

Wasagaming, Manitoba
Golf Clubhouse
Riding Mountain National Park

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Golf Clubhouse at Wasagaming, a relatively early and prominent example of the rustic Tudor building style associated with Riding Mountain National Park, was built in 1932-33 to the designs of the Architectural Division of National Parks. Much of the work on the building is attributed to John Gottfried Johnson, a local log-building contractor and stone mason who participated in many of the log construction projects in the park during the 1930s. The building was expanded in 1935 to accommodate a growing membership. Further alterations were carried out in 1945, 1956 and 1976. The facility was leased to Wasagaming Golf Course Ltd. in 1983 for a period of ten years. The custodian department is Parks Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 85-54.

Reason for Designation

The Wasagaming Golf Clubhouse has been designated Recognized because of the intrinsic merit and historical significance of its design and craftsmanship. Despite numerous alterations and additions, it retains the picturesque design elements and materials so important in the early development of Riding Mountain National Park in particular, and the National Parks system more generally. Through its siting as well as its design, it continues to be an important element in defining the character of the Clear Lake area and the townsite.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Golf Clubhouse is defined by the sympathetic relationship between the design of the building and the nature of its setting.

The design is marked by the log and stone vocabulary characteristic of the 1930s phase of National Park development. The original portion of the building is of horizontal log construction with saddle-notched corners, resting on a split fieldstone foundation. Cobblestone detailing was used for the fireplace and porch piers. The 1935 addition shows similar detailing, with horizontal logwork and extensive use of cobblestone detailing. The simple gable and modified hip roof treatment of the original design was changed to gable ends, including the new wings. Subsequent changes involved the enclosure of the verandah and the substitution of the log siding for the original log infill below the windows on this section.

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Wasagaming, Manitoba
Golf Clubhouse (Continued)

The use of natural materials such as log and stone for rambling structures with informal massing, prominent roofs and large verandahs was part of a design philosophy which extended to the development of picturesque grounds in imitation of the English landscape tradition. The siting of the building on the ridge of the promontory overlooking the lake gives it a panoramic view, with the setting enhanced by the well-manicured greens of the golf course.

It is important that the treatment of both the building and its setting be considered together. The materials, textures and colours of the Clubhouse should be maintained as much as possible in their present state or returned to reflect original or early detailing. The building has evolved considerably over the years and may continue to be subject to pressures for adaptation. Any changes should be based on a clear understanding of the building's history and designed to reinforce the original design intentions of the 1930s. At the same time, the grounds should be considered an integral part of the building's character and careful attention given to preserving and enhancing aspects of the landscape treatment that have survived over the years. This would include both hard and soft landscape elements, as well as the more intangible qualities such as the nature of the views from the Clubhouse.

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