

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The lighthouse at Heart's Content was built in 1901 as part of a coastal system initiated in 1811. The structure may have been manufactured in Britain, or assembled from parts ordered from a catalogue. Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 89-1 99.

Reasons for Designation

The Heart's Content Lighthouse was designated Recognized for its aesthetic and functional design, its historical associations, and its landmark qualities.

Well-proportioned and sparsely detailed, the lighthouse is important as a modest, but intact, example of cast-iron construction technology. This light is one of about 26 lighthouses of prefabricated iron and steel construction, thought to be the only remaining examples of their type in Canada. Favoured because of their inexpensive cost, ease of erection, low maintenance requirements and long-term durability, these structures reflect the growing industrialization at the turn of the century, and the desire to achieve a design that would withstand the rigours of the Newfoundland coast.

The lighthouse, and the system of which it is a part, illustrate the theme of navigational aids in Newfoundland when it was a British colony with an economy almost totally oriented toward the sea.

The lighthouse admirably fulfils its role as a landmark on a rugged, isolated site.

Character Defining Features

The heritage character of this lighthouse resides in its form, materials, construction details and setting.

The utilitarian character of the tower is reflected in its smooth tubular form and lack of decoration. Its construction system, comprised of rounded rectangular segments bolted together on the interior face, should be respected, and repairs executed in like materials, or materials closely matched on the galvanic scale, to avoid galvanic corrosion. The base of the tower should be kept clear of vegetation and decaying matter, and a sound protective paint layer must be maintained. Regular inspection and maintenance, and consultation with a metals conservator, are recommended.

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lighthouse. However, further alterations which might affect the structure's profile should be resisted.

The lantern cap, with its sculptural volumes and prominent weathervane, is a focal point of the composition and should be preserved without alteration. The paint scheme of red and white spiral stripes is tied to the tower's function and contributes to its visual interest, and must be maintained.

The rugged, exposed nature of the site contributes to the lighthouse's heritage character and landmark status. The sparse, utilitarian character of the site should be protected.

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