

### **Lighthouse and Attached Dwelling**

Meldrum Bay  
Mississagi Strait, Ontario

The lighthouse with attached dwelling at Mississagi Strait was constructed in 1873. The design was prepared by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Alterations include removal of early attached sheds, changing the lantern, and rebuilding the platform. The building is currently a museum and is no longer used as an aid to navigation. The Canadian Coast Guard is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 93-57.

### **Reasons For Designation**

The lighthouse with attached dwelling has been designated Recognized because of its historical associations and its environmental significance as well as its architectural value.

The construction of the lighthouse is associated with efforts to improve marine safety by building an extensive network of coastal lights at dangerous locations. The inclusion of a dwelling at the lighthouse reflected the importance of maintaining the light at this location. The light aided the development of lumbering and fishing industries on Manitoulin Island, Georgian Bay and the North Shore.

The inter-relationship of the lighthouse and attached dwelling to adjacent buildings reflects the early functional character of the site. Despite the remote location, the lighthouse is a familiar landmark extensively promoted in Manitoulin Island tourist literature.

The low-height, square tapered lighthouse with attached dwelling is one of the most picturesque of lighthouse types. The interior layout reflects departmental guidelines for providing sufficient room for the light keeper and family.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the lighthouse and attached dwelling resides in the overall form and proportions, plan, construction materials, and site relationships.

The massing is picturesque, with a tapered low-height tower appended to a one-storey gable-roofed dwelling. The lantern is a prominent feature and its scale reinforces the sturdy and durable appearance of the tower. The offset footprint is comprised of the square tower intersecting the larger rectangular dwelling. The stepped profile includes

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the prominent chimneys, the gallery guardrails and the lantern. The massing, profile, and footprint reflect internal functions and should be maintained.

The picturesque qualities of the building derive from the simplicity of the tower shaft contrasting with the detailing of the bracketed cornice and gallery guardrails. The informal door and window placements contribute to the visual richness. The fine-scaled texture of the weatherboard and shingle-clad facades with corner boards contributes to the traditional appearance and should be maintained. The painted metal and glass detailing of the lantern housing is expressive of the industrial character of this component. Exterior materials would benefit from an ongoing maintenance program employing conservation expertise.

Asphalt shingle roofing on the dwelling has replaced wood shingles seen in early photographs. The newer material introduces a smoother and less textured appearance and does not follow traditional material precedents. A return to wood shingles would enhance the heritage character of this element.

The multi-paned wood sash windows with their relatively heavy sashes and lighter muntins appear to follow the original design intentions and contribute to the heritage character of the tower, and should be maintained. The wood panelled entrance doors also appear to follow the original design intentions and should be maintained. Surviving original interior room configurations and finishes should be documented and preserved.

The informal landscape consisting of rock outcrops, conifers, and scrub brush contributes to the heritage character and should be maintained. The site's role as the residence for the light keeper is reflected in the plant material that has been allowed to come to maturity to ameliorate climatic conditions. Large conifers should be retained if they are not detrimental to the buildings.

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

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