

FHBRO Number 97-85

Jasper National Park, Alberta

**Middle Forks Warden Patrol Cabin**

North Boundary Trail

The Middle Forks Warden Patrol Cabin was constructed in 1930. The design follows the Standard Plan of 1918 by the National Parks Branch. The original use continues. Alterations have included roof replacement with metal roofing. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Case File No. 97-85.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Middle Forks Warden Patrol Cabin was designated Recognized because of its environmental significance as well as its architectural design and historical associations.

The Warden Patrol Cabin is sited in a clearing surrounded by coniferous forest. 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 use by 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 Middle Forks 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 posts for purlin supports at the gable end, contributes to the rustic log-framed character. The four windows and the door are made of simple wood components, with their placement in the building determined by function. The window shutters are functional features. 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' brown stain finish reflects a functional approach to maintenance, which should not be altered without first assessing the impact on patina and performance. The roof,

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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 required, consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the choice of covering. The concrete foundation incorporates log support for the front deck, which contributes to the rustic character of the building.

The multi-paned wood sash windows appear to be original, as does the plank door. The fine-scale detail of the windows and doors contributes to the rustic character and should be retained.

The interior has exposed natural-finish roof decking, log purlins and log walls, which contributes to the rustic character of the building. The white-painted plank floors may originally have been unfinished. Future developments should be designed to be compatible with the rustic character of the building.

The relationship of the cabin to the clearing, the adjacent shed, and the surrounding forest is an important feature of the setting. The surrounding ground plane is most appropriately maintained as simple grassed meadow.

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

1998.12.29