

Heritage Value Statement
Jones Falls Fixed Bridge
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT July 7th 2015

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.

Heritage Value Statement
Jones Falls Fixed Bridge
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT July 7th 2015

Description:

The Jones Falls Fixed Bridge is a pedestrian only low level fixed timber bridge connecting the mainland at the Hotel Kenney to the grounds of Jones Falls Lockstation at the base of lock 42 on the Rideau Canal (see map attached separately). This alignment was once part of a county road crossing which included the kingpost swing bridge over lock 41. The present bridge dates from 1930 and is located on the alignment of an original circa 1830 construction-era bridge. Sometime following the completion of the lockstation, this first bridge was demolished. For a period of time, there was no bridge on the alignment until the 1883 construction of a fixed timber bridge. It is classified by Parks Canada as a cultural resource of other heritage value (formerly level II) relating to the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. The bridge was closed to all vehicular traffic in 2007 (has been closed to public vehicular use for a few decades).

The fixed bridge is a simple timber beam, continuous span structure consisting of seven timber stringers supported on timber corbel beams placed longitudinally over the bridge piers. The deck of the bridge is planked, and there are wooden railings along each side of the bridge. A second pair of wood railings was added as an emergency measure in 2007 to address structure concerns with the existing wood railings. 2007 emergency repairs also included stabilization of the cribbing, patching of concrete abutments and realignment of the bridge. A mooring dock was constructed along the south side of the bridge in the 1970s for boats accessing lock 42.

The total length of the six spans of the bridge is 246 feet (74.98 metres); and it has a clear road width of 16 feet (4.88 metres) and a load limit of five tons (4.5 tonnes).

The substructure of the bridge consists of five rock filled timber cribs, measuring 10 feet by 20 feet, (3.05 metres x 6.01 metres) plus two concrete abutments. Based on a 2003 underwater investigation, along the length of the bridge, older cribs are twinned with newer cribs. The lower sections of the older cribs are in the shape of a tall pyramid and are formed from round logs notched together at the corners. Cross members within the cribs are also notched through the side timbers. The upper sections, less than 3.28 feet (1 metre) from the water's surface, consist of larger squared timbers, which could represent later repairs or additions. Judging by their construction and condition, the older pyramidal cribs are probably from the 1883 construction.

There is the potential for archeological resources related to the construction and use of the original bridge. It is important to note that present day Whitefish Lake is a result of flooding Whitefish Creek. As such, there is a potential for in situ archaeological resources within the corridor that predate the construction of the original bridge.

Heritage Value:

The Jones Falls Fixed Bridge is a cultural resource of other heritage value that exemplifies the commercial and recreational use of the canal as it joins the Rideau Canal with its corridor communities and the iconic Hotel Kenney, along its original alignment. The bridge contributes to the historic layout, configuration and circulation patterns of the lockstation landscape; the visitor experience as the gateway to Jones Falls Lockstation; and to the contextual heritage setting beyond the station's boundary, including views to and from the bridge from land and water.

The heritage value of the engineering structures of other heritage value of the Rideau Canal derive from:

- association with the commercial and recreational use of the Canal;

Heritage Value Statement
Jones Falls Fixed Bridge
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT July 7th 2015

- association with corridor communities and expansion of the Canal system;
- role in the continuing operation of the Canal;
- evidence of changing construction technologies;
- manual mode of operation;
- surviving physical attributes of form and material.

