2nd Cape Roseway Lighthouse
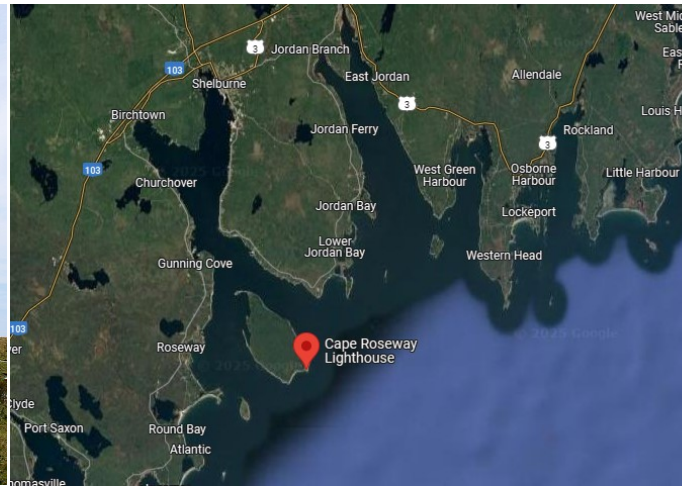Credit: Dennis Jarvis

Location of Cape Roseway Lighthouse
Credit: Google Map

There were only three stone towers built in NS: Louisbourg in 1734, Sambro Island in 1758 and Cape Roseway in 1788. Cape Roseway Lighthouse was located on McNutt Island to mark the entrance to the long inlet leading to Shelburne. It displayed two fixed vertical lights - one shining from the lantern while the other shone from a bow window projecting out from one side of the tower. Only two small rooms were provided for the first lightkeeper, Alexander Cocken, and was quite a fall in status as Alexander had arrived in Shelburne in 1783 with a wife and three servants! Over the following years, other rooms and buildings were added, turning a simple lighthouse into an active and extensive light station. In 1959 the lighthouse was hit by lightning and heavily damaged by fire. A temporary light was put on the roof of the fog-alarm building until a new concrete tower was built and connected to electricity in 1961. In 1986 the station was de-staffed and only the Cape Roseway Lighthouse remains in reasonable shape as an aid to navigation.

1st Cape Roseway Lighthouse – arrow shows bow window
Credit: Library and Archives Canada