

Jasper National Park, Alberta

Warden's Residence No. 1,
Sunwapta (Poboktan Creek) Warden Station

Warden's Residence No. 1 was constructed in 1939. The design is based on a revised standard plan for warden residences and was generated by the Engineering and Construction Service unit of the Department of Mines and Resources. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 93-89.

Reasons for Designation

The Warden's Residence No.1 at the Sunwapta/Poboktan Creek Warden station was designated Recognized because of its environmental significance, historical associations and architectural design.

The Warden's Residence is sited on the north side of the Poboktan Creek, fronting onto highway 93, from where the view of the house and its immediate surroundings remains largely unchanged. This visually conspicuous location is a destination for travelers along the Icefield Parkway and gives the Warden's Residence its landmark character.

The station setting is important to its historical associations as it was built in anticipation of the impending highway routes into Jasper Park during highway development in the national parks after the First World War. The highway location contributed to the continued use of the station after the centralization policy during the 1960's, when other locations not accessible by road were closed.

The Warden's Residence is one-and-a-half storeys with a gabled roof. It was built to a standard residence plan revised to include wood frame and half-log siding, representing a departure from past designs characterized by log construction. The revised version reflects the trend of locating warden houses at sites that were accessible by road, allowing the transportation of manufactured building components. The functional L-shaped plan of the house, and its craftsmanship and materials respect the long-standing prescription for a rustic architectural imagery within national parks.

Character Defining Features

The heritage value of the warden's residence resides in all aspects of its form, fenestration, materials, layout and site relationships.

The residence exhibits the simple massing of a modest one-storey, L-shaped plan with a cross-gabled roof. The simplicity of this building's form and massing should not be altered by any future developments.

Decorative brackets support the gable roof overhang at the front entrance where a symmetrically placed door is flanked by two small windows at either side. The composition of roof, brackets, door and windows adds focus to the principal entry and should not be altered. The living room window repeats the same sized window but in a group of three, symmetrically placed under the shed-roofed portion of the front facade. Wider windows of the same height, in groups of two, are symmetrically placed at the gable end walls. These and other windows are all positioned at the same sill and head height which together with their symmetry of placement are important aspects of the facade design and should not be altered. The window sashes and storms have been replaced. Future replacement should consider a design similar to the original with true divided lights.

The exterior walls are sheathed with half-log siding, while all four gables are clad with cedar shingles, as is the roof. Batten boards highlight the windows. When built, the house would have been painted the standard colour scheme prescribed for all park facilities: brown walls with green fascia trim and white window sashes. This scheme, in combination with the milled half-log siding and cedar roof, would have suggested visual associations with earlier rustic log structures in the park. The rustic theme was diminished with the shift to the current grey, white and green colour scheme. Future exterior maintenance should include reinstatement of the original colour scheme after paint analysis confirmation. Materials which are beyond repair should be replaced in kind.

The functional layout of the L-shaped plan includes the rear wing, informal spaces, a kitchen, a bath, rear hall and stairs to the basement. Two bedrooms and a living/dining room are located in the formal area at the front of the house. The interior finishes and the flooring have been changed over the years. The accommodations and layout reflect the need for living conditions suitable for wardens and their families. As the residence continues to meet accommodation requirements at this location, changes to the layout should not alter the divisions of informal to formal areas that is of the kitchen to the sleeping and living/dining areas.

The relationship of the house to its side driveway and the highway influences the orientation of four other residences, two summer cabins, a combination workshop, garage and office, a power plant, barn and various outbuildings to the back and the side of the Warden's Residence. The relationship of the residential zone to the operations zone, visually separated by mature stands of conifers, is an important aspect of the setting and should be maintained in any future developments. The view of the Warden's Residence from the highway should be protected.

97.06.30

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