

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
CAPE BAULD LIGHTTOWER
QUIRPON ISLAND, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

FHBRO Number: **06-023**
DFRP Number: **01729**
Resource Name: **Cape Bauld Lighttower**
Address: **Quirpon Island, Newfoundland and Labrador**
FHBRO Status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1960-61**
Designer: **Department of Transport**
Original Function: **lighthouse**
Current Function: **lighthouse**
Modifications: **no known modifications**
Custodian: **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Description of Historic Place

The Cape Bauld Lighttower is a tapered, concrete octagonal lighttower, topped by an octagonal, aluminum lantern. The gently tapered walls of the tower are painted white and rise to a flared cornice, above which a railed observation platform surrounds the red lantern. A vertical row of three windows with simple, concrete lintels runs up one side of the lighttower. The Cape Bauld Lighttower is located in a rocky, barren landscape on the northern tip of Quirpon Island at the northern entrance to the Strait of Belle Isle. The lightstation is visible from L'Anse-aux-Meadows National Historic Site and World Heritage Site, located on the mainland. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Cape Bauld Lighttower is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

The Cape Bauld Lighttower is a very good example of the theme of aids to navigation in Canadian waters. As a landfall light with a range of 17 nautical miles located on the northern tip of Quirpon Island, it guides international and coastal shipping at the northern entry to the Strait of Belle Isle. The importance of a lighttower at this location is emphasized by the fact that the Dominion government built the first tower here soon after Confederation in what were then non-Canadian waters. The light is the second replacement structure on the site.

Architectural value:

The Cape Bauld Lighttower is a good example of the freestanding, concrete, tapered, octagonal type of lighttower. Its solid and competent design is notable for its simplicity, its minimalist approach and its nice proportions. The lighttower adequately fulfills its function of providing a secure base for the lantern and conveying the iconographic message as a day marker. The lighttower is a good example of a standardized

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plan that was prepared by the Department of Transport and refined throughout the 20th century. The tower was built of common materials for its time. The structure has been well maintained and has stood up well, demonstrating good craftsmanship.

Environmental value:

Sitting atop a steep, rocky, barren point in an isolated area only accessible by boat, the lighthouse reinforces the maritime character of the area. The relationship between the lighthouse, the rugged landscape and the surrounding small structures has retained its character despite the replacement of some structures. The lighthouse is a familiar reference point and a known landmark for local navigation and tourists visiting L'Anse-aux-Meadows National Historic Site.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Cape Bauld Lighthouse should be respected:

The features that illustrate the theme of aids to navigation in Canadian waters, as reflected in:

- Its design and materials typical of the concrete, tapered, octagonal lighthouse type; and,
- Its location on the northern tip of Quirpon Island, at the northern entry to the Strait of Belle Isle.

Its good aesthetic design, its good functional design, and good quality of materials and craftsmanship, as manifested in:

- Its nice proportions and simple, minimalist approach, characterized by its smooth tapered walls, the octagonal forms of its base and lantern, its tall shaft, flared cornice, and railed platform;
- The vertical alignment of its three window openings;
- Its simple and functional detailing, including slightly projecting concrete lintels over window and door openings and the slightly projecting foundation at the base of the tower;
- The octagonal aluminum-and-glass lantern, with its gently sloping roof and finial;
- Its straightforward interior spatial arrangement, divided vertically into three floors connected by interior metal stairs leading up to the lantern; and,
- The use of durable material for its construction, including its poured concrete foundation, reinforced concrete walls and floors, and prefabricated metal elements such as its interior stairs, railings and lantern.

The manner in which it reinforces its maritime setting, as evidenced in:

- Its location on a steep, rocky, barren and isolated point of land at the northern tip of Quirpon Island;
- Its relationship to the other structures at the site; and,
- Its visibility from the water.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic*

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Places in Canada. For further information contact FHBRO.

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