



Heritage Value Statement
Smiths Falls Lockstation – Landscape, Locks 28-31, Lockmaster's House, Stone Arch
Dam, Wood's Mill, and Lock Office
Rideau Canal National Historic Site

DRAFT July 13, 2017

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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NO MISSING INFORMATION, DOCUMENT AS IS IN FILE



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Descriptions

Landscape

The Smiths Falls Lockstation consists of a single lock near the western edge of the town, and three combined locks near the downtown core, about one kilometre to the east. The single, or detached, lock has only one canal building – a frame lock office built in 1935. There are four older canal buildings in the vicinity of the combined locks, the most prominent being a two-storey defensible lockmaster's house. Adjacent to the house is a modest garage, dating to the 20th century. The remaining buildings are situated near the old combined locks, which are no longer operational as of 1974, as they have been bypassed by a large single lock about 10 meters to the north. The two buildings include a long shed, built in 1935, and a former lock office, built in 1953. This location at



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Smiths Falls underwent significant engineering modification during the construction of the canal. The original course of the river was blocked with a stone arch dam, which is located on the north shore of the river and currently buried for the most part, and an entirely new river channel was established. In addition, the area within and adjacent to the stone arch may contain archaeological resources that may be of national historic significance.

Smith Falls Combined lock is located at Beckwith Street South, Smith Falls, ON. The original locks were constructed with a total lift of 7.6m. The combined lock was mechanized during 1972-73. During this time the work included a new lock chamber made of concrete (combining locks 28, 29 and 30), stacked timber gates, a new Lock Control Building and a new hydraulic operating system. This lock has stacked timber gates which are around 43 years old. The clear width of the lock is 33 feet and the length between the gates being 140 feet. The lock's lift is of 7.9m which is the largest on the Rideau Canal.

The basin at this site has been through many repairs from 1832 – 1969 due to leakage problems. During 1912-1913, 900 ft. wall was built on the detached side of the lock, on the south side of the basin. This wall was 8 ft. high with a four foot base tapering to two feet at the top. This wall was anchored to the rock by 1 ½ inch rods five feet long driven two feet into the rock at intervals of ten feet. A cut-off drain was constructed at the basin in 1917 to stop leakage. The 1200 ft trench ran from Abbott and Elm Streets northwards for 500ft, then eastwards for 700 ft to the creek flowing along the south side of the basin. The wall on the south side of the basin measures at 800 feet and the north wall of the basin has been replaced with concrete. Two final walls were built at the basin in 1967. A new wall on the south side of the canal basin was built along with an extended wall from the lower south wing wall of lock 31 east. This new extended lower wall was built along the site of the existing wall to the dock on the south bank of the basin, which was a total distance of 955 ft. The wall was to be 7 ft. at the base tapering to two feet at the top.

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Locks 28-31 (modern lock 29a excluded)

The locks construction is typical of the Rideau Canal; the walls, wing walls, upper and lower gate monoliths and coping are made of masonry. The lock has a 1.9 meter lift. The lock walls are made up of sandstone. The lock chamber is 41 meters long and 11 meters wide.

There has been a number of repairs done on the lock site, but there is a concerted effort to maintain the appearance of the materials used in the construction of the lock. In 1973, the timber wharf on the upper south side was replaced with a reinforced concrete wharf of 76 meters. In 1974, there was a lock restoration project carried out during the fall and winter, due to a deterioration of the masonry at and below the waterline. Since this period of time, the repairs that have been done to the lock have been minor preventative repairs. Between 1984 and 1985, the wharf on the lower north side was replaced with a 40 meter timber crib wharf.

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Defensible Lockmaster's House

The Defensible Lockmaster's House at the Smiths Falls Combined Lockstation was built in 1841 by the British Ordnance Department as part of the defence system for the Rideau Canal. In the first decades of the twentieth century, a single-storey frame summer kitchen was added to the rear, and a second storey and new front porch were added to the main structure.

