

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
STOREHOUSE, HARTWELLS LOCKSTATION, RIDEAU CANAL**

FHBRO number: **91 -1 33**
DFRP number: **09412**
Resource name: **Storehouse**
Address: **Hartwells Lockstation, Rideau Canal, Ottawa, Ontario**
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1937**
Designer: **No designer identified**
Original function: **Storage**
Current function: **Storage**
Modifications: **Minor repairs to exterior and landscape**
Custodian: **Parks Canada**

Reasons for Designation

The storehouse at Hartwells Lockstation is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value:

The storehouse at Hartwells Lockstation is associated with the construction and operation of the Rideau Canal, a National Historic Site. Overall, the canal illustrates firstly the theme of military defence strategy for the Canadas in the second quarter of the 19th century, and secondly the subsequent evolution and transformation of the waterway as a federal public work.

The storehouse is associated particularly with the later phases of waterway operation from the beginning of the 20th century, in conjunction with redevelopment of a timber pond and lay-by, used for winter storage of a floating plant for lock construction on the canal. The storehouse was built in 1937, to replace a 1910 structure of similar form at the same location that had been destroyed by fire in 1936. It is the last of the early 20th-century constructions at the lockstation and as part of the complex is as well a notable feature in the local development and landscape of Gloucester Township, now absorbed into the City of Ottawa.

Architectural value:

The storehouse’s value lies in its evocation of a simple, domestic form. It is an elaborated variation of the storey-and-a-half, clapboard-clad, frame lockstation structures built alongside the Rideau waterway in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is similar in exterior aspect and plan to the farmhouses of the middle to late 19th century in the region, with an L-shaped plan, side-facing gabled walls with windows at both floor levels, and a gabled rear extension. There are doorways at both northeast and southwest corners.

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Its principal elevation faces eastward to the canal, with a central single doorway flanked symmetrically by window openings covered by removable panels painted to resemble double-hung windows. The same window treatment extends to the symmetrically arranged windows on the other gabled elevations. In recent years, the exterior walls have been painted white, with dark corner boards and window trim, following the treatment of other lockstation structures. The ground floor is divided into two large storage areas, and the upper floor into six rooms. Interior walls are lined with wainscoting.

Environmental value:

Its relationship to the canal and the former gully remains relatively unaltered. The storehouse sits squarely at the water's edge where a lay-by constructed in 1938 from a former gully joins the canal proper. The landscaping around the lockstation itself has been groomed and embellished from its earlier rural state. The location, at some distance from the other lockstation structures and not publicly accessible, is flat and exposed, with a visual prominence from the water. As the City of Ottawa has expanded, the station's larger context has changed from its original agricultural environment, with the institutional campus of Carleton University on the east bank of the waterway. Its surroundings are mostly paved surfaces, with small areas of lawn which reinforce the overall lockstation landscape.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Storehouse at Hartwells Lockstation should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the transformation of the Rideau Canal from a defensive work into a public waterway system is reflected in:

- its continuing functional role in lockstation operation in the later periods of Rideau Canal operation, including support for repair functions at other locks;
- its replication of an earlier form from the beginning of the 20th century; and
- its material evocation of the local rural past of the region.

Its incorporation of workplace functions over a long period in a traditional residential form and style as manifested in:

- its clapboard-clad, gable-roof domestic exterior form typical both of structures throughout the Rideau system and of rural housing in the wider region;
- the symmetries and materials of its principal elevations; and
- its relation to an architectural type found at other locations along the Rideau Canal.

The manner in which it reinforces the waterside and the partly rural character of the setting as evidenced in:

- its location and visual contribution to a coherent appearance of building and landscape setting;

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- its attractive, publicly accessible, and working landscape at the water's edge; and
- its role as a long-standing and prominent visual landmark, from both water and land.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the FHBRO Code of Practice. For further information contact FHBRO.

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