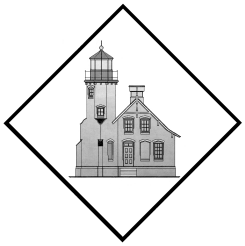
Cedar Point Light

By

Phyllis L. Tag

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Dayton, OH 45449

Cedar Point Lighthouse through time



(Photo Courtesy of Great Lakes Historical Society)
Cedar Point Lighthouse in 1859



(Photo Courtesy of Great Lakes Historical Society)
Cedar Point Lighthouse in 1883



Cedar Point Lighthouse after restoration in 2000 After restoration



Light Information from Annual Reports of the Lighthouse Board and other sources

24th Congress 1st, Doc. 66 - 1836

pp. 13
Samuel Starkweather, Ohio, also recommends a beacon, fifteen feet high with four lamps, and a keeper's house, on Cedar Point, at the entrance of Sandusky bay.
* Note -- Estimated cost $2,000. This bay is inaccessible in dark nights.

25th Congress 2nd, Doc. 15, pp. - 1837

pp. 11 - 12
Approved - A beacon-light on a proper site near the entrance of the harbor of Sandusky Bay.

Instructions have been given to the superintendent of lighthouses at Cleveland, to purchase the proper site for the beacon-light at the entrance of Sandusky harbor.

25th Congress 2nd, Doc. 41, pp. - 1837

pp. - 88
There was a beacon-light authorized to be placed as a guide into this harbor; and I have recommended, in my report on the subject, that it be made a red light, so as to distinguish it from Sandusky lighthouse, and have selected Cedar point as the site for it.

25th Congress, 3rd, Doc. 24 - 1838

pp. 152
Upon Cedar point, at the entrance of Sandusky Bay, is about being erected a Beacon-light. It is contemplated placing the lantern on the building in which the tender is to reside, a plan always commendable when the locality of the light will allow. I find, on examining this point, that the lake is making fearful inroads upon the shore; and, to prevent future calamitous consequences, I deem it essentially important that crib-work, filled with stone, be extended from the Hog's-back (so called) to the extreme point of the cape, a distance of about 150 feet. When this is completed, the waves will soon overlay it with sand, and thus afford permanent protection to the intended site of the beacon. The expense attending the construction of crib-work, four feet in width and three in height, will be but trifling, as the whole would not exceed $500.

It is believed that the present appropriation of $3,000 will be sufficient to defray all the cost of the dwelling, necessary out-buildings, and crib-work.

This was certainly the opinion of Mr. Starkweather, the collector at Cleveland, in whom the contracting power is vested. The utility of this light in entering the bay has doubtless been fully represented; and I will only observe, that the most favorable report with regard to it meets my full concurrence.

Status as of December 31, 1839			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks**
Beacon at Cedar Point	6	84	

Annual Report - 1839 - Hand written

The conduct of the keepers of the lighthouses, has been generally good. Some complaints have been made against the conduct of George S. Patterson, Keeper of the Beacon at Huron, charging him with neglect of duty, and of keeping his beacon in a dirty condition. Upon examination I found there was some ground for these charges, and have admonished him to a stricter attention to his duty. He has since done much better, and affords assurance that he will hereafter, do his whole duty.

Augustus Jones, Keeper of the Beacon at the mouth of Black River, does not attend personally to his duty. He employs an assistant, to whom he entrusts the keeping of the beacon. I have visited this beacon during the present year, and found it in a dirty condition. There appeared to be a waste of oil. I am of the opinion, that this keeper should be removed.

I am able to speak of the other keepers of the lighthouses, in terms of praise, with the exception of J. Van Benschooter, Keeper of the Sandusky Lighthouse. I have had cause to charge him two or three times during the last summer, with neglect, and I did not deem it my duty to report the cases to you, because the most satisfactory assurances of reform, were given.

Gideon L. Kelsey, Keeper of the Turtle Island Lighthouse, A. Smith, Keeper of the Port Clinton Lighthouse, L. Beatty, Keeper of the Beacon on Cedar Point, deserve the greatest praise for the excellent lights, which they keep. The Cleveland Lighthouse and Beacon is also very well kept, as also the Beacons, at Cunningham Harbor and Ashtabula. The Grand River Lighthouse and Beacon, and the Beacon on the pier at Conneaut River, might be better kept, than they are, but it may be said of them, that they are decently well kept.

The apparatus in the several lighthouses, and beacons, have not been repaired this year. They will all need some slight repairs, this ensuing summer, to do which it will be in my power to employ a competent mechanic from this place.

