

FHBRO Number 90-290

## **Lighthouse**

Henry Island, Nova Scotia

The lighthouse at Henry Island was constructed in 1902. The design was prepared by the Engineering Branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The building is currently a fully automated lighthouse. The Canadian Coast Guard is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-290.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The lighthouse was designated Recognized for its architectural importance and its environmental significance as well as for its historical associations.

The classical detail precedents and elegant proportions of this tapered octagonal tower contribute to its striking appearance. The lighthouse has an attractive profile enhanced by the pedimented door and window heads and the cove cornice supporting the gallery. The well-proportioned lantern contributes to the characteristic lighthouse profile.

The scale and silhouette of the Henry Island lighthouse contribute to the maritime environment. Situated on an island promontory, the tower maintains its historical relationship with the natural landscape. To mariners of the Port Hood region, the lighthouse is a familiar landmark.

The lighthouse construction is illustrative of campaigns to provide aids to navigation for coastal locations. The tower is also associated with an important period of growth for Port Hood at the turn of the century.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Henry Island lighthouse resides in its overall massing, profile, architectural features, construction materials and site relationships.

The elegant proportions of the medium-height, tapered octagonal structure with cove profiled cornice contribute to its graceful silhouette. The octagonal cast-iron lantern with cone-topped ventilator is well-proportioned to the scale of the tower. This relationship should be respected. The symmetrical massing and profile, including the relationship of lantern to tower shaft, should not be compromised.

The simple form of the lighthouse is enhanced by facades executed in white-painted horizontal wood shingles without corner boards, and by the fine-scaled cove boarding

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of the cornice. The projecting pedimented window and door hoods, the lantern platform, and the flared cove follow classical detail precedents and add textural interest and visual contrast to the simple tower form. The siding would benefit from an ongoing maintenance program. The lighthouse structure is of unusual plank on plank construction which should be maintained.

Painted steel is used for the lantern railings. Their utilitarian tube and elbow joint construction reflects the functional utility of the early industrial lighthouse components. The octagonal guardrail form follows the lantern shape. The paint scheme, alternating white and red painted sides, is a striking feature which should be maintained if operationally appropriate.

The multi-paned wood sash windows contribute to the character of the building. The paneled door also appears to be original and should be maintained.

The small cleared site is undeveloped, with a simple ground cover reflecting the functional, low maintenance aspect of the site. This is appropriate and should be respected.

97.11.14

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

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