

Prince Albert National Park
South Gate Registration Building - Building #3
Waskesiu, Saskatchewan

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The South Gate Registration Building was built in 1933 to plans prepared by the Parks Branch's Architectural Division. The building is a "T-shaped" structure built of horizontal logs over a stone-faced concrete foundation. The gable-roofed bays on each side of the office section were added in 1934. The building is the property of Environment Canada Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 85-63.

Reason for Designation

The South Gate Registration Building was designated Recognized for its historical associations, its architectural significance and its environmental value.

The construction of the South Gate Registration Building is associated with the second phase of development of Prince Albert National Park, particularly the main access road. This phase (1 931-1 936) coincided with a massive unemployment relief program that provided cheap labor and funding for projects in the park during the Depression years.

Its architectural significance derives from its distinctive rustic design which harmonizes with the natural setting and which is readily identifiable with the National Parks system.

The South Gate Registration Building continues to be a dominant structure at the Park's southern entrance and typifies the rustic architectural theme devised for park facilities at Prince Albert National Park and throughout the National Parks system during the Depression era.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the South Gate Registration Building resides in its overall massing and proportions, in the arrangement of window and door openings, and in its use of native materials. The saddle notched log wall construction, and stone facing combined with half-timbered gables, give the building a rustic-Tudor character which is consistent with other national park design of the period. The use of these materials and design were repeated for other buildings in the Waskesiu townsite.

Every effort should be made in future work to retain the overall form and original materials. Consideration should be given to re-incorporating leaded windows. Any new work should respect the rustic and vernacular character of the building.

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A regular maintenance program would contribute to the longevity of the building and will be a critical factor in its long term survival.

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