



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

Historic Light Station Information OHIO

ASHTABULA HARBOR LIGHT

NORTH END OF ASHTABULA BREAKWATER IN ASHTABULA HARBOR
ENTRANCE/LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1835; relocated 1916

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1905

Operational? YES

Automated? YES 1973

Deactivated: n/a

Foundation Materials: CONCRETE CRIB (1916)

Construction Materials: STEEL W/IRON PLATE

Tower Shape: CYLINDRICAL TOWER ON SQUARE HOUSE

Height: 40-feet; height of focal plane = 51 feet

Markings/Pattern: WHITE W/BLACK TRIM

Relationship to Other Structure: INTEGRAL

Original Lens: FOURTH ORDER, FRESNEL 1916

Foghorn: Diaphone

Historical Information:

- 1835: The tower is 40' above Lake Erie and is constructed of steel and iron plate. 1928: During a winter Storm in 1928 two keepers were imprisoned by a fierce ice storm that encapsulated the lighthouse. They had to thaw the door and tunnel through ice 5' thick in places.
 - The Great Lakes marine and U.S. Coast Guard Memorial Museum is across the parking lot from the best view of the lighthouse. The Keepers house is now a museum and full of pictorial history of Ashtabula. An extensive collection of ship models and the pilothouse from the steamer Thomas Walters are on display.
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CLEVELAND HARBOR PIERHEAD LIGHTS

CLEVELAND HARBOR ENTRANCE/LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1831

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1911



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Operational? YES

Automated? YES 1965; East Pierhead: 1959

Deactivated: n/a

Foundation Materials: CONCRETE

Construction Materials: CAST IRON/BRICK/WOOD

Tower Shape: CONICAL

Markings/Pattern: WHITE W/BLACK LANTERN

Relationship to Other Structure: INTEGRAL

Original Lens: FOURTH ORDER, FRESNEL; East Pierhead: FIFTH ORDER, FRESNEL
1911

CLEVELAND BREAKWATER LIGHT

CLEVELAND EAST PIER LIGHT

CONNEAUT LIGHT

CONNEAUT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT

CONNEAUT RIVER ENTRANCE/LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1835

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1936

Operational? YES

Automated? YES 1972

Deactivated: n/a

Foundation Materials: CONCRETE CRIB

Construction Materials: STEEL

Tower Shape: PYRAMIDAL

Markings/Pattern: WHITE W/BLACK BAND "STREAMLINE MODERNE"

Relationship to Other Structure: SEPARATE

Original Lens: 375 MM



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FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT

GRAND RIVER ENTRANCE/LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1925

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1925

Operational? YES

Automated? YES

Deactivated: n/a

Foundation Materials: CONCRETE PIERHEAD

Construction Materials: BRICK IN STEEL FRAME

Tower Shape: SQUARE

Markings/Pattern: WHITE TOWER W/RED ROOF

Relationship to Other Structure: ATTACHED

Original Lens: FOURTH ORDER

GRAND RIVER (FAIRPORT HARBOR) LIGHT

FAIRPORT HARBOR/LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1825

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1871

Operational? NO

Automated? NO

Deactivated: 1925

Foundation Materials: DRESSED STONE/TIMBER; PILING

Construction Materials: SANDSTONE/BRICK

Tower Shape: CONICAL

Markings/Pattern: NATURAL BEREASANDSTONE

Relationship to Other Structure: SEPARATE

Original Lens: THIRD ORDER, FRESNEL 1871

GREEN ISLAND LIGHT

3 miles southwest of Put-In-Bay on South Bass Island

Station Established: 1855

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1865

Operational? NO

Automated? NO

Deactivated: 1939, abandoned.



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HURON HARBOR LIGHT

Location: Huron Harbor, Lake Erie
Station Established: 1835
Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1936
Operational: Yes
Automated: Yes, 1936 (operated from building on shore)
Deactivated: n/a
Foundation Materials: Concrete breakwater
Construction Materials: Steel
Tower Shape: Pyramidal
Markings/Pattern: White, Art Moderne style
Relationship to Other Structure: INTEGRAL
Original Lens:
Fog Signal: None

LORAIN WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT

WEST HARBOR BREAKWATER/LAKE ERIE
Station Established: 1837
Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1917
Operational? NO
Automated? YES 1966
Deactivated: 1966
Foundation Materials: CONCRETE PIER
Construction Materials: CONCRETE/STEEL
Tower Shape: SQUARE
Markings/Pattern: WHITE W/RED TRIM
Relationship to Other Structure: INTEGRAL
Original Lens: FOURTH ORDER, FRESNEL 1918

MARBLEHEAD LIGHT (FORMERLY SANDUSKY LIGHT)

Location: On the northeasterly end of Marblehead, westerly part of Lake Erie, Ohio, and southerly side of the entrance to the channel between Kelleys and Bass islands and the



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mainland.

