

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT MASSEY HOMESTEAD (GROUPING), GRENADIER ISLAND, ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK, ONTARIO

FHBRO number: **93-027**
DFRP number: **09431**
Resource name: **Massey Homestead Complex**
Address: **East Grenadier Island, St. Lawrence Islands National Park**
FHBRO status: **Complex of 7 buildings designated collectively as "Recognized"**
Construction: **Farm house (1917-28); ice or milk house (1930); privy (n.d.); chicken coop (n.d.); a pump house (n.d.); a calving barn (n.d.); large barn (n.d.)**

Designer: **Farm House – William Slate**
Original function: **Homestead**
Current function: **Unoccupied**
Modifications: **Not known**
Custodian: **Parks Canada Agency**

Description of Historic Place

The Massey Homestead consists of a complex of seven simple, vernacular, wood frame buildings with wood siding including a farm house, an ice or milk house, a privy, a chicken coop, a pump house, a calving barn, and a large barn. The Massey Homestead is located towards the eastern end of Grenadier Island, which is one of a series of islands found on the St. Lawrence River between Lake Ontario and Brockville. The designation is confined to the footprints of the individual buildings.

Heritage Value

The Massey Homestead consists of a complex of seven buildings designated collectively as "Recognized" for their historical associations, and architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

The Massey Homestead Complex is associated with the national historic theme of the agricultural development of the St. Lawrence Islands prior to 1914 and the establishment of the St. Lawrence Islands National Park. The Massey Homestead also illustrates an important phase in the development of the St. Lawrence Islands National Park, that is, the evolution of the St. Lawrence Islands from an agriculturally based economy to one dependent on tourism. The Massey Homestead is also associated with the Heffernan family who owned and operated a very popular local eating house called Canusa between the early 1930s and 1961, which they supplied from the farm.

Architectural value:

The complex of residential and farm buildings of the Massey Homestead are a good example of 19th and early 20th century agricultural architecture. The Homestead's residential buildings consist of the farm house, privy, and pump house which is located over the well, and the farm buildings consist of the chicken coop, large barn, calving barn and the ice/milk house. With the exception of the ice/milk house, the farm buildings are grouped together to form a courtyard with an earthen ramp leading to the large barn, which is a standard functional arrangement of farm outbuildings. The ice/milk house is located adjacent to the farm house and is intrinsic to the

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operation of the former dairy. Simple, utilitarian, wood frame buildings clad with wood siding (with the exception of the calving barn), these buildings are all characterized by good quality craftsmanship and materials, and are generally devoid of decorative detailing.

Environmental value:

The complex of seven buildings, which comprise the Massey Homestead, reinforce the pastoral character of Grenadier Island's rural setting by virtue of their vernacular design, scale and materials. The Massey Homestead has some local landmark value owing to its location and close proximity to the island's township road, and its accessibility to boaters and hikers using the park's walking trail.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the complex of seven buildings, which comprise the Massey Homestead, should be respected:

Their simple, agricultural architecture, functional design and good quality materials and craftsmanship, as manifested in:

- the buildings' small scale and simple, rectilinear massing with either a gable or a shed roof;
- the design of the large barn including the gable roof, wood structure, stone foundation, and interior layout which are characteristic of a –bank- barn;
- the use of a wood frame structure clad with wood siding consisting of either clapboard, shiplap, vertical or board and batten;
- in general, the plain, utilitarian layout and treatment of the building interiors; as well as,
- the interior layout of the ice/milk house which consists of a two chamber ice house with a cool chamber for milk or meat.

The manner in which the complex of seven buildings, which comprise the Massey Homestead, reinforce the pastoral character of Grenadier Island's rural setting, as evidenced in:

- the complex's barnyard layout and its contribution to the picturesque setting; and,
- its landmark value as a tourist destination.

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

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