

Delta, British Columbia
Reifel Shooting Lodge
5421 Robertson Road

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Reifel Shooting Lodge was constructed in 1929 to designs by H.H. Gillingham for a private owner. It served as a weekend lodge and later a year-round residence. In 1972 the property was sold to Environment Canada for use as the regional headquarters of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service is the custodian department. See FHBRO Building Report 92-63.

Reasons for Designation

The Reifel Shooting Lodge was designated Recognized for its historical associations, architectural importance and environmental significance.

Located in a waterfowl nesting and wintering area, the Reifel Shooting Lodge is associated with wildlife hunting and conservation in Canada. George C. Reifel, an early wildfowl conservationist in western Canada, used the lodge as a base for feeding and banding wild birds, and for hunting. The creation of the sanctuary with its extensive diking system has resulted in an area of fields, lagoons and marshes which are ideal as bird habitats.

The building has two principal components: the lodge proper and the connected observation tower. The semi-rustic materials used on the exterior illustrate an influence of the Arts and Crafts movement. The interior has been radically altered, however a few rustic details remain, such as the fieldstone fireplace and the board-and-batten treatment of the ceilings on the second floor.

The property retains the character of an institutional use in a waterfowl conservation area. The building reinforces this character.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Reifel Shooting Lodge resides in those aspects of its design and fabric which relate to its historic function, and also in its environmental qualities.

The lodge is a two storey wood-frame building with a low hip roof. Although the overall design of the building is essentially regular due to the "H" shaped plan and symmetrical massing, its rustic materials and details combined with the vertical form of the observation tower and connecting walkway provide the picturesque quality appropriate to a shooting lodge.

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Reifel Shooting Lodge (Continued)

Notable details which contribute to the picturesque character of the lodge are the milled

half-round timber siding (vertical on the ground floor and horizontal on the second), simulated Tudor Revival half-timbering, an eyebrow dormer, cross-braced railings and brackets, and a range of natural materials such as fieldstone, pole construction, and wood shakes. All are associated with the rustic vernacular of the Arts and Crafts movement. The lodge and tower display several examples of carefully crafted simulations, such as the milled half-round siding which suggests log construction, and the shake roof with rounded eaves in representation of thatch. The roof has lost some of its integrity through inaccurate reproduction of the shingle pattern during replacement. When re-roofing is required, reference should be made to historic photographs and comparative examples to prevent further erosion of this detail.

Most of the lodge's original windows, with their muntins located toward the perimeter of the sash, survive. These historic elements should be protected.

The integrity of the building's original design and aesthetics has been severely compromised by recent additions and other alterations, including construction in the voids of the "H," cantilevered additions, a car porch, re-orientation of the building front to rear, and introduction of new materials. As a result of these changes the building's historic plan is evident only in the hip roof, and its aesthetic scheme considerably weakened. Every effort should be made through future management and design to restore the integrity and legibility of the building.

Revised
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