

DFRP 18730

Stanley Mitchell Alpine Hut was constructed in 1939 by H.A. Dowler for the Alpine Club of Canada to the design of A. McCoubrey. Alterations to the hut include: addition of shutters (1952); installation of stone foundation and metal roof (1961); replacement of rotting base logs, a new porch, and interior renovations including plumbing (1978); insulation added (1980); and, the replacement of windows (1994). The Parks Canada Agency is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 98-74.

Reasons for Designation

The Stanley Mitchell Alpine Hut has been designated “Recognized” because of its historical, architectural and environmental significance.

Built by the Alpine Club of Canada for the use of its members, the Stanley Mitchell Alpine Hut is associated with the development of mountaineering in Canada, and the opening up of Yoho National Park to ski mountaineering and winter recreation.

Designed to serve as a base facility for summer camp programs and winter ski touring, the functional design of the Stanley Mitchell Alpine Hut provides both overnight accommodation and cooking facilities. Constructed of materials and methods of construction that reflect the rustic aesthetic, the building is a good example of rustic architecture.

Located in an alpine meadow at the edge of the coniferous forest, the Stanley Mitchell Alpine Hut is compatible with its picturesque setting and well known by the hiking and climbing community. The natural character of the site remains unchanged since the construction of the alpine hut.

Character Defining Elements

As an illustration of the development of mountaineering and ski mountaineering in Canada, the simple functional layout consisting of a central block for the living and dining area with a sleeping loft above, flanked by two wings containing the kitchen facilities, reflects the building’s use as a base facility that provides both overnight accommodation and cooking facilities.

The building’s rustic aesthetic is reflected in:

- the simplicity of the overall form of the building as expressed by the scale, massing and symmetrical composition of the main block, entrance porch and side wings, all sheltered by steeply pitched gable roofs;

FHBRO Number 98-074

Yoho National Park, British Columbia

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Little Yoho Valley

DFRP 18730

- the choice of local materials, indigenous building methods and rustic design details such as the horizontally laid, peeled round logs with saddle-notched corners for the construction of the building, the exposed rafters at the roof eaves, the random rubble masonry fireplace and chimney, the exposed beams and joists in the living and dining area, the hardwood floor, and the inscription carved into the face of the wood mantelpiece.

Located in an alpine meadow at the edge of the coniferous forest, the rear of the building is sheltered from the elements by the tall trees and from the front of the building, enjoys scenic views across the meadow to a glacier and the President and Vice-President Mountains. Unchanged since its construction, the integrity of this relationship between the building and site is intact.

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.

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