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Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
RCAF Pilots' Residence
Deep Bay (Aeroplane Bay), Clear Lake

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The RCAF Pilots' Residence was built in 1934 to designs by the Architectural Division of the Parks Branch. Erected to accommodate pilots operating an aerial patrol service in Riding Mountain National Park during periods of forest fire hazard, the residence remained in use for this purpose until the late 1930s. More recently, the building has been used intermittently as a seasonal residence for staff of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 85-43.

Reasons for Designation

The RCAF Pilots' Residence was designated Recognized for its architectural and environmental merit, and also for its historical associations.

One of four log residences built at Riding Mountain National Park in 1933 and 1934, this building typifies the architectural theme, construction practices and craftsmanship evident in buildings designed by the Architectural Division and erected in the park during the Depression relief period.

The Pilots' Residence boasts an attractive lakefront site protected by forest cover. It is near the south shore of Clear Lake, where a small bay initially known as Aeroplane Bay offered a sheltered anchorage for RCAF floatplanes.

The Pilots' Residence is the only facility directly associated with the brief phase of RCAF surveillance in the National Parks System.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Pilots' Residence resides in its massing, materials, construction details and site.

The building has a modified "L" plan, constructed of peeled logs horizontally laid and saddle-notched. The high hipped roof covers a screened front verandah that extends along the front of the building. This simple massing should not be altered.

Features which create the building's rustic appearance include its combination of highly textured natural materials (log, stone, wood shingles, stucco) with equally textural

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design elements such as exposed peeled-log rafter tails, milled fascia boards with exposed log purlins, prominent crowns at the corner joints, multi-pane windows, prominent stone facing at the foundation, and mock half-timbering in the gables. The mock half-timbering is a typical Tudor reference, as are the casement windows arranged in groups of three. All of these features are integral to the style and character of the building and should not be altered. Any repairs should be predicated on maximum retention of original material, and the same level of craftsmanship and care taken as is evident in the original work. The roof was probably finished in wood shingles; when re-roofing is required, consideration should be given to completing the rustic effect of the building by reinstating this material.

Appropriate finishes for the exterior should be confirmed through paint analysis.

The original interior plan was a simple arrangement of three spaces: living room/office, kitchen, and bedroom. The clarity of this plan should be respected, and any early finishes and fixtures identified and retained.

Landscaping should be simple and domestic in character, in keeping with the treatment seen in historic photographs.

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