

Lighttower

Ile Parisienne, Ontario

The Ile Parisienne lighttower was constructed in 1911. It was designed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The building continues to be used as working lighttower. The Canadian Coast Guard is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-194.

Reasons For Designation

The lighttower has been designated Recognized because of its architectural importance, its environmental significance and its historical associations.

The Ile Parisienne lighttower is an aesthetically pleasing hexagonal structure with six tapered engaged buttresses. The small windows, gable-roofed entrance, and flared ribs at the platform contribute to the clean uncluttered design of the tower. It also represents in its spare elegance of form an early expression of modernism in concrete construction.

The scale and silhouette of the lighttower is compatible with its surroundings and it functions as an important marker in a picturesque landscape. The scale and silhouette of the lighttower blends in with the surroundings.

The lighttower is associated with the upgrading of existing navigational aids in the early 20th century to improve the safety of Great Lakes maritime commerce. It is also associated with the significant growth in marine traffic following the opening of the Sault Ste. Marie canal.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Ile Parisienne lighttower resides in its overall form, profile, construction materials, architectural details, and site relationships.

The massing consists of a slim, medium-height structure with tapered buttresses capped by a lantern and walkway. The picturesque profile include the prominent lantern, coving and bracketing, the gallery guardrails, and the projecting windows and door. The lantern housing form is a prominent feature of the massing and the proportional relationship of tower shaft to lantern should be respected. The external massing, footprint and profile reflects internal functions, and the clarity of this expression should be maintained.

The character of the lighthouse is derived from the simple treatment of cast-in-place concrete detailing. The simple detailing of the tapered, engaged buttresses flaring out at the lantern platform expresses early modern functional design, which stressed a plain expression of structure and form. These features should be respected. The steel handrail detailing and the painted steel and glass detailing of the lantern is expressive of the industrial character of this component and contributes to the visual richness of the lighthouse. The concrete and steel would benefit from an ongoing maintenance program employing conservation expertise.

The windows appear to be wood sashed but have larger-scaled single panes of glass which diminish heritage character. When replacing windows it would enhance the heritage character if windows selected would follow historic precedent.

The surviving original materials and finishes of the lighthouse should be documented and maintained.

Ile Parisienne site character is determined by the cleared and roughly grassed ground plane, at the edge of a forested island, which should be maintained. The relationship of the lighthouse to its associated buildings, walkways and its retaining wall should be maintained.

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