Tube glasses, are already furnished the lighthouses, in sufficient quantity, but they are not of the kind, required. A supply, of long tube glasses, is much wanted, and it is important for the superintendent to be informed, on whom, he is to depend for a supply, all of which is respectfully, submitted.

Custom House
Cleveland, Ohio

Feb. 11th 1840
Samuel Starkweather
Superintendent of
Lighthouses Cleveland, Ohio

27th Congress, 2nd, Doc. 811 - 1842

pp. 32
Light-house- Cedar Point Beacon

Years - 1839 Amount appropriated -	$5,000.00
Cost-	$3,738.49
Cost of land-	$500.00
Carried to surplus fund -	$1,261.51
Remarks -	

28th Congress, 1st, Doc. 38 - 1843

pp. 60
All here is in excellent order; no repairs are necessary. Every one speaks well of the light.

Status as of December 31, 1843			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks**
Cedar Point Lighthouse	6	157	

Status as of December 31, 1844			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks**
Cedar Point Lighthouse	6	184	

Report by John Mc Reynolds July 18, 1845 - Hand Written

Cedar Point Light - May 27th Every thing here is in the very best condition except natural wear of lighting apparatus which I had repaired. The keeper is

a faithful officer and general favorite, and is aided in his duties by a wife equally qualified with himself to discharge the same. This light embracing 5 lamps (**Ed: actually 6)** is highly spoken of by all.

Report by John Mc Reynolds November 20, 1845 - Hand Written

Cedar Point Light - This light is kept by old Mr. Beatty and his wife in excellent order, and with the strictest economy and care.

Status as of December 31, 1848			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks**
Cedar Point Lighthouse	6	154	

30th Congress 2nd, Doc. 2 - 1849

pp. 67
Lists of Lighthouses, & c. As of Oct. 1, 1848

Cedar Point Beacon
Lights, 1
Keepers, 1
Salary, $350.00
Lamps, 6

Status as of December 31, 1849			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks**
Cedar Point Lighthouse	6	128	

31st Congress 2nd, Doc. 14 - 1850

pp. 87
At this place the old zinc on the deck of the tower wants to be taken up, and new substituted therefor, to make the tower water-tight. The dwelling wants pointing, and some repairs are needed to the roof, which altogether will require an appropriation of $40. Conduct of keeper good.

pp. 91
Cedar Point
Oil Delivered.
Winter - 84 gal.
Spring- 79 gal.
Total - 163

Status as of December 31, 1851			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks Oil good.**
Cedar Point Lighthouse	6	186	

ARLB 1855

pp. 394
Cedar Point Beacon - To be refitted with a 6-th order lens for 270º, with fountain lamp and one burner.

36th Congress 2nd Session Doc. 2, 1860

pp. 370
Two new spar buoys have been placed to mark the channel at Cedar Point

ARLB 1864

pp. 170
Representations having been received to the effect that the channel formerly used in Sandusky bay had again become practicable, and that the old ranges which had been discontinued on account of uselessness should be re-established to facilitate the commerce of the locality, the necessary surveys to verify the report were ordered and made, and resulted in its confirmation. The work of re-establishing these ranges will be commenced as soon as practicable, plans and estimates for permanent works being now in course of preparation. Meanwhile a temporary range has been established.

ARLB 1865

pp. 198
The temporary range lights at Cedar Point, Sandusky bay, referred to in the last annual report as having been established, have been continued, and the importance of rendering these aids permanent is such as to warrant the board in submitting a special estimate designed to cover the cost of suitable structures.

ARLB 1866

pp. 221
As soon as the plans and estimates for the outer range lights at Cedar Point, Sandusky bay, Ohio, were approved by the board, steps were taken to procure the timber required for the work, but it was found that it could not be obtained for anything like the price estimated, nor in time to sink the cribs

during the months most favorable to the prosecution of such work. It was therefore thought best to postpone the work until next season, and to purchase the timber in the winter, when it can be obtained on more favorable terms. The temporary range erected at this island has answered a good purpose, and is still in use.

ARLB 1867

pp. 231
Under authority of Congress, a beacon light, on an outer range at this place, has been constructed, and the light exhibited.

ARLB 1868

pp. 373
Cedar Point Range In good condition.

ARLB 1869

pp. 466
Cedar Point Beacon - A new woodshed has been built. The premises are now in good condition.

Cedar Point ranges - This station has received a pump and fixtures, and is now in good condition.

ARLB 1870

pp. 381
A buoy shed has been constructed at this light station for the protection and storage of spare buoys and their fixtures.

pp. 282
Depots - Cedar Point - A buoy shed and depot has been erected at Cedar Point, on the lighthouse lot.

