

Rideau Canal, Ontario
Defensible Lockmaster's House
Old Slys Lockstation

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Defensible Lockmaster's House was built at Old Slys Lockstation in 1838 by the Royal Engineers in support of the Rideau Canal system. Modifications to the interior were undertaken in the 1960s. The Canadian Parks Service is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 91-75.

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.

This defensible lockmaster's house is one of the few on the canal still retaining its original single-storey defensible design, reflecting the military role of the Rideau Canal in the defence of the united Canadas during the nineteenth century. Among the earliest of its type constructed on the Rideau Canal, the house represents the canal's formative period. The construction of the Old Slys lockstation prompted the development of several mills and a small community in the vicinity.

The house contributes significantly to the historic character of the setting.

Character Defining Elements

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

The Old Slys Defensible Lockmaster's House exhibits the functional form of its building type as designed by the British military -- a single-storey, hipped-roof stone structure, with simple cubical massing and a symmetrical front facade. The building retains its original thick limestone walls and original roof framing, attesting to the military function of the structure and to the careful construction associated with the Royal Engineers.

The buildings, in a pleasant park-like setting, retains its original orientation to the canal. As a prominent component of the lockstation, it is a local landmark. The overall form, historic materials, and setting of this property should be maintained.

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