

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Long Point Lightstation, the third on the site, was built in 1916 by the Department of Marine. It is the property of the Ministry of Transport and operated by the Coast Guard. See FHBRO Building Report 86-77.

Reasons for Designation

The Tower at Long Point Lightstation received a "Recognized" designation because of its importance to the historical theme of shipping on the Great Lakes, its architectural design and craftsmanship, and its importance as a local and Lake Erie landmark.

The building continues to serve its original function although, like the two previous lighthouses on the site, it is threatened by changing water levels and foundation erosion.

The lighthouse's landmark status and association with navigational themes as represented by Long Point Lightstation are particularly significant in view of its location and the heavy commercial shipping in the area. Unlike many of the early reinforced concrete lighthouses which were over-designed, structurally unsophisticated, and aesthetically primitive, the Long Point structure is an efficient, well executed design. It is a sleek column based on the three classical elements; base, shaft and capital, assembled in an assured but unpretentious, well balanced and proportioned design that is entirely appropriate to the function of the building. Complimentary detailing at the door, windows and the flared lantern support is discreet and well executed.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is determined by the integration of siting, aesthetic design and workmanship, and thematic association.

This simple structure of reinforced concrete is well proportioned and executed in the three classical elements (base, column, capital) complimented by simple classical details at doors and windows as described above.

It is difficult to perceive of any alterations that can be made to this simple, pure structure which would not have a severe impact on its heritage character. Requirements for additional space should be met by constructing new facilities away from the immediate vicinity of the tower.

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The problems of foundation erosion may have to be addressed due to persistent high water levels on Lake Erie both now and forecasted for the future. Two approaches to this could be considered. The preferred approach would be to raise the tower and insert the necessary foundation section. This approach would be technically challenging but is possible considering the vertical distance required is not great. It would preserve the heritage character of the tower over the long term. The second approach would be to raise the grade around the building. Alterations to the building should be minimal and fully reversible but the historic character would be severely affected by the higher grade. If an approach such as this second were adopted, areas subject to change should be fully documented.

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