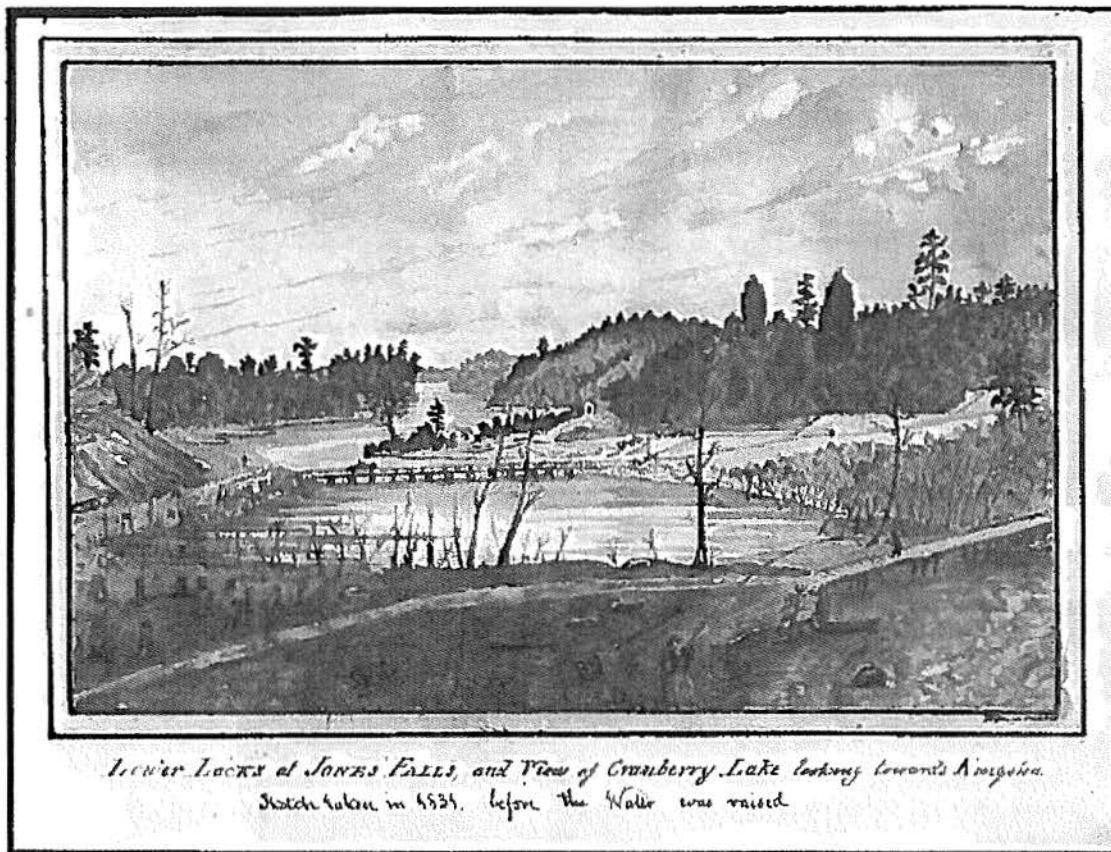
Character-Defining Elements:

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of the Jones Falls Fixed Bridge include:

- its strategic location joining the main land at Hotel Kenney to the Jones Falls lockstation at the base of Lock 42, along the original alignment of previous bridge iterations
- the dimensions, design and functional qualities of the bridge, for example:
 - its six-span design;
 - its wooden superstructure, including decking and railings;
 - its simple, aesthetic design, with emphasis on horizontal lines;
 - its general massing and low profile silhouette;
 - its pyramidal rock-filled timber cribs.
- the adjacent submerged archaeological resources associated with previous bridge iterations.

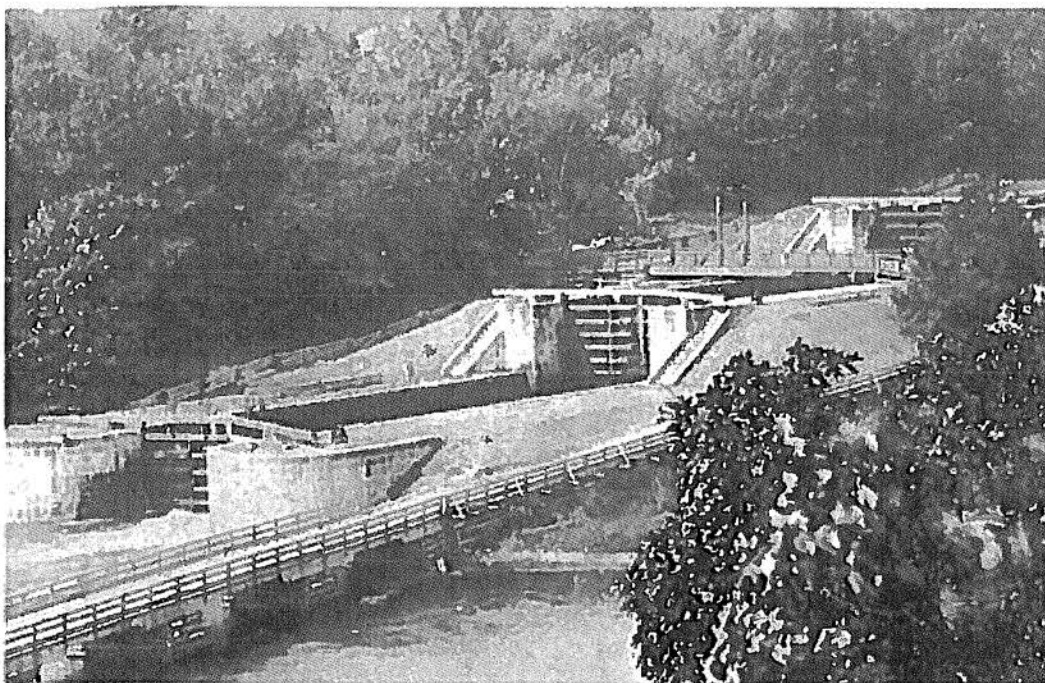
Heritage Value Statement
Jones Falls Fixed Bridge
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT July 7th 2015

