



1st West Ironbound Lighthouse



1st and 2nd West Ironbound Lighthouses

Credit: Library and Archives Canada

West Ironbound Lighthouse was built in 1855 to guide mariners to the LaHave River where there were many lumber and shipbuilding sites along its river banks. Its three-storey pepper-shaker style wooden tower was unusually wider as the lightkeeper plus his family were expected to live on the ground floor in one room!

In 1857 John Wolfe became the lightkeeper and later passed the job to his son, Enos, who got permission to build a kitchen onto the side of the tower. Generations of the Wolf family kept the light shining for 75 years when it was decided to build in 1938 a new lighthouse, a square two-storey house with a lantern on top of its roof. Then in 1966 the lantern was removed and replaced with a much smaller 300mm Wallace-Tierman buoy light lantern combined with a bulb changer, sun-switch and power from 20 batteries.

The last Wolf lightkeeper, Ingram, then left the island and lack of care made it necessary in 1987 to erect a modern fiberglass aid to navigation on one corner of the 2nd lighthouse's foundation. Even this "maintenance-free" aid had an expiry date and in 2008 a simple metal tower with a LED light was installed.



Tiny Buoy Light on 2nd West Ironbound Lighthouse

Credit: Painting 1970s



Fibreglass tower on corner of 2nd lighthouse 2007

Credit: Marinas.com