Surrounded by spacious lawns, the Defensible Lockmaster's House is set back from the lock at Smiths Falls Combined Lockstation. The Smiths Falls Defensible Lockmaster's House is a two-storey, hipped-roof structure, with summer kitchen at the rear. As originally constructed, it was a single-storey hipped-roof structure, square in plan. The clapboarded second storey, with a cedar-shingle roof, maintains the simple massing of the original, while the symmetry of the main facade has been retained by balancing the original central door and flanking windows with three windows on the upper floor.

The thick limestone walls of the lower floor, which retain loopholes on either side of the main entrance, reflect the military function of the original structure and the careful construction associated with the Royal Engineers. Some of the first floor partition walls and floor joists, and the base of the hearth in the cellar also date from this period. An enclosed porch protects the main entrance. The balustraded central staircase, wood floors, and door and window trim date from the addition of the second storey in the 1920s, and are consistent with residential accommodation of the period. The change in emphasis from defence to domestic comfort reflects the change in the role of the canal itself.

The building, set back from the lock and surrounded by spacious lawns, retains the residential character of the 1920s. The house is a local landmark.

Summary of interventions:

- 1869: west facing defensible porch removed
- 1907 and 1927: frame kitchen addition at rear (south façade) built and realigned
- 1927: second storey addition with double-hung sash windows and cedar-shingle roof; casement windows on first storey changed to sash; new north entrance porch replacing defensible porch
- ND: loopholes infilled except for those on either side of front (north) door
- Post-1927 renovations: central hearth removed; new staircase and carved balustrade; two rooms each on either side of central hallway; wood floors; window and door trim

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Stone Arch Dam



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This stone arch dam, constructed in 1830, spans 91.44 metres long and 7 metres high along the south side of the present municipal parking lot adjacent to the municipal waterworks building.

Wood's Mill Complex

The Wood's Mill Complex sits on the northern extremity of Ward's Island adjacent to the waste weir channel of the Rideau Waterway at Smiths Falls.

The Wood's Mill complex consists of three structures - the West Mill, built as a grain mill in 1852-55; the East Mill, built as a grain mill in 1890-92; the base of a grain elevator also built in 1890-92; and the associated property. Grain milling, first with millstones then with roller machinery, was carried out in the complex from 1852 until it was gradually phased out in the 1930s and the buildings converted to offices and apartments.

The property was purchased by Parks Canada in 1981. Preliminary stabilization of the two mill buildings has been undertaken since then.

Lock Office - Detached

Constructed in 1935, the Lock Office at the Smiths Falls Detached Lockstation was the fourth building on the south side of the lock to serve as a storehouse/lock office. It is the only surviving building at this station that relates to the operation of the canal in this century. The building is typical of the small, frame gable-roofed lock office/storehouses constructed along the length of the canal in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Measuring 24x17 feet, it rests on a concrete foundation, and has a centrally placed door on the front (north) elevation, flanked by windows. The cellar and the poured concrete foundation may have been added in the post-1930 period. The concrete foundation permitted the terrain at the rear of the building to be lowered to facilitate a basement entrance. There are four windows in the east elevation, and four in the west, all with double-hung sashes. The interior has been extensively modified, resulting in loss of the original open character. Inside the door is a vestibule, which leads to rooms on either side used for washrooms and an office. A newer metal spiral staircase in the southwest corner provides access to the second storey, which serves as a lunchroom. The building designer/architect is unknown.

The immediate environs of the building have changed little over the years. The building retains its orientation to the canal, and the site is informally landscaped with grass. It has not been determined whether the basement access and the contours at the rear of the building are original. In the limited setting of the lock area, the building's design and colour scheme help to identify the locale as a lockstation. In the broader setting, the prominence of the building and the heritage character of the lockstation are somewhat diminished by the various modern structures, including a large, metal-clad industrial building a short distance south of the lock office. A short distance to the east, Abbot Street crosses the Rideau River, forming the eastern boundary of the station. The western boundary of the station is delineated by a railway embankment and the CNR bascule



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bridge. As a local landmark, the building would be apparent to water-based visitors because of its proximity to the lock. It is less apparent to land-based visitors in this vicinity of the town.

Heritage Value

Landscape

The lockstation landscapes of the Rideau Canal are fundamental resources of the canal system and integral to the Rideau's unique historical environment. The Canal landscapes were evaluated in terms of the retention of historic circulation patterns, the spatial inter-relationships of buildings, engineering works, open spaces and other landscape features, plus the overall impact of new features on or near the stations. The detached lockstation landscape is considered a *cultural resource of national historic significance*.