Station Established: 1821

Year Current Tower: First Lit: 1821

Operational: Yes

Automated: Yes, 1958

Deactivated: N/A

Foundation Materials: Stone

Construction Materials: Limestone

Tower Shape: Conical

Tower Height: 60 feet from base of tower to center of lantern

Markings/Pattern: White with red trim; black lantern

Characteristic: Fixed white

Relationship to Other Structure: Separate

Original Lens: 13 Lamps & Reflectors; 4th Order (as of 1901)

Foghorn: None

Historical Information:

- Congress appropriated \$5,000 for a lighthouse "at or between the mouth of the Grand River in Ohio, and the mouth of the Ohio River in Ohio" on 3 March 1819. An additional \$5,000 was appropriated by Congress the following year to cover added expenses.
- Established in 1821.
- Oldest light in the state of Ohio, second oldest in Lake Erie, and the third oldest on the Great Lakes.
- Stephen Pleasonton, Auditor of the U.S. Treasury, visited Rocky Point in 1821 and selected the site. He negotiated the sale of the land, almost four acres total, for \$300 from the estate of Epaphras W. Bull.
- A contract for the construction of the light and a keeper's dwelling was entered into with Stephen Woolverton. Woolverton subcontracted the actual construction to William Kelly. The cost was \$6,520.
- The tower was built of native limestone, the light's base is 25 feet in diameter and its walls are five feet thick.
- The original lighting apparatus was 13 Argand whale oil lamps with 16-inch reflectors.
- The first keeper was Benajah Wolcott who took command on 17 June 1822. He was the first American settle on the Marblehead Peninsula. His wife, Rachael, took over his duties when he died in 1832. When she remarried, her new husband, Jeremiah Benschooter, became the keeper. He tended the light until 1842.



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- The next keeper was tavern-owner Colonel Charles F. Drake, who was described in a newspaper article as a "pompous individual. . .[and a] very eccentric gentleman of the old school."
- It was originally called the Sandusky Bay Light until 1870.
- The lighting apparatus was changed in 1858 to a Fourth Order Fresnel lens.
- Tower was increased in height by 15-feet in 1897.
- The lantern room was replaced with one taken from the Erie, Pennsylvania main light.
- A Fourth Order bi-valve lens was installed along with a clockwork mechanism.
- Light was electrified in 1923.
- In 1939 the light was a "sub-unit" of the nearby Marblehead Lifeboat Station and was manned by personnel attached to that unit.
- The light was automated in 1958.
- The Fresnel lens was removed in 1972 and replaced with a 300 mm green flashing light.
- Currently an active aid to navigation but the property and lighthouse are now owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- The Keeper's House serves as the Marblehead Lighthouse Historical Society Museum.

Keepers:

Benajah Wolcott: 17 June 1822-1832

Rachael Wolcott: 1832-?

Jeremiah Benschooter: ?-1842

Col. Charles F. Drake: 1842-29 May 1849

Capt. Lodavick Brown: 1849-1853

Jared B. Keyes: 28 April 1853-1859

D. L. Dayton: 1 February 1859-1861

Thomas Dyer: 29 March 1861-1865

Russell Douglas (or Douglass): 12 December 1865-1872

Thomas J. Keyes: 27 August 1872-1873

George H. McKee: 15 August 1873-1903?

Capt. Charles Hunter: 1903-1933

Edward Herman (Assistant Keeper): 1913-1933

Edward Herman (Keeper): 1933-11 May 1943 (resigned but "continued to care for the light until the Coast Guard took over in the summer of 1943.")

MAUMEE BAY RANGE LIGHTS



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PORT CLINTON LIGHT

Location: On the outer end of the west pier at the entrance to the harbor of Port Clinton

Station Established: 1833

Year Current Tower: First Lit: 1896

Operational: No

Automated: N/A

Deactivated: 1927

Foundation Materials: Stone

Construction Materials: Wood

Tower Shape: 4-sided pyramidal

Tower Height: 25-2/3 feet above lake level

Markings/Pattern: White with brown foundation; black lantern roof

Characteristic: Fixed red

Relationship to Other Structure: Separate

Original Lens: Lens lantern (as of 1901)

Foghorn: None

SANDUSKY BAY RANGE LIGHTS

SANDUSKY PIERHEAD LIGHT

SOUTH BASS ISLAND LIGHT

SOUTH BASS ISLAND/WESTERN LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1897

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1897

Operational? NO

Automated? YES

Deactivated: 1962

Foundation Materials: BRICK

Construction Materials: BRICK

Tower Shape: SQUARE W/OCTAGONAL LANTERN



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Markings/Pattern: RED BRICK W/WHITE LANTERN
Relationship to Other Structure: ATTACHED
Original Lens: FOURTH ORDER

Historical Information:

Keepers:

1897-1899: Harry H. Riley
1899-1900: Enoch W. Scribner
1900-1908: Colonel J. (Orlo) Mason
1908-1925: Charles B. Duggan
1925-1926: Lyle Duggan
1926-1939: Captain William L. Gordon
1939-1941: Frank LaRose
1941-1944: Robert Jones
1944-1947: Kenneth Nester
1947-1962: Paul F. Prochnow

TOLEDO HARBOR LIGHT

MAUMEE RIVER/MAUMEE BAY/LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1904

Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1904

Operational? YES

Automated? YES 1965

Deactivated: n/a

Foundation Materials: STONE/CONCRETE PIER ON CRIB

Construction Materials: BRICK/STEEL

Tower Shape: CONICAL

Markings/Pattern: DARK TOWER ON BUFF ROMANESQUE DWELLING

Relationship to Other Structure: INTEGRAL

Original Lens: THIRD AND HALF ORDER 1904

WEST SISTER ISLAND LIGHT

MAUMEE BAY ENTRANCE/WEST END LAKE ERIE

Station Established: 1821



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Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1848
Operational? YES
Automated? YES 1937
Deactivated: n/a
Foundation Materials: STONE
Construction Materials: LIMESTONE/BRICK
Tower Shape: CONICAL W/OUT LANTERN
Markings/Pattern: WHITE W/BLACK BALCONY
Relationship to Other Structure: SEPARATE
Original Lens: FOURTH ORDER 1848
