



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

Historic Light Station Information ILLINOIS

CARTER HARRISON CITY WATERWORKS CRIB WITH LIGHTHOUSE

CHICAGO LIGHT

Location: North harbor pier
Station Established: 1832
Year Current/Last Tower(s) First Lit: 1859
Operational: no
Automated:
Deactivated: 1893
Foundation Materials:
Construction Materials: steel
Tower Shape: skeletal
Height:
Markings/Pattern:
Characteristics:
Relationship to Other Structure:
Original Lens:
Foghorn:

Historical Information:

- 1832 – First Chicago lighthouse built.
- 1859 – Skeletal structure built on North harbor pier.
- 1871 – Grosse Point becomes main light to direct maritime traffic into the Chicago River.
- 1893 – Chicago Harbor light built to replace the skeletal lighthouse.
- 1894 – Lantern and upper watch room moved to Rawley Point, WI.

Keepers:

- George W. Snow (Head Keeper 8/15/1833 – 9/10/1833)
- Samuel C. Lasley (Head Keeper 9/10/1833 – 12/31/1834)
- William M. Stevens (Head Keeper 1/1/1835 – 1839, 9/1841 – 7/1/1842)



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- John C. Gibson (Head Keeper 1839 – 9/1841)
- Silas Meacham (Head Keeper 7/1/1842 – 12/4/ 1844)
- James Long (Head Keeper 12/4/ 1844 – 7/19/1849)
- Charles Douglass (Head Keeper 7/19/1849 – 5/19/1853)
- Henry M. Fuller (Head Keeper 5/19/1853 – 2/19/1855)
- Mark Beanbien (Head Keeper 2/19/1855 – 10/7/1859)
- Morris Walsh (Head Keeper 10/7/1859 – 3/27/1861)
- John Lobstine (Head Keeper 3/27/1861 – 11/27/1866)
- Leonard Miller (Head Keeper 11/27/1866 – 9/28/1869)
- Mrs. Magdalene Miller (1st Assistant Keeper 7/5/1867 – 9/28/1869)
- Charles H. Boynton (Head Keeper 9/28/1869 – 1/6/1874)
- Mrs. Emily Boynton (1st Assistant Keeper 9/28/1869 – 11/8/1869)
- Amassa J. Boynton (1st Assistant Keeper 11/8/1869 – 9/23/1871, 4/1/1872 – 7/1/1872)
- O. B. Gardner (1st Assistant Keeper 9/23/1871 – 1/4/1872)
- Anthony Hagan (1st Assistant Keeper 7/6/1872 – 4/29/1873, Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 4/8/1874 – 6/21/1875, Head Keeper 6/21/1875 – 12/10/1887)
- Adilon Benoit (1st Assistant Keeper 4/29/1873 – 8/11/1873)
- Charles F. Raven (Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 8/11/1873 – 4/8/1874, Acting Head Keeper 4/8/1874 – 6/21/1875)
- James Peterson (Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 7/23/1875 – 9/29/1875, 1st Assistant Keeper 9/29/1875 – 4/1/1876)
- Hans L. Hansen (Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 4/1/1876 – 11/16/1876, 1st Assistant Keeper 11/16/1876 – 4/3/1878, Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 3/29/1880 – 7/10/1880, 1st Assistant Keeper 7/10/1880 – 5/27/1881, Head Keeper 2/10/1888 – 7/1/1890)
- Christian Hagan (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/11/1876 – 3/29/1877)
- Hans L. Hagenson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 3/29/1877 – 9/27/1877; 2nd Assistant Keeper 9/27/1877 – 4/3/1878; Acting 1st Assistant Keeper, 4/3/1878 – 6/27/1878; 1st Assistant Keeper 6/27/1878 – 3/29/1880)
- Otto Tennyson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/3/1878 – 3/30/1880)
- Joseph Marlin (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 3/30/1880 – 5/27/1880)
- Charles Klingston (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 5/27/1880 – 11/10/1880, 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/10/1880 - 6/2/1881, Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 6/2/1881 – 7/22/1881, 1st Assistant Keeper 7/22/1881 – 4/12/1882)
- Christian Johnson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 6/15/1881 – 7/22/1881, 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/22/1881 – 4/11/1883)
- Thomas H. Hendrickson (Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 4/12/1882 – 7/14/1882, 1st Assistant Keeper 7/14/1882 – 4/25/1883)
- Simon P. Nelson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/11/1883 – 4/25/1883, Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 4/25/1883 – 7/3/1883, 1st Assistant Keeper 7/3/1883 – 8/18/1883, 1st Assistant Keeper 9/6/1883 – 3/15/1889, Acting 2nd Assistant