The lockstation landscapes of national significance are valued for their:

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

In addition, the combined lockstation is considered a cultural resource of other heritage value. This landscape is associated with:

- post-military operation, maintenance and administration;
- evolving use - commercial to recreational;
- evolving role with corridor communities and the heritage value of the Rideau Corridor;
- the Canal's role in a larger international canal network;
- the continuing relationship between the canal - its resources and operations - and the corridor's natural environment.

World Heritage Site

- 30m buffer zone around the World Heritage Site established to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Rideau Canal WHS.
 - Integrity and authenticity of the Rideau Canal WHS
- Consideration to strengthening visual protection outside the buffer zone, in order to ensure that visual values of the setting are protected.



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Locks 28-31 (modern lock 29a excluded)

While not in use since 1973, combined locks 28, 29, and 30 retain an exceptionally high level of integrity due to their retention of original materials. In addition, detached lock 31 continues as an operational lock. These locks are all identified by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) as *cultural resources of national historic significance*.

These engineering works are valued for their:

- direct relationship to the original construction achievement;
- contribution to the unique historical environment of the canal system;
- integral role in the continuing operation of the navigation system;
- surviving physical attributes of form, material and function;
- manual mode of operation; and
- contribution to knowledge relating to early 19th century engineering and construction techniques.

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Defensible Lockmaster's House

The Defensible Lockmaster's House at Smiths Falls is identified by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) as a *cultural resource of national historic significance*.

The lockmaster's house is valued for its:

- direct association with the construction, operation and maintenance of the canal during the military period;
- direct association with the defence of colonial Canada;
- physical evidence of the original purpose of the canal;
- functional design qualities;
- surviving physical attributes of form and material;
- contribution to the unique historical environment of the canal system; and
- contribution to the historic character of their associated lockstations.

The Defensible Lockmaster's House is also *Recognized Federal Heritage Building* because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical Value

The Defensible Lockmaster's House is a very good example of a building associated with the construction and operation of the Rideau Canal. As part of the Rideau Canal, the building illustrates military defence strategy for Upper and Lower Canada in the 19th century, and the evolution and transformation of the waterway as a federal public work. The Defensible Lockmaster's House is



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also an important representative of the formative period in the development of the Smiths Falls community. Currently, the house is a locally operated museum interpreting the historic role of the canal in the area. The Friends of the Rideau currently occupy the building.

Architectural Value

The Defensible Lockmaster's House is valued for its good aesthetic design and retains the residential character acquired during the early years of the 20th century. The second-storey addition, the summer kitchen, and interior layout reflect increased emphasis on residential design that enhanced the residential function of the building and resulted from the overall change in the function of the canal from defence to commerce and recreation. Very good functional design is evidenced in the thick defensive walls and the interior layout. Very good craftsmanship can be seen in the quality of the regularly coursed masonry of the exterior walls.

Environmental Value

The Defensible Lockmaster's House is compatible with the domestic character of its park-like setting at Smiths Falls Combined Lockstation and is a familiar landmark to local residents and visitors.

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Stone Arch Dam

The Stone Arch Dam is identified by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) as a *cultural resource of national historic significance*.

This engineering work is valued for its:

- direct relationship to the original construction achievement;
- contribution to the unique historical environment of the canal system;
- integral role in the continuing operation of the navigation system;
- surviving physical attributes of form, material and function; and
- contribution to knowledge relating to early 19th century engineering and construction techniques.

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Wood's Mill Complex

The Woods Mill Complex is considered a cultural resource of other heritage value. The complex is valued for its:

- association with the post-military operation and maintenance of the canal;
- association with working and social life on the canal;
- association with industrial activities in corridor communities;
- designation as Federal Heritage Buildings;



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- functional design qualities;
- surviving physical attributes of form and material; and
- contribution to the historic character of its associated lockstation.

