

Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba
Doctor's Residence and Clinic (C-5)
140 Ta-Wa-Pit Drive, Wasagaming

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Doctor's Residence and Clinic in Riding Mountain National Park was constructed in 1948 to a standard plan prepared for the Soldier Settlement and Veteran's Land Act agency by architect W.K. Humphrys. The building is vacant at present (1994). Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 85-54.

Reasons for designation

The Doctor's Residence was designated Recognized because of its environmental qualities and architectural significance.

Located on a spacious site enhanced by mature trees and simply landscaped grounds, the Doctor's Residence complements its setting, and is a well known facility in the townsite because of its long-time function. Architecturally, it reflects a general move away from a consistent design policy in the National Parks that had begun in 1936-37. As a result, this building is visually distinct from earlier parks buildings in the townsite, but is compatible with the residential cottage building types in the vicinity.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Doctor's Residence resides in its massing, building materials and details, domestic "cottage" scale, and simply landscaped setting.

The building is a modest one and one-half storey building of milled frame construction, sheathed with cove siding. The medium pitch gable roof was originally covered in wood shingles. The simple box-like form and symmetrical design are distinguished by the prominent hipped-roof dormer, the small central entrance portico, and the balanced disposition of windows and doors. Texture and visual interest are added by the wood cove siding, the exposed rafter tails at the eaves, the geometrical design of the portico balustrade, the intended wood shingle roof finish, and the horizontal muntin bars in the sash windows. All of these features are integral to the style and character of the building and should not be altered. Any repairs must be predicated on maximum retention of original material, and the same level of craftsmanship and care taken as is evident in the original work.

The interior plan, which varied from the standard plan in order to accommodate waiting and consulting rooms, should be respected as a reflection of the building's original use. Any surviving early finishes or hardware should be retained. The simple, residential

-2-

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character of the site, and the buffer zone created by mature trees and green space between this and adjacent buildings, should be protected. Any modification of the landscape should be in keeping with the intended simple formality of the grounds.

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