

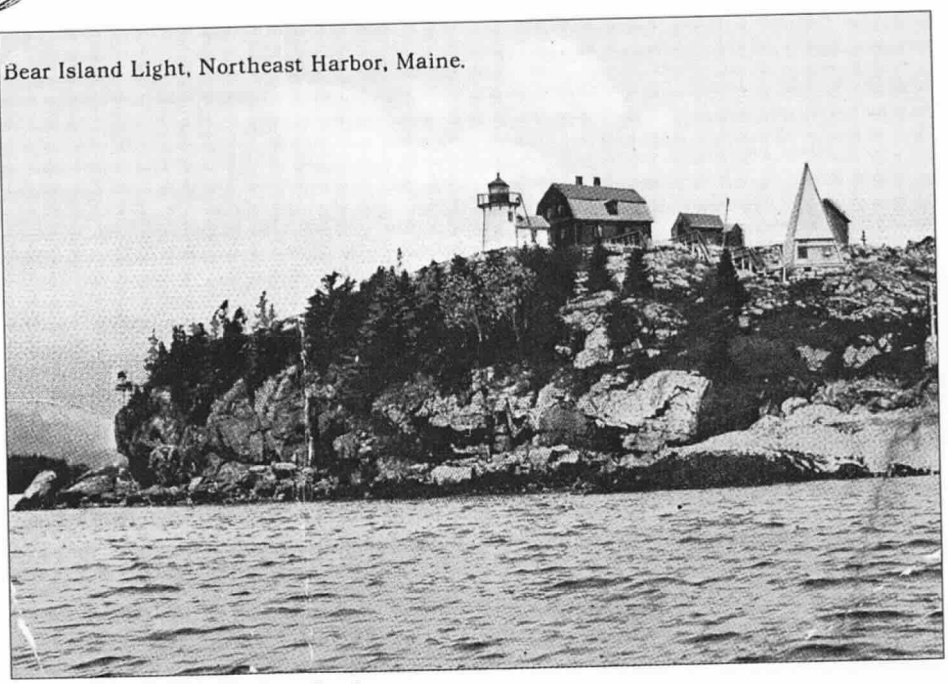
NOTICE TO KEEPERS

This section of the LOG is to inform members of lighthouses open to the public and of restoration projects seeking donations of labor, materials and funds. Notices to Mariners also contains poems, book reviews and letters to the editor. This section is flexible and primarily designed to inform and entertain the reader on a varied spectrum of things lighthouse and lightship.

New England District

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Bear Island Light, Northeast Harbor, Maine.



Bear Island from an old Post Card

Funds Awarded to Maine Lighthouses

ME

The Maine Historic Preservation Committee has awarded $50,000 for five lighthouse projects in Maine.

Bakers Island, Mount Desert—$3,600 for structural analyses of buildings.

Dice's Head, Castine—$4,000 for repointing, carpentry and structural repairs to several buildings.

Marshall Point, St. George—$17,000 for roofing repairs and porch restoration.

Monhegan Island, Monhegan—$5,000 for phase II of repairs to sill, trim, windows and painting of keeper's house and out buildings.

Petit Manan, Milbridge—$14,500 for phase II of a general restoration of the exterior of the keeper's house, roofing and repointing of two out buildings.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission is also spending $5,000 for phase II of a Historic American Building Survey Record of all National Register listed light stations in Maine.

Bear Island

Cranberry Isles, ME

The Bear Island lighthouse once again shines a light out over the waters of Northeast Harbor. The light station, established in 1839, was decommissioned in 1981 when the Coast Guard placed a lighted buoy off shore to replace the aid. In 1987 the property was transferred to the Acadia National Park. Earlier this year the Friends of Acadia National Park launched a campaign to relight the tower. Although the candlepower is less than it was before decommissioning, it will serve the mariner and many local fishermen were delighted to have it relighted. Even local residents welcome the return of the blinking five-second characteristic. One Northeast Harbor resident, Mildred Gilley, fondly remembers canoeing out to Bear Island with a beau on a moonlit night back in the 1930's. "That beam was a constant friend for as long as I can remember and as dependable as the tides. It lighted many a youthful moonlight sail to Cranberry Island," she recalled. "Its relighting is like the return of a very best friend and I hope it will shine until I can no longer remember."

