

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT  
PARTRIDGE ISLAND LIGHTTOWER  
SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK**

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FHBRO Number: **05-191**  
DFRP Number: **3922**  
Resource Name: **Partridge Island Lighttower**  
Address: **Partridge Island Lightstation, Saint John, New Brunswick**  
FHBRO Status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**  
Construction: **1960**  
Designer: **Department of Transport, Marine Services, Aids to Navigation Division**  
Original Function: **lighthouse**  
Current Function: **lighthouse**  
Modifications: **incorporation of foghorn apparatus in the tower (1989); modification and blocking up of windows (1989)**  
Custodian: **Department of Fisheries and Oceans**

**Description of Historic Place**

The Partridge Island Lighttower consists of a concrete octagonal tower, four storeys in height and features a wide base, tapered walls and a flared cornice supporting an octagonal, aluminium lantern. It is easily recognisable for its sides painted in an alternating pattern of red or white. Located on the highest point of land on Partridge Island, a small island at the mouth of Saint John harbour, its light is visible from the city of Saint John. Although no longer accessible to the public, Partridge Island was designated a national and provincial historic site as the location of an immigrant quarantine station from 1830-1941. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

**Heritage Value**

The Partridge Island Lighttower is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

The Partridge Island Lighttower is a very good example of the theme of aids to navigation in Canadian waters. As a coastal light on an island in Saint John harbour, it is of significance for international navigation in the Bay of Fundy. Built in 1960 as the fifth lighttower at this location, it is a useful example of the extensive redevelopment and upgrading of the harbour facilities at that time, and its resulting positive influence on the city's economic development.

Architectural value:

The Partridge Island Lighttower is a good example of the later, concrete, octagonal lighttower type. The tower is notable for its nice proportions and the simplicity of its tapered massing with an octagonal concrete base, flared cornice and octagonal red lantern. Its functional quality is good and it continues to operate as a coastal light. Its concrete structure, wide base and tapered walls provide the necessary stability to support the heavy lens within the lantern and protection against inclement weather. Built to a standard plan prepared by the Department of Transport, Marine Services, Aids to Navigation Division, the tower is characterised by good

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quality craftsmanship and materials. The tower was built with construction methods and standards typical of the period and has been well maintained.

### Environmental value:

Sitting on a hilltop, partially enclosed by a ring of tree, the Partridge Island Lighttower dominates its setting and reinforces the maritime character of the area. Located on the highest point of land on the island, it offers a great vantage point and its light is visible from most parts of the city of Saint John. The lighttower was built on a mixed-use site that contains archaeological remains that testify to its long and meaningful history. The Partridge Island Lighttower is a well-known reference point to the marine community and a valued familiar landmark and symbol for the city of Saint John.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

The following character-defining elements of the Partridge Island Lighttower should be respected:

The features that illustrate the theme of aids to navigation in Canadian waters, notably:

- Its design and materials typical of the later concrete octagonal tower type; and,
- Its location and high visibility on Partridge Island.

Its good aesthetic and functional design, as manifested in:

- Its nice proportions, characterized by its simple, tapered form and massing with a wide octagonal base, tapered walls and flared cornice;
- The glazed octagonal lantern surrounded by a railed gallery;
- The placement of its openings directly over one another and consisting of simple rectangular surrounds without ornament;
- Its straightforward interior layout comprising of two levels linked by metal ladders;
- The use of durable materials, such as a reinforced concrete structure, concrete floor slabs metal railings and an aluminum lantern; and,
- Its colour pattern, with each side painted alternately in red or white.

The manner in which it reinforces the maritime character of the area and functions as a reference point for the city of Saint John, as evidenced in:

- Its prominent location on the highest point of land on Partridge Island;
- Its continuing use as a coastal light; and,
- Its recognisable silhouette and the continuing visibility of its light from the harbour and most parts of the city of Saint John.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. For further information please contact FHBRO.

August 2007