

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

Brock's Monument commemorating Major General Sir Isaac Brock was erected in 1853 on the site of the 1812 Battle of Queenston Heights. The result of a competition, it was designed by William Thomas (1800-1860), a leading Canadian Neoclassical architect and engineer of the time, and built by J. Worthington, a contractor of Toronto. The Environment Canada Parks Service is the custodian of the monument.

See FHBRO Building Report 89-18.

## **Reasons for Designation**

This monument was designated Classified because of its association with the commemoration of an event of prime significance in the founding of Canada and because of its architectural design.

Sir Isaac Brock was killed at the Battle of Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812, at the defeat of the invading American forces and is therefore considered to be the founding hero of Upper Canada. The monument replaces an earlier nearby monument to the same event, dated 1823, but destroyed in 1840 by one of the participants in the Rebellion of 1837, who had objected to its Tory associations. The 1853 monument was funded by public subscription from all parts of Upper Canadian society. It was thus a monument to the strongly nationalist Canadian sentiments of the 1850s.

Brock's Monument remains close to its original form, unique in Canada to this day, in excellent condition and an outstanding example of Neoclassical design. It is a major historic element of the Niagara Falls park system.

## **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character resides in the entirety of the monument, its composition, proportions, fine sculptural details, construction material - local Queenston limestone - and its surrounding terrace and landscape.

The composition includes a platform slightly elevated above the surrounding landscaped grounds which is enclosed within a dwarf wall. The corners of the wall are adorned with stylized figure-like statues. The monument itself rises from a basement of rusticated stone into which a heavy oak door with bronze paterae is set. This square base is surmounted by three other segments, each separated by moulded

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massive fluted column above. The most sculptural portion of the monument is the highly worked capital and the stone statue of Brock mounted on a short pedestal above that. The interior houses a gallery space and a stone block circular staircase that leads to the viewing deck at the top of the monument.

All elements of this heritage structure should be carefully preserved. A regular maintenance program developed by a stone conservation specialist would contribute to the longevity of this historic monument.

Brock's Monument dominates the view of the Niagara escarpment from many directions. The visual axis should not be compromised. The surrounding park development which complements the monumental aspect of the structure should be maintained. Introduction of new elements in the landscape should respect the heritage character of the site.

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