

Waskesiu, Saskatchewan  
Nature Centre (Museum Building)  
Lakeview Drive, Prince Albert National Park

#### HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The museum building at Waskesiu was built in 1935-36 for recreational purposes, to plans prepared by the Parks Branch's Architectural Division. The building is the property of Environment Canada Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 85-63.

#### Reasons for Designation

The museum building was designated Recognized for its historical association, its architectural significance and its environmental value.

The construction of the museum building is associated with the second phase of development of Prince Albert National Park. This phase (1931-1936) coincided with the time span of an unemployment relief program that provided cheap labor and funding for projects in the park during the Depression years.

The building's architectural significance derives from its distinctive "Tudor Rustic" style, then being promoted for buildings in western parks.

Environmentally, the building is an important landmark within Prince Albert National Park.

#### Character Defining Elements

The character of the museum building resides in its massing and proportions, in the disposition of the fenestration, in its method of construction and in its use of native materials.

The symmetrical "I" shape plan consists of a large rectangular open hall with lower pavilions at each end. This basic plan arrangement should be maintained.

Characteristic elements of the "Tudor Rustic" style, including the horizontal log walls, steep hip roof, mock half-timber detailing, the stone-faced foundation, the stone treatment of the entrance porch, and the curved eyebrow hood above the main door, should be preserved. The leaded glass windows which enhance the English Picturesque character of the building should be carefully preserved.

The attractively finished log interior which has been maintained to the present time with minimal alterations should be respected in future work.

Every effort should be made in preserving the mature trees and the surrounding natural setting.

1991.12.04