

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The reinforced concrete light tower at Davieaux Island was completed in 1918. It was constructed according to plans produced by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The light tower is the property of Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard. See FHBRO Building Report 88-143.

### **Reason for Designation**

The light tower at Davieaux Island was designated Recognized for its historical associations, its architectural significance and its environmental value.

The Davieaux Island light tower represents an extension of the original post-Confederation system of aids to navigation along the north shore of Lake Superior. The Davieaux Island light station continues to serve mariners on Lake Superior.

The building's architectural significance derives primarily from its design as an octagonal, tapered tower and the sturdy concrete construction used to house its utilitarian function.

Among its environmental attributes, the light tower continues to be the dominant structure on the island and establishes the traditional lightstation landscape.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the light tower resides in its physical attributes - proportions, disposition of the fenestration, materials of construction, and the austere classical detailing.

Octagonal in plan and tapered, the plain reinforced concrete shaft has few simple embellishments - a pedimented cap over the doorway and triangular lintels over the five windows.

There has been little change in the tower since its construction and it has withstood conditions of severe exposure to heavy winds and storms because of the sound quality of its original workmanship. The octagonal design is an enduring one and adherence to a regular maintenance program will certainly contribute to the longevity of the building and will be a critical factor in its long-term survival.

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The character of the light tower is well suited to the existing somewhat barren, rocky

landscape and therefore, any attempt to upgrade and "beautify" the site should be resisted.

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