

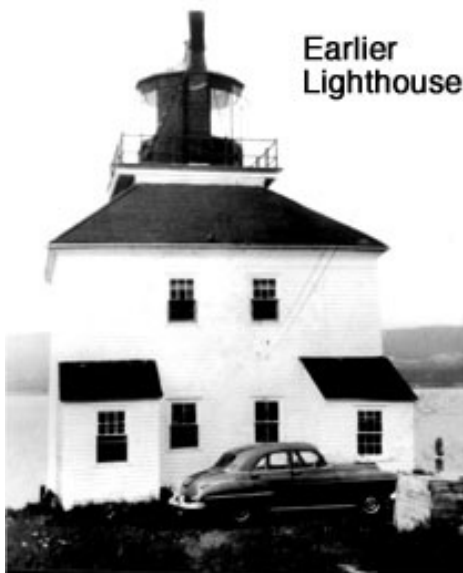


North Canso Lighthouse 1892 with its original lantern –  
note tiny window panes!  
Credit: Library and Archives Canada



Red X marks North Canso Lighthouse location  
Credit: Google Map

Starting in 1842, tall wooden towers gave way to a new style of lighthouse that had a lantern room or 3-sided dormer projecting from the front of a building that was used as the lightkeeper's house. The house was 2 to 3 stories high with lots of windows. While the sunshine coming through those windows must have been great, many of these structures had to be braced outside with wooden beams or guy wire to stand against the wind. North Canso Lighthouse was the first to be built like this and its builder lost money on its construction. No wonder given its size and location on the sandstone shores of Northumberland Strait! It must have been a leaky building as the original lantern room was condemned and replaced with a bigger one in 1892. In spite of the wind and rain, this building was in use until 1966 when it was replaced with a modern aid of the time, a fiberglass tower with an exposed light at the top. This aid in turn was discontinued in 2017.



Rear of North Canso Lighthouse 1940s  
Credit: Anne Pelrine



Modern aid to navigation 1966  
Credit: Terry D. Melton