

Mt. Revelstoke National Park, British Columbia
Summit Fire Lookout

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The fire lookout at Mt. Revelstoke was constructed in 1927 at the summit of Mt. Revelstoke by the Dominion Forestry Branch. The custodial department is now the Canadian Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 87-47.

Reasons for Designation

The Summit Fire Lookout was designated a Recognized heritage building on the basis of its link to the emergence of the forest conservation movement in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century and because it is a good and rare example of the cupola-style lookout cabin which originated in the United States and was introduced to Canada in the early part of this century.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character is defined by the exterior massing of the building, by the simple construction method, by the use of common building materials, by the surviving evidence of the interior functional layout and by the building's siting on the summit of Mt. Revelstoke.

The building consists of wood frame construction with an exterior covering of wooden shingles and clapboard. Maintenance and repair should be consistent with the existing architectural vocabulary and materials.

The cupola-style lookout is a two-storey structure where the upper storey was used solely as a viewing area and the lower storey housed the fire warden's living quarters. The original volumes should be retained.

The modest size wooden construction of the lookout enables it to blend in with the surroundings such that it does not detract from the natural character of the area at the summit. Every effort should be made to limit intrusions on the vicinity of the lookout. The trimming of overgrown vegetation around the lookout would restore the original vistas which gave maximum visibility in all directions from the viewing cupola.