

Heritage Value Statement
Narrows Lockstation Landscape
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT September 10th 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:

The lockstation comprises lock 35, within a narrow strip of land along a 400m earth embankment dam, and shorelands to the north and south.

Prior to canal construction, Big Rideau Lake and Upper Rideau Lake formed a single body of water. Upper Rideau Lake was created by the construction of an earth embankment dam at a shallow, narrow location on the original waterbody. A single lock was built at the north end of the embankment to connect the two lakes. A weir is located at the south end to control water flows.

The lockstation contains one of the four Rideau blockhouses of stone and frame construction c. 1833, and a manually operated through-truss steel bridge c. 1898, which carries Narrows Lock Road across the lock.

Although the lock has one of the lowest lifts on the canal system, its construction was a significant engineering decision, saving money and time in construction at Newboro, located at the opposite end of the lake.

Heritage Value:

The Narrows 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:

- 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.

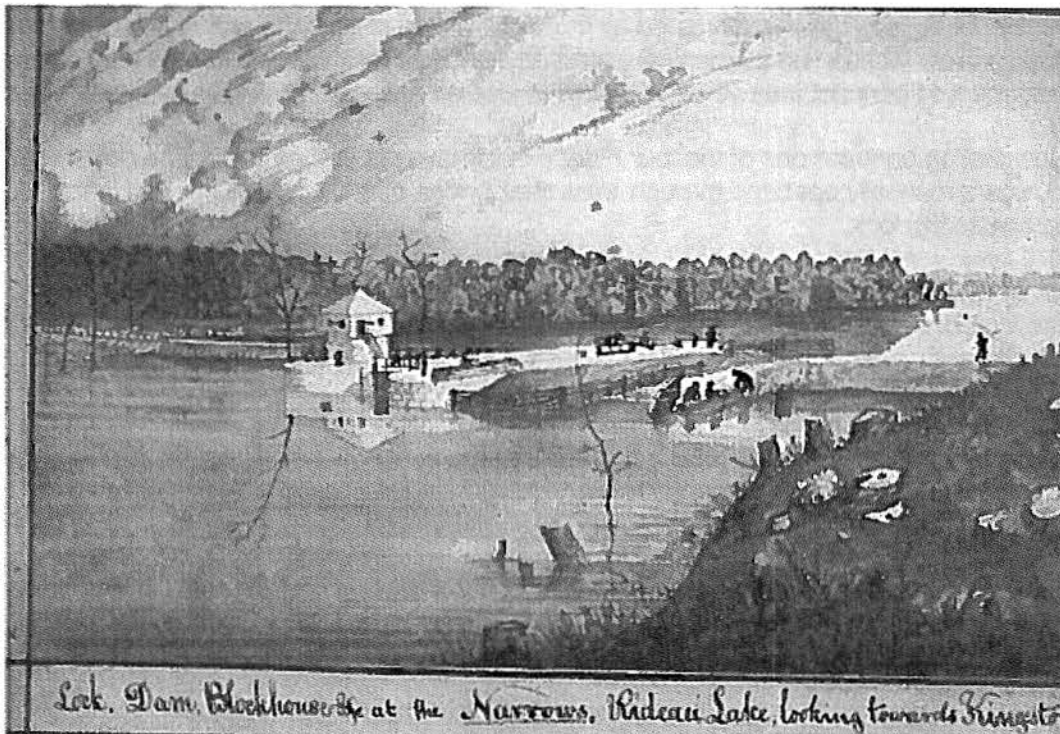
Character-Defining Elements:

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of the Narrows Lockstation landscape include:

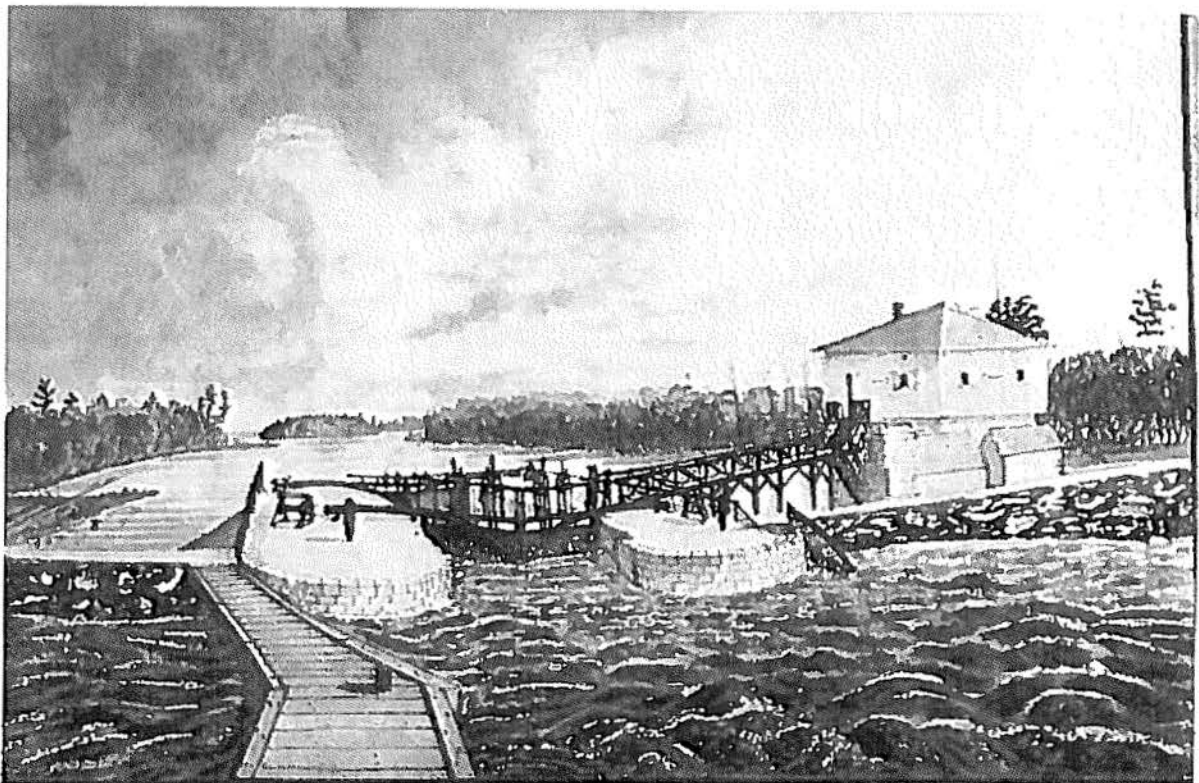
- The 1833 blockhouse, restored in the 1960s, with its pyramidal-roofed structure, thick stone lower storey and squared timber second storey with loopholes
- The 400m long earth embankment dam constructed in 1830, important in the continuing operation of the canal;
- Manually-operated 1898 through-truss swing bridge
- Narrow, linear design along the earth embankment dam
- Local road crossing north-south through the landscape
- Expansive views north and south within the lockstation and across Upper Rideau Lake and Big Rideau Lake.

