

93-1 07

Banff National Park, Alberta
Windy Lodge Warden Cabin

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Windy Lodge Warden Cabin was constructed ca. 1950. A bomb-shelter was added in the concrete basement after initial construction. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 93-1 07.

Reasons for Designation

Windy Lodge Warden Cabin was designated Recognized for its architecture, historical associations, and site relationships.

Windy Lodge Cabin is one of a network of cabins built to house wardens patrolling the backcountry of Banff National Park. Constructed after World War II, it reflects the growing trend in the 1950s to station wardens in the backcountry with their families. Nationally, it is one of the few surviving examples of a warden cabin containing a nuclear bomb-shelter. Located on the Panther River near its confluence with Wigmore Creek, Windy Lodge Warden Cabin sits picturesquely at the base of Panther Mountain in a lower-subalpine environment.

Character Defining Features

The heritage character of the Windy Lodge Warden Cabin resides in its simple, utilitarian design, natural materials and setting. A one-storey, wood frame structure topped by a hipped-gable roof and resting on a raised concrete basement, the building has a smaller gable roofed addition at the rear. A wooden deck wraps around the building on two sides. Sheltering the front door is a small gable supported by wood brackets. Maintaining these simple, functional massing elements is highly desirable.

The cabin is characterized by standard materials and methods of construction. Horizontal wood siding, asphalt roof shingles and exposed concrete foundation walls are the predominant elements. The windows and doors are constructed of wood. Any repairs required should respect the simplicity of these materials. Research should be undertaken to determine whether cedar shingles were used on the roof originally.

The interior layout of the cabin is typical of residential housing, and includes a living room, a kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. During the Cold War, the basement was retrofitted to contain a bomb-shelter. These elements of the interior plan should be respected.

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Windy Lodge Warden Cabin (Continued)

The historic relationship of the cabin to its surrounding landscape has remained intact. Associated with the cabin are the gable-roofed wooden barn, and a corral constructed of logs. To the back and towering above the cabin is a steel communications aerial. The remote, natural character of the setting and the relationships among cabin, barn and corral should be maintained.

1996.03.15

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