

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

### SUMMARY

Kincora Lodge was built in 1930 for Ottawa businessman Ambrose O'Brien on the south-west shore of Meech Lake to plans drawn by architect W.E. Noffke. The only example of a large scale log house on Meech Lake, the building conveys a feeling of rusticity created by its use of rough cedar shingles and false log siding. It is one of two large scale summer residences owned by the government at the southwest end of Meech Lake, which is occasionally used for conferences.

### ARCHITECTURE

It is a two-and-one-half storey structure with a hipped roof, sided in shingles and false logs, giving it a consciously rustic appearance, and which design is reminiscent of the Queen Anne style, although perhaps more influenced by the vogue of the 1920s for the log cabin. The house presents an eclectic group of architectural features. The south facade has two offset pyramidally roofed towers on the second floor, one facing the lake, the other the hills. On the third floor, dormer windows pierce the roofline. On the west and south facades, a terrace flanks the buildings, where the foundation walls reach a height of about fifteen feet. Above the stone, the frame building is sheathed with wooden siding, milled to resemble logs. The combination of indigenous stone and various building materials creates an impression of rusticity.

### HISTORY

When Ambrose O'Brien built his house on the promontory of Meech Lake, the neighbouring Willson House (1907) was his only neighbour. As such, the house was associated with the development of the Gatineau Hills, and because of the social position of its owner its contribution to the later development of the Meech lake area was important. The O'Brien family owned Confederation Construction which built the National Transcontinental Railway through the Crown's Nest Pass. In total, the O'Brien family were owners or part owners of about 173 companies. They also shared an enthusiasm for professional sports, especially hockey, which they backed generously. In 1909, they started a new hockey league called the National Hockey Association. One of the early teams in the League was the Renfrew Millionaires and another was the legendary Montreal Canadiens.

### ENVIRONMENT

Located on a promontory above Meech Lake, the view from the front terrace of the O'Brien House enables the visitor to see most of the cottages and recreational area of the lake.

November 27, 1984