



Heritage Value Statement  
Edmunds Lockstation - Lock 25  
Rideau Canal National Historic Site  
DRAFT August 10, 2017

## Context

### What is a Statement of Heritage Value?

A Statement of Heritage Value is a record that confirms that a Parks Canada asset, or collection of assets, meets the Agency's requirements to be a cultural resource. It provides a summary history of the cultural resource, its heritage value (why it is important), and its character-defining elements (aspects of the resource that express its heritage value).

### Approvals

The statement of heritage value requires approval by the Field Unit Superintendent and the Director of Cultural Heritage Policies and is designed to support decision-making about management of a cultural resource.

### Interpretation

Assistance to interpret the Statement of Heritage Value can be sought from a Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Advisor or a CRM specialist.

### Assessments of Impacts

When changes or interventions are proposed to cultural resources, the proposed changes and interventions are subject to an assessment of impacts using the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. This is not to preclude changes or interventions, but rather to reduce possible negative impacts to the heritage value of the cultural resources.

### Flexibility of Implementation of Changes and Interventions

Sustainable conservation calls for a flexible and integrated approach that balances CRM with other Agency objectives. If negative impacts are expected to the heritage value of a cultural resource, these can often be reduced or eliminated through mitigations developed in consultation with the CRM Advisor. If mitigation is not possible, alternate approaches to certain aspects of a project, or alternative means of preserving heritage value, can be recommended (for example, preservation through heritage recording and subsequent interpretation).

### Responsibility for Decision-Making

Decision-making about an intervention on the cultural resource remains with the Field Unit Superintendent.



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## Description

### Landscape

The lock at Edmunds Lockstation is situated at the east end of a 150-m excavated channel on the south side of the river. A spillway dam with a stone masonry weir spans the river at the western tip of the narrow island creating a slackwater section to Old Slys Lockstation. The excavated stone visible in the earthen dam on the upper excavated channel shows the technique used to build such dams. There is only one building at the lockstation, a lock office situated adjacent to the lock chamber, on the south side, built in 1905. There is also an earth embankment dam, a 100 meter earth and stone dam that retains the water in the upper channel, first constructed in 1830.

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### Lock 25

At Edmunds Lockstation, the lock is set at the end of a short excavated channel that bypasses the shallow rapids. It is a single manually operated lock with a lift of 2,6 m, constructed in 1830. The gate frame building is typical of operational buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



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### Weir and Spillway Dam

The Stone Arch dam at Edmunds is 122 m long and 4,08 m high, and was constructed in 1830. The sweeping curve of the stone arch dam demonstrates the techniques of the engineers and builders. Splash boards were affixed to the dam to create greater navigation depths.

The weir is a stone, one-bay, stoplog weir, constructed in 1830.

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### Lock Office

Constructed in 1905 as a lock office/store house for the station, the building is among the older operational facilities of its type on the Rideau Canal. Prior to the construction of the canal, the site of the lockstation was part of a farm property developed by James Edmunds, one of the first settlers in the area. In the post-construction era, the area remained agricultural in character, while the lockstation was occupied year-round by the lockmaster, and seasonally by a lock labourer. The construction of the lock office in 1905 coincided with the demolition of the original defensible lockmaster's house at the site and the construction of a frame residence. It was, therefore, part of a redevelopment of operational facilities at Old Slys. It is the only surviving building from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that illustrates the continuing operation of the station.

The building is typical of the small, frame, gable-roofed lock offices constructed at various Rideau lockstations in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In its scale and its arrangement of door and window openings, the building is similar to the lock office at the Smiths Falls Detached Lockstation, built in 1935. The original section of the Edmunds building measures 26.5 feet, rests on a concrete foundation, and has a centrally placed front door on the north façade. The cedar-shingled roof is similar to the original cladding. A single chimney extends through the peak of the roof near the east side. The four windows in the east side and the three in the west side have double-hung sashes. As at Smiths Falls, the terrain at the rear is lower to facilitate a below-grade entrance. The cellar under the building was dug out prior to 1964, and the structure was set on poured concrete foundations. At some time after 1964, the first cellar entrance was closed off and the present gable-roofed entrance was added to the rear (south) at the cellar level for storage space. The interior has been renovated in a manner almost identical to that at Smiths Falls. A vestibule inside the front entrance leads to washrooms, an office, and to a spiral staircase. The staircase provides access to the upper storey which serves as a lunchroom for the staff. The interior has modern finishes throughout.

The immediate environs of the building have not changed markedly over the years, with the exception of the small addition at the rear. The building retains its orientation to the canal and the informal grassed landscaping. As the sole building at Edmunds, the lock office helps to identify the lock chamber area as the operational focus of the lockstation. Its well-kept clapboarded



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appearance adds to the historic character of the station. Because of its prominent location near the lock, the building would be evident to visitors who come to Edmunds by land or water. It has limited landmark value beyond the lockstation.

