

Heritage Value Statement
Upper and Lower Nicholson's Lockstation Landscape
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT September 10 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:

Nicholson's Lockstation includes two locks, lock 18 (Lower Nicholson's) and lock 19 (Upper Nicholson's), situated 385 metres apart along an excavated channel, a unique configuration on the canal designed to bypass the Rideau River's rapids and shallows.

The lower lock is at the eastern entrance of the channel, and the upper lock is located near its middle. The Nicholson's masonry spillway dam extends 76 metres across the river at the western tip of the narrow island created between the excavated channel and the river; it creates a slackwater section to Clowes Lockstation to the west.

An 1838 defensible lockmaster's house is situated overlooking the lower lock. It features a masonry first storey and framed, wood-clad second storey addition from 1900.

A manually operated king post swing bridge, a 1980s authentic replacement of the original timber bridge, carries a local road over the upper lock.

A c.1970 lock office is situated adjacent to the upper lock.

Heritage Value:

The Nicholson's 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 Nicholson's Lockstation landscape include:

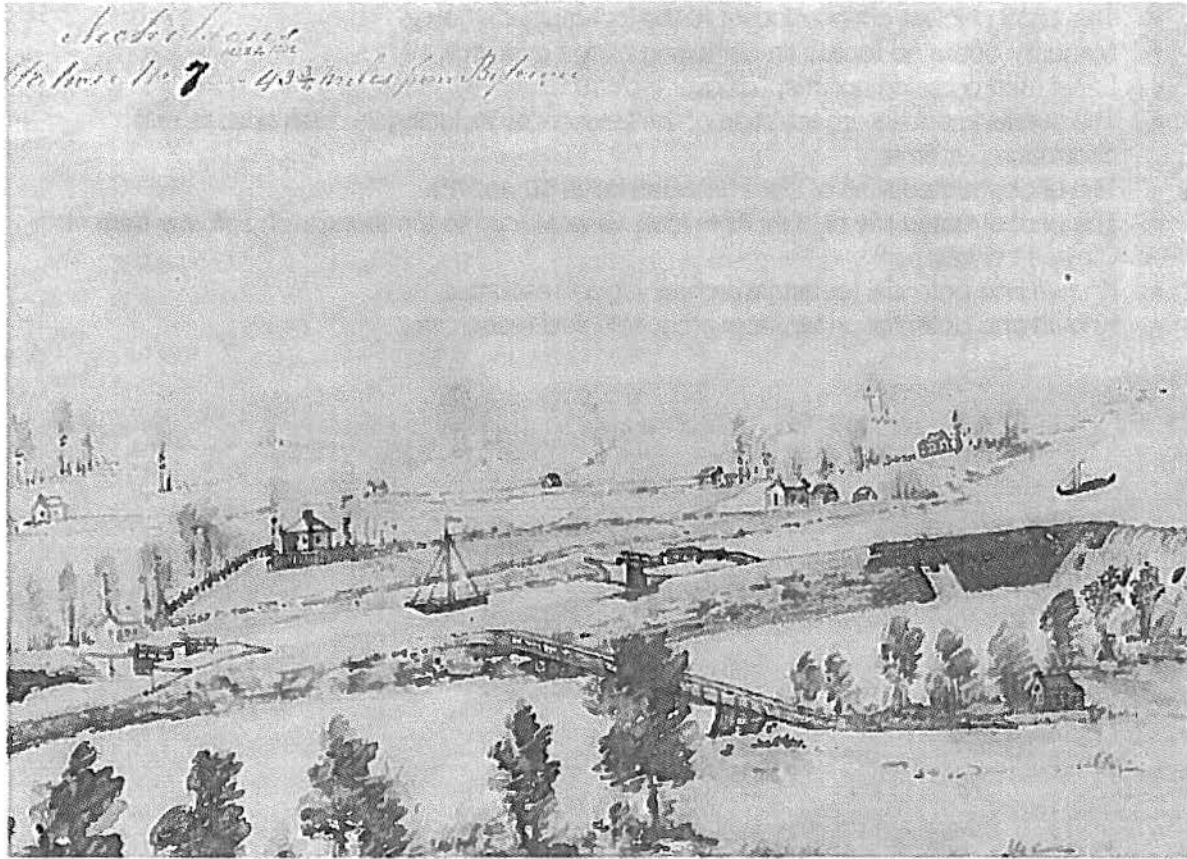
- Locks 18-19, which contributes to maintaining the original appearance and function of the canal.
- The 800m long excavated channel
- The 76 metre long masonry spillway dam, important in the continuing operation of the canal;
- The 1920 one-bay stoplog weir, important in the continuing operation of the canal;
- The location, form and scale of the 1838 lockmaster's house overlooking lock 18, with its truncated hipped roof, thick limestone first floor walls, wood-framed second storey addition and one storey summer kitchen.

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- The 1838 chicken coop adjacent to the lockmaster's house
- Manually-operated replica timber swing bridge over lock 19
- Local road crossing north-south over lock 19
- The surviving spatial organization of the landscape, including its open spaces and circulation patterns;
- The unobstructed lines of sight between locks 18 and 19
- The unobstructed line of sight from lock 19 westward to the stone arch spillway dam at Clowes Lockstation
- Known and potential terrestrial archaeological resources
- Known and potential underwater archaeological resources

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