

85-63

Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan
W.L. Mackenzie King Cottage
Prospect Drive, Waskesiu

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The W.L. Mackenzie King Cottage at Prince Albert National Park was constructed in 1928. It was designed by the Architectural Division of the Dominion Parks Branch. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 85-63.

Reasons for Designation

The W.L. Mackenzie King Cottage was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its environmental and local significance, and its architectural importance.

The cottage is directly associated with William Lyon Mackenzie King as it was expressly built and given to then-Prime Minister King upon his arrival for the opening ceremonies of Prince Albert National Park in 1927. The Prime Minister's personal interest and support, combined with active local lobbying, had led to the creation of the park.

The property is located in a cottage subdivision which retains its early rustic character. Prince Albert National Park was shaped by the National Parks Branch's decision to make it a major resort destination accessible by automobile. The construction of the cottage marked the start of a period of local development within the Waskesiu townsite adjacent to the Prospect Point subdivision.

The W.L. Mackenzie King Cottage is an example of rustic picturesque cottage design used within the National Parks Branch during the period from 1927 to 1936. The simple symmetrical form combined with native materials (primarily logs and field stone) created the distinctive rustic image associated with the parks.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the W.L. Mackenzie King Cottage resides in its form, proportions, rustic picturesque cottage details and materials, surviving interior layout, and site relationships.

The cottage is a rectangular single-storey hip-roofed structure with a massive stone chimney incorporating a side entry, and an elaborate open porch contained under the roof overhang. The low walls, simple roof form, massive chimney, and symmetrical arrangement of openings are characteristic of the picturesque cottage design and should be respected.

.../2

Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan
W.L. Mackenzie King Cottage (Continued)

The use of materials which are natural in colour and rough in texture is also characteristic of the picturesque cottage tradition. The massive fieldstone fireplace, horizontal log walls with extended corners, broad wood surrounds at windows and doors, and exposed roof rafters and tails should be carefully maintained. The distinctive front porch, with peeled logs in unusual patterns for supports, trims, and brackets, also merits careful preservation. Any new work should respect the rustic character of the building.

The roof is a distinctive feature, and may have been originally clad in cedar shingles to add to the texture of the design. Prior to re-roofing, research should be undertaken to confirm appropriate materials and colour.

The multi-paned casement windows and panelled doors with screens are compatible with the original design intent and should be retained. The diamond-pane casement near the chimney breast is of particular note.

The six-room interior is unaltered and retains many of the original furnishings. The interior floor plan, finishes, and furnishings should be preserved and maintained.

Site access is relatively unchanged since the building's construction and should be maintained. Landscape modifications should respect the naturalistic surroundings and be in keeping with the rustic form of the building.

96.01.08

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