

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

FHBRO Number 93-30

DFRP Number 09431

Recognized Federal Heritage Building

ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK, Ontario

Water Tower

Batterman's Point, Hill Island

The Water Tower was constructed around 1920, one of four extant buildings at Batterman's Point built at that time as outbuildings for a large 19th-century summer home demolished in 1982. The designer of the Water Tower is unknown. The Water Tower was refurbished in the early 1990s with new cedar shingle siding and roof. Parks Canada is the custodian.

Reasons for Designation

The Water Tower has been designated "Recognized" because of its historical and architectural significance:

Historical Significance

Due to its function as an outbuilding for a grand cottage property in the Thousand Islands area, the Water Tower is associated with the cottage movement in Canada and the area's distinction as one of North America's most prestigious cottage regions. The Water Tower was likely constructed around 1920 by a subsequent owner of the cottage property, Wallis Bird. As one of four extant structures dating from the early 20th century on the property, the Water Tower is a visible reminder of Batterman's Point's grand past.

Architectural Significance

The Water Tower is an interesting example of the application of Rustic architectural motifs to a highly functional structure. It incorporates local materials, Tudor Revival elements and whimsical detailing to achieve a highly pleasing and picturesque design. The decision to apply decorative elements to this utilitarian structure demonstrates the owner's wealth and the owner's commitment to the Rustic Picturesque aesthetic that dominated cottage design throughout the 20th century.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Water Tower resides in the following character-defining elements:

- The picturesque quality of the Water Tower, as expressed through its tapered cylindrical shape, low-pitched conical roof, cedar-shingle cladding and rubble-stone base.

All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should respect these character-defining elements.

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.