

Pachena Point, British Columbia  
**Lighthouse**  
Vancouver Island

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Pachena Point Lighthouse was built in 1907-08 to designs by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, in an expansion of the navigation system along the British Columbia coast. The structure continues to serve its original function. Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, is the custodian department. See FHBRO Building Report 90-65.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Pachena Point Lighthouse was designated Recognized as a result of its landmark qualities, its association with the provision of coastal navigational aids, and its functional design.

The Lighthouse at Pachena Point was one of a series built along the treacherous western coastline of Vancouver Island in an attempt to reduce the frequency of shipwrecks. In particular, it was built in response to the 1906 sinking of an American passenger ship which generated inquiries on both sides of the border. The Lighthouse continues to serve deep sea and coastal traffic.

The Lighthouse is based on a nineteenth-century standard design for octagonal wooden lighthouses widely employed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. While lacking the classical detailing often found on these structures, it does exhibit the tripartite division of the tower characteristic of the design. It is the sole remaining wooden example on the west coast.

The Lighthouse is located high above the Pacific Ocean on an open site surrounded by rain forest. Although relatively inaccessible, the Lighthouse is located near the West Coast Trail and attracts several thousand hikers each summer. It is a regional landmark.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Pachena Point Lighthouse resides in its profile, functional design and materials, and site relationships.

The classically-inspired tripartite division of the tower, while less explicit than in other examples, can be seen in the stone-clad concrete base, tapered shingle-covered shaft, and slightly flared lantern platform. The simple treatment of the door and windows

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reflects the functional emphasis associated with constructing the tower on a difficult site. This profile is an essential element of the design and must be preserved.

The Pachena Point Lighttower has been well maintained, and is essentially unchanged. It retains its original wood-frame construction, cedar-shingle cladding, and iron lantern topped by a weathervane. Any required repair or replacement should be in kind. It also retains its original light, which was considered state-of-the-art design when it was installed. It should be carefully maintained, as should any early interior fittings and finishes.

The Lighttower is surrounded by secondary structures associated with the operation of the light station. Among these is the duplex residence built at the same time as the lighttower to accommodate staff. This historic relationship should be maintained.

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