

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

CANAL <u>Rideau Canal</u>		STRUCTURE <u>Narrows</u> <u>Blackhouse</u>	HAER CONDITION <u>Excellent</u>
STATE <u>Ontario</u> COUNTY <u>Leves</u>		DESIGNER(S): <u>Royal Engineers</u>	CONTRACTOR/BUILDER <u>Wm H Tott</u>
CITY/TOWN <u>The Narrows</u>		SOURCE OF MATERIALS <u>Local</u>	
STREET <u>Leves County Rd # 10</u>		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
ASSOCIATED WATERWAY <u>Upper Rideau Lake Rideau C.</u>		START <u>Contract 26 Dec 1831</u> COMPLETION <u>late 1833</u>	
NAME OF 7.5 MIN USGS QUAD		REBUILDING <u>1967-69</u> ABANDONED	
UTM COORDINATES			

HISTORY & USE IN SERVICE; USE SINCE ABANDONMENT:

- one of 4 such structures on canal to defend works against possible American attack - in this case a dam which raised level of Upper Rideau by 4'
- built under contract on dam
- capacity described in 1852 Imperial Report as 20 men - in fact at only occupants seem to have been lockmaster and family and perhaps at times the lock labourers - military stores were minimal
- never used for military purpose
- addition made in 1860s to make it more comfortable - later addition ca. 1930
- served as lockmaster's residence till 1963 when new house built
- 1967 addition removed and blackhouse "restored" by Ministry of Transport

DESCRIPTION (Visible remains at the site):

- 24 foot square stone structure of 1 storey surmounted by 28 foot square second storey of timber construction - roof of cedar shingles
- outside timber stairs leading to second storey
- gun ports and loops in timber work
- door (not original) in bottom storey leading to public washrooms
- upper storey adapted to office use for lockmaster & lockman

OTHER WORKS OR EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH SITE:

- Narrows dam (1831)
- Narrows lock (1831)
- Steel swing bridge (1965)

PRESENT PROPERTY OWNERS: PARKS CANADA

LOCATION OF DEED DESCRIPTION:

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs):

- Barbara A. Humphrey "The Architectural Heritage of the Rideau Corridor" in CHS No. 10, 11th, 1974 pp. 11-71
- Judith Tulloch "Administrative and Structural History of the Rideau Canal 1833-1914" Mss. prepared for Research Division, Parks Canada, in process of publication in CHS
- Karen Price "Construction of the Rideau Canal" Mss. on file at Parks Canada

AGENCIES, INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: PARKS CANADA

NATIONAL REGISTER, HAER, OTHER RECOGNITION: National Historic Site

INVESTIGATION MADE BY: S.J. Gillis, Research Division, Parks Canada, Rn 11243 DATE: 2-1-76

ADDRESS: Indian Northern Affairs, Ottawa

RETURN TO: ACS CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549

IF AT ALL FEASIBLE, A PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE REVERSE SIDE. A SKETCH MAP OF THE SITE IN RELATION TO SURROUNDING AREA WOULD ALSO HELP.