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Keeper 5/10/1890 – 7/5/1890, 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/5/1890 – 8/12/1890, 1st Assistant Keeper 8/12/1890 – 10/1/1895)

- Ole Hansen (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 6/4/1883 – 7/3/1883, 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/3/1883 – 8/18/1883, 1st Assistant Keeper 8/18/1883 – 9/6/1883, 2nd Assistant Keeper 9/6/1883 – 9/10/1885, Head Keeper 7/1/1890 – 3/1/1893)
- Charles Green (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/27/1885 – 12/21/1885)
- Andrew Linder (2nd Assistant Keeper 3/24/1886 – 8/12/1886)
- Hakon Debes (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/15/1886 – 12/8/1886, 2nd Assistant Keeper 12/8/1886 – 4/2/1887)
- Joseph Hanson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/2/1887 – 6/20/1887, 2nd Assistant Keeper 6/20/1887 – 4/16/1889, 1st Assistant Keeper 4/16/1889 – 8/12/1890)
- Charles A. Lindstrom (Head Keeper 12/10/1887 – 2/10/1888)
- Bendix Rolfson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/16/1889 – 6/7/1889)
- Soren Christianson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/21/1889 – 10/3/1889, 2nd Assistant Keeper 3/10/1889 – 4/28/1890)
- Edward N. Curran (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/27/1890 – 12/10/1890, 2nd Assistant Keeper 12/10/1890 – 5/11/1891)
- Albert S. Samuelson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 6/1/1891 – 8/6/1891, 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/6/1891 – 7/2/1894)
- Thomas J. Bailey (Acting Head Keeper 3/1/1893 – 11/1/1893)

Researched and written by Marie Vincent, a volunteer through the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society.

CHICAGO PIERHEAD LIGHT

CHICAGO HARBOR LIGHT

CHICAGO HARBOR ENTRANCE/LAKE MICHIGAN

Station Established: 1832

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1893

Operational? YES

Automated? YES 1979

Deactivated: n/a

Foundation Materials: RUBBLE STONE W/CONCRETE PIER

Construction Materials: CAST IRON W/BRICK LINING

Tower Shape: CONICAL



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Markings/Pattern: WHITE/ORIG. RED
Relationship to Other Structure: INTEGRAL
Original Lens: THIRD ORDER, FRESNEL 1893

FOUR MILE CRIB LIGHT

GROSSE POINT LIGHT

Location: LAKE MICHIGAN
Station Established: 1872
Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1874
Operational? NO
Automated? YES 1935
Deactivated: 1935
Foundation Materials: STONE/CONCRETE
Construction Materials: BRICK ENCASED IN CONCRETE
Tower Shape: CONICAL ATTACHED TO STORAGE BLDG.
Markings/Pattern: YELLOW W/RED TRIM
Relationship to Other Structure: ATTACHED
Original Lens: SECOND ORDER, FRESNEL 1874

Historical Information:

- 1860 – Schooner *Augusta* rammed side-wheel passenger steamer *Lady Elgin*, prompting calls for a lighthouse at Grosse Point.
- 1871 – Congress appropriated \$35,000 for the lighthouse.
- 1872 – Construction began.
- 1874 – Construction of tower completed.
- 1881 – Fog signal installed.
- 1892 – Steam sirens replaced by steam whistle.
- 1900 – Oil house built.
- 1914 – Walls of tower covered with 4" of concrete.
- 1923 – Lighthouse electrified.
- 1933 – Fog signal discontinued; photoelectric cell installed in tower to turn light on automatically.
- 1934 – Bureau of Lighthouses discontinued position of Keeper at Grosse Point.
- 1935 – Lighthouse property transferred to city of Evanston, Illinois who, in turn, leased it to North East Park District.



