

Waskesiu, Saskatchewan
Golf Clubhouse
Prospect Point, Prince Albert National Park

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Golf Clubhouse at Waskesiu in Prince Albert National Park, one of the more elaborate park examples of the "Tudor Rustic" style, was built in 1934-35 by unemployment relief labour to designs by the Architectural Division of National Parks. The building is still used as a golf clubhouse, under a lease arrangement. The custodial department is Environment Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 85-63.

Reason for Designation

The Golf Clubhouse has been designated a Recognized heritage building because of the quality of its design, setting and craftsmanship. It also reflects an important stage in the development of the Waskesiu townsite.

The building was designed and built at the height of relief construction activity in the National Parks system, and illustrates many of the important design characteristics associated with that distinct phase in the history of the parks. It represents the development of commercial and recreational activity at Waskesiu and continues to be a local landmark because of both its function and its setting.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by the successful and relatively unchanged relationship between the building's setting and the treatment of its exterior and interior design.

The setting, one of the most desirable sites in the Waskesiu townsite area, is a prominent rise of land offering a panoramic view of Waskesiu Lake. It provides an appropriate and picturesque environment, with its mature trees and carefully tended golfing greens, for the rustic architectural character of the clubhouse.

The building itself maintains the picturesque quality of the site with its massive log walls, stone fireplace and trim, half-timbered gables, leaded glass windows, and steeply-pitched roof with bell-cast eaves. The double brick chimney, rectangular north bay with plate glass windows, and hipped roof treatment of the east facade were modifications to the design during construction; the building has changed relatively little since that time. The only significant alteration has been the recent (c. 1983) enclosure of the front verandah with removable panels faced with log siding and windows. Consideration might be given to removing or reworking these panels and reinstating the original half-timbered railing to match the gables.

Golf Clubhouse (Continued)

The focal point of the interior is the lounge area, situated on the main floor at the front of the building. Its massive fieldstone fireplace, large bay window overlooking the lake and direct accessibility to the front verandah and side patio continue the picturesque quality of the exterior with the reliance on natural materials, good craftsmanship, and sensitivity to the natural environment.

It is important that both the design and individual elements of the building be protected and maintained. Original materials, including the walls, windows and doors, and roof finishes, should be conserved and repaired rather than replaced. If selective repair or replacement is required, the original material, design and finish should be employed. Interior layout and finish, including colour, should be respected, with priority given to the preservation of original fabric.

The setting of the building, including the open spaces and plantings, should also be maintained. Together, the building and its grounds are both an attractive asset to the park and an important historical expression of the design attitudes of the National Parks in the 1930s. It is important that the relationship between the building and its setting be protected and maintained.