

Yoho National Park, British Columbia  
**Deer Lodge Warden Cabin**

**HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Deer Lodge Warden Cabin was built in the Yoho Park Reserve in 1904 to provide facilities for patrolling game wardens. After the First World War, a permanent warden took up residence, and in 1924, an extension was added. The building was restored in 1961. Environment Canada Parks Service is the custodial department. See Building Report 87-23.

**Reasons For Designation**

The Deer Lodge Warden Cabin was designated Recognized as a result of its significant historical associations, its vernacular character and the nature of its environment.

The Warden Cabin is associated with the development of the National Park system. It was the first warden's cabin to be built in Yoho National Park, and was one of the earliest supporting the 1904 inauguration of a system of game guardianship. It was built by one of the first game wardens, Reuben Gable, and was expanded by the first resident game warden, John Tocher.

The cabin is a more highly developed structure than most early log cabins in the mountain parks. It is a good example of functional design, and exhibits the additive plan typical of vernacular buildings. The site is unchanged and the cabin's rustic appearance blends with the surrounding evergreen forest.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Warden Cabin resides in the relationship of its rustic vernacular design to the natural environment in which it is located.

The cabin is rectangular in plan, and is constructed of peeled logs, with a gable roof covered with wood shingles. The roof extends beyond the gable at one end, forming a porch supported by two log uprights. A log fretwork adorns the porch gable. The original portion of the building has dovetailed corners, whereas the later section is saddle-notched. The 1961 restoration respected the original design and craftsmanship, and any further maintenance and repair work should do the same.

The cabin, located near a campground and a nature trail, is a local landmark. The natural materials used in the cabin's construction are compatible with the surrounding meadow and forest, and this historic relationship should be maintained.

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