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## ***Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act: Statement of Significance***

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Windmill Point Lighthouse, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, Ontario

ca. 1832 (*year of construction*)

(Ref. 2013-LR-213, "Windmill Point Lighthouse")

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### **1 - Description of Historic Place**

The Windmill Point Lighthouse (also known as Battle of the Windmill Lighthouse and Windmill Tower) is an 18.9 metres (62 feet) round, tapered, stone tower crowned with a cast iron lantern. It is located on a height of land near the town of Prescott, where it overlooks the old King's Highway and the St. Lawrence River. Initially built as a windmill in ca. 1832, it was the site of the Battle of the Windmill during the Rebellion of 1837-38. In 1872, it was converted to a lighthouse and became operational by 1874, remaining in service for over a century.

### **2 - Heritage Value**

The Windmill Point Lighthouse is a heritage lighthouse because of its historical, architectural, and community values.

#### *a - Historical values*

The Windmill Point Lighthouse is associated with the system of navigation aids along the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes. It was particularly valuable as a support to the transshipment of goods at the Port of Prescott.

Its establishment on the site is a very good illustration of public demands in the early 1870s for improved aids to navigation along the upper St. Lawrence.

#### *b - Architectural values*

The Windmill Point Lighthouse is a rare surviving example of an English-built wind-powered mill in Upper Canada. Its original use as a windmill contributes to its distinctive visual qualities. The lighthouse is an early and excellent example of the adaptive re-use of a building, in this case a structure associated with the Rebellion of 1837-1838 that has been commemorated as the Battle of the Windmill National Historic Site of Canada. Since 1979, the lighthouse has been the centerpiece of a heritage site commemorating the Battle of the Windmill.

As a result of its excellent design and craftsmanship, the Windmill Point Lighthouse has served successfully both as a grist-mill and as a lighthouse for more than 180 years, and exhibits features of both. Good craftsmanship is evidenced in the locally quarried limestone laid in irregular fashion.

#### *c - Community values*

The Windmill Point Lighthouse is a prominent heritage feature along the populated and wooded St. Lawrence River shoreline on the eastern approach to the Town of Prescott and is a highly visible landmark to both marine and highway traffic.

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It is highly valued by the local community, being a favourite location for many community activities. It is also well-known to tourists as a heritage site interpreting the historical significance of the Battle of the Windmill.

### *d - Related buildings*

No related buildings are included in the designation.

*The character-defining elements  
related to this designation are listed  
at the end of this document.*

### **3 - Character-Defining Elements**

a - The following character-defining elements of the Windmill Point Lighthouse should be respected:

- its location on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River near the town of Prescott;
  - its intact, as-built structural form, height, profile and balanced proportions of a round, tapered, stone tower;
  - its exterior walls of coursed rubble-stone;
  - its octagonal cast-iron red lantern set on a heavy-timber foundation clad in metal;
  - its red painted gallery surrounding the lantern;
  - its segmentally-arched doorway;
  - its distinctive pattern of nine window openings on each of the east and west façades;
  - its steep, ladder-like, wooden interior stairs;
- its visual prominence in relation to the water and landscape.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

Date: September 2013