

Bicquette Island, Quebec
Lighthouse

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Bicquette Island Lighthouse, which stands 74 feet tall, was erected in 1844 to plans by Charles Atherton, the engineer under contract with Trinity House. Around 1900, the stone masonry structure was clad in wood to shield it from the ravages of weather. The building is the property of the Department of Transport. See FHBRO Building Report 87-88.

Reasons for Designation

Bicquette Island Lighthouse was designated a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because it is among the most representative examples of the first cylindrical stone towers built before Confederation by Trinity House of Quebec – which operated the lighthouses in Lower Canada until they were taken over by the Department of Marine – to improve navigation safety on the St. Lawrence River. The Thibault name has long been associated with the lighthouse, as various members of the family have served for a combined total of over 75 years. The Thibault family is also credited with having rehabilitated a threatened colony of waterfowl on the island.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the building resides in its height, cylindrical form and stone masonry construction with wood cladding, and in its design, the construction techniques used, and the primitive materials that have survived. Other defining elements are the deeply recessed openings with low pediments, the cornice, and the ornamental wrought-iron railing.

The primitive functional installations should be preserved because they are illustrative of the technical innovations that transformed the signaling apparatus in lighthouses in the 1840s.

Fences, outbuildings and other elements associated with the tower which show how humans adapted to the isolation of life at the lighthouse should be preserved, or where necessary, rebuilt.