



Heritage Lighthouse Statement of Significance

McNab Point Lighthouse | Town of Saugeen Shores, Ontario

Heritage Lighthouse Report Number	2011-LR-009
Lighthouse Name	McNab Point Lighthouse
Location	Town of Saugeen Shores (Southampton), Ontario
Year of Construction	1877
Designer	Department of Marine and Fisheries
Function	Aid to Navigation (decommissioned)
Alterations	Relocation to present site (1901); light deactivated (c.1970), light reactivated and automated (c.1980), decommissioned (c.1989); re-clad with aluminum siding (1989); re-clad with new cedar shingles (2008)

Description of Historic Place

The McNab Point Lighthouse is a 8.5 metre (28 ft) square wooden structure with tapered walls, surmounted by an iron lantern and a cylindrical ventilator; unlike many similar towers it has no gallery. Constructed in 1877 as part of a major harbour improvement project, it was relocated from the northern tip of Horseshoe Bay to its present location on McNab Point in 1901. The tower is painted white with red trim and lantern.

Heritage Value

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

Historical values

As a lighthouse that guided maritime traffic into Southampton harbour for more than a century, the McNab Point Lighthouse is a very good example of the system of marine aids to navigation developed for the Great Lakes.

Constructed as part of a refuge harbour established in the lee of Chantry Island in the 1870s, the McNab Point Lighthouse was an integral component in the port's economic development and it illustrates Southampton's development into a regional hub for the north east shore of Lake Huron.

Architectural values

The McNab Point Lighthouse is a very good example of the 'pepper pot' design favoured for Canadian lighthouses through much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Designed without a gallery, the lighthouse's square iron lantern forms a well proportioned and balanced apex to the tapered tower.

Adaptable, light and easy to relocate, the McNab Point Lighthouse proved very well suited for its role as a rear range light and, later, as an independent harbour light. Having withstood more than a century of exposure to Lake Huron weather, the McNab Point Lighthouse is a tribute to its materials, craftsmanship and maintenance.

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Community values

From the vantage of the water, the lighthouse visually indicates the presence of a maritime community. In association with the nearby Chantry Island, Saugeen River Front Range, and Saugeen River Rear Range lights, it establishes the area's maritime character.

The McNab Point Lighthouse is a highly valued resource for the small port community of Southampton, with its history rooted in maritime trade and commercial fishing. Southampton is now a tourist destination that thrives on its maritime heritage. With its traditional white and red colour scheme, the McNab Point Lighthouse is an important element of that heritage.

Related buildings

No related buildings are included in the designation.

Sources

Robert J. Burns, "McNab Point Lighthouse," Lighthouse Report 2011-LR-009, Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

*The character-defining elements of the McNab Point Lighthouse
are listed on the last page of this document.*

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Character-Defining Elements

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

- its location near the water's edge at McNab Point;
- its relationship to the adjacent landscape and water;
- its intact, as-built form and proportions, based on the standard design of square, tapered, wooden towers;
- its square wooden structure of timber frame construction with tapered sides rising from a square base;
- its iron lantern with cylindrical metal ventilator;
- the absence of a gallery surrounding its lantern;
- its sole entry door, raised slightly above ground level, that projects from the plane of the east façade and surmounted by a shed roof;
- its six-pane window, integrated into the plane of the north façade;
- rugged cedar shingles cladding its sloping sides;
- its fieldstone foundation;
- its traditional colour scheme, consisting of white for the tower and red accenting for the trim outlining the entry door, the trim outlining the window on the north façade, and the iron lantern.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. For further information, please contact the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Date: August 2012