ARLB 1871

pp. 529
Cedar Point - It is proposed to establish a fog-bell at this station before the close of the season.

pp. 529
There have been repairs and renovations more or less during the last year at Cedar Point.

ARLB 1873

pp. 361

Cedar Point	Repairs
Cedar Point Beacon	Repairs

ARLB 1874

pp. 68

Cedar Point	Repairs
Cedar Point Beacon	Repairs

ARLB 1875

pp.64

Cedar Point	Repairs
Cedar Point Beacon	Repairs

ARLB 1876

pp. 49

The site of the buoy-shed at this station has been protected from the action of the lake by a solid crib-work, with a wing projection to the eastward, all thoroughly tied together, and well rip-rapped. A good landing-pier for the buoys, 166 feet long, has been carried out into the lake.

pp. 50

Cedar Point	Repairs
Cedar Point Range	Repairs

ARLB 1881

pp. 59

Cedar Point	Repairs

ARLB 1884

Clipping File - National Archives

The buoy house at Cedar Point is in general good repair.

ARLB 1885

pp. 72

The buoy house is only in fair repair.

ARLB 1886

pp. 72
The boat landing, consisting of a timber crib 8 by 16 feet in plan and 5 feet above the lake level, was rebuilt and filled with stone. The plank walk, 8 feet wide and 125 feet long, resting upon 3 small cribs, connecting the landing with the shore, was rebuilt. The plank walk leading from the buoy house to the dwelling and around the dwelling, for a distance of 265 feet, was re-laid, and other minor repairs were made.

pp. 73
Cedar Point Range Repairs

ARLB 1887

pp. 86
The decking of the crib, which was damaged by fire on July 4, 1886, was repaired.

ARLB 1888
Clipping Files - National Archives

No repairs were made during the year and none are reported necessary.

ARLB 1889
Clipping Files - National Archives

No repairs were made during the year and none are reported necessary.

ARLB 1890

pp. 149
Some 267 feet of wire and wooden picket fence were set up on the west and south lines of the reservation.

pp. 149
Cedar Point Range Beacon - A portion of the plank walk leading from the main light to this range was raised, on account of the accumulation of drift-sand.

pp. 152
Cedar Point Depot
No repairs were made and none were reported as necessary.

ARLB 1891

pp. 139 -140
Cedar Point Range Beacon - The superstructure of the crib, surrounding the interior foundation supporting the range dwelling is decayed so that the crib has separated in the center, causing the frame building, which rests in the center, to settle unevenly, and the crib work and structure are liable to be further damaged at almost any time by the lake action. It was proposed to place a triangular iron tower, 30 feet high, in the center of the crib, resting on a pile foundation projecting four feet above ordinary water level, and a contract was made on June 29, 1891, for furnishing, delivering, and erecting a stanchion tower, but since then it was found that the crib protection to the foundation proper had separated on the lake face. In order to save and protect the expensive crib work from further separation, as well as the foundation proper, it was decided to drive a row of piles around the entire outside of the crib work, and secure the piles with double walling to prevent further canting over, and to build the superstructure of the cribs back to full height, rather than to abandon the structure, and to substitute an iron tower, resting upon a pile foundation. The iron tower which was contracted for this range can be transferred and used elsewhere. Some repairs were made.

pp.144
Cedar Point, Ohio - No repairs were made and none were reported.

ARLB 1892

pp. 158
The protection of the cribwork from further separation was completed. The work consisted of driving a row of piles around the entire outside, securing then with double walling to prevent further canting over, and leveling the superstructure of the crib to its full height.

pp. 163

Cedar Point	Repairs

pp. 164

Cedar Point Depot	No repairs were made.

ARLB 1894

pp. 159
The elevated walk, 486 feet in length, leading from the dwelling to the front Beacon, was rebuilt. A small shed for storage was erected. Various minor repairs were made.

pp. 167
Sandusky, Ohio - This depot is simply a buoy shed on the lighthouse reservation at Cedar Point. The wharf is a mere walkway to a point where small boats can land. The place is not convenient and is not much used.

ARLB 1895
Clipping File - National Archives

Sandusky, Ohio - The Construction of a buoy house at Cedar Point is under contract. The buoy house is in poor condition.

