

FHBRO Number 96-99

Jasper National Park, Alberta

**Jacques Lake Warden Cabin**

South Boundary Trail

The Jacques Lake Warden Cabin was constructed in 1951. Harvey Crate was the cabin builder, but the designer is unknown. The year-round residence has become an administrative cabin for the Rocky District Headquarters. Exterior alterations include a new concrete foundation and metal roofing. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Docket 96-99.

**Reasons for Designation**

The Warden Cabin was designated Recognized for its environmental significance as well as for its architectural importance and its historical associations.

The Warden Cabin is sited in a clearing on the north side of Jacques Lake, where its relationship with other park structures remains largely unchanged. Through its form and materials, the cabin contributes to the setting's character. The visually conspicuous location is inviting to travelers along the South Boundary Trail. Its association to the trail also contributes to the cabin's familiarity.

The cabin's gabled roof was designed with a large overhang to shelter a porch. The one-storey, single-room log structure has simple details and is carefully executed. The structure's functional plan, its craftsmanship and its materials respect the long-standing prescription for a rustic architectural imagery within national parks.

The Warden Cabin relates back to the park program of constructing a series of outposts to be used by boundary patrols of the Warden Service for monitoring poaching and visitor activities. The structures are located in close proximity to outfitters camps outside the park. They are connected to historic travel routes and to the intersection of important trails through the park. The location of the trail has contributed to the continued use of the back-country station.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage value of the Jacques Lake Warden Cabin resides in all aspects of its form, materials, construction techniques, fenestration, layout, and setting.

The structure's modestly scaled, one-storey rectangular plan and its gabled roof with chimney are features of the rustic aesthetic. The simplicity of this building's form and massing should not be altered by future developments. The cabin is of high quality

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construction. Its walls are built with peeled spruce logs, which are horizontally laid with grout chinking, and saddle notched at the corners. The logs are evenly extended at the corner joints, as found in other park buildings. However, the upper two courses and the through-purlins at mid-gable of the entrance gable are extended to carry the roof overhang. The generous overhang provides a sheltered porch area, which also contributes to the building's rustic appearance.

Peeled logs, fascia boards over the exposed log rafter tails and simple half-log door and window trims contribute to the simple, rustic character which should be preserved by repairing in kind and by emphasising the maximum retention of original material. The composition of the roof, the brackets, the collar tie and of the balanced door and window emphasizes the entrance and should not be modified.

The logs have a brown stain finish and unusual white-washed log ends. The colour scheme of brown logs and white chinking, with white door and windows is a simple scheme reflecting the rustic aesthetic. These finishes reflect a functional approach to maintenance, and should not be modified without carefully analysing appropriate finishes and patina.

The horizontal wood sash windows are similar in size, except for a double-size unit overlooking the lake. All windows have horizontal plank shutters. Similarly, the wood half-screen and panel construction of the entrance door is a feature of the rustic style. The multi-paned, three-over-two lakeside windows follow the simple rustic character. The other windows are divided into three lights. If the three-over-two units are found to be historically accurate, future replacement should consider a design similar to them.

The building's interior has a single open volume and is painted white. The simple one-room plan reflects its function. The exposed log walls and pole rafters, log through-purlins and plank roof sheathing keep with the rustic character of the building. The cookstove and other features should be investigated to determine their relation to the use of the building. Appropriate conservation methods can then be employed.

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The relationship of the Warden's Cabin to the various outbuildings, and particularly to the day corral, is an important aspect of the setting and should be protected. The surrounding ground plane cover should not be overly-manicured or allowed to grow to scrub height.

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

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