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Development Services

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To: Ontario Heritage Trust
Government of Canada - Parks Canada Agency

From: Michael Michaud, Manager of Planning

Date: October 16, 2024

RE: Intention to Designate – 6147 Traverse Lane, Ward of South Marysburgh

RECEIVED
2024/10/16
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

This letter is to inform you of the intention to designate the property located at 6147 Traverse Lane (Point Traverse Lighthouse), in the Ward of South Marysburgh, in the County of Prince Edward. Please see the attached Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for the property, which includes a description of the property, statement explaining the cultural heritage value of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property.

No later than the **16th day of November, 2024** by registered mail or deliver to the Municipality's Clerk, a Notice of Objection to the proposed designation(s), together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and relevant facts. When a Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the County of Prince Edward will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

for Michael Michaud, MCIP RPP
Manager of Planning
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
MM/pt
Encl

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value
Prince Edward Point Lighthouse, 1881



Archival photograph of lighthouse tower with lantern, 1½-storey, gable-ended structure with tapered walls, and the lean-to structure with mono-pitch roof, c. 1930 (Library and Archives Canada PA-172525)



Shingle-cladding visible below later horizontal wood siding, before both layers were covered with fibre cement siding by Parks Canada (Photo: Marc Seguin,

2016)



Mothballed building (Photo: Liz Driver, December 2023)



Elevation facing shoreline, with operational steel skeleton tower adjacent (Photo: Liz Driver, December

2023)



Pediment over window opening facing harbour (right) has surviving moulded trim; the trim is missing from pediment facing shoreline (left) (Photo: Liz Driver, December 2023)



The tower foundation's shoreline-facing wall was repaired by Parks Canada with courses of squared limestone; elsewhere, the original rubble stone foundation is intact. (Photo: Liz Driver, December 2023)



View from the tower, at ground level, toward Timber Island
(Photo: Liz Driver, December 2023)



Interior view of main room, looking towards the shoreline.
The main entrance door is at left, set into the tapered wall;
straight ahead are the door to the tower stairs (right) and
the door to the room on the tower's ground floor.
(Photo: Marc Seguin, April 2016)



View from the lean-to structure, up a few steps to the main room (Photo: Marc Seguin, April 2016)

Lean-to structure used as a kitchen (Photo: Marc Seguin, April 2016)





Interior of detached wooden shed before mothballing by Parks Canada (Photo: Marc Seguin, April 2016)

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse is located in South Marysburgh, at the end of Long Point Road, near Point Traverse and within the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area. It sits on the shoreline, marking the entrance to Long Point Harbour and facing approximately northeast, toward Timber Island.

Design or Physical Value

CRITERIA: The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

Built in 1881, the Prince Edward Point Lighthouse has design and physical value because it is representative of the change from stone cylindrical towers to wood-framed, rectilinear structures – a material and form that endured for a long period in Ontario and all across Canada before the advent of reinforced concrete lighthouses.

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse consists of three parts, all constructed in wood, on a rubble stone foundation: a square-plan, tapered, wood-framed tower, with an attached 1½-storey, gable-ended structure with tapered walls that are contiguous with the tower and of the same angle; and a single-storey, lean-to structure with a mono-pitch roof, attached to the gable end. The tower has angled heavy timber corner posts. A square gallery on the tower, which is supported by wooden brackets, used to carry the original lantern and was surrounded by railings (now lost).

The dwelling area occupies the ground floor of all three parts, plus the attic space below the gable roof and the second floor landing. Upon entering the main entrance door of the 1½-storey structure, into the main room, there is a door opening immediately at left, for a room within the tower's footprint; and beyond this door opening, there is another door opening off the main room, for enclosed stairs to the tower's second floor landing. This landing has the ladder to the lantern and also provides access to the attic space above the main room. On the opposite side of the main room, a door opening leads down a few steps to the lean-to structure, which served as a kitchen.

The tower has one window opening on the shore side, at the upper level; and there are two window openings on each of the adjacent two sides, one above the other. The 1½-storey structure has a window opening on each of the angled walls, and originally a window on the gable end (see photograph in *The Settler's Dream*, p 91), now concealed by fibre cement siding.

The main door surround and the dormer window openings project slightly from the tapered walls. All are capped by simple pediments, some of which retain their moulded trim (the pediment has been lost from the window in the gable end).

Although similar in design to the Salmon Point Lighthouse built ten years earlier at the west end of the County's South Shore, the Prince Edward Point Lighthouse has a more symmetrical and more ordered arrangement of main door and windows. Both of these wood-framed lighthouses were originally clad with wood shingles, which survive and are visible in places below later cladding. On the Prince Edward Point Lighthouse, some of the wood shingles are visible around the perimeter of the tower and of the 1½-storey structure, at the bottom edge, behind the cement fibre siding; some of the wood shingles also survive on one of the pediments of the ground floor window openings (southeast). Archival photographs show wood-shingle siding (e.g., *The Settler's Dream*, p 91).

Sometime after the final Condition Assessment report, dated November 2016, Parks Canada mothballed the tower and attached dwelling by enclosing both with cement fibre cladding and covering the window openings with plywood. The interior dwelling spaces were intact in April 2016 before mothballing, and it is assumed that they survive under the protective cladding. Subsequently, Parks Canada repaired areas of lost rubble stone foundation with courses of squared limestone on the shoreline face.

