

Ile Rouge, Québec  
**Lighthouse**

**HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Ile Rouge Lighthouse, 51 feet in height, was built in 1848 to the design of Charles Atherton, civil engineer under contract to the Trinity House. The building is the property of the Ministry of Transportation. See FHBRO Building Report 87-87.

**Reasons for Designation**

The Ile Rouge Lighthouse was designated Recognized on the basis that it is one of the best early examples of pre-Confederation stone circular tower of sturdy craftsmanship and design built to improve the navigation of the St. Lawrence River by the Quebec Trinity House, a forerunner of the Department of Marine in lighthouse administration for Lower Canada.

**Character Defining Elements**

The designation applies to the design of the building, its construction technique and its excellent craftsmanship. The circular gray stone tower is the perfect manifestation of pure functionalism. The building is faced on the outside with smooth dressed ashlar stone which give it a clean finished appearance and lined with brick on the inside. The three string courses surrounding the conical shape act as weather courses repelling water from the rock surface thus preserving the structure over a length of time. The Gothic-arched casement windows and the rounded entranceway are distinctive features common to stone towers of the period. The original Chanteloupe catoptric apparatus and the decorative iron railing encircling the lantern walk are other elements which contribute to the historical integrity of the tower.

The interior layout demonstrates that the tower was designed as a self-contained unit to house keepers and stores. All evidence of the functional layout should be preserved.

Maintenance and repair to the masonry structure should be carried out strictly within the context of the original materials, construction, and pointing techniques.

The reconstruction of a building, evoking in form and spirit the original 1848 dwelling that was once connected to the tower with a covered passageway, would re-establish the original tower-dwelling ensemble. Fences, outbuildings and other features which represent human adaptation to island life should be retained, and reinstated where necessary.

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