

## **92-09**

Banff National Park, Alberta  
**Superintendent's Residence**  
Buffalo Street, Banff Townsite

### **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Superintendent's Residence is a two-storey log structure built in 1920-21, then modified by the construction of a one-storey bay addition in 1936-37. The house continues to serve its original function. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 92-09.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Superintendent's Residence was designated Recognized as a result of its environmental qualities, its log construction, and its association with the growth of Banff after the First World War.

The house is located on a spacious riverfront lot on the edge of the town centre. This location has been home to the Park Superintendent since the construction of a previous residence there at the turn of the century. In keeping with its rustic design, a wood rail fence extends along Buffalo Street at the rear of the building, while mature conifers enhance the natural setting. The continued use of the residence by the Superintendent and its prominent location make the house a community landmark.

Designed by the Calgary architectural firm of Major and Stacey-Judd, this was the last major park building constructed at Banff under local control. Based on a construction tradition established in Banff during the 1880s, the rustic log design reflects the broad purpose of the park as a natural reserve and differs from the more elaborate half-timbered designs adopted by the Architectural Division when it acquired responsibility for the design of national park buildings in 1922.

The Banff Superintendent's Residence is one of the few park buildings constructed shortly after the First World War, when most Parks Branch financial resources were directed toward the construction of roads. As a result of improved automobile access, both park visitation and the permanent population of Banff increased. In the absence of a municipal government, community affairs became part of the Park Superintendent's responsibilities. To reflect this enhanced status, the Superintendent was provided with a substantial new residence, constructed on the same riverside lot as the previous residence and, in the interest of economy, incorporating some of the logs salvaged from that structure.

Banff National Park, Alberta  
**Superintendent's Residence**  
Buffalo Street, Banff Townsite (Continued)

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Superintendent's Residence resides in its design and materials, and in its historic relationship to the townsite.

The two-storey structure is rectangular in plan, with a projecting vestibule on the front (river) side and a later one-storey frame bay on the rear. The sturdy horizontal log construction, with vertical corner posts, stick-style detailing, fieldstone chimneys and cedar-shingled hipped-gable roof are characteristic elements of the design and should be retained.

The original building fabric should be carefully maintained. The original windows, which have multi-paned top sash over single pane lower sash, contribute to the design and should be retained. In the 1950s, plate glass was installed in the windows on either side of the French doors; consideration should be given to reglazing in keeping with the original window configuration. Replacement of the original vestibule balcony railing with milled lumber is inappropriate; a railing matching the original should be installed. The use of a contrasting colour for window and door surrounds emphasizes these openings to the detriment of the building's overall appearance. Historic photographs and paint analysis are recommended to provide guidance for future painting.

The interior layout of the building remains largely unchanged, and should be respected. The original tongue and groove wood wall sheathing is extant, as are the fieldstone fireplace and most mouldings and doors. Care should be taken to preserve these design elements. Modifications necessary for the building's continuing use as a home should be designed to have minimal impact on early features.

The residential nature of the riverside setting remains essentially unchanged. A modern garage, on the far side of the driveway to the west of the house, detracts from the rustic character of the site. Appropriate plantings would minimize its visual impact. A picket fence extending from the house along the riverfront footpath is out of keeping with the log construction; a rail fence similar to the Buffalo Street fence would be more appropriate when its replacement is required.

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