

Wood Islands, Prince Edward Island
Lighthouse

The lighthouse at Wood Islands was constructed in 1875-76. It was designed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Alterations to the lighthouse with dwelling have included re-roofing. The building is currently a fully automated lighthouse. The Canadian Coast Guard is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-266.

Reasons For Designation

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

The simple and attractive design of the square tapered lighthouse attached to a dwelling is a picturesque example of the lighthouse type. The wooden lighthouse is integrated with the dwelling in a smooth, simplified, and sleek manner. The coved cornice is a prominent feature. The lay-out of these towers reflected departmental guidelines in providing ample room for the keeper and his family.

The scale and silhouette of the lighthouse is compatible with the associated flat, coastal landscape. The lighthouse functions as an important marker of the associated coastal environment. The building is well known in its locale and contributes to the maritime character of the site.

The lighthouse is associated with post-Confederation building campaigns to improve maritime safety by building an extensive network of coastal lights. The inclusion of a dwelling at the lighthouse reflects the importance of maintaining the light at this location.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Wood Islands lighthouse resides in its overall massing, profile, architectural features, construction materials, and site relationships.

The lighthouse massing is comprised of a square, tapered medium-height tower joined to a one storey gable-roofed structure. The footprint is a series of offset rectangular shapes contributing to the picturesque profile. The profile includes a prominent coved cornice, a chimney, the gallery guardrail and lantern as well as the projecting door and window heads. These reinforce the simple, functional design of the structure and should be maintained. The lantern is a prominent feature, appropriately proportioned to the tower, and contributing to the sturdy and durable appearance.

The picturesque quality of the lighttower derives from the contrast of the simple details of the wood shingle siding and the fine cove detailing with the smooth, larger-scaled wood detailing of the bracketed cornice and gallery guardrails. This is the main material and textural contrast which 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 current roofing of the dwelling is asphalt shingles having a smooth, modern appearance which reduces the heritage character. At the end of its life, installing a wood shingle roof should be considered as it would improve the heritage character.

The multi-paned wood sash windows are 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 materials and finishes of the original interiors should be documented and maintained.

The open, undeveloped site upon which the lighttower has been placed underscores the utilitarian aspect of the design and function, and it should be maintained. The Lighttower is well known, and functions as an important landmark both from land and sea-side. The chain link fence enclosure is unsympathetic to the original unenclosed character of the site. When operations and safety allow, the removal of the fence should be considered.

97.03.05

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