A detached, gable-roofed wooden shed, built between 1881 and 1926 and retaining its original wood structure, was also mothballed by Parks Canada and clad in fibre cement siding.

Historical or Associative Value

CRITERIA: The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, activity, organization or institution that are significant to the community.

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse (the official federal name) has associative value for its direct association with Prince Edward County's marine history, including the fishing industry, the shipping of goods, and recreational boating. Stories related to the commercial fishery continue to resonate in the community. When the lighthouse was constructed and went into service in 1881, it was known as the South Bay Point Lighthouse. Today, local people refer to it as the Point Traverse Lighthouse.

CRITERIA: The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse, and the surrounding property and adjacent waters, have historical value because they yield and have the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of the community and culture at Long Point, in South Marysburgh.

The lighthouse was initially conceived as a beacon to guide large ships into Long Point Harbour to allow them to load iron ore and agricultural commodities from the planned extension of the Central Ontario Railway. Although the railway line was never extended past Picton, the lighthouse was a useful aid to navigation for local fishermen, whose seasonal cottages once lined the shores of the harbour. In the 1950s, the lighthouse was deactivated and the aid to navigation was replaced by a steel skeleton tower erected a few metres away. In 2015, the Government of Canada designated the Prince Edward Point Lighthouse as a Heritage Lighthouse for its historical, architectural, and community values, under the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act*. The wooden shed is cited as a related building that contributes to the heritage character of the lighthouse.

CRITERIA: The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse has associative value for its connection to highly skilled local builder J.W. Fegan, credited in Belden's *Atlas* (p 60) as the master builder of Picton's Merrill House, an outstanding Gothic Revival brick house on Main Street East. Regarding Fegan's role as master builder, *The Settler's Dream* (p 262) states, "By today's standards, he

could be described as halfway between a professional architect and a building contractor.” Funds for the construction of the lighthouse were allocated in 1879. A plot of land at Prince Edward Point was purchased for \$300 from Z. Palmatier; and a contract was awarded to J.W. Fegan, for \$400 to construct the lighthouse (Marc Seguin, *For Want of a Lighthouse*, second edition, p 259). According to Belden’s *Atlas* (p 82), John W. Fegan was also local to the township in which the lighthouse was built: He was a “joiner and contractor,” who lived in South Marysburgh, on Concession 1 South of Black River, Lot 24, and had settled in Prince Edward County in 1833. The lantern and catoptric light that once stood atop the tower were supplied by the E. Chanteloup Company of Montreal.

Contextual Value

CRITERIA: The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse has contextual value because it is a visual marker that defines, maintains and supports the marine character of the County’s South Shore.

CRITERIA: The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse has contextual value because it is physically, visually and historically linked to its surroundings.

CRITERIA: The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

The Prince Edward Point Lighthouse has contextual value because it is a landmark on the eastern tip of Prince Edward County’s South Shore and marks the entrance to Long Point Harbour. Although the lighthouse no longer has a functioning lantern, the lighthouse and adjacent steel skeleton tower have a visual prominence in relation to the water and the landscape. From the end of the public road, visitors can view the lighthouse across the harbour – a perspective that *The Settler’s Dream* illustrates and calls “the definitive view of the setting” (p 91); and they can walk one kilometre around the harbour for a close-up view.

Heritage Attributes

Key elements that contribute to the Prince Edward Point Lighthouse’s cultural heritage value include its:

- Original location and orientation at Prince Edward Point
- Visual prominence in relation to the water and the landscape

- Wood-framed structure in three parts: tower, with heavy timber corner posts; the attached 1½-storey, gable-ended structure; and the single-storey, lean-to structure with a mono-pitch roof
- Square-plan, tapered form of tower
- Square gallery supported by wooden brackets
- Form and proportion of the structure's three parts (tower, 1½-storey structure, lean-to structure) and their relationship to each other
- Form and proportion of the interior dwelling spaces on the ground floor (main room, room within tower's footprint, lean-to kitchen) and the second floor (second floor landing, attic space)
- Enclosed staircase connecting ground and second floors
- Ordered arrangement, size and shape of the two exterior door openings (main door and lean-to door), dormer window openings, gable window opening, and window openings in lean-to structure
- Pediments capping the main door and dormer windows
- Surviving rubble stone foundation

Key elements that contribute to the related detached shed's cultural heritage value include its:

- Original location, form, proportion, and wood structure

References

Cruikshank, Tom, and Peter John Stokes, *The Settler's Dream* (Picton: Corporation of the County of Prince Edward, 1984)

Historical Architectural Survey of Prince Edward (HASPE files)

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Hastings and Prince Edward, Ont., Toronto: H. Belden & Co., 1878

Parks Canada, "Description of Historic Place" for Prince Edward Point Lighthouse, 2015:
https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_hl_eng.aspx?id=14812&i=/2369

Seguin, Marc, *For Want of a Lighthouse* (Trafford Publishing, second edition, 2019)

Seguin, Marc, *The Last Nine Standing* (Ontario History Press, 2022)