

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Defensible Lockmaster's House at Clowes Lockstation was built in 1838 by the Royal Engineers in support of the Rideau Canal system. A frame extension was added to one side before around turn-of-the-century. The building continues its historic function as a residence for canal staff. The Canadian Parks Service is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 91-79.

Reasons for Designation

The building was designated Recognized as a result of its historical associations, its functional design and craftsmanship, and the character of the site.

The defensible lockmaster's house at Clowes is one of only a few on the Rideau Canal still retaining its original single-storey defensible design, reflecting the military role of the Canal in the defence of the united Canadas during the nineteenth century. Among the earliest of its type constructed on the Canal, the house is an important representative of the period. The frame addition, designed to enhance the residential function of the building, represents the changing role of the canal by the twentieth century from that of defence to that of commerce and recreation.

The house retains its turn-of-the-century domestic character in a peaceful rural setting.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this structure is defined by its combination of defensible and domestic design features, its materials and craftsmanship, and its contribution to the environment.

The main section of the Clowes Defensible Lockmaster's House exhibits the functional form of its building type as designed by the British military. It forms a simple mass -- square in plan, one storey in height topped by a hipped roof, with a symmetrical front facade. The thick limestone walls reflect the military function of the original structure and exemplify the careful construction associated with the Royal Engineers. The single-storey clapboard addition is well integrated with the main structure -- set back from the front facade, with the columns of its full-length verandah repeating the columned front entrance porch.

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The house, in an elevated setting away from the lock chamber, is the sole remaining original building at the lockstation. As such, it contributes significantly to the historic ambience, and is a local landmark. The overall form, historic materials, and setting of this property should be maintained.

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