

THE FOOTPRINT OF POLAR TOURISM:

tourist behaviour at cultural heritage
sites in Antarctica and Svalbard



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Fig. 4.16 a-b – Boat house of Base A at Port Lockroy in 1993 and 2005. 1993 photograph by author. 2005 photograph by © Eco-Photo Explorers (www.ecophotoexplorers.com/AntarcticGallery.asp, accessed April 2009. Reproduced with permission).

World Wide Web (Fig. 4.16). In 1993 the boathouse was apparently sound although weathered. By 2005 all fuel drums had been removed; the building has been painted and a wood and concrete pad added in front of its entrance; and a plaque by the door identifies the building as part of a historic site (Fig. 4.17). There are still penguins about the site, despite the increase in tourism, tourism visits have not caused a decline in penguin population at this site (Cobley *et al.*, 1999).¹ Both the “before” and “after” photographs show the masts of a sailing vessel standing behind the boathouse, suggesting ongoing visitation by yachts. In addition, a cruise ship is visible in the background of the “after” photograph. These details illustrate the well known expansion of tourism in the Antarctic since the early 1990s. Port Lockroy has become one of the most visited

¹ However, longer-term studies indicate a decrease in breeding productivity at this site resulting from frequent visitation (Trathan *et al.*, 2008).