

Heritage Value Statement  
Kingston Mills Lockstation Landscape  
Rideau Canal NHS  
DRAFT October 2, 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.

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**Description:**

At Kingston Mills Lockstation, the Cataraqui River descends from Colonel By Lake to the Cataraqui Estuary, over a series of rocky ledges, a terrain which dictated a complex layout for the lockstation. A high stone arch dam, 120m long and 9m high, with a weir on its north end, is located across the original course of the river at the head of the falls. A power house, installed in 1913, operates south of the stone arch dam.

Long earthen dams on each side of the stone arch dam hold back the water of Colonel By Lake. The westerly dam is 800m long, the easterly 600m long. The set of four locks (locks 46-49) were built in a side channel west of the main channel of the river. The upper lock is attached to the south end of the stone arch dam. Below the upper lock, a large basin used for steamship repair still exists. The lower three locks are constructed in flight, with the lowest lock ending the canal at the level of Lake Ontario.

A two storey blockhouse, constructed of stone (first storey) and wood (second storey) was constructed in 1833 and is situated strategically with clear views north to Colonel By Lake and south over the flight of locks. The blockhouse was closed to the public in 2012.

A local road crosses the site with a modern fixed bridge south of the stone arch dam, and a modern swing bridge over lock 46. A CN rail bridge, constructed in 1929, carries modest rail traffic over locks 47-48.

In 1904, a two storey wood framed lockmaster's house, now a small interpretive centre, was constructed adjacent to the road, west of the locks, while a small wood framed lock office was constructed in 1925 beside the turning basin.

**Heritage Value:**

The Kingston Mills 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 heritage value of the lockstation landscapes of national historic significance of the Rideau Canal derive from their:

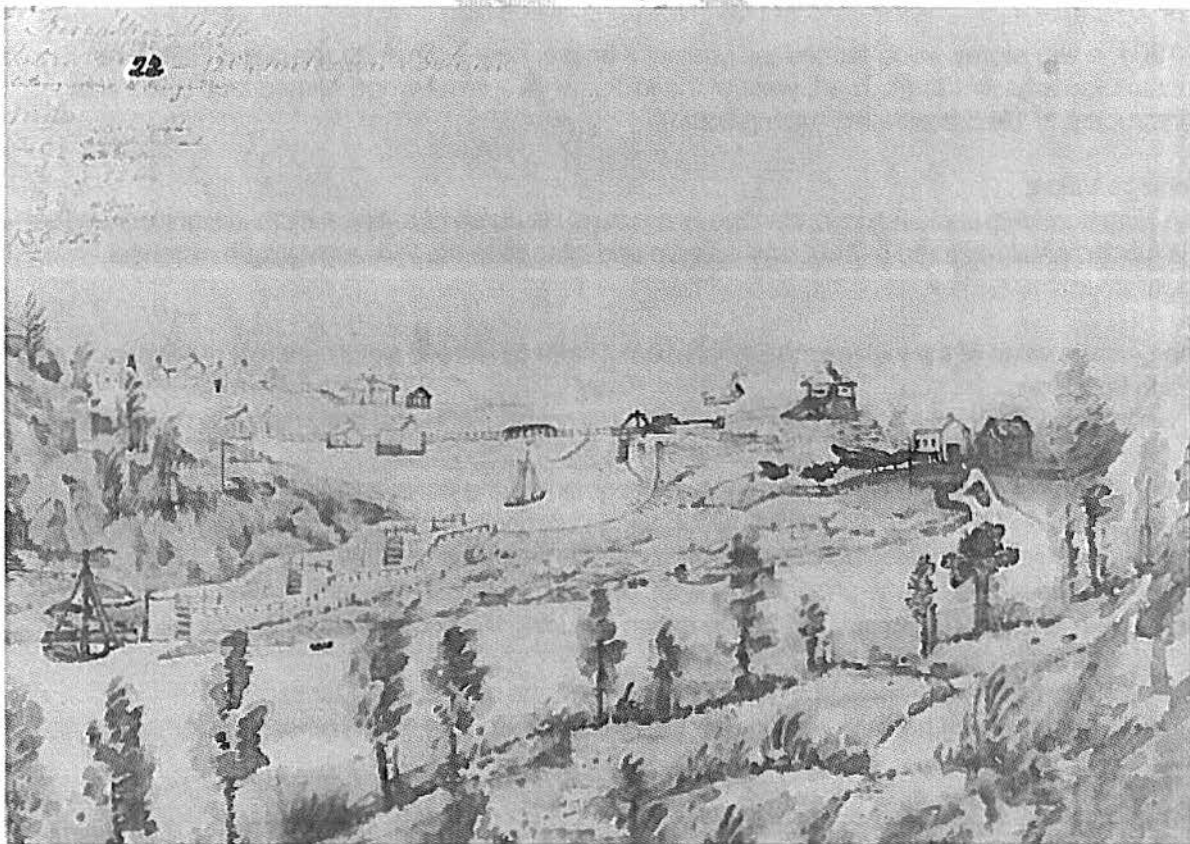
- associative and physical connection with the construction and early operation of the canal system;
- contribution to the unique historical environment of the canal system;
- visual and historic associations with heritage continuity along the canal system such as Chaffeys Locks, Newboro, Merrickville, Burritts Rapids and Ottawa;
- role as landmark 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;
- contextual and heritage settings for the station's buildings and engineering works.

**Character-Defining Elements:**

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Key elements contributing to the heritage value of the Kingston Mills lockstation landscape include:

- Locks 46-49, which contribute to maintaining the original appearance and function of the canal;
- the 1833 two storey stone blockhouse, complete with loopholes, machicolations and overhanging eaves, dominates the landscape adjacent to lock 46;
- the 1830 east and west clay dams, which created Colonel By Lake and are important in the continuing operation of the canal;
- the 1830 stone arch dam and outer weir;
- the 1904 two storey L-shaped, wood-framed lockmaster's house;
- the 1925 wood-framed lock office;
- the replica single-lane swing bridge that carries local traffic over lock 46
- the rugged, rocky terrain, part of the Frontenac Arch geologic formation (e.g. to the east of the locks and south through the excavated channel);
- the surviving historic layout and configuration including their open spaces and circulation patterns; and
- the known and potential terrestrial and underwater archaeological cultural resources.



Kingston Mills, looking north

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Looking northeast over the basin to the blockhouse

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