

Heritage Value Statement
Ottawa Locks Landscape
Rideau Canal NHS
DRAFT October 1, 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 locks 1 to 8 (of which 6, 7 and 8 are cultural resources) at the northernmost end of the Rideau Canal. The landscape features the Commissariat Building, the Lock Office, and is flanked by Parliament Hill, the Chateau Laurier and the Plaza Bridge.

Heritage Value:

The Ottawa 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 Ottawa Lockstation landscape include:

- The entire engineering assemblage, which contributes to maintaining the original appearance and function of the canal, including:
 - locks 6 through 8 and locks 1 through 5, which were rebuilt in kind, the largest set of locks on the canal and an engineering feat;
 - the canal walls; and
 - the beginning of the longest excavated channel of the canal, spanning 6.4 kilometres.
- The unobstructed sight-line from lock 1 to 8.
- A landscape relatively clear of trees in what was previously a heavily wooded ravine, reflecting the military need for clear lines of sight up and down the canal.
- The location, form and scale of the 1827 Commissariat Building, with large supply doors oriented south and east to the canal.
- The location, form and scale of the 1884 Lock Office which maintains its original use and original physical and functional relationships with the nearby Commissariat Building and locks.
- The surviving spatial organization of the landscape, including its open spaces and circulation patterns.
- The archaeological remains of the engineers' building, the lime kilns, the Sapper's Bridge, and the blacksmiths' shop (those for which Parks Canada maintains ownership), associated with the original construction and operation of the canal.

Commented [NG1]: To confirm ownership – during site visit, it was suggested that PCA manages most of these