

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
Warden's Residence
Whirlpool Warden Station, East Gate

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The residence was constructed in 1933-34 to provide year-round accommodation for wardens stationed in the Whirlpool district of the park. It was one of three houses originally built in the park at the same time to a common plan prepared by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch. The Whirlpool Warden's Residence has undergone minor interior alterations and the construction of a full basement. Environment Canada, the Canadian Park Service is custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 85-43/85-54.

Reason for Designation

The Whirlpool Warden's Residence was designated Recognized because of its association with the early development of the Park, the representative qualities of its architecture, the quality of craftsmanship evident in its construction and its environmental qualities. The residence is part of a small but cohesive group of early park buildings located at the eastern extremity and entry point of the national park.

Character Defining Elements

The Warden's Residence is a rare example of a log residence designed to the guidelines adopted by the Architectural Division. The heritage value of the building resides in those aspects of its design, fabric and construction that pertain to its original construction and in its relationships with the other existing buildings in the East Gate area.

The residence is a simple structure executed primarily in log. The logwork is of a particularly high standard both in terms of design and craftsmanship. Like the other RMNP buildings of the period, fine detail - multiple casement window units, stucco, and half-timbering - contrasts with the roughness of indigenous details and materials - exposed rafter ends and unsawn porch posts. The exterior remains essentially unchanged in character and detail. It should continue to be carefully maintained.

Despite some alteration, the interior retains most of its original features. Some flexibility within the general context of historic precedent could be considered.

The Warden's residence, with the former Gatekeeper's Residence, East Gate Entrance Building, and outbuildings, together form a cohesive, highly distinctive and historically intact setting.

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