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- Surviving historic layout and configuration including their open spaces and circulation patterns;
- Known and potential terrestrial archaeological resources
- Known and potential underwater archaeological resources

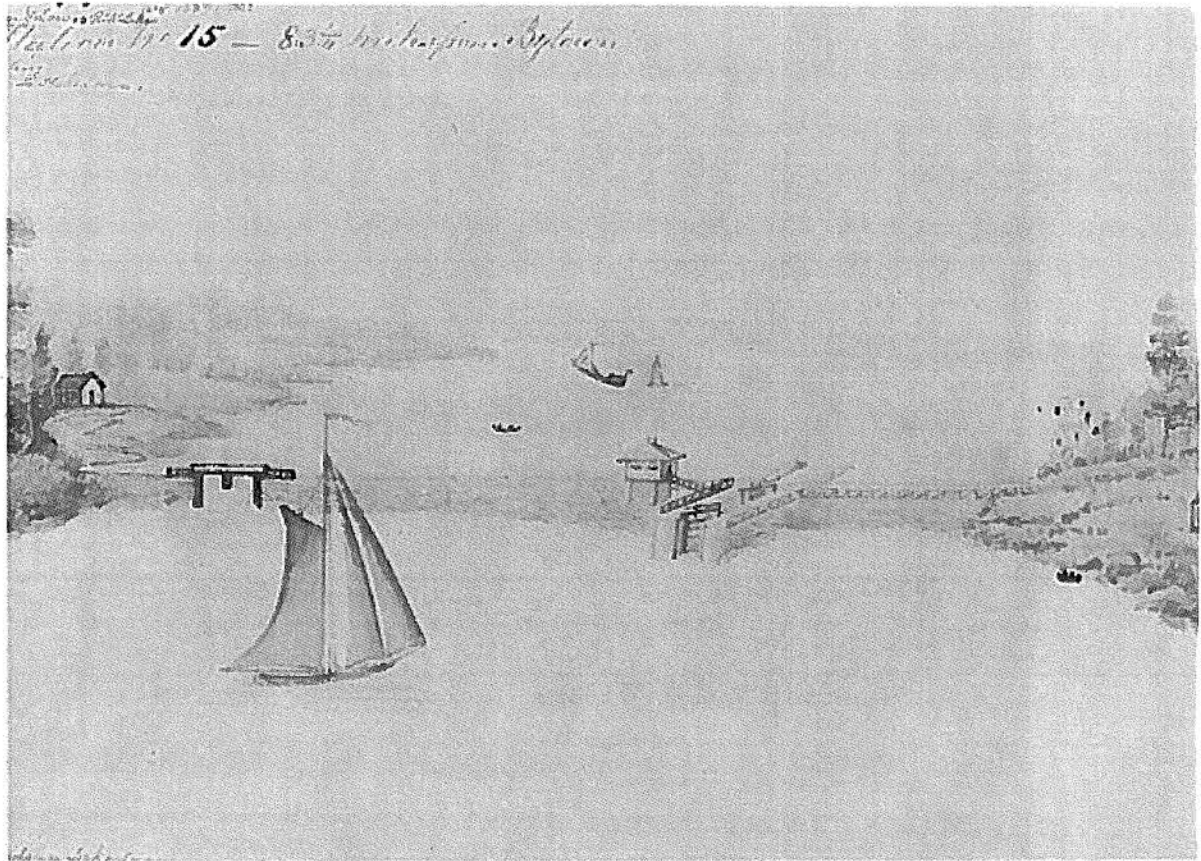


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Lock Blackhouse at the Narrows, Rideau Lake - the first descent from Summit towards Bytown

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Narrows Blockhouse with living quarter additions date unknown



View looking south to Narrows Lockstation. Date unknown.

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Narrows Blockhouse undergoing rehabilitation and restoration in 1965