- Its good aesthetic, functional design and quality materials and craftsmanship, for example: the
  - two-storey massing;
  - the cedar-shingled gable roof, and the chimney;
  - the frame construction and the clapboard exterior;
  - the placement of the windows, doors, and the single chimney;
  - the small front entrance porch and the single-storey frame addition;
- The manner in which the Edmunds Lock Office maintains an unchanged relationship to its site, and is compatible with the historic character of its setting. It is a familiar landmark in the lockstation, as evidenced by:
  - its ongoing relationship to its grassed site;
  - its visibility due to its isolated status at the lockstation.

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## Heritage Value

### Landscape

The Edmunds Lockstation landscape is a *cultural resource of national historic significance* that is a fundamental resource of the Canal system and integral to the Rideau's unique historical environment.

The lockstation landscapes of the Rideau Canal are fundamental resources of the canal system and integral to the Rideau's unique historical environment. The Canal landscapes were evaluated in terms of the retention of historic circulation patterns, the spatial inter-relationships of buildings, engineering works, open spaces and other landscape features, plus the overall impact of new features on or near the stations.

The lockstation landscapes of national significance are valued for their:

- associative and physical connection with the construction and early operation of the canal;
- contribution to the unique historical environment of the canal system;
- visual and historic associations with heritage communities along the canal system such as Chaffey's Locks, Newboro, Merrickville, Burritts Rapids, and Ottawa;
- role as landmarks and providing a sense of continuity along the canal system;
- surviving historic layout and configuration including their open spaces and circulation patterns;
- surviving historic views both within and beyond the station boundaries;



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- contextual and heritage settings for the stations' buildings and engineering works.

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### Lock 25

The lock 25 is considered a *cultural resource of national historic significance*.

Engineering works of national significance on the Rideau Canal are valued for their:

- direct relationship to the original construction achievement;
- contribution to the unique historical environment of the canal system;
- integral role in the continuing operation of the navigation system;
- surviving physical attributes of form, material and function;
- manual mode of operation; and
- contribution to knowledge relating to early 19th century engineering and construction techniques.

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### Weir and Spillway Dam

The weir and spillway dam at Edmunds are considered *cultural resources of national historic significance*, as per the values described above for the lock.

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### Lock Office

The Edmund's Lock Office is considered a *cultural resource of other heritage value*.

Buildings of other heritage value associated with the Canal, are valued for their:

- association with the post-military operation and maintenance of the canal;
- association with working and social life on the canal;
- association with industrial activities in corridor communities;
- designation as Federal Heritage Buildings;
- functional design qualities;
- surviving physical attributes of form and material;
- contribution to the historic character of their associated lockstations.

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### Character-Defining Elements





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## Landscape

The elements of the cultural landscape at Edmunds Lockstation that contribute to its heritage value are its:

- Current historic layout and circulation pattern, including open spaces and circulation routes and pathways, such as:
  - The portage route next to the weir,
  - The pathway extending across the lock, along the island embankment, and across the weir and dam to the opposite side of the river.
- Functional arrangement, and the relationships and views between lockstation components, such as:
  - The lock office and its proximity to and views of the lock,
- Landforms in the landscape, such as:
  - The island embankment, and
  - The small islands in proximity to the lockstation,
- Design, dimensions, materials, architectural features, and finishes of the lockstation buildings and engineering works, and their footprints and profiles in the landscape, for example, the:
  - Lock,
  - Waste Weir and Dam,
  - Lock office, and
  - Wharves.
- Known and potential terrestrial and submerged archaeological resources pertaining to both indigenous and historical occupations, and evidence of construction and early operation of the canal.

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## Lock 25

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of the Edmunds Lock includes:

- its contribution to the integrity of the landscape and the unique historical environment of the canal system;
- its manual mode of operation; and
- its form, dimensions, design and functional qualities and materials, for example:
  - its masonry construction;
  - its overall arrangement, including angles and connections;
  - the wooden lock gates and assemblies, including the type of timber as evolved over time to address the operational and durability needs of the Canal;
  - the valves and opening mechanisms;
  - the architectural signature and details, including but not limited to:
    - coursing patterns;
    - joints and their profiles; and
    - iron works.

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## Weir and Spillway Dam



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Key character-defining elements contributing to the heritage value of the Dam and Weir include their:

- o location;
- o function for flood and water control;
- o surviving physical attributes of scale, design and materials, such as their:
  - o length,
  - o design as a combination arch stone overflow dam and weir;
  - o concrete construction;
  - o low profile.
- o contribution to the integrity of the landscape and the unique historical environment of the canal system; and
- o any adjacent extant remains of previous weirs or dams.

