

**93-84**

Point Clark, Ontario  
**Lightkeeper's Dwelling**

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The lightkeeper's dwelling at Point Clark was built with the lighthouse between 1855 and 1859 as part of a lighting campaign along the shores of Lake Huron. It was commissioned by the Department of Public Works, Province of Canada, and built by contractor John Brown. The dwelling was acquired by Parks Canada in 1967 and today houses a small museum operated by the Township of Huron through a management agreement with Parks Canada. Point Clark has been operated as a National Historic Site since 1977. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 93-84.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The lightkeeper's dwelling at Point Clark was designated Recognized for the compatibility of its design with the lighthouse, creating an ensemble, and for its supporting role in the historical theme of Great Lakes navigational lighting.

### **Character Defining Features**

The heritage value of the keeper's dwelling at Point Clark resides in the symmetry and simplicity of its design, and in the quality of its construction and materials.

This house is dissimilar to other "Imperial" lighthouse dwellings, with its rock-faced stone walls set in even courses, its 3-bay facade arrangement and its prominent end chimneys. The proportions and symmetry of this building suggest the influence of British classicism, also seen in 18th or early 19th century stone cottages in Scotland. Unfortunately, an enclosed porch and two lean-tos were added over time and detract from the original symmetry of the house. Any future interventions should respect the intended symmetry of the building.

The interior has also undergone some changes. Most evident is the addition of a partition wall on the ground floor that divides one of the original end rooms at the walled-in fireplace. Reinstating the original room and fireplace in future would be desirable. Also of interest is the boxed stairway leading up from the kitchen, typical of British vernacular traditions. This element should be retained.

The keeper's dwelling relates to the lighthouse more than to nearby cottages because of its obvious age, stone construction and red and white Coast Guard colouring. This compatibility should be maintained.

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