

Miscou Island, New Brunswick
Miscou Island Light Tower
Birch Point

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Miscou Island light tower was constructed in 1856. The tower has been moved from its original site. The owner is Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard. See FHBRO Building Report 90-289.

Reasons for Designation

The Miscou Island light tower was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its aesthetic and functional design and its status as a landmark.

The light tower is associated with the theme of providing aids to navigation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The light served shipping entering the Baie des Chaleurs where there was considerable shipbuilding and commerce in lumber and fish, and it also aided coastal traffic between the Atlantic provinces and Quebec. It continues to serve these marine communities today.

Miscou Island light tower is one of a number of wooden, octagonal, tapered towers which survive from the pre-Confederation period in Canada. The construction technique was unusual as the eight panels were all built independently of each other. The panels are supported by columns on the interior of the structure.

The light tower has long been a landmark to the marine community but is also well known to residents and tourists. In May 1974 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared the Miscou Island light tower to be of national historic and architectural significance.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character resides in the form, proportions, simple decoration details, construction and materials of the tower.

The light tower consists of a shingle-clad, wooden (heavy timber construction), tapered, octagonal tower. The tower is capped by the original lantern. The form, proportions and materials of the tower and the lantern should be maintained.

The four-over-four sash windows, the curved soffit beneath the lantern deck and the shed roofs or pedimented caps over the openings contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the tower and these elements should be carefully preserved.

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Miscou Island, New Brunswick
Miscou Island Light Tower (Continued)

The tower is painted in the characteristic colours of the maritime lights - white with red

trim. This colour scheme should be respected.

The tower sits on a flat and exposed location, surrounded by low scrubland. The dominance of the tower on the skyline of this low coastline should not be compromised.

1992.05.05