The complex is associated with A.R. Ward, one of the first permanent settlers of the area and founder of the milling complex, and A. Wood, an important local entrepreneur who operated several industrial firms in the area. As an industry dependent upon water-power, the Wood's Mill complex was sited adjacent to the water course that was its power source. The Wood's Mill complex is an important landmark in the area. Despite some alterations, both aspects of the complex's siting remain clear.

The property is a very good example of a late-nineteenth-century industrial complex associated with the development and decline of the grain milling industry in eastern Ontario. The three individual buildings which comprise the complex, illustrate the evolution and adaptation of grain milling from a local service industry to one based on the processing of imported western grain and the export of the product. The decline of Wood's Mill complex further illustrates the shift in industrial development away from medium-capacity industries like Woods Mill to concentrated, high volume facilities.

The Wood's Mill complex played a key role in the industrial development of the Smiths Falls area. Today, it is one of the largest and most significant of the surviving industrial structures that at one time formed the economic base of Smiths Falls. Specifically, the mill buildings illustrate the shift in the local economy from reliance on the canal to a reliance on the railway.

The West Mill forms the largest surviving milling complex on the Rideau Canal and is the site of the Rideau Canal Visitor Information Centre and the Canal headquarters. This complex is a physical reminder of the link between Smiths Falls' origins and the Canal's construction and the opening of navigation. In addition to its nationally significant heritage value, the Rideau Waterway was known for its natural sites which supported grist mills to grind grain and sawmills to process wood. In the latter half of the 19th century, textile mills were developed at Burritt's Rapids, Merrickville, New Edinburgh (Ottawa), Perth and Smiths Falls.

The East Mill is a large, four-storey, stone building has a flat roof, unornamented exterior walls and rows of regular windows. A smaller, two-storey office wing abuts the south façade. The granary is considered as a part of the East Mill. The siting and design of the East Mill was also closely related to the urban-commercial character of Beckwith Street and played an important role both in its streetscape and in defining the edge of the commercial core of Smiths Falls.

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Lock Office - Detached

The Lock Office at Smiths Falls is considered a *cultural resource of other heritage value*, valued for its:

- association with the post-military operation and maintenance of the canal, such as a sleeping quarters for lock labourers until 1956;
- association with working and social life on the canal, such as its role as a meeting place for local men working on the Canal and its continued role in Canal-related activities and operations;
- functional design qualities;
- surviving physical attributes of form and material; and
- contribution to the historic character of its associated lockstation.

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Character-Defining Elements

Landscape

The elements of the cultural landscape at Smiths Falls, comprising the areas surrounding the Combine and Detached Locks, that contribute to its heritage value are its:

- Current historic layout and circulation pattern, including open spaces and circulation routes and pathways;
- Landforms in the landscape, such as the island on which sits the lock office, slopes and stairways;
- Design, dimensions, materials, architectural features, and finishes of the lockstation engineering works, and their footprints and profiles in the landscape, for example, the:
 - Stone Arch Dam
 - Lock offices, shed, and lockmaster buildings and outbuildings (garage)
 - Locks, both historic and modern
 - West Mill Complex
 - Basin
 - Waste weir
 - Bridges
- Historic views and visual linkages with surrounding landscapes – in cooperation with municipalities, private landowners and partners
 - key views to the site as seen from multiple positions in the navigation channel of the Rideau Canal, as well as kinetic views, approaching both from the Detached Lockstation and Combined Lockstation (see Appendix B for key views)
- Historic views within lockstation grounds (see Appendix B for key views)



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- Known and potential terrestrial and submerged archaeological resources pertaining to both indigenous and historical occupations, and evidence of construction and early operation of the canal

Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy - Landscape Character Area: Smiths Falls

"Between the Old Slys Lock and the Detached Lock through Smiths Falls, the landscape becomes increasingly more urban with views of industrial / commercial and modern development interspersed with those of the historic elements. These include the restored former mill complex that houses the Rideau Canal Visitor Information Centre and the Parks Canada Rideau Canal Headquarters Office. The riverfront includes extensive parkland on either side which connects the lockstations and other destinations."

