

Anticosti Island, Quebec
Pointe Carleton Lighthouse

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The lighthouse at Pointe Carleton is located in the centre of the north coast of Anticosti Island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It was built in 1917 by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. In addition to the lighthouse, the station initially comprised a double dwelling and a fog horn building. The dwelling was demolished and replaced by two single residences in 1955. A new fog horn building was also built, although the original one is still standing. The lighthouse was restored in 1980. It is owned by Transport Canada. See FHBRO Report 89-1 86.

Reason for designation

The lighthouse at Pointe Carleton was designated Recognized for its historic value and its important contribution to the environment.

The lighting of the north coast of Anticosti Island helped improve maritime transportation by making the passage of vessels taking the shorter route from the Strait of Belle Isle to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River safer.

Although the station has undergone changes, the maritime character of the site has been preserved by the presence of the lighthouse.

Character defining elements

The heritage value of the lighthouse lies in its method of construction and strategic location for navigation in Jacques Cartier Strait.

The octagonal, reinforced concrete tower is 18 feet in diameter at the base and 52 feet in height, base to vane. Built in the style developed in the early part of the century, it is well suited to the constraints of its function and of the site. The pedimented cap over the doorway and the triangular lintels over the windows are decorative elements which allay the austerity of the building. The original character of the lighthouse has been preserved with the exception of the lantern, which has been replaced by a new aluminum lantern.

In order to keep the lighthouse in good condition and preserve all its historic components, regular maintenance is essential. It is recommended that conservation specialists be consulted before any work is done on the historic concrete. Together with the neighbouring buildings, the lighthouse forms a coherent whole which must be preserved.

Translation