

Elk Island National Park, Alberta  
**Superintendent's Residence**

**HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The superintendent's residence at Elk Island National Park was built in 1907. It served as the residence of the park superintendent and the park administrative offices until 1937. It is now used only as the superintendent's residence. Environment Canada is custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 87-27.

**Reason for Designation**

The residence was designated Recognized because it is the oldest surviving building in the park and it is the oldest superintendent's residence in continuous use in the national park system. It is also prominently associated with the founding and operation of Elk Island National Park, as the first to be identified as a sanctuary for big game animals.

**Character Defining Elements**

Unlike other early national park buildings, the Elk Island superintendent's residence was not designed in the rustic style. This could have been a reflection of the wildlife conservation and protection orientation of this park.

The heritage character of the property resides in its form, component assemblies and its materials. The plain rectangular elevation of the house is enlivened with gable dormers, a gambrel roof and decorative windows (both detailed and 9/1 glazing). The original verandah was removed in 1937; its reinstatement would be appropriate. The other subsequent alterations were less disruptive. Further alterations to the building should retain the clapboard and shingle vocabulary.

Future development of the site should endeavour to retain the existing rural setting.

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