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Locks 28-31 (modern lock 29a excluded)

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of the Smiths Falls Locks include:

- their contribution to the integrity of the landscape and the unique historical environment of the canal system;
- their manual mode of operation; and
- the form, dimensions, design and functional qualities and materials of the lock components, for example:
 - its masonry construction;
 - its overall arrangement, including angles and connections;
 - the wooden lock gates at each end of the chamber, including the type of timber as evolved over time to address the operational and durability needs of the Canal;
 - the valves and opening mechanisms;
 - the architectural signature and architectonic details, including but not limited to:
 - coursing patterns;
 - joints and their profiles;
 - iron works; and
 - bollards.

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Defensible Lockmaster's House

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of the Defensible Lockmaster's House Key include:

- Its good aesthetic, very good functional design and very good quality craftsmanship, for example:
 - the simple, square, single-storey massing;
 - the hipped roof clad with cedar shingles and the chimney;
 - the first floor exterior walls of thick evenly coursed limestone masonry and the second floor with clapboard exterior;
 - the placement of the windows and doors and the loopholes on either side of the main entrance;



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- the summer kitchen at the rear;
- the interior configuration including the central staircase with balustrades, wood floors, and door and window trim.
- The manner in which the Defensible Lockmaster's House is compatible with the domestic character of its park-like setting at Smiths Falls Combined Lockstation and is a familiar local landmark, as evidenced by:
 - its overall scale, design and materials that are compatible with its rural surroundings; and
 - its familiarity within the area due to its elevated location and role associated with the canal.

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Stone Arch Dam

Key character-defining elements contributing to the heritage value of the Stone Arch Dam include its:

- location;
- overall scale, design and materials; and
- contribution to the integrity of the landscape and the unique historical environment of the canal system.

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Wood's Mill Complex

Key character-defining elements contributing to the heritage value of the Wood's Mill Complex include:

The Complex:

- The overall unity of the design of the complex;
- Existing points of entry and circulation;
- Its adjacency to the waste weir channel and the original courtyard area at the south;
- The historical relationship of the east side to grade; and
- Its orientation to Beckwith Street.

West Mill:

- Its good aesthetic, functional design and good quality craftsmanship and materials, for example:
 - the two-and-a-half-storey massing;
 - the exterior walls of stone;
 - the mansard roof and the gable roofed dormers;
 - the regular placement of the doors, windows and the loading bay doors;
 - the interior configuration.



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- The manner in which the West Mill reinforces the commercial character of its industrial complex and streetscape setting at Smiths Falls, and is a familiar landmark in the region, as evidenced by:
 - its overall scale, design and materials, which contribute to its commercial streetscape surroundings and complement the edge of the industrial complex;
 - its visibility due to its location within the streetscape, at the edge of the commercial core and adjacent to a water channel.

East Mill:

- Its good aesthetic and good quality craftsmanship and materials, for example:
 - the four-storey massing;
 - the two-storey adjoining addition;
 - the exterior walls of uncoursed limestone blocks;
 - the heavy timber frame substructure;
 - the regular placement of the doors and evenly spaced windows; and
 - the interior configuration.
- The manner in which it reinforces the commercial character of its industrial complex and streetscape setting, and is a familiar landmark in the region, as evidenced by:
 - its overall scale, design and materials, which contribute to its commercial streetscape surroundings and complement the industrial complex; and
 - its visibility due to its location within the streetscape at the edge of the commercial core and adjacent to a bridge and water channel.

Granary:

- Its overall form and materials;
- Its previous functional relationship with the two mill buildings;
- Its role in defining the space between the two mills and the courtyard;
- Its stone walls and the surviving elements of the heavy timber frame of its substructure;
- The timber superstructure (removed);
- Its roof (modified); and
- Its role in circulation from one mill to the other through the ground floor.

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Lock Office - Detached

Key character-defining elements contributing to the heritage value of the Detached Lockstation Lock Office include:

- Its small-scale frame construction, typical of canal lock office/storehouses constructed in the early 20th centuries;



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- The gable roof;
- The centrally placed door on the north elevation, flanked by windows;
- The cellar and poured concrete foundation;
- The modified terrain at the rear of the building to facilitate the basement entrance;
- The number, placement, and type of windows;
- The original open character of the interior; and
- The metal spiral staircase in the southwest corner.

