. Reinstallation of wood shingles would greatly enhance the heritage character of the building. A fireplace in the living room and the hardwood floors indicate some concern for quality construction.

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.

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the preservation of existing circulation paths, landscape and visual connections to other surrounding buildings.

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