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FHBRO Number 90-211

**Lighthouse**

Lighthouse Point  
Tobermory, Ontario

The lighthouse was constructed in 1885. The design was prepared by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The lighthouse has since had minor alterations. The building is currently a fully automated light. The custodian is the Canadian Coast Guard. See FHBRO Building Report 90-211.

**Reasons for Designation**

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

The tapered wooden tower has an unusual hexagonal shape contributing to the slim profile. The well proportioned tower is simply detailed, with a metal bracketed super-imposed gallery clearly indicating the utilitarian purpose of the structure. The early cast-iron lantern is a well proportioned feature of the tower and a good example of how functional equipment contributes to the picturesque profile.

The scale and silhouette of the lighthouse reinforces the maritime setting on a headland and this reinforces its picturesque qualities. The lighthouse is well known to all mariners in the region and its image has been extensively promoted in travel literature.

The construction of the lighthouse marks the entrance to the harbour of Tobermory, one of the finest natural deep harbours on the Great Lakes. It is associated with the federal programme to provide navigational aids on the Upper Great Lakes.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Lighthouse Point lighthouse resides in its overall massing and proportions, profile, architectural details, construction materials, and site relationships.

The medium height tapered structure has a hexagonal footprint. The simple form supports a lantern, exhaust cowl, and a metal bracketed plank gallery. The profile, massing, and footprint should be maintained. The symmetrically located gabled window and door heads project from the tower shaft, punctuating the simple profile and adding a visual richness which should be respected.

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The white painted narrow wood shingle siding with wide corner boards is a traditional finish which reflects the simple building construction used for this lighthouse. A unique feature is the curved trim pieces in the cover boards at the top of the tower. The gable hoods over the windows have minimal fascias with simple detailing. The iron and wire rope railing at the gallery and the bracketing detail are light weight in appearance reflecting a functional design. The painted wood shingle wall treatment of the tower has proven durable. When repainting, the colour scheme (white with red accents) if operationally appropriate, should be maintained. The materials would benefit from an on-going maintenance program.

The vertical sliding wood sash windows are sympathetic to the original design and should be maintained. However, some of the glazing has been removed and replaced with solid panels. The loss of natural lighting to the interiors and the “blind” effect on the exteriors diminish heritage character. When the windows are being repaired, maximum retention of original material is essential and glazing should be reinstalled if operationally appropriate. Conservation expertise is recommended.

The site was significantly changed in the 1950s when the eight-room keeper's dwelling, boathouse and connecting boardwalk were demolished. When the unit paving walkway is ready to be replaced, consideration should be given to reinstating a boardwalk reflecting historic precedent to improve the heritage character.

97.03.05

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

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