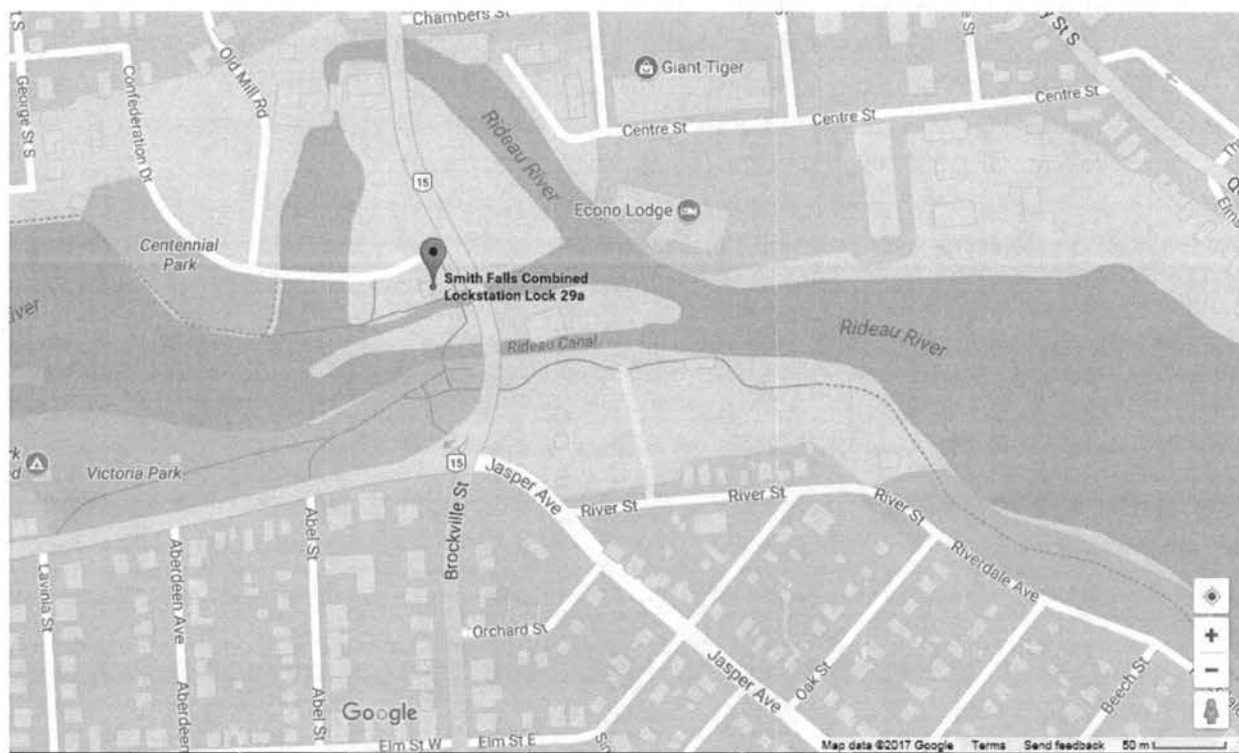
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Appendix A – Photos and Maps

