

Caissie Point, New Brunswick
Lighthouse

The lighthouse at Caissie Point was constructed in 1872. It was designed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries under Joseph Tomlinson. The lighthouse has had details altered, and is currently a fully automated light. The Canadian Coast Guard is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-91.

Reasons For Designation

The lighthouse is designated Recognized because of its architectural importance and environmental significance, and also for its historical associations.

The architectural design of the tapered form is simple, relying on pleasing proportions and scale for its attractiveness. The additional detailing at the cornice, windows and doors is simple, contributing to the overall weighty, solid appearance. The wood platform framing was designed to be relocated occasionally to suit shifting channels.

The building is well known in its locale and the scale and silhouette is compatible with the maritime character of the site. The significance of the building is related to the contrast with the associated low-scale environment. The lighthouse functions as a seacoast marker of the associated coastal environment.

The lighthouse is associated with campaigns to improve the safety of maritime commerce at remote coastal locations by building navigational aids. The simplicity and economy of construction reflect the desire of the government to expediently build a large number of lighthouses. This lighthouse represents a pragmatic solution to light eastern coasts and harbours inexpensively. The secondary strategic importance of the lighthouse is reflected in the use of less expensive wood construction.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Caissie Point lighthouse resides in its overall form, proportions, construction materials, architectural details, and site relationships.

The lighthouse is comprised of a tapered low structure with a square footprint. The simple profile includes a prominent multi-sided lantern and the gallery guardrail which reinforce the utilitarian design of the structure and should be maintained. The lantern is a prominent feature, appropriately proportioned to the tower, and contributing to a sturdy and durable appearance.

The geometric form of the tower is reinforced by the fine-scaled texture of the wood shingles without corner boards. The utilitarian character is expressed in the simple wood detailing at the door and windows with shed-roofs and the painted steel guardrail and lantern. The understated bracketed frieze is a feature which adds visual interest and should be maintained. The simple contrasts of materials and texture contribute to the heritage character of the structure. The metal and glass detailing of the lantern is expressive of the industrial character of this component. The materials, siding and metal would benefit from an ongoing maintenance program.

The multi-paned wood sash windows appear to be sympathetic to the original design, and should be maintained. The wood entrance door appears to be a modern replacement with simpler detailing and when being replaced it would be appropriate to select a door of a style more in keeping with the age of the structure.

Surviving features and finishes of the original interiors should be documented and maintained.

The simple landscape materials of the lighthouse site reflect the harsh coastal climate and underscore the intended utilitarian aspect of the original site, and should be maintained.

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For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.
