

Rideau Canal, Ontario  
**Colonel By Island Cottage**  
Big Rideau Lake

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The cottage at Colonel By Island was constructed in 1949 as a vacation retreat by Daniel Arnstein to designs prepared by Horace Roberts. The building was later acquired by Parks Canada and is now used as a caretaker's residence and public washrooms. The Environment Canada Parks Service is the custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Reports 88-1 48 and 88-148 (supplementary).

### **Reason for Designation**

The building was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its architectural significance, and its environmental qualities.

The cottage is an excellent example of a Canadian summer home of wealthy and prominent Americans situated in a rural setting. As such it is associated with the development of tourism and the evolution of recreation-oriented areas.

A relatively early and very good example of the International Style, the building displays many of the characteristics of the style as found in residential design on both the exterior and interior, including some adaptations, through the use of materials, to a cottage locale.

The site, practically unaltered, retains most of its original character.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage value of Colonel By Island Cottage resides in the quality of its International Style architecture and planning, the materials of its construction and in the quality of its environment.

The cottage is a single storey building with strong horizontal massing with intersecting elements placed at right angles in both plan and elevation. The building's horizontality is emphasized by its linear, stepped roof planes, deeply projecting eaves and the terrace. Floor-to-ceiling glass windows stretch along the main elevation. Two large fieldstone chimneys provide contrast in form, composition and materials.

The architecture of the interior - planning, layout, finishes, details and fittings - is as significant as that of the exterior. The building plan has three main elements - service area, bedroom wing and the public spaces. The focal point of the interior is the living

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room/dining room area one space running into the other, typical of International Style

planning. The massive fieldstone fireplaces are the major architectural features in this area and provide the major spatial divisions.

The cottage employs fine craftsmanship from its period. The use of some regional materials - fieldstone masonry, fumed grained plywood, subtly refer the building to the locale and the cottage function for which it was built.

It is important that both the overall design and individual elements of the building be carefully protected as an integrated expression of International Style architecture with its characteristic massing, planning and materials. Original materials including the walls, windows, interior finishes and remaining built-in furnishings should be conserved and repaired with priority given to the preservation of original fabric. The interior of the building would be considerable enhanced by the reinstatement of original colours.

The environment of the Colonel By Island cottage is characterized by cleared, rolling lawns which slope down to the water offering fine views from the large glazed public rooms of the building.

May 30, 1991