

Banff National Park
Sulphur Mountain Observatory
Banff, Alberta

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Sulphur Mountain Observatory was constructed in 1902 for the collection of meteorological data. It is the property of Environment Canada - Parks. See FHBRO Building Report 86-40.

Reason for Designation

On December 22, 1986, Sulphur Mountain Observatory was designated Recognized because it is an example of a vernacular meteorological observatory. Built solidly of local materials to provide shelter and house weather recording instruments, the modest building has withstood the elements despite its location on an exposed ridge of Sulphur Mountain overlooking the Banff townsite.

Character Defining Elements

The designation applies to the building in general, its use of indigenous material, its simple but solid construction, and to its response to the natural and wild site. Perched on the top of Sulphur Mountain, the observatory seems to grow out of the natural rock summit. Although touristic developments have altered the wilderness setting, all attempts should be made to protect what remains of the natural context. The preservation and enhancement of the building would be ensured if the building was used, or interpreted, as a weather observatory.

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