

Elk Island National Park, Alberta
Pavilion (former Recreation Building)
Sandy Beach

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Pavilion was built in 1933-34 to designs by the Architecture and Planning Division of the National Parks Service, of which William Cromarty was head. It was built to provide recreational facilities for visitors to the park. The Pavilion is still used for the same function. The custodial department is Environment Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 87-28.

Reason for Designation

The Pavilion was designated Recognized because it is the oldest and most prominent visitor facility in the park, (the only surviving recreational facility of the period), it illustrates the growth of the popularity of Elk Island National Park for recreational use and played an important role in the development of the area. The Pavilion is an example of depression relief work. It is well sited in an area that retains much of its early character.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Pavilion resides in the building in general, its indigenous materials, its simple solid construction and its unaltered setting.

The Pavilion was a product of the National Parks design office and as such is a simple but well executed work in field-stone heavy timber and other rustic materials. The craftsmanship, particularly as found in the stonework, is of high quality. Vandalism and minor changes of materials and details have had some impact on the building. Preservation and enhancement could be achieved by reinstating missing or altered elements and continued use of the building as a public shelter.

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