

Field, British Columbia  
**Superintendent's Residence**  
Yoho National Park

### **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Superintendent's Residence at Yoho National Park was constructed in 1929-30 to designs by the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch. The building is still used as the superintendent's residence. The Environment Canada Parks Service is custodian of the property.

See FHBRO Building Report 91-52.

### **Reason for Designation**

The Superintendent's Residence was designated Recognized for its importance in the development of Field and for its architectural and environmental significance.

The construction of the residence marks the increasing orientation of Field as a national park administration centre.

In design it is a fine example of the domestic Arts and Crafts style with rustic vernacular adaptations, appropriate for a national park building in an existing townsite. The design is consistent throughout, and the building retains a high level of historic integrity of design, details and fabric. The use of stucco and rough stone enhance the design and locale.

The site is relatively unchanged. The house forms a strong visual termination of Second Street against the foot of Mount Stephen and is well known in the local area.

The Superintendent's Residence is a good example of the work of the Architectural Division of the National Parks Branch.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage value of the Superintendent's Residence resides in the quality of its design and construction, its high level of historic integrity, and its environmental qualities.

The house is an asymmetrical two and one-half storey form, domestic in scale, with a steeply pitched hip-roof. It is an attractive and imposing domestic design which reflects both the Arts and Crafts movement of the early part of the century and the rustic-vernacular, characteristic of national parks design.

.../2

Field, British Columbia  
**Superintendent's Residence** (Continued)

The rustic roots of the design are evident in the building's irregular composition, its strong vertical and horizontal forms, the details on the exterior, and the expression of

features of the interior plan. Among the most striking characteristics of the building are the two large dormers with bell-cast eaves - the one on the west is rectangular and hipped-roofed, while the one on the east is beveled and covers a five-sided, two-storey pavilion. The bell-cast motif is repeated in the long, sweep of the main roof, which extends down to the first floor level over the sun room.

The use of materials, the combination of rough-finished stucco with woodwork, stone, and wood shingles, reinforces the rustic, crafted character of the design. Split fieldstone, extending to window sill height all around the building, provides a suitably massive base. Use of the same stone for the substantial, battered chimney and as trim around the main door, reinforces the prominence of the stonework. Exterior use of woodwork is limited to window and door casings and the half-timbering of the south dormer. This Tudor Revival detail is characteristic of much of the work of the Architectural Division. Window detailing, particularly the use of casement windows with leaded lights, also contributes to the character of the building.

Although the exterior of the building has a high level of integrity, some minor changes have undermined the integrity of the original design. The stucco surfaces and the cedar shingles on the exterior of the building have been painted. This treatment has substantially increased the contrast between the stone and stucco and reduced the texture of the rough-cast finishes. Prior to any future painting, investigations should be carried out to determine the historical accuracy and technical necessity of the applied paint finish. An approach should be developed that is appropriate to the long term protection of the stucco. If removal of the paint is considered, specialists with expertise in this line of work should be consulted.

The interior is virtually unchanged in plan. The building's plan is conventional for the period, although the location of the stairs and chimney seat, and their expression on the exterior is a feature of interest.

In its details and materials, the design aesthetic of the exterior is continued on the interior. Elements of particular interest include the staircases, extant historic light fixtures, and the split fieldstone fireplace with flanking seat. Consistent with the Arts and Crafts aesthetic, decoration is based on stained wood - in this case Douglas fir. These features all contribute to the character of the interior and should be protected.

1992.06.06.30