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- 1941 – Federal government abandoned lighthouse; light extinguished due to WWII.
- 1942 – Light tower transferred to city.
- 1946 – Control of tower given from North East Park District to Evanston Historical Society. Beacon re-lit.
- 1976 – Lighthouse placed on National Registry of Historic Places.

Keepers:

- Charles Woodford (1st Assistant Keeper 12/12/1873 - 3/9/1874, Acting Keeper 3/9/1874 – 3/31/1874)
- Charles Boynton (Keeper 1/6/1874 – 3/9/1874, Acting Keeper 4/8/1874 – 11/18/1876, Keeper 11/18/1876 – 6/29/1880)
- Robert Seaman (Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 4/8/1874 – 1/13/1876)
- Peter Danielson (Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 1/13/1876 – 11/18/1876, 1st Assistant Keeper 11/18/1876 – 10/26/1881)
- George Hale (Acting Keeper 8/12/1880 – 11/10/1880, Keeper 11/10/1880 – 2/11/1882)
- William Bishop (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 9/6/1880 – 10/29/1880)
- Edwin Anderson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 12/3/1880 – 6/11/1881, 3/7/1883 – 7/3/1883, 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/3/1883 – 8/24/1883, 1st Assistant Keeper 8/24/1883 – 12/8/1886)
- Archibald McFadyen (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 6/11/1881 – 7/22/1881, 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/22/1881 – 10/22/1881)
- John Sandell (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 10/28/1881 – 11/19/1881, Acting 1st Assistant Keeper 11/19/1881 – 1/3/1882, 1st Assistant Keeper 1/3/1882 – 8/24/1883)
- Henry Goggin (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 12/23/1881 – 6/3/1882, 2nd Assistant Keeper 6/3/1882 – 11/3/1882)
- Joseph Harris, Jr. (Acting Keeper 2/11/1882 – 6/3/1882, Keeper 6/3/1882 – 8/4/1885)
- Charles Old (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/3/1882 – 1/9/1883)
- Edwin J. Moore (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 9/15/1883 – 8/21/1884, 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/21/1884 – 10/20/1885, Keeper 8/27/1888 – 3/2/1924)
- James W. Rich (Keeper 8/4/1885 – 12/10/1887)
- Robert A. Bridges (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/5/1885 – 5/22/1886)
- Peter Corrigan (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 5/22/1886 – 7/21/1886)
- William H. Mabley (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/6/1886 – 10/29/1886)
- Henry J. Burns (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 10/29/1886 – 12/8/1886, 2nd Assistant Keeper 12/8/1886 – 12/11/1886, 1st Assistant Keeper 12/11/1886 – 9/10/1887)
- William T. Shade (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 1/7/1887 – 4/6/1887)



