

Fundy National Park, New Brunswick
Administration Building

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The building was constructed in 1948-49 to designs by H.S. Brenan as the Administration Building for Fundy National Park. The building continues to be used for that purpose. Environment Canada Parks Service, is custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 87-1 06.

Reason for Designation

The Administration Building was designated Recognized because of the quality of its design, craftsmanship and site. In addition, the development of Fundy National Park was important locally for the economic recovery of the area and as the first of the National Parks in New Brunswick. The Administration Building was one of the first two buildings to be constructed in the park.

Its English cottage vernacular style and the use of a limited range of materials and construction methods established a design theme for other park buildings. As the central focus of the administrative area, the building emphasizes the rustic nature of the park.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by its unchanged relationship to its setting and by its exterior design and craftsmanship.

The building is domestic in scale, a reduced version of earlier, more ambitious National Park buildings. The irregular plan and fieldstone facing create a rustic appearance fitting the coastal site, and establish a unified style for the park. The basic rectangular plan is enlivened by front and rear projections, while the gable roof is broken by a number of dormers of various sizes. An extension of the roof creates and emphasizes a central entrance porch on the three-bay front façade. The same materials are appropriately employed on all façades as the building is designed to be viewed from any direction. The stone facing, atypical in New Brunswick architecture, was chosen for its permanence, and its suitability for the site. The original six-over-six windows and wood trim survive, and contribute significantly to the cottage style. The function of the building has changed from primarily a public reception area with living quarters above, to park staff office space. As a result, the second floor kitchen was removed and some modifications to interior walls on both floors have occurred. Future changes in use should be similarly accommodated within the existing structure using minimal modifications.

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The Administrative Building sits in a parkland setting above the mouth of the Upper Salmon River. The survival of original lawns in front and evergreen-clad hills behind provide an appropriately picturesque setting for the English-cottage vernacular style. The relationship of the building to its site, in particular the surrounding lawns and trees and the open setting, should be maintained.

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