

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE

BUILDING EVALUATION REPORT

File No. 2.5.10

I IDENTIFICATION

BUILDING		Ad Hoc	FHBRO (CDA)
- City/Prov:	BANFF, Alta.	- Meeting:	85-02
- Name:	East Gate Registration Buildings	- Date:	85-07-10
- Address:	Banff National Park	- BER No.:	84-55
- Owner:	DOE	- Date:	JUL 25 1985

II HERITAGE CHARACTER

SUMMARY

Three buildings comprise what is commonly known as the Banff East Gate. Built in 1934-1936, they were designed by Windsor, Ontario architect Harold C. Becket, and are notable for their Tudor Revival and very functional design, as well as their setting in the context of Banff National Park.

ARCHITECTURE

The buildings are simple cottage-like structures. They are constructed of split fieldstone quarried within Banff National Park. Each is a one-and-one-half storey, gable roofed structure with cedar shingles. There are shed dormers sided in cedar shingles on two of the buildings, while half-timbering distinguishes the upper half storey of the three. In their exterior design, they are an eclectic mixture of architectural styles and materials, a feature of the Queen Anne style that creates, in this instance, an impression of rusticity. This distinctive type of architecture in the National Parks was felt to encourage certain similarities of design in parks buildings and at the same time keep all construction in harmony with the beauty of the surroundings. However, few gates are as elaborate as the Banff East Gate.

HISTORY

The Banff East Gate is, of course, associated with Canada's first and perhaps most famous national park, but its historical significance lies in its association with the increased vehicular traffic through the park throughout the 1930's, despite the Depression. The car allowed an ease of access to Banff National Park of which the early proponents of the park would never have dreamed. The East Gate symbolizes this change in the nature and number of visitors to the park.

ENVIRONMENT

Like other parks buildings, Banff East Gate was built to and does blend with the beauty of the surroundings. At the same time, it performed an important function within the context of Banff National Park since its construction and has become a most prominent man-made landmark to all travellers to Banff.