

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

### SUMMARY

The Superintendent's residence, built between 1931 and 1932, and the adjacent works garage, erected a year later, appear to be a visually compatible pairing of structures of quite different functions. The completion of the superintendent's residence marked an important stage in the development of the park as an active facility. It was also a part of a larger federal effort at relief in western Manitoba during the early years of the Depression. Though in function a private structure, the residence is a striking building, both visually and in its siting. Largely unaltered, the house and garage harken back to the era of the founding of Manitoba's only federal park.

### ARCHITECTURE

The Superintendent's house is a 1 1/2 storey log, four-bedroom residence of generous proportions. Set on a concrete basement faced with stone, it features a modified hip roof broken by several projections, long windowed verandahs along the south and west elevations, and widely projecting eaves. The adjacent works garage, also a log structure of matching style, is T-shaped and laid out as storage space for five vehicles as well as workspace. Though designed for radically different purposes, these two buildings are visually compatible, and feature a variety of elements drawn from the cottage tradition of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century: their low eave lines; their use of local materials, their lakeside setting; and their amalgamation of various shapes, textures and materials in a lively composition of no formal stylistic derivation. The residence is well-designed, well-sited, carefully executed and is a rare example of the use of bearing log construction, instead of the more usual log veneer over frame. Both buildings were constructed of logs which has been peeled, cured and varnished, wet on a concrete foundation faced with stone above the grade line.

### HISTORY

Late in 1929 the federal government authorized the creation of a new park in Manitoba, and preparation for the creation of a fully equipped park began early in 1930. Though it is physically isolated from other structures in RMNP, the superintendent's residence illustrates two themes in the development of the park. Its construction marks the stage at which, administratively, it began to function as a federal facility; the building's completion in 1932, its occupation early in 1933 and the formal opening of the park in the latter year were a necessary sequence of events, since a resident superintendent was required for the proper management of any such federal facility. Secondly, since the building was erected largely with funds provided by a variety of a serious effort by the senior level of government to ameliorate the unemployment problems of the Depression era in this section of Manitoba.

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## ENVIRONMENT

In keeping with the tenets of the cottage movement, these buildings are set on a spacious, landscaped lot overlooking Clear Lake, surrounded by the golf course, and well outside the townsite. They are located on the road leading from the commercial district to the marina. Superintendent's residence is identified on many of the maps of the park which suggests that the residential structure, while not a publicly accessible building, is sufficiently prominent to excite questions as to its use. The residence is an impressive building on an equally impressive site while the works garage is a more modest and unobtrusive but compatible structure.

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