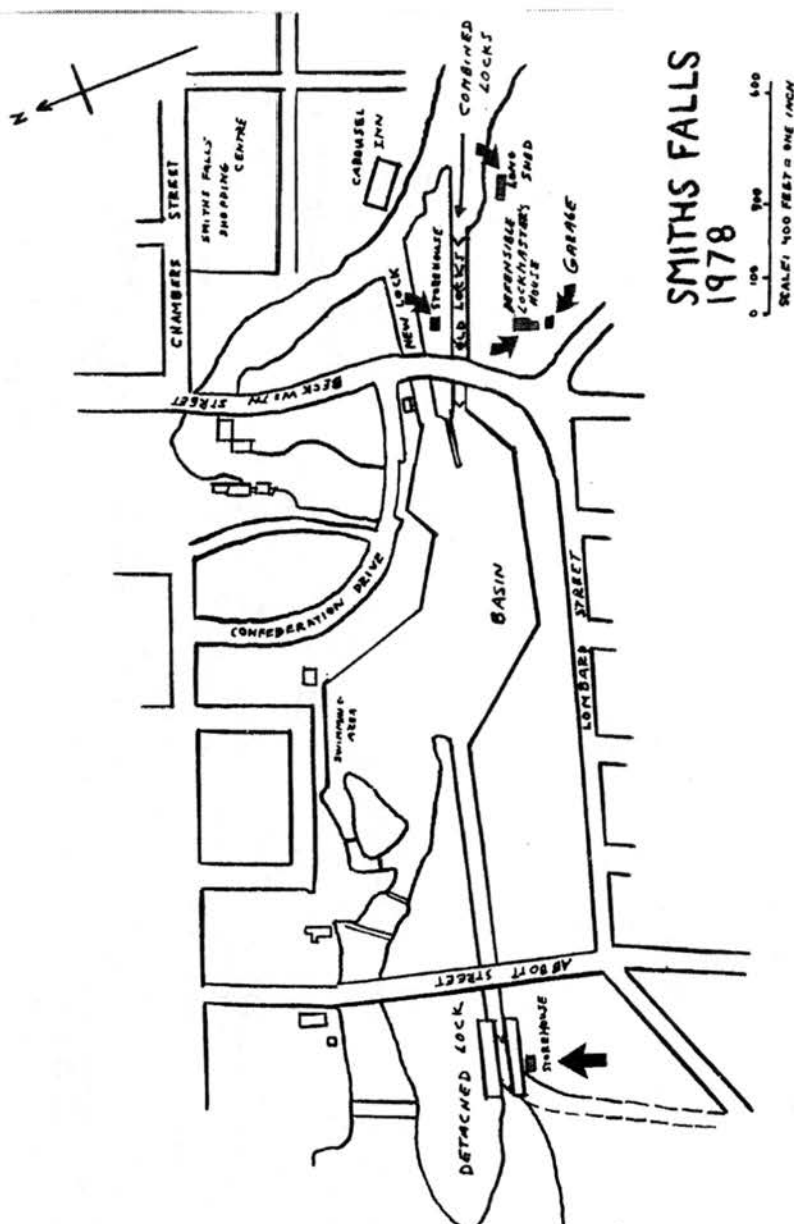


Google Maps 2017



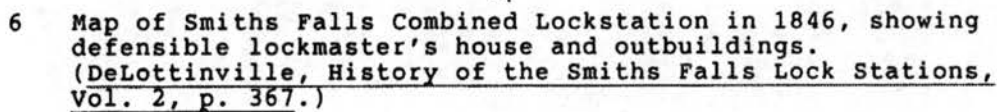
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- 1 Map of Smiths Falls, showing buildings under review at the Detached and Combined lockstations. (Peter DeLottinville, *A History of the Smiths Falls Lock Stations, 1827-1978*, Manuscript Report Series No. 373 [Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1979], Vol. 2, p. 383.)

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Figure 1: on left hand side, original lock and on the right is the new lock 29A



Figure 2: Original lock 1960



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Figure 1 - Looking South over the Falls

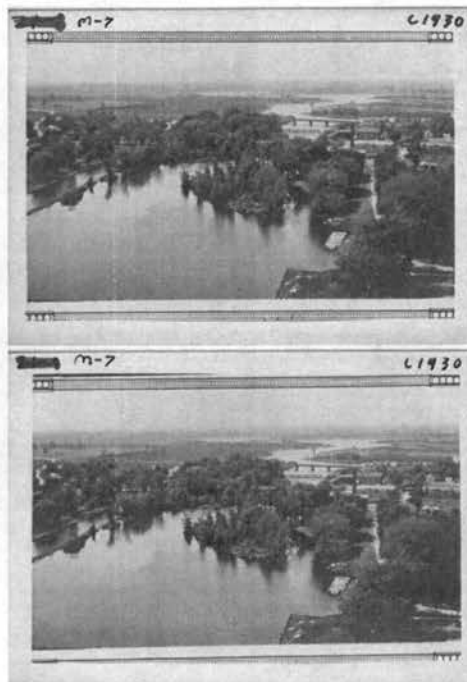


Figure 2- Basin



Figure 4 - Stone Arch Dam as seen from Municipal Parking Lot



Figure 3 - Stone Arch Dam partially legible surrounding the municipal parking lot



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Defensible Lockmaster's House

