
FHBRO Number 96-99

Jasper National Park, Alberta

Four Point Warden Cabin

South Boundary Trail

The Four Point Warden Cabin was constructed in 1948. Sam Clifton and Charlie Bowlen were the builders, but the designer is unknown. The cabin maintains its original function as a Patrol Cabin. Exterior alterations include a new concrete foundation and the installation of metal roofing. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Docket 96-99.

Reasons for Designation

The Four Point Warden Cabin on the South Boundary Trail was designated Recognized for its environmental significance as well as for its architectural significance and its historical associations.

The Warden Cabin faces southeast and sits on the north side of Four Point Creek, on a small clearing surrounded by conifer trees. The building's relationship with its immediate surroundings remains largely unchanged. The cabin contributes to the character of the natural setting through its form and materials. It is prominently located at the junction of four trails. Its close proximity to Nigel Pass and Jonas Shoulder, two historic travel routes, also contributes to its familiarity to park visitors.

Designed as a one-storey, single-room log structure with a gabled roof, the building was carefully executed with simple details. The structure's functional plan, craftsmanship and materials respect the long-standing prescription for a rustic architectural imagery within national parks.

The Four Point Warden Cabin was built as part of a park program which consisted of constructing a series of outposts, to be used by Warden Service boundary patrols for monitoring poaching and visitor activities. The structure is located close to outfitters camps outside the park. It is also connected to historic travel routes and to the intersection of important trails through the park.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Four Point Warden Cabin is found in all aspects of its form, materials, construction techniques, fenestration, layout and setting.

The structure's modestly scaled, one-storey, rectangular plan includes a gabled roof with chimney. As a whole, it displays the simple massing characteristic of the rustic

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aesthetic. The simplicity of the building's form and massing should not be altered by future developments. The cabin is of high quality construction. The walls are made of horizontally laid, peeled spruce logs with chinking, saddle notched at the corners. The logs are evenly extended at the corner joints, except at the entrance gable where the upper two courses extend further to form a small porch overhang. This particular assembly contributes to the building's rustic appearance.

Peeled logs, fascia boards over the exposed rafter tails and simple door and window trim reinforce the building's functional, rustic character, which should be preserved by repairing in kind, and by emphasising maximum retention of original material. The entranceway's informal design presents an off-center door with a small side window, none of which should be altered. The logs' stain finish reflects a functional approach to maintenance and should not be modified without carefully analysing appropriate finishes and patina.

The fascias that have been added hide exposed log ends, which were one of the eaves' features. When operationally appropriate, these should be removed.

The two-over-two wood sash, the square window of the front facade and the finely scaled gable window appear to be original. They emphasize the rustic style. The wood screen door and the vertical wood plank entrance door also emphasize the rustic design. However, the side window with a single vertical mullion simplifies and modernizes the window expression. Any future replacement of the side window should follow historic precedent.

The cabin's white interior is a single, open space featuring exposed log walls, pole rafters, diagonal pole ridge braces and plank roof sheathing. The interior keeps with the rustic character of the building. The cookstove and various counters contribute to the building's functional nature, but should be investigated to determine their relationship to the use of the building. Appropriate conservation methods should be employed where necessary.

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The relationship of the Warden's Cabin to the south outbuilding is an important feature of the setting and should be protected. The surrounding ground plane cover should not be overly-manicured or allowed to grow to scrub height.

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