

Wasagaming, Manitoba
Riding Mountain National Park
Fire Hall

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Fire Hall (Building 3), in Riding Mountain National Park was built in 1935-36 to designs prepared by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch. It is the property of Environment Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 85-43/54.

Reasons for Designation

The Fire Hall was designated Recognized for its historical, architectural and environmental significance.

The Fire Hall at Wasagaming is a mid-size example of the multi-functional fire halls built within townsites located in Western Canada's larger national parks during the 1920s and 1930s.

Its architectural value lies primarily in the unusual nature of its highly individualistic and eclectic rustic design and in the quality of the craftsmanship brought to its log construction.

Character Defining Elements

Its significance is embodied primarily in the surviving rustic design elements and their picturesque arrangement - the tapered tower sheathed in split logs, supporting a half-timbered cupola-like structure with bell-cast pyramidal roof, the flared ends of the timber "crib" containing the garage and the eccentrically curved hip roof, supported by regularly spaced log brackets. Several of the original features - the two bay garage entrance and the adjacent roof brackets, as well as the pyramidal peak on the hose tower roof - have been lost. Their reinstatement would considerably enhance the building. Though the changes to the garage entry may reflect the need to accommodate larger vehicles (and therefore be difficult to reverse), the original tower roof could likely have accommodated changing requirements (ventilation or siren) without its removal.

The rear addition provides a neutral counterpoint to the richness of the original design and its conservative design principles should guide future additions.

Efforts should be made to maintain the unobtrusive siting of the structure and the integrity of the landscape relationships between the fire hall and the structures within the maintenance complex.

1992.03.06