

Rideau Canal, Ontario
Lockmaster's House
Davis Lockstation

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Lockmaster's house at Davis Lockstation was built in 1842 by the British Ordnance Department as a defensible residence for the lockmaster. An addition was constructed in 1890 and another in 1899. Environment Canada, Canadian Parks Service is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 88-80.

Reason for Designation

The building was designated Recognized because of its important historical associations, its architectural and functional design, the quality of its materials and craftsmanship, and for its environmental qualities.

Davis Lockmaster's house has strong associations with the Rideau defensive system and with the early history of the Davis Lockstation.

The building is an exceptionally well preserved example of its type, retaining many of the characteristics of its original design and functions, both military and residential. The modifications and additions over time, evident in both its design and materials of construction, are clear indicators of its evolution away from its military role toward the later predominantly residential use.

Despite changes in the vegetation, the building continues to dominate the site from its position on high ground.

Character Defining Elements

The Lockmaster's house is a single storey, hipped-roof dwelling with frame additions. The exterior of the building is marked by diversity of form and material - expressive of its function and evolution.

The heritage value of the building resides in those features which characterize it as a dual purpose structure, military and residential, and which illustrate its evolution over time.

Although the building's military efficiency has been compromised somewhat by the construction of the additions, installation of basement windows, re-orientation from south to west, and removal of one porch, these would appear to have been appropriate patterns of evolution - respectful of original design while adapting to changing requirements and patterns of use.

Those features which recall the building's military function include its classical hipped roof, symmetrical elevation and central gabled porch, masonry construction, and loopholes at each elevation. Its more residential aspects includes replacement sash windows and several cove-sided frame additions, one shed roofed, the other gabled.

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Lockmaster's House (Continued)

The priority for this property is to maintain form, design, and materials as they have evolved over time. Any alterations should enhance the special qualities of the property. If not already in place, a program of regular inspection and maintenance would be highly appropriate.

The house has retained its visual relationship with the lockstation as the largest and most prominent building on the property. This characteristic should be retained.

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