

### **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The light tower on Battle Island was built in 1915-1916 following designs prepared by the Department of Marine. Battle Island station continues to serve pulp wood carriers and commercial fishing boats. The custodian is Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard. See FHBRO Building Report 90-1 92.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The light tower was designated Recognized for its historical associations, its architectural design, and the importance of its site and setting.

The Battle Island light station with associated dwellings and outbuildings was originally established in 1877. The current tower was constructed in 1915-16 in response to the needs of increased maritime traffic along the north shore of Lake Superior near Nipigon Bay.

Classically inspired architecture was in revival during the early years of the 20th century, and the forms championed by the practitioners of neoclassical architecture proved admirably suited to light towers, which, after all, are similar in form to classical columns. The octagonal-shaped light tower had a long history in Canadian wood frame towers, from the 1758 Sambro Island, N.S. tower through to the 20th century. These two elements-classically-derived composition and octagonal form - were combined in many of the new concrete towers. The tripartite tower was easily accomplished due to the plastic nature of poured-in-place concrete.

The tower is enhanced by the dramatic character of its rugged natural setting on Battle Island.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Battle Island light tower resides in its form, proportions, construction materials and details, and its relationship to its setting.

The tower is an octagonal poured-in-place concrete structure, loosely modeled on a classical column with base, shaft, and capital. The base is articulated by the entry door in its attached shed-roofed projection. The three levels of windows stacked vertically at even intervals on the tapered 30 foot shaft extend the perceived height of the tower. The capital is expressed by the flared top of the tower upon which the lantern sits.

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pattern and materials of fenestration respected. Repairs to the concrete should be done in kind, with the emphasis on maximum retention of original material and respect for the original construction and finishing details.

Located on a small heavily forested island, and standing on a steep rockface, the tower is among ancillary buildings that are compatible in scale, function and materials. The rugged utilitarian character of the site and grounds should be maintained in any development. The remnants of the old fog alarm building's concrete foundation should be retained as a physical reminder of its location.

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