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- Oliver Hanson (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/6/1887 – 7/11/1887, 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/11/1887 – 3/26/1888)
- Robert F. Graham (1st Assistant Keeper 9/10/1887 – 8/27/1887)
- Anthony Hagan (Keeper 12/10/1887 – 8/4/1887)
- Byron B. Palmer (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 3/26/1888 – 7/21/1888, 2nd Assistant Keeper 7/21/1888 – 8/15/1888)
- Orrin Warren Jr. (1st Assistant Keeper 8/27/1888 – 7/27/1889)
- Stephen Creutz (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/19/1888 – 5/1/1889, 2nd Assistant Keeper 5/1/1889 – 8/19/1889)
- Thomas J. Dunlap (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 9/5/1889 – 10/3/1889, 2nd Assistant Keeper 10/3/1889 – 4/5/1890)
- Peter J. Peterson (1st Assistant Keeper 1/20/1890 - 3/16/1891)
- Thomas W. Pollock (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/5/1890 – 8/2/1890)
- John C. King (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/23/1890 – 2/5/1891, 2nd Assistant Keeper 2/5/1891 – 10/5/1892)
- George W. Rose (1st Assistant Keeper 4/1/1891 – 3/27/1895)
- August Beckstrom (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/5/1892 – 8/25/1893, 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/25/1893 – 4/1/1895)
- Gabriel Ariansen (1st Assistant Keeper 3/27/1895 – 8/19/1895)
- Alfred Sheridan (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/1/1895 – 8/15/1895, 2nd Assistant Keeper 8/15/1895 – 1/1/1896)
- Frederick Samuelson (1st Assistant Keeper 8/19/1895 – 11/15/1898)
- Charles Protis (2nd Assistant Keeper 3/5/1896 – 11/15/1898, 1st Assistant Keeper 11/15/1898 – 6/27/1899)
- John B. Young (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 11/15/1898 – 2/1/1900)
- Isaac W. Blanchard (1st Assistant Keeper 7/12/1899 – 1912)
- Edward O. Pooler (Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 2/1/1900 – 3/26/1900)
- William W. Foster (2nd Assistant Keeper 3/26/1900 – 3/25/1902)
- Harry J. Moore (2nd Assistant Keeper 4/10/1902 – 5/27/1902, Acting 2nd Assistant Keeper 4/6/1903 – 4/6/1903)
- Walter F. Gankel (2nd Assistant Keeper 5/27/1902 – 3/31/1903)
- Rhinehart Pfiel (2nd Assistant Keeper 4/6/1903 – 3/31/1905)
- Walter A. Donovan (2nd Assistant Keeper 4/1/1905 – 11/5/1916)
- William C. Berg (1st Assistant Keeper 1917 – 1/9/1920)
- John T. Trucker (2nd Assistant Keeper 11/5/1916 – 1917, 1st Assistant Keeper 1917 – 7/15/1930, Keeper 7/15/1930 – 5/4/1934)
- Oscar H. Knudsen (Keeper 4/3/1924 – 6/30/1930)
- Ralph R. Moore (1st Assistant Keeper 7/15/1930 – 6/1934)
- Frederick Sellers (1st Assistant Keeper 1935)

Researched and written by Marie Vincent, a volunteer through the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society.



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TAYLORSPOUT LIGHTHOUSE

TAYLORSPOUT, ILLINOIS (?)

Station Established: 1858

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1858

Operational? No

Deactivated: Yes. Date unknown.

Foundation Materials: Unknown

Construction Materials: Unknown

Tower Shape: Square:

Relationship to Other Structure: Attached

Original Lens: Unknown

Historical Information:

- A lighthouse was constructed in 1855 to encourage investment in Taylorsport rather than St. Johns.
- A lighthouse was built here to mark the area where steamers could take on more fuel. The light was first lit in 1858. Little is known about this light.
- When ships changed from using cordwood fuel to coal fuel they no longer stopped at Taylorsport and eventually the light became unnecessary. It was discontinued at some unknown period.

Researched and written by Anne Puppa, a volunteer through the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society.

WAUKEGAN HARBOR LIGHT

Location: WAUKEGAN HARBOR, ILLINOIS

Station Established: 1899

Year Current Tower Lit: 1899

Operational? NO

Automated? NO

Deactivated: N/A

Foundation Materials: PIER

Construction Materials: CAST IRON

Tower Shape: CYLINDRICAL



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Markings/Pattern: WHITE

Relationship to Other Structure: ATTACHED

Original Lens: FOURTH-ORDER FRESNEL

Range: 13 Miles

Characteristic: Fixed White 20 Sec. Followed by 4 red flashes at 5 sec intervals.

Historical Information:

- In 1899 this light went into service on the end of the extended pier to mark the entrance into Waukegan Harbor. In 1905 a fog building was added to the tower.
- In 1967 a fire destroyed the fog building and the tower lantern. The fog building was removed as it was no longer being used. The tower was capped and a modern acrylic beacon was installed. The new light was green.

Researched and written by Anne Puppa, a volunteer through the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society.