ARLB 1896

pp. 132 - 133
Various repairs were made to the keeper's dwelling. The wharf was repaired and extended 106 feet. The extension is 20 feet wide and rests on heavy oak piling. A contract was made for building a further extension of this wharf of the same type 256 feet long into about 10 feet depth of water. A steel car and 800 feet of steel rails were purchased and delivered at this station for use on the completed wharf, which is to be used in transferring buoys, etc., from the Lighthouse tender to the shore.

pp. 138
The wharf was extended 106 feet, and a contract was approved for building another extension of 256 feet to deeper water. The buoy house is so small and old that it is of little value. A larger and more substantial building is needed. The district is in need of better facilities for landing and the care of buoys, anchors, and supplies. In the last annual report it was stated that a buoy house instead of a buoy wharf was being built by contract.

ARLB 1897
Clipping File - National Archives

Sandusky (Cedar Point), Ohio - A raised platform at the shore end of the wharf was constructed, and an iron track for a car was laid the entire length of the wharf for use in handling buoys, and their appurtenances.

ARLB 1898

pp.162
The boathouse was enlarged and rebuilt nearer the water, and fitted with boat ways having rollers extending into the water. Repairs were made.

pp. 167
Sandusky Bay (Cedar Point), Ohio - The raised platform at the shore end of the wharf was enlarged. The buoy shed was rebuilt on a larger plan, and provided with an overhead track and pulleys for handling buoys and anchors. Eight iron rings were provided on the wharf, to which the tender could fasten.

ARLB 1899
Clipping file - National Archives

Sandusky Bay (Cedar Point), Ohio - The buoy shed and wharf which were remodeled in 1898 are in good condition.

ARLB 1900
Clipping file - National Archives

Sandusky Bay (Cedar Point), Ohio - Piles at the two outer corners and 14 fender piles along side of wharf were driven and bolted to the stringers.

ARLB 1901

pp. 173
Sandusky Bay (Cedar Point), Ohio - This lighthouse depot and wharf are in good condition. They were painted by the crew of the *Haze*. The buoys and appliances from Sandusky Bay and from about the islands to the northward and westward are stored here in addition to the spare buoys and appliances.

ARLB 1902
Clipping file - National Archives

Sandusky Bay (Cedar Point), Ohio - This depot and wharf are in good condition. The buoys and appliances from Sandusky Bay and from about the islands to the northward and westward are stored here in addition to the spare buoys and appliances.

ARLB 1903
Clipping File - National Archives

Sandusky Bay (Cedar Point), Ohio - The outer end of the wharf was nearly torn away by the ice during the early spring of 1903. The end has been drawn back into place and secured by bolts extending through the head to the second and third bents. The wharf and buoy shed is now in gook condition and accommodates the buoyage of the vicinity. The car track has been extended 30 feet into the shed to facilitate the handling of the larger buoys. The Sandusky Bay buoys and appurtenances from Sandusky Bay and from about the islands to the northward and westward are stored here.

HAER-Great Lakes Lighthouse Survey – 1979

Name – Cedar Point Light (ANT Sandusky, U. S. Coast Guard)
Site Address – On the northwest tip of Cedar Point, at the rear of Cedar Point Amusement Park, On Lake Erie
State – Ohio
County – Erie
City – Sandusky
Owner – Department of Transportation, U. S, Coast Guard
Owner's Address – Ninth District 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland Ohio 44199

Description – A light was first established on Cedar Point, at the entrance to Sandusky Bay, in 1838. A report to the Secretary of the Treasury that year noted: "It is contemplated placing the lantern on the building in which the tender is to reside – a plan always commendable when the locality will allow". When the Cedar Point Light was rebuilt in 1862, the same plan was adopted: the light tower rose from the roof of the 6-room keeper's dwelling. Although the light was abandoned by 1909, it continued to serve as a dwelling for the keeper of the Sandusky Bay Range Lights. It subsequently served as a U. S. Coast Guard Station and today houses a Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team (ANT). The 1 ½ story rectangular building is constructed of limestone set in a random ashlar pattern. Its double-hung, 2/2 windows have dressed stone sills and lintels. The building has a gable roof with two inside end chimneys made of brick and a wide, plain frieze. The light tower, which once rose from the center of the roof, has been removed. Above the central entrance is a gabled wall dormer with a round-arch window. A 1-story wing with a separate entrance on the east side of the building, now used as a kitchen, probably was the "room formerly used as oil room" mentioned in the 1909 lighthouse inventory. An enclosed porch has been added at the rear of the building and the interior has been extensively altered. There is a square iron oil house nearby.

References – Records of the United States Coast Guard, Record Group 26, National Archives, Washington, D. C. Interview with Jim Woodward, Civil Engineering section, United States Coast Guard Ninth District Headquarters, Cleveland, Ohio, 9 April 1979.

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