Photos of the Jones Falls Fixed Bridge Over the Years

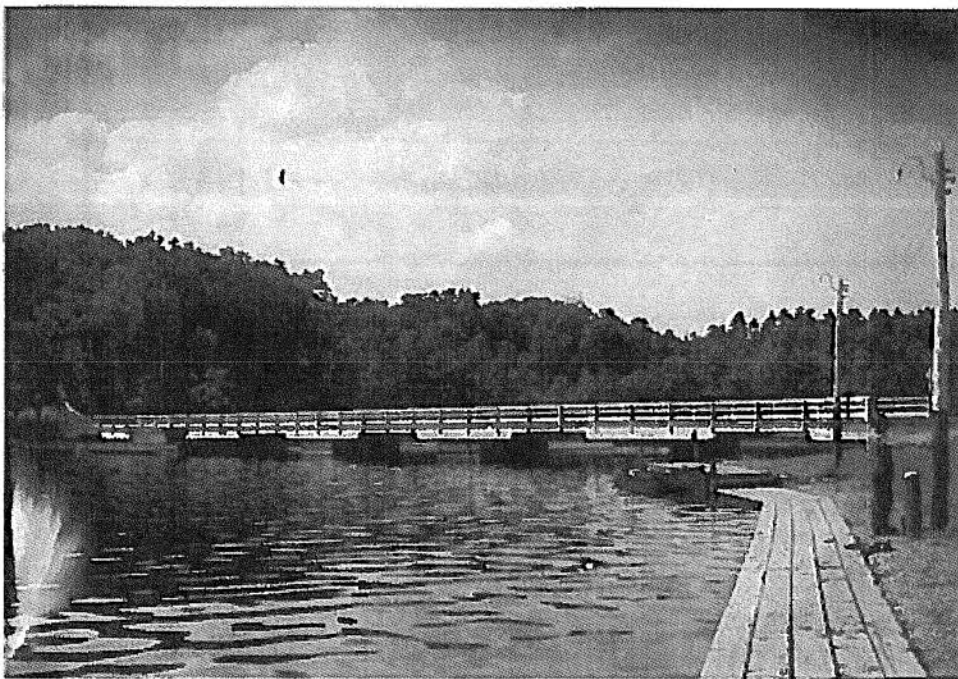


Jones Falls, Thomas Burrowes sketch, original 1831 bridge (in background). Archives of Ontario

Heritage Value Statement
Jones Falls Fixed Bridge
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT July 7th 2015

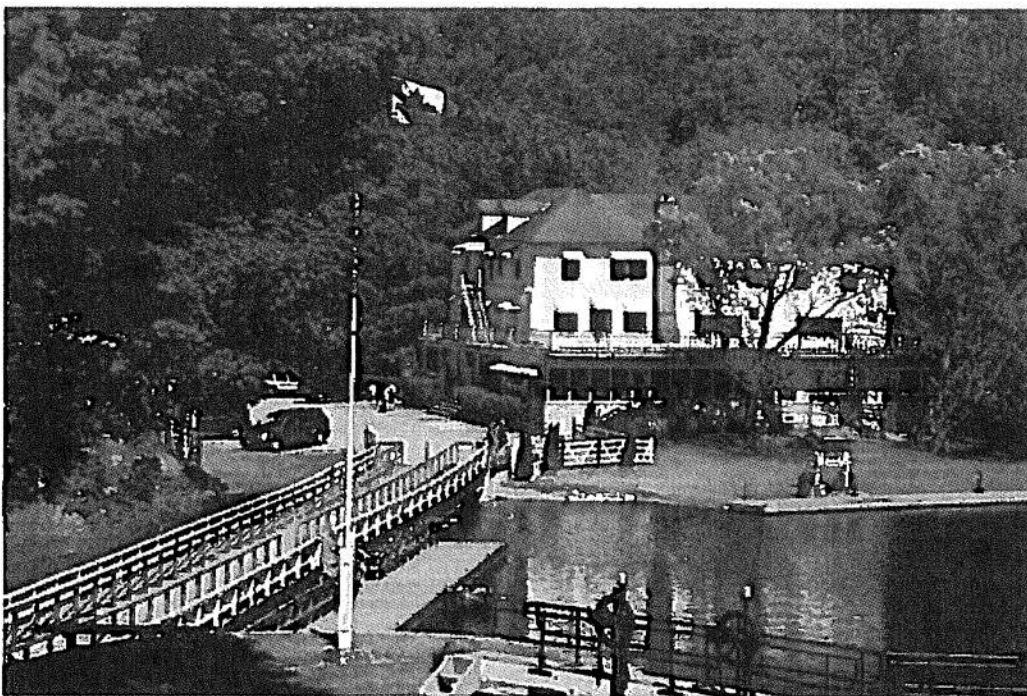


Jones Falls Fixed Bridge 1893



Jones Falls Fixed Bridge, c1940s/50s?

Heritage Value Statement
Jones Falls Fixed Bridge
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT July 7th 2015



Present-day bridge with new interior railings for safety and mooring dock.
Historic Hotel Kenney in background