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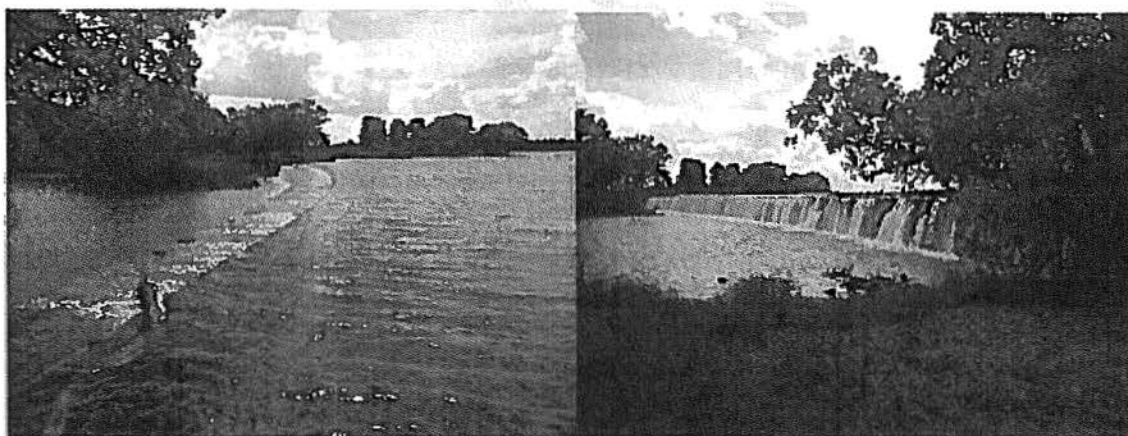
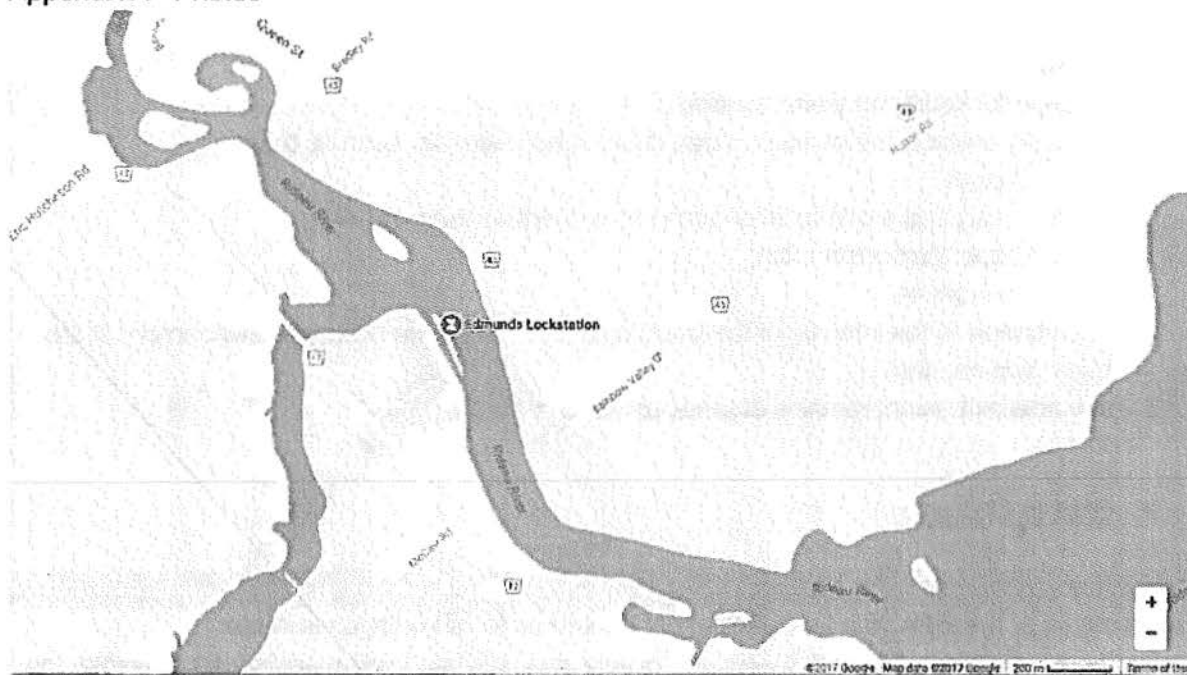
### Lock Office

The elements of the Edmunds Lock Office that contribute to its heritage value are:

- Its good aesthetic, functional design and quality materials and craftsmanship, for example: the
  - o two-storey massing;
  - o the cedar-shingled gable roof, and the chimney;
  - o the frame construction and the exterior clad with cove woodsiding;
  - o the regular placement of the windows and doors;
  - o the small front entrance porch and the single-storey frame addition;
  - o the interior configuration, including the painted wood-plank floors.
- The manner in which the Edmunds Lock Office maintains an unchanged relationship to its site, and is compatible with the historic character of its setting. It is a familiar landmark, as evidenced by:
  - o its ongoing relationship to its grassed site;
  - o its overall scale, design and materials that are compatible with its village streetscape surroundings;
  - o its familiarity within the area due to its role as a community library;
  - o its visibility due to its prominent location on the town's streetscape adjacent to the water and swing bridge.

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## Appendix A - Photos







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