

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

CAPE ANGUILE LIGHTTOWER

CODROY, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

FHBRO number: **06-033**
DFRP number: **00785**
Resource name: **Cape Anguille Lighttower**
Address: **Codroy, Newfoundland and Labrador**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1958-60**
Designer: **Department of Transport**
Original function: **Lighttower**
Current function: **Lighttower**
Modifications: **No known modifications**
Custodian: **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Description of Historic Place

The Cape Anguille Lighttower consists of a freestanding reinforced concrete tapered octagonal tower surmounted by an aluminum and glass lantern. The elegant tall white tower with its red lantern is situated in an isolated seaside location at Newfoundland's most westerly point on Cape Codroy within a multi-building lightstation. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Cape Anguille Lighttower is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

The Cape Anguille Lighttower is a very good example to illustrate the theme of aids to navigation in Canadian waters. With a range of 15 nautical miles, it guides international and coastal shipping at Newfoundland's most westerly point on Cape Codroy. Constructed in 1958-60, the lighttower replaces an earlier 1907-08 octagonal cast iron and reinforced concrete lighttower. The current lighttower is a late example of the types of facilities erected by the Government of Canada to fulfill its commitment of providing and maintaining aids to navigation in Newfoundland, as part of an extensive modernization program initiated after the Confederation of Newfoundland with Canada in 1949. The lighttower is also closely associated with the Patry family, members of which served as lightkeepers from the opening of the lightstation in 1908 until 1982, and who continue to be associated with the tower by means of operating a bed and breakfast in the former lightkeeper's dwelling.

Architectural value:

The good aesthetic qualities of the Cape Anguille Lighttower are derived from its graceful proportions created by the tall octagonal shaft surmounted by an octagonal lantern. This simple, utilitarian design was widely used across Canada in the 1950s and the 1960s. The basic interior layout of the tower fulfills adequately the simple functional program of providing support to the lantern and warning ships of the proximity of the coastline. Built according to a standard plan prepared by the Department of Transport, using durable materials such as concrete and steel and displaying a good quality of craftsmanship, the structure has endured well despite the harsh climatic conditions to which it is exposed.

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Environmental value:

Located between the Atlantic Ocean and a landscape of meadows and hills, the Cape Anguille Lighttower reinforces its maritime setting through its visual and functional prominence in the surrounding coastal landscape. The lighttower sits on tended grounds at the end of a main road in an isolated seaside location surrounded by other smaller structures. Since its construction, the site has undergone several changes, including the construction and removal of a fog alarm and oil storage building; the demolition of the old lighthouse and boathouse; and the construction of two staff residences, a helicopter landing area, two utilitarian storage buildings and a fence. Despite these changes, the site continues to possess the essential elements of a lightstation and the relationship between the lighttower and its site has been retained. The lighthouse is a familiar landmark to the community and visitors who stay at the bed and breakfast in the old lightkeeper's residence, a provincial Registered Heritage Property, and is an important reference point for local coastal fishery.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Cape Anguille Lighttower should be respected:

Features that illustrate the theme of aids to navigation by the Government of Canada for international and coastal shipping:

- Its prominent and visually exposed location between the Atlantic Ocean and a landscape of meadows and hills; and,
- Its standardized free-standing octagonal concrete lighttower design which was widely used across Canada in the 1950s and 1960s.

Its good aesthetic design, good functional design and good quality materials and craftsmanship, as manifested in:

- The tapered, octagonal form of the lighttower consisting of a tall concrete shaft surmounted by a small lantern;
- The symmetrical placement of the openings, consisting of three small windows stacked vertically on the rear elevation and a door centrally located;
- The prefabricated glazed lantern and the surrounding open exterior gallery protected by steel handrails;
- The simple exterior of the tower with minimal use of decorative elements, including smooth concrete surface, a flared cornice, and projecting concrete hood over the window and door openings;
- The white shaft and red lantern;
- The simple, utilitarian interior plan comprising of a vestibule and a space with the stairway connecting the three levels and the lantern; and,
- The use of standard methods of construction and durable materials consisting of concrete, steel, aluminum, and glass.

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The manner in which the building reinforces the maritime character of its remote location on the shoreline, as evidenced in:

- Its prominent location on the seashore;
- Its recognizable silhouette, simple form and traditional colours; and,
- Its focal and dominant presence within the lightstation.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. For further information contact FHBRO.

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