

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
Staff Residence (B15)
150 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, Wasagaming

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Staff Residence at 150 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive was constructed in 1935 to the designs of the Architectural Division. It continues in its original function. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 85-54.

Reasons for Designation

The Staff Residence was designated Recognized for its architectural and environmental significance, and also for historical reasons.

Relatively unchanged since its construction, this four-plex residential building displays the major architectural and structural features characteristic of the Depression relief construction phase and the "Tudor Rustic" design aesthetic applied to national parks architecture during this period. The Staff Residence is a conspicuous architectural feature, an important component of the 1930s building stock in the park, and the only example of staff residential architecture located in the central townsite area. The building complements its site, a large wooded lot on the edge of the early Wasagaming residential district.

Historically, the Staff Residence is connected with the emergency Depression relief programmes of 1934-35, which provided funding for the labour and materials employed in its construction.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Staff Residence resides in its massing, construction materials, and the quality of its setting.

The building is rectangular in plan, constructed of peeled logs horizontally laid and saddle-notched. The hipped, slightly bell-cast roof is a prominent feature, pierced with a massive central stone chimney, large bellcast hipped dormers and a bellcast gabled portico. The overall form and massing of the building should be respected.

Features which create the building's rustic appearance include its combination of highly textured, natural materials (log, squared timbers, stone, wood shingles, stucco) with equally textural design elements such as exposed rafter tails, prominent crowns (extension of logs) at the corner joints, multi-pane windows, prominent stone facing at the foundation and porch, and mock half-timbering in the gable. The mock

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half-timbering in the gables is a typical Tudor reference, as are the casement windows arranged in groups of three with transoms above. All of these features are integral to the style and character of the building and should not be altered. Any repairs must be predicated on maximum retention of original material, and the same level of craftsmanship, and care should be taken as is evident in the original work.

The roof was originally finished in wood shingles laid with decorative horizontal bands (perhaps a doubled course of butts) at intervals; when re-roofing is required, consideration should be given to reinstating this feature based on the evidence in historic photographs. Removal of the soffits and fascia to reveal (or reinstate if missing) the decorative log rafter tails would also enhance the character of the building.

The interior plan, arranged symmetrically around the central chimney, should be respected, and early finishes and features noted and incorporated in any renovation work.

The Staff Residence is located on a large wooded lot, partially concealed by mature trees and an embankment along the front of the property. Landscaping should be simple and domestic in character, in keeping with the treatment seen in historic photographs.

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