

Ferolle Point, Newfoundland
Lighttower

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The lighttower and associated buildings at Ferolle Point, Newfoundland, were constructed by local day labor during the period 1912-1914 by the Federal Department of Marine and Fisheries, to the designs of their engineering branch, under Chief Engineer William P. Anderson. Although the associated buildings have been modified and replaced over the years, the tower itself remains virtually unchanged, and continues to operate as a navigational aid on the Strait of Belle Isle shipping corridor. The custodial department is the Canadian Coast Guard. See FHBRO Building Report 88-112.

Reasons for Designation

The Ferolle Point lighttower has been designated a Recognized federal heritage building because of the historical interest and quality of its functional design and craftsmanship, and its importance within its setting.

Its construction is associated with the burgeoning Canadian economy at the turn of the century, and the increasing importance of the northern transportation route through the Strait of Belle Isle to Britain with the advent of steamer traffic. It was built and maintained by Canadian authority with the approval of the Newfoundland government.

Its use of reinforced concrete in a ribbed hexagonal design makes it a good surviving example of early concrete lighthouse construction technology in Canada, and one of the more successful variations in lighthouse design of the period. The quality of the materials and workmanship and the suitability of the design is evidenced by the uninterrupted use of the facility through the years.

The tower is the dominant element in its setting, and a point of reference to passing commercial vessels and area fishermen.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the lighttower is defined by its exterior form and materials, its function, and its relationship to its setting.

The tower is a hexagonal structure, 12.5 m in height on a 6 m by 6 m concrete base, with engaged buttresses which taper from the base and flare out at the top to form support brackets for the round base of the light. The light, with its round metal cap, gives the tower an overall height of 15.5 m. The tower is unadorned except for a small, gable-roofed porch at the entrance, two rectangular windows in the shaft, and two narrow rows of corbelling at the top. It is an elegantly proportioned structure with clean lines.

.../2

Lighthouse (Continued)

The quality of the original design and construction, and the use of regular maintenance, has allowed the tower to survive basically intact. It is recommended that this approach be continued. If more serious deterioration becomes evident, use should be made of current research into the repair and conservation of historic concrete. The basic form and function of the tower should be preserved intact.

The relationship of the tower to the other structures components of its setting has evolved over the years. While this process could continue the traditional visual relationship of the tower with ancillary structures should continue.