

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT WEST GRENADIER ISLAND PAVILION, ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

FHBRO number: **93-28**
DFRP number: **09431**
Resource name: **West Grenadier Island Pavilion**
Address: **West Grenadier Island, St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Ontario**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1904**
Designer: **unknown; constructed by John D. Warwick for the Department of Indian Affairs**
Original function : **picnic shelter**
Current function : **picnic shelter**
Modifications: **Wooden floor replaced with poured concrete; paired Doric columns replaced with stone piers (ca. 1920s or 1930s).**
Custodian: **Parks Canada Agency (PCA)**

Reasons for Designation

The West Grenadier Island Pavilion is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value:

The West Grenadier Island Pavilion is associated with the development of recreational facilities by the federal government at the beginning of the 20th century as a result of increased public demands. West Grenadier Island was one of 12 islands reserved by the federal government for park use in 1904, in response to increasing private development in the Thousand Islands and concern over lack of public park space. The West Grenadier Island Pavilion was one of several picnic shelters commissioned by the Department of Indian Affairs in response to the public demand for camping and picnicking facilities. The Pavilion, constructed in 1904, is one of the oldest picnic shelters in the national parks system. The area was later established as St. Lawrence Islands National Park (SLINP) in 1914.

Architectural value:

In its design and siting, the West Grenadier Island Pavilion is a good example of the Picturesque aesthetic used for recreational facilities in urban and suburban parks during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is one of three extant picnic shelters at SLINP built at the same time to a similar design. The West Grenadier Island Pavilion retains many original features which reinforce the picturesque aesthetic, including an octagonal, hip roof; decorative, exposed rafter ends; large, gabled dormers denoting the front and rear entry points; low, wooden railings with evenly spaced pickets; slender, wooden columns at the front and rear entries, and a stone foundation. The dormers are finished in clapboard siding and the ceiling is finished in tongue-and-groove pine. During the 1920s or 1930s, the Pavilion was altered by the substitution of heavy, stone piers for the original paired wooden columns, thereby bringing it closer to the dominant national park vocabulary of the period. The original wooden floor was replaced with poured concrete.

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Environmental value:

The West Grenadier Island Pavilion reinforces the picturesque character and stands alone on a bluff, on a heavily treed island in the St. Lawrence River. Its open design and the combination of picturesque and rustic elements are well-suited to its surroundings. Due to its significant age and its popularity as a picnic destination, the Pavilion is familiar to local residents and summer visitors.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the West Grenadier Island Pavilion should be respected:

Its role in providing public spaces in the St. Lawrence Islands at the turn of the 20th century, is reflected in:

- its direct aesthetic connections to urban park amenities of the period.

Its picturesque aesthetic as manifested in:

- the symmetrical massing and refined finishes used on the roof, dormers, columns and railings;
- the octagonal hip roof with and decorative, wooden, rafter ends;
- the large, gabled dormers, clad in clapboard siding;
- the slender, wooden columns at front and rear entry point;
- the low, wooden railings with evenly-spaced pickets;
- the heavy, slightly rough, granite piers;

The manner in which it reinforces the picturesque character of the setting as evidenced in:

- its remote location on a high elevation and heavily treed site, overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the FHBRO Code of Practice. For further information contact FHBRO.

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