

FHBRO Number 97-85

Jasper National Park, Alberta

Byng Warden Patrol Cabin

North Boundary Trail

The Byng Warden Patrol Cabin was constructed in 1939. The design follows the Standard Plan of 1918 by the National Parks Branch. The cabin was constructed by Bruce Otto. The original use continues. Alterations have included installing plywood flooring, and replacement of windows and roofing. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Case File No. 97-85.

Reasons for Designation

The Byng Warden Patrol Cabin on the North Boundary Trail was designated Recognized because of its environmental significance as well as its architectural design and historical associations.

The Warden Patrol Cabin is sited along the trail in a meadow surrounded by coniferous forest with mountains visible in the distance. It contributes to the character of its natural setting through its form and materials. The cabin is a destination point for travelers along the North Boundary Trail.

The cabin's functional plan, craftsmanship and materials respect the long-standing prescription for a rustic architectural imagery within National Parks.

Historically, the Warden Patrol Cabin is associated with the park program of constructing a series of outposts for the use of boundary patrols of the Warden Service, to control poaching and visitor activities. It is also linked to historic travel routes and to the intersection of important trails through the park.

Character Defining Elements

The Byng Warden Patrol Cabin's heritage value resides in its form, early materials, construction techniques and setting.

The Warden Patrol Cabin exhibits simple massing, with its modest single storey, its rectangular plan and its gabled roof. The log-framed open porch, with trussed-purlin supports and posts at the gable end, contributes to the rustic log-framed character. The three windows and door are made of simple wood components, with their positioning function-driven. The shutters are functional features of the windows. The building's simplicity of form and massing should be respected in future developments.

The cabin is of good quality construction. Its walls are made of peeled 8" -10" logs, horizontally laid and saddle notched at the corners. The peeled logs and simple door and window trim create a simple, rustic character which should be preserved by repairing in kind, with emphasis on maximum retention of original material. The logs'

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brown stain finish reflects a functional approach to maintenance, which should not be altered without first carefully analyzing the impact on patina and performance. The roof, probably wood shingles or roll roofing originally, is now covered with metal roofing. Wood shingles would have contributed to the rustic character of the building. When replacement is again required, consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the choice of covering. The stone foundation incorporates log supports for the front deck, which contributes to the rustic character of the building.

Original windows may have been multi-paned wood sash windows. The fine-scale detail of the windows would have contributed to the rustic character. Replacement windows have omitted the muntin divisions and have larger glazed areas which introduces a modern character. When considering replacement of the windows in the future, the design should be based on an understanding of the original design intent.

The interior reveals exposed natural-finish roof decking and log purlins, which continues the rustic character of the building. The white-painted exposed log walls may originally have been natural-finish. The grey-painted plywood floor sheathing has a machine-finished character. The original flooring may have been wood planking with a natural finish of a rustic character. When re-flooring is required, consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the flooring and the finish and its impact on heritage character.

The relationship of the structure to the meadow, the forest, and the mountains merits protection. The surrounding ground plane is most appropriately maintained as a simple grassed meadow.

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

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