

89-1 80

Cap de Gaspé, Quebec  
**Cap de Gaspé Lighttower**

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Cap de Gaspé Lighttower was built in 1949-50 to designs by the Department of Transport as part of an upgrade of the coastal navigation system. The structure continues to serve its original function, although it is now part of Forillon National Park. The Canadian Coast Guard is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 89-1 80.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Cap de Gaspé Lighttower was designated Recognized as a result of its landmark status, its synthesis of aesthetic expression and functional design, and its association with the on-going provision of coastal navigational aids.

The tower was built during a period of modernization of the coastal navigational system, replacing an earlier light in poor repair. Located at the entrance of the St. Lawrence River, the Cap de Gaspé Lighttower serves a major commercial-shipping route and the local fishing industry.

The Lighthouse successfully combines classical forms and ornamentation with low-maintenance concrete construction. The use of classical references in this design is derived from nineteenth-century wooden lighttowers and from early twentieth-century examples in concrete, such as Machias Seal Island.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Cap de Gaspé Lighttower resides in its profile, ornamentation and materials, and in its environmental significance.

The tripartite division of the octagonal tower into base, tapered shaft, and capital (lantern platform) derives from classical architecture. The clarity of this profile must be protected; the antenna which extends horizontally from the platform detracts from the vertical emphasis and clarity of form and should be relocated if possible.

Classical references are continued in the smooth white surface of the tower, the vertically-aligned hooded windows, and the decorative elaboration of the entrance by a projecting pediment. These are essential elements of the design and should be preserved.

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Cap de Gaspé, Quebec  
**Cap de Gaspé Lighthouse** (Continued)

The combination of classical design with modern materials is a significant aspect of the heritage character of this structure. Repair work should emphasize maximum retention of original materials. A specialist in concrete conservation should be consulted for major tower repairs. The original interior fittings and layout should be investigated and preserved.

The Cap de Gaspé Lighthouse is the dominant element in a cluster of buildings at the end of Forillon peninsula. A small structure associated with the original light station now serves as an interpretation centre. Further development in this vicinity should be resisted. The large storage tank located immediately in front of the tower detracts from the character of the site and should be moved to a less obtrusive location if possible.

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