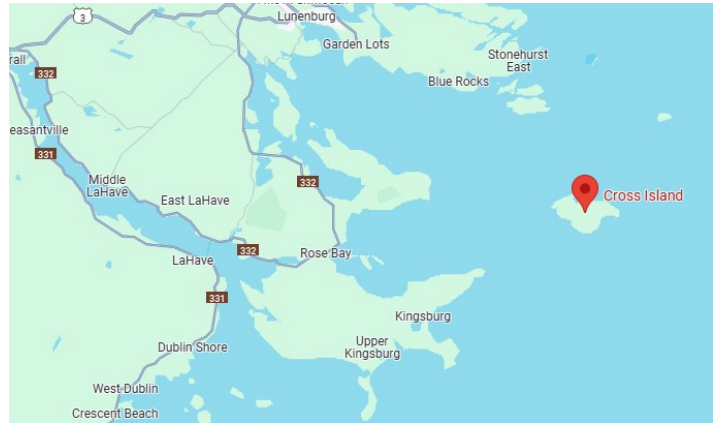




First Cross Island Lighthouse painted red  
Credit: Nova Scotia Archives



Location of Cross Island Lighthouse  
Source: Google Maps

The lighthouse on Cross Island southeast of Lunenburg, is one of the few round white fiberglass towers topped with a traditional red lantern remaining in Nova Scotia. First lit in 1839, it was originally a tall white wooden tower built to indicate the safe channel to sail to Lunenburg and was the middle lighthouse between two similar ones already operating on Coffin and Sambro Islands. These three towers could be distinguished at night by the flashing pattern of their light but it wasn't so easy to do during the day. So a black X was painted onto the tower and later the whole tower was painted completely red! Cross Island Lighthouse stood on duty until May 19 1969 when it burned down. An aluminum framework tower was quickly erected and was a forerunner of how lighthouses would be replaced in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a tall metal pole and an airport beacon. What a relief to know that the current Cross Island fiberglass tower assembled in 1980 and automated in 1989, is still working today.



Current Cross Island Lighthouse  
Credit: Coastal Adventures



Aluminum Framework Tower at Kitimat-Stikine BC  
Credit: Kayaker's Blog