

Wood Buffalo National Park, NWT
Jackfish Warden Patrol Cabin

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Jackfish Warden Patrol Cabin was designed and built by Wood Buffalo National Park wardens in 1929. This single storey, three-room, gabled-roof log cabin, unoccupied since 1985 when it was replaced by an adjacent cabin to the east, once provided year-round accommodation for the warden and his family. The building is the property of the Environment Canada Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 89-43.

Reason for Designation

The Jackfish Warden Patrol Cabin was designated Recognized because of its historical association, its vernacular design, and its environmental value.

The cabin is associated with the federal government's commitment to protect endangered wildlife in Canada by expanding its national parks system. Wood Buffalo National Park, established in 1922 to preserve an endangered subspecies of bison known as the wood buffalo, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the largest game sanctuary in Canada and one of the largest in the world. The cabin is the only remaining one of 26 that were erected in the park by wardens between 1922 and 1934 and is typical of the larger National Parks year-round residential cabins of the time. Strategically located for the patrol on elevated grounds, the Jackfish cabin maintains its historic relationship with the Peace River and with the wooded area surrounding the cabin.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character resides in the cabin's simple rectangular form, its pitched roof, its vernacular construction and use of natural materials, and its relationship to its surroundings.

The simple proportions of the log structure and the arrangement of openings should be preserved. The long, slender, reversed taper logs which give the cabin pleasing, clean lines should be maintained as should the neatly framed openings. Originally stained green, its roof remains wood shingled. Its original interior three-room layout which remains undisturbed should be respected in future uses of the cabin.

Any new work on the cabin should be done using the same kind of material and same construction method as the original. Repair of broken glass and regular maintenance of this heritage cabin would ensure its longevity.

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The cabin's log construction and natural wood colouring harmonize well with the surrounding wilderness setting. The relationship between the cabin and its natural site should be maintained.

1992.04.22