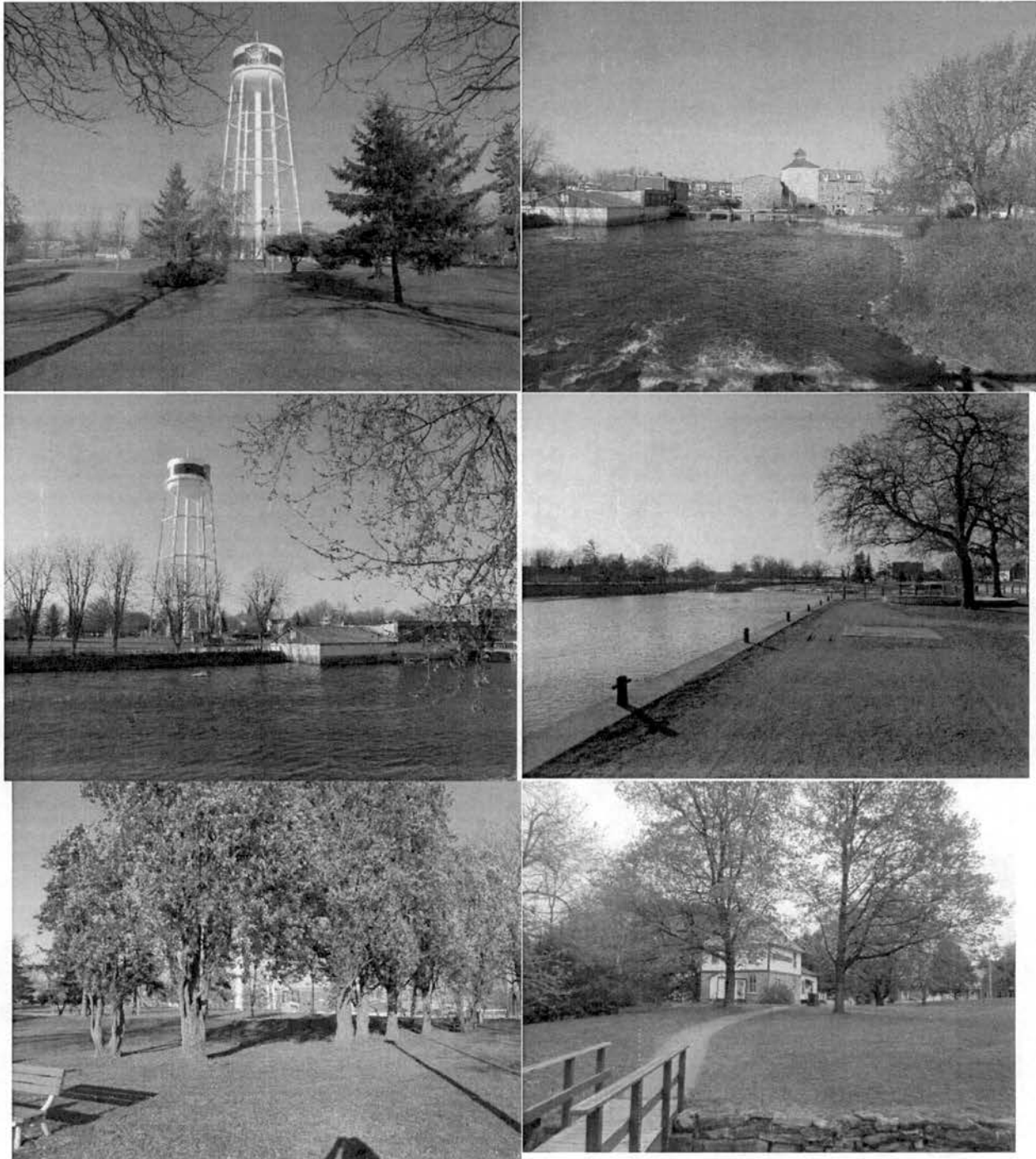
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Heritage Value Statement
Smiths Falls Lockstation – Landscape, Locks 28-31, Lockmaster's House, Stone Arch
Dam, Wood's Mill, and Lock Office
Rideau Canal National Historic Site

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Appendix B – Key Views



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