

Jasper National Park, Alberta
National Training Center
Formerly The Pallasades Ranch

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The National Training Center was built as the Pallasades dude ranch in 1936 to the designs of William Blakey. In later years further buildings were constructed and the previous were renovated. The complex of 12 buildings is the property of the Canadian Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 87-10.

Reasons for Designation

The National Training Center was designated Recognized because of its association with the early development of Jasper National Park complex and the qualities of its site and setting. The Pallasades was a trail related tourist industry and as such, contributed to the development and use of the park by the public.

Originally constructed on an area of land previously homesteaded and owned by Lewis Swift, a personality who figures prominently in the history of the area, the Pallasades continued to be privately owned until the early 1960's. It was built as, and remains, a visually isolated self-contained complex of buildings built within a consistent vocabulary of building materials.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the property is defined by its presence as a visually isolated and self-contained complex. The buildings are in two main groups, along the roads which frame the large grassed area or green, and clustered around a loop in the road to the south of the green. Any additional development should respect the existing groupings. The buildings of the original ranch are architecturally very similar despite the significant alterations some have received. They display the rustic vocabulary of horizontal log, shingles and stone construction that appear elsewhere in the park.

New buildings should be designed around the use of these materials and of similar scale and massing of the existing buildings so that the architecture continues to be mutually enhancing. The barn and garage remain substantially unaltered. Their retention in their present form is encouraged.

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