

Prince Albert National Park  
**Wardens' Equipment Building**  
Waskesiu, Saskatchewan

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The building was constructed in 1933-1934 as the Park Garage for Prince Albert National Park, under an unemployment relief program. In the 1950s, the interior was modified to accommodate use as a storage building for park wardens' equipment. The Wardens' Equipment Building is the property of Environment Canada Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 85-63.

### **Reason For Designation**

The Wardens' Equipment Building was designated Recognized because of its site relationships, and the quality of its architectural design, materials and craftsmanship. Its rustic log construction and hipped-roof design make it characteristic of the distinctive design theme utilized for park buildings constructed during the 1930s, of which few examples remain.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of this property is defined by its exterior massing and materials, and its siting with respect to other contemporary park buildings.

As is the case with other park buildings from this period, the Wardens' Equipment Building reflects both the design policies of the National Parks Branch and the influence of local craftsmanship and local materials. It is composed of locally-cut spruce logs, horizontally laid and saddle-notched. A trenched overlay technique eliminated the need for chinking. This building also shares the broad hipped roof with dormers employed in neighbouring buildings, such as the Museum and Wardens' Headquarters.

The massive roof with exposed rafter-ends is a dominant form. The front roof has three shingle-sided hip-roofed dormers, centred between the four bays, while the rear has two. The front façade was originally symmetrical, with four identical vehicle bays. In the early 1950s, the replacement of one door with a larger lift door required a change to the roof line above, which disrupted the appearance of the façade. Removal of the larger door and reinstatement of the original roof line, with exposed rafter-ends, would enhance the heritage character of the building. Two of the openings retain their original doors. Reintroduction of compatible new doors in the other two openings would be appropriate. The rear and side elevations are characterised by three-part, multi-paned windows, whose domestic scale and placement provide contrast to the massing of the roof and log walls. Original materials should be maintained and conserved as necessary and the representative exterior design respected.

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Prince Albert National Park  
**Wardens' Equipment Building** (Continued)

The Wardens' Equipment Building occupies its original site. In the 1950s, a number of buildings were moved from the original Government Reserve area in the heart of the Waskesiu townsite to segregated work compounds. As one of a small group of structures from the 1929 to 1936 period remaining in the townsite, the relationship between it and the other original building nearby (the Visitors' Resource Centre, Waskesiu Drive, Block 2, Government Reserve Area) should be maintained.

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