

Riding Mountain National Park
154 Columbine Street
Wasagaming, Manitoba

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Accountant's Residence was built in 1927 by a local builder. It served as a summer residence and administrative headquarters for Riding Mountain Forest Reserve. After the establishment of the national park, it served as the Superintendent's summer residence. The building was moved to its present site in 1932-33. In 1933, a rear bedroom wing was added and other alterations made. It has been used as the park Accountant's residence since that date. Environment Canada, the Canadian Parks Service is custodian. See FHBRO Building Reports 85-43/54.

Reasons for Designation

The residence at 154 Columbine Street was designated Recognized because of its associations with Riding Mountain Forest Reserve, the establishment of Riding Mountain National Park, and the early development of Wasagaming townsite.

The building is an example of early log construction in the national parks. It illustrates both the national parks' consistent approach to design and the transition from log to log-on-frame construction.

The residence, well-sited on a treed site, is compatible with the other early cottages in the area.

Character Defining Elements

The residence is a simple structure executed in log, frame and stone. Its heritage value resides in those general features of its original design and construction that are related most closely to its original construction and the additions and renovations carried out in 1933 when it was relocated to the present site.

The craftsmanship is of good quality. The external logwork, executed by Albert Rognan, is of particular interest, as are the stone fireplace and chimney. The patterns and proportions of the fenestration and the front porch are important compositional elements.

If further additions to the building are considered they might continue the now established tradition of log-sided frame construction within the existing context of scale and massing.

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The building is fully compatible with its treed lot and setting, relationships which should continue.

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