

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Gannet Rock light tower was built in 1831. The designer of the Gannet Rock light tower was the prominent New Brunswick architect John Cunningham, who also surveyed the Gannet Rock site in 1831 and designed a protective stone wall to surround the base of the Gannet Rock tower in 1842. In 1905 a new concrete base and a new gallery were added. The owner of the property is Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard. See FHBRO Building Report 90-112.

Reasons for Designation

The Gannet Rock light tower was designated Recognized because of its historical association, its aesthetic value and its environmental value.

The Gannet Rock light tower serves regional and international commercial traffic navigating the entrance to the Bay of Fundy. Gannet Rock is considered the most isolated light station on the Fundy coast. The light tower is the second-oldest wooden tower extant in Canada. Gannet Rock light is very well known both on and off Grand Manan Island, and is considered a long-standing symbol of the maritime heritage of the region.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character resides in the form, proportions, construction and materials of the tower and in the relationship of the tower to the site and to the adjoining dwelling.

The light tower consists of a tapered, octagonal heavy hewn-timber construction (the top six meters is built of heavy sawn timber) with a shingled exterior. The wooden structure rests on a stone foundation capped with concrete. The tower's form, proportions and materials should be carefully preserved.

The vertical black-and-white stripes (a paint scheme utilized since at least 1857) accentuates the tower's height. When repainting, this colour scheme should be maintained. Reinstatement of the windows with their decorative pediments which were removed would greatly enhance the aesthetic qualities of the tower.

The form and proportions of the adjoining 1931 two-storey concrete dwelling are compatible with the character of the tower. Any new building should respect the scale, materials and colour of the existing structures and should not mar the profile of the prominent light tower.

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structures seem to rise from the bedrock. This relationship of the structures to the site should be maintained.

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