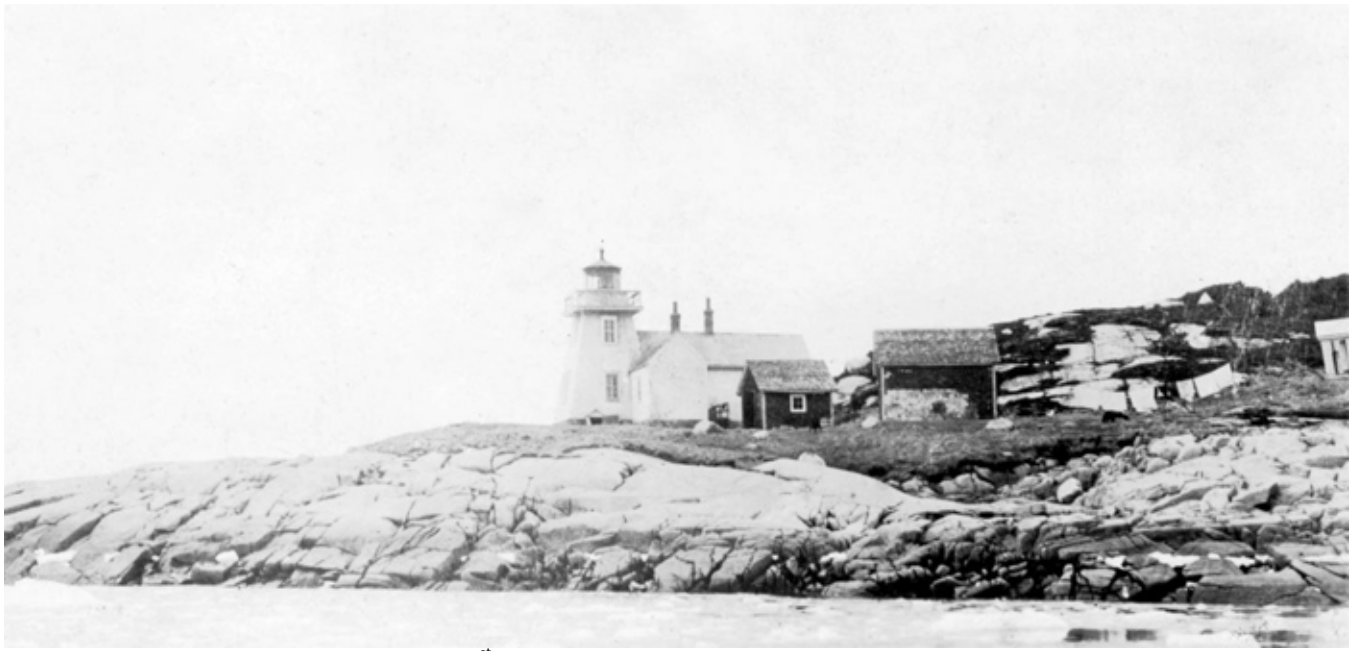




1st Three Top Island Lighthouse built 1879
 Credit: Nova Scotia Archives

There were once two lighthouses that guided mariners into the ice-free Whitehaven (aka Whitehead) Harbour on the Eastern Shore that was suggested for the terminus of the new Canadian railway in 1871 as an alternative to the Halifax Harbour. White Head Island Lighthouse (Facebook post May 14 2024) was the first built in 1854 to indicate the entrance to the harbour while Three Top Island Lighthouse erected in 1879 warned of the rocks and ledges on the way in. This second lighthouse was a white wooden pepper-style tower with an attached dwelling. The first lightkeeper, William L. Munroe, served for 33 years, had a family of ten children and was said to have rescued five crews from shipwreck and certain death. (NSLPS will describe one rescue in detail in our Dec 5 post.) In 1927 a square dwelling with a lantern perched on top of its roof replaced the first lighthouse that lost its tower and lantern to become a storage building. In 1973 the lighthouse was automated and in 2020 a skeletal metal tower with a red and white daymarker installed.



2nd Three Top Island Lighthouse with modified 1st lighthouse to the left
 Credit: W.L. Munroe family



Site of lighthouses in Whitehaven Harbour, Guysborough County (red dots)
 Credit: Google Map