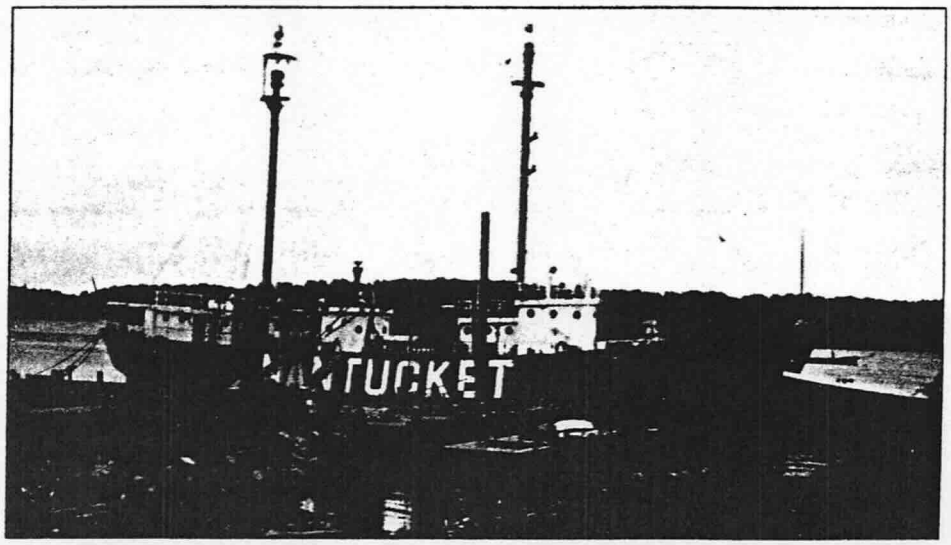
Since the property was placed under the National Park Service the Friends of Acadia have succeeded, to repair the roof and the building leading to the lighthouse, with private funds and a grant.

NANTUCKET Lightship Update

Nantucket, MA

We have learned that the historic NANTUCKET lightship (LV 112) may be in trouble. As we understand it the vessel was sold to a New York based group called the Nantucket Lightship Preservation, Inc. for $1.00 in 1985. That group spent a great deal of time and funds to completely restore the vessel. During the past two years she sailed to many New England ports and was involved with educational programs. However, the New York group no longer wished to operate the ship and agreed to sell it to a new group called Lightship Nantucket, Inc. But the fly in the ointment was that the town of Nantucket had first right of refusal until 1 September 1989. According to several sources the town exercised that right at 15 minutes to midnight on 30 August 1989. Then they sold it to a Kevin Murphy of Nantucket for $1.00. The town of Nantucket states that they originally didn't have the funds to maintain the historic ship, nor do they now. And that they were willing to let the new Maine-based group have the ship if that group would agree to let the town keep the right of first refusal and bring the ship to Nantucket Island for one month each summer; the group was not willing and the town reclaimed her. Our sources state that Kevin Murphy doesn't appear to be properly funded for a project of this magnitude but he has lots of ideas. After spending a few months anchored off of Nantucket Island, when there was no room in the harbor, he sailed the ship to Portsmouth, RI. He stated that he would like to take the ship to Texas (!!) stopping at various ports en route to raise money. A Coast Guard source said that Mr. Murphy cannot get the ship underway in the future unless he obtains required certification.

The Maritime section of the National Trust and other concerned maritime groups, along with this society, have written the Selectmen of Nantucket expressing concern over the fate of this vessel, the largest lightship ever constructed in this country.



***Lightship #112* at Portland, ME in 1989. Photo by James Delgado and courtesy of the National Park Service.**



Minots Ledge from an old Post Card. Note boat in davits.

Minots Ledge Beams Again

Cohasset, MA

This past fall the Coast Guard completed their two year $400,000 restoration project on the famous Minots Ledge tower. Over 300 people cheered as sirens and flares announced that the familiar characteristic of 1-4-3 once again flashed over the waters off Cohasset.

The original lighthouse on the Minots Ledge was felled by a storm in 1851, just 18 months after it was constructed, killing the two keepers on duty. A lightship was stationed at the ledge until the present structure was completed in 1860.

For years the people living along Boston's south shore have said that the 1-4-3 characteristic stands for "I-Love-You" and many couples in the area have 1-4-3 inscribed inside their wedding bands.

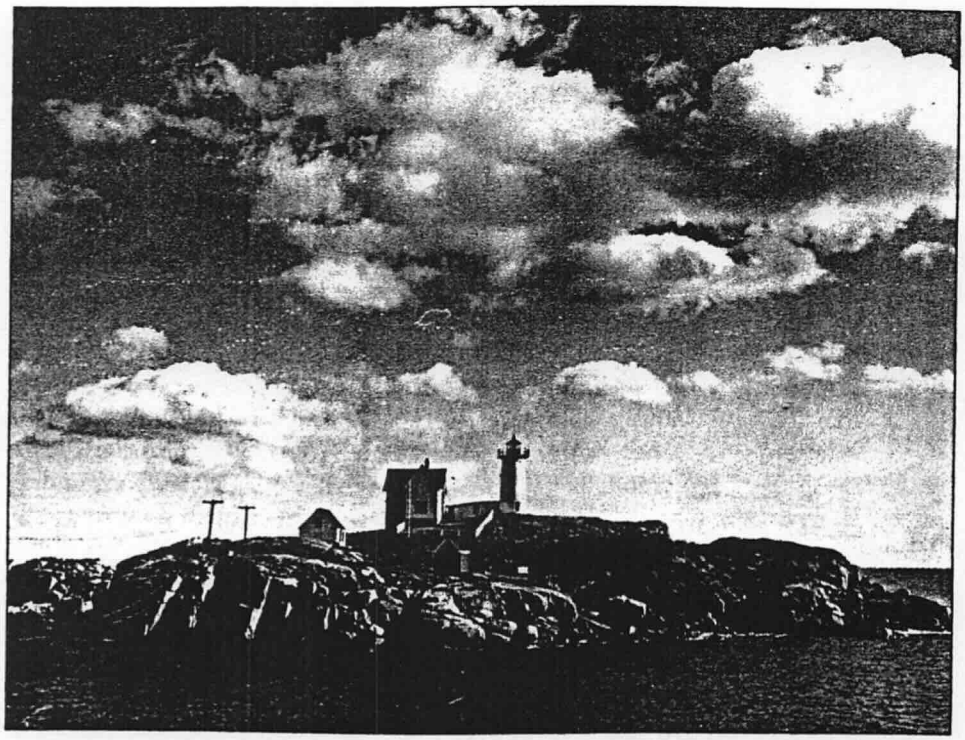
The stones for the construction of the present tower were cut and preassembled for fit, before being transferred to the reef, at the Government Island at Cohasset. The present project required replacing several of the top courses of

