

---

FHBRO Number 92-51

DFRP Number 10447

**Recognized Federal Heritage Building**

MOHAWK ISLAND, Ontario

**Mohawk Island Lighthouse**

Mohawk Island National Wildlife Area, Lake Erie

The Mohawk Island Lighthouse was built in 1846-48 by contractor John Brown for the Board of Works, Canada West. The design is attributed to John B. McIntyre, the board's Superintendent of Lights. The light was automated in 1932 and discontinued in 1969. The exterior walls are all that remain of the original structure. The octagonal iron lantern with its flared roof is no longer extant on the tower and all of the wood elements of both the tower and its residence have disappeared. The custodian is Environment Canada. The building is located within the Mohawk Island National Wildlife Area.

**Reasons for Designation**

The Mohawk Island Lighthouse has been designated "Recognized" because of its historical, architectural and environmental significance:

**Historical Significance**

The Mohawk Island Lighthouse is closely associated with the early history of the Welland Canal, one of Canada's most important commercial waterways. The Canal opened in 1829 and was substantially rebuilt and improved in 1845. Construction of the Mohawk Island Lighthouse began in 1846 to serve as a navigational aid at the southern end of the Canal.

**Architectural Significance**

The Mohawk Island Lighthouse consists of an 18-metre tower and an integrated lighthouse keeper's residence. It is the only extant integrated lighthouse tower and residence in Canada constructed of stone. The influence of the Neoclassical style can be seen in the hammer-dressed stonework and the symmetrical massing and opening placement. The tapered stone tower remains solid and upright, testimony to the quality of its craftsmanship and materials and to the skills and talents of the builder, John Brown. Brown was a Scottish stonemason who was also responsible for rebuilding some of the Welland Canal locks. The design of the Lighthouse has been credited to John B. McIntyre, Superintendent of Lights for the Board of Works, Canada West.

**Environmental Significance**

Due to its visibility and location on an island near Rockpoint Provincial Park, the Mohawk Island Lighthouse is well-known to local residents, boaters and park visitors.

**Character-Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Mohawk Island Lighthouse resides in the following character-defining elements:

- The Neoclassical design and detailing of the tower and dwelling, exhibited in the symmetrical massing of tower and dwelling and symmetrical placement of door and window openings. The tall, tapered, circular tower is broken only by a wide string course above the ridge of the dwelling, and tall, narrow windows that punctuate alternate sides at each floor level. The openings on the dwelling feature arched tops and quoin details.
- The hammer-dressed finish on the stone walls of the tower and dwelling, giving a heavily rusticated appearance.
- The height of the lighthouse in relation to the flat terrain of the island.

All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should respect these character-defining elements.

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