

Rideau Canal, Ontario
Storehouse/Lock Office
Davis Lockstation

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Storehouse/Lock Office at Davis Lockstation was built in 1874-75 in support of the operation of the Rideau Canal as a transportation system. It was repaired and renovated in 1982. Environment Canada Parks Service is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-157.

Reason For Designation

The Davis Storehouse/Lock Office was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its design and choice of materials, and its environmental qualities.

The storehouse/lock office building type, of which this structure is an early example, is associated with the post-Confederation operation of the Rideau Canal by the federal government. The Davis property has the distinction of serving its original function since its construction. The building illustrates the lockstation development in the late 19th century and is associated with the growth of the nearby resort community. It is also associated with the development of a resort community on Sand Lake in the late 19th century.

The Davis property is the oldest surviving example on the Rideau Canal of storehouse/lock office design, and is unusual in having post and beam construction.

The natural isolated character of the building's environment has been carefully preserved.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by its exterior form and materials, the use of post and beam construction and the historic nature of its environment.

The Storehouse/Lock Office at Davis is a well-preserved example of the late-19th century form: one-and-a-half storeys, with gable-roof and rectangular plan. The upper storey is reached by an exterior wooden staircase typical of the building type at that time.

The structure is clad in the vertical board-and-batten wood siding characteristic of late-19th century examples. Later storehouse/lock office buildings are clapboarded. The post and beam construction with pegged connecting beams employed in this building is atypical, as most examples on the canal have conventional stud framing. The foundation is dry stone that has been subsequently mortared. As the oldest surviving example of its type on the canal

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and because of its unusual construction, this building should be carefully maintained. In particular, its basic external form should not be modified and a regular program of inspection and maintenance of materials should be established.

The environment of the Davis Lockstation has been protected from modern intrusions. The storehouse, located near the lock chamber, is a noticeable feature in the landscape. The isolated historic character of the setting should be maintained.