

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

SUMMARY

The Moon Lake Warden Residence is a one-and-one-half storey log building built in 1934 according to plans prepared by the National Parks Branch's Architect's Office. It is significant in the architectural and historical context of Riding Mountain National Park, with other older buildings in the park such as the administrative building and the interpretive centre.

ARCHITECTURE

The building is based upon a modified "L" shaped plan with a small shed attached at the rear. It is approximately 9.7 metres in length and 7.3 metres in width. The exterior walls feature peeled, cured and pointed horizontal logs which are four to eight inches in diameter and have spans ranging from three to twenty-four feet. The interlocking corners have simple round notching. This type of construction was possible because of the availability of Scandinavian-born workmen. A picturesque quality was achieved in the design with the use of rustic wood pillars on the front porch and casement windows with multiple lights on all the sides.

HISTORY

Wardens enforced laws and regulations in the park; assisted visitors; and worked on game and fire protection programs. Warden stations which usually consisted of a barn for the warden's horse, and equipment shed and a house, were erected at key point where hunting parties could be intercepted. This function was rendered even more important in the case of RMNP, as the park was surrounded with agricultural land. The Station symbolizes the presence and authority of the Warden in the park.

ENVIRONMENT

The Moon Lake Warden's Station comprises seven building including two houses, a guest house, three garages, a barn and a radio tower. It is set in from the main road for the privacy of the warden as well as to make the buildings as unobtrusive as possible for visitors to the park. This and the design, materials of construction, colour and scale make the buildings compatible with the natural setting of RMNP.

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