

Souris East, Prince Edward Island
Lighthouse

The lighthouse at Souris East was constructed in 1880. It was designed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries under Joseph Tomlinson. The lighthouse has had details altered. The building is currently a fully automated lighthouse. The Canadian Coast Guard is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-265.

Reasons For Designation

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

The building is well known in its locale and the scale and silhouette reinforces 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 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 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 type represents a pragmatic solution to inexpensively light eastern coasts and harbours, as reflected in the use of less expensive wood construction.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Souris East lighthouse resides in its overall massing, proportions, architectural details, construction materials, and site relationships.

The lighthouse is comprised of a square, tapered low-height structure with a square footprint. The simple profile includes a prominent octagonal lantern with hipped roof, the shed roofed windows and door, and the gallery guardrail. The lantern is a prominent feature, appropriately proportioned to the tower, and contributing to the

sturdy and durable appearance.

The geometric form of the tower is reinforced by the fine-scaled texture of the horizontal shingle siding without corner boards. The classical detailing of the bracketed cornice and the vertical alignment of tall windows (and door) increase the apparent vertical height. The material and texture contrasts of the siding and wood detailing contribute to the pleasing design and should be respected. 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 heritage character, 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 treatment of landscape materials of the lighthouse site reflect modifications due to the changing use of the site. Further alterations should be resisted.

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