politicians, the unveiling of five lighthouse postage stamps, presentation of a plaque listing the 29 head keepers of the lighthouse from Joseph Greenleaf in 1791 to David Simpson, the last in a long line of keepers. The ceremony was well represented by USLHS members including our New England District Superintendent Ken Black. The ceremony ended with three long blasts from the lighthouse fog signal which was answered, in turn, by three long blasts from the lightship Nantucket, moored nearby.

Pemaquid Does It Up Right

ME

The Pemaquid lighthouse made quite a weekend out of the Lighthouse Day celebration. Friday there was a variety show, Saturday a parade followed by a clambake, A Dixieland Band (in Maine?), and fireworks. On Sunday a fishermen's boat race, blessing of the fleet and a concert. Quite the celebration. If you are ever in Maine, visiting Pemaquid Point is a must.



Cape Neddick Light Station (often called "The Nubble") off York, ME. Photo by Keeper Mark Ide

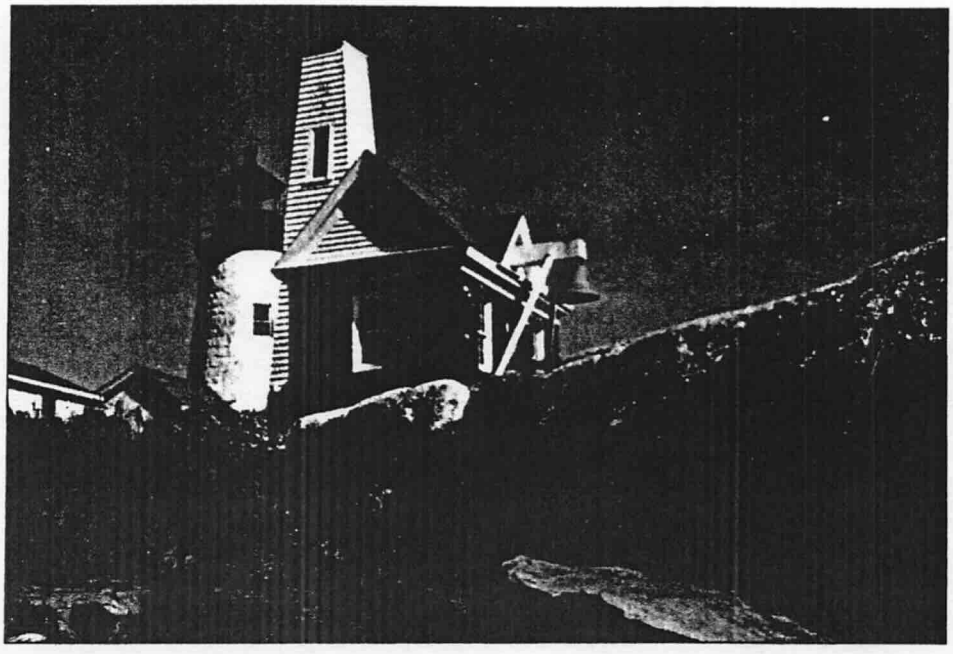
Bear Island Relighted

The Friends of Acadia National Park have been given a Private Aid to Navigation Permit and have relighted the Bear Island Lighthouse which was discontinued in 1981.

Cape Neddick Lighthouse

York, ME

The York Planning Commission has approved plans to restore the Cape Neddick (the Nubble) light station. Volunteers have swarmed over the structures painting the tower and reroofing the house. The town of York has a long term license from the Coast Guard to occupy the station. The restoration fund contains about $75,000 from federal, state and private sources.



Picturesque Pemaquid Point, ME light station. The small house in the foreground contains the fog bell striking machine. The weight tower for that apparatus stands behind the house. Photo by Keeper Sandra Shanklin.

Nantucket Lightship May Head Home

Nantucket, MA

Several citizens of Nantucket Island are trying to bring home the LV which served on the Nantucket Shoals station, from 1936 until 1975. Although many vessels served on the Nantucket station LV 534 is one of the more historic of those vessels. At 150 feet in length she is the largest ever constructed in this coun-