

Address: 1211 Mansell Road 2, Rebecca Lake

Legal Description: Part Lot 5, Concession 16 of RP BR 1207, Sinclair

Original Owner: N/A

Year Built: 1915

Architectural Styles: Ontario Vernacular

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:



Mansell property is part of an early 20th century 196 acre family development located on the pristine shores of Rebecca Lake that is representative of the rustic Muskoka heritage and of a valued family legacy.

The property purchased in 1912 was used as a fishing and hunt camp with lodging provided by a three-room canvas tent which was typical of that era and representative of the historic development of Muskoka and Lake of Bays in particular as a tourist resource and retreat. The existing, almost century old hand-crafted log cabins were built by materials harvested and sourced from the property in 1915 by local craftsman exhibiting the vernacular architecture that was indigenous to this specific area and time period.

The hand-crafted log cabins were constructed in an interlocking saddle notch method of hand-hewn spruce trees harvested from the property and weather sealed with mortar chinking in the form of tuck-pointing between the logs by Richard Mansell who is also attributed with doing the tuck pointing on Toronto's famed Casa Loma; Original icehouse structure that was transported by skidding it across the frozen lake by a team of horses.

Contextual value is demonstrated with the orientation and design of the "Sunset Cabin" such that during the summer solstice, the sunset is perfectly aligned between the front entrance and the rear entrance of the cabin, hence the name.



Designation Date: March 10, 2009
Designation By-law: 09-33