
FHBRO Number 96-99

Jasper National Park, Alberta

Camp Parker Warden Cabin

South Boundary Trail

The Camp Parker Warden Cabin was constructed in 1953. The building was designed by BNP Engineering and its construction foreman was Jeff Staples. The cabin maintains its original function as a patrol cabin. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Docket 96-99.

Reasons for Designation

The Camp Parker Warden Cabin on the South Boundary Trail was designated Recognized because of its environmental significance as well as its architectural importance and its historical associations.

The Warden Cabin is located on the south side of Jacques Lake, where the relationship between the structure and its immediate surroundings remains largely unchanged. The cabin contributes to the character of its natural setting in its form and materials. The visually conspicuous location is a destination for travelers along the South Boundary Trail. Its association with the Warden's Cabin further contributes to this familiarity.

The cabin is a one-storey building with a gabled roof and a smaller gable over the entry door. Designed as a two-room structure, the building is simply detailed and carefully executed. The functional plan of the warden cabin, its craftsmanship and its materials respect the long-standing prescription for a rustic architectural imagery within the national parks.

The Warden Cabin is associated with the park policy to construct a series of outposts for the use of boundary patrols of the Warden Service to control poaching and visitor activities. The structures are located in close proximity to outfitters' camps outside the park, and also relate to historic travel routes and the juncture of important trails through the park. The location of the cabin on the South Boundary Trail contributed to the continued use of the back-country station after the centralization policy during the 1960s.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Camp Parker Warden Cabin resides in its massing, materials, construction techniques and setting.

The Warden Cabin is a modest one-storey building with an L-shaped plan and a T-shaped gabled roof. Its simple massing contributes to the rustic aesthetic. The cabin is

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of high quality construction. Its walls are built with wood frame construction and finished with cedar clapboard and corner boards. The roof has generous overhangs and extends beyond the front wall to provide a sheltered area, which also contributes to the structure's rustic appearance.

The wood siding, wood shingles, exposed rafter tails and simple door and window trim contribute to the simple, rustic character. The rustic elements should be preserved by repairing in kind and by emphasizing the maximum retention of original material. Features related to the original period of occupation merit preservation. The tinted stain finish of the siding reflects a functional approach to maintaining the siding, and should not be altered without careful analysis of appropriate finishes and patina.

The front door is centrally positioned and is flanked by two small windows at either side. The roof, door and window composition adds focus to the principal entry and should not be modified. Windows are of the same height and are symmetrically positioned at the side gable walls. These and other windows are all located at the same sill and head height. The even placement and overall symmetry of the window pattern is an important aspect of the facade's design and should not be changed. Window sashes and storms have been replaced. Future replacement should consider a design similar to the original, with true divided lights.

Exterior walls, including gables, are sheathed with beveled wood siding. The roof is covered with shingles. Batten boards highlight the windows. When built, the cabin would have been painted according to the standard colour scheme prescribed for all park facilities: brown walls with green fascia trim and white window sashes. This scheme, combined with the milled half-log siding and the cedar roof, would have visually linked it with earlier, rustic log structures in the park. The rustic style was diminished with the shift to the current grey and brown colour scheme. After results from paint analysis confirm the original colour scheme, future exterior maintenance should reinstate it to enhance heritage character. Materials which are beyond repair should be replaced in kind.

The interior, with its simple two-room plan and horizontal plank walls, is in keeping with the rustic character of the building. Various shelves, tables and enclosures should be investigated to determine their particular relationship with the building's use. Appropriate conservation methods should be employed as needed.

The L-shaped plan is functional. The entrance and the main informal spaces, such as

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the kitchen and living spaces, are separate from the sleeping area. Interior finishes and flooring have been changed over the years. Any changes to the layout should not alter the primary division between sleeping and living/dining spaces.

The relationship of the Warden's Cabin to the side driveway, to the highway, and to the Tack Shed and corral to its west should be maintained. The surrounding ground plane cover should not be overly-manicured or allowed to grow to scrub height.

The relationship of the residential zone to the operations zone is an important aspect of the setting and should be maintained in any future developments.

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