Great Lakes Lighthouses Available

Chicago, IL

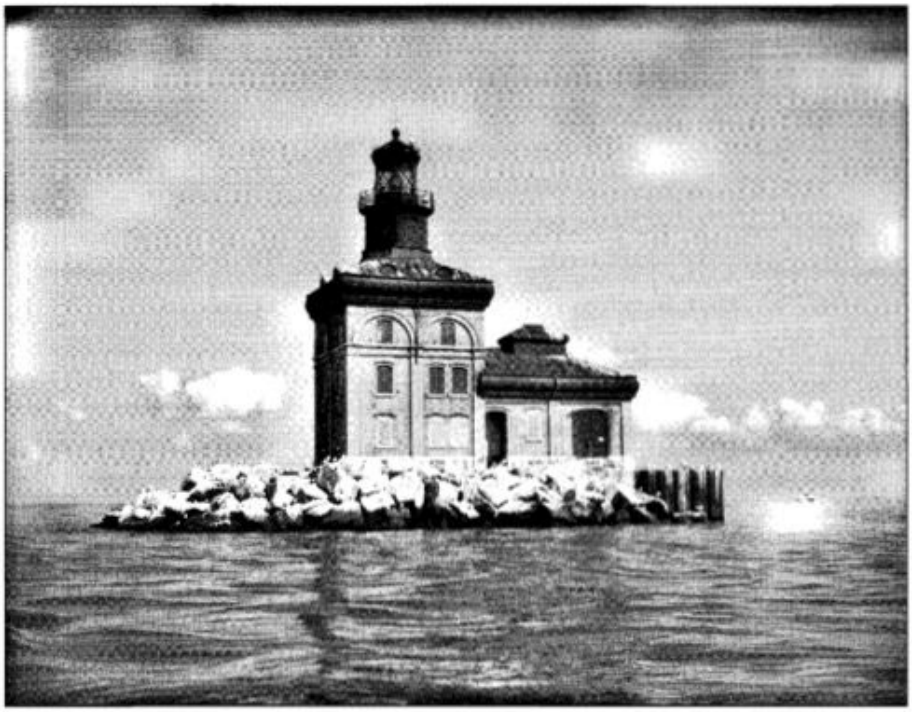
The General Services Administration recently announced that seven Great Lakes Lighthouses, which have been declared excess by the Coast Guard, are available to qualified owners. The properties listed below will be conveyed under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 (NHLPA).

Potential qualified recipients are federal, state, county and city organizations as well as other nonprofit groups such as historical societies. Those seeking properties under the Act must prove they are financially capable with financial resources and a successful track record of historic preservation or restoration. The recipient will be required to maintain the property in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards of Historic Preservation and make the property available to the public (in some manner) within a reasonable period of time.

If interested in applying for any of the properties you may write to GSA, 230 South Dearborn St. – Room 3774, Chicago, IL 60604.

- Charlevoix South Pierhead Light, Charlevoix, MI
- Holland Harbor South Pierhead Light (Big Red), Park Township, MI
- Ludington North Breakwater Light, Ludington, MI
- Menominee North Pierhead Light, Menominee, MI
- Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light, Fairport, OH
- Toledo Harbor Lighthouse, Toledo, OH
- Chicago Harbor Lighthouse, Chicago, IL





Top – The Chicago Harbor Lighthouse. Photo by Thomas Wade.
Above – Toledo Harbor Lighthouse, this unusual design is a one-of-a-kind. Photo by Sandee Szymanski.

West Coast

(All West Coast, Alaska and Hawaii)

Society Lightship
RELIEF *(WLV 605)*
Jack London Square, Oakland, CA
John Byrne, Director
Use Society address for mail
Ship's phone (510) 272-0544

Oregon Chapter
Shirley Nelson, President
P.-O. Box 2053
Lebanon, OR 97355
http://www.oregonlighthousesociety.org

New Dungeness Chapter
Paul Mowrey, President
P.O. Box 1283
Sequim, WA 98382
http://www.dungeness.com/lighthouse

Point Fermin Chapter
Martha McKenzie, President
366 South Hamilton Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90732

Point Sur's Unique Keepers' Residence

Big Sur, CA

The Point Sur Light Station includes a unique structure in the form of a large granite triplex. The dwelling is one of the largest remaining lighthouse dwellings in the country and a one-of-a-kind design.

Completed in 1889, the dwelling was meant to house all four keepers, but as it was basically a triplex – over crowding occurred until 1902. In that year the old hoist,engine building was converted into a two-story dwelling for the head keeper with the three assistants occupying the triplex.

The triplex boasts an exterior design in the Richardson Romanesque version of the classic gothic revival style that was popular in the letter half of the 19th Century.

The ceilings are high – set off by curvilinear molding running around the rooms. The rooms have high baseboards and several have

wainscoting and chair rails installed, especially in hallways and kitchens. In 1907, indoor plumbing was installed, with a toilet for each apartment installed on the third floor. Because of their third floor installation, it was necessary to construct a cistern at a higher level next to the dwelling, to furnish ample water pressure. Another addition was the installation of a station call bell system linking the dwellings with the lighthouse, fog signal building and other structures.

After the Coast Guard assumed control in 1939, electricity was furnished in the form of generators. The three vertical apartments, with common areas (like the kitchen), were transformed into one three-story vertical apartment, a two-story apartment and a one-story apartment. Kitchens were added, modernized and some additions added.

The Coast Guard abandoned the building in 1973 and boarded it up. In 1984, California State Parks acquired the light station and, working with the nonprofit Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers, began to restore the various structures of the station. In past issues of *The Keeper's Log* we have reported the progress made on the restoration of the combination carpenter/black smith shop and two-story barn, the construction of the replica water tank, installation of the museum and gift shop in the World War II Navy building and work on the principal keeper's dwelling, fog signal building and light tower. The latest project is the renovation of the triplex. The triplex was securely boarded up when the Coast Guard left, causing dry rot and mildew. The Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers added nine vents to the structure to allow air circulation while the other buildings were tended to.

A grant of $64,000 was awarded in 2002 to allow a temporary fix in sealing the leaks in the roof. The time had come, however, to seek a more permanent solution – to replace the entire roof of the structure. In 2003, CCLK's restoration chief, Gary Nelson and the California State Parks began to seek funding to re-roof the structure. Seismic retrofitting will enhance the earthquake "survivability" of the triplex through tying a new roof to the walls of the structure. In the last two years the group received $299,000 for the project; $244,000 from a California Cultural Stewardship Project grant and the remainder – $55,000 from CCLK. The wooden Coast Guard additions of the 1940s and 50s were removed. By March 2004, a new, weatherproof roof was installed and seismic upgrades were completed. The next phase will focus on the interior spaces of the triplex and continuing work on the principal keeper's dwelling.



Point Sur Light Station. From left – WWII Navy building (now used as a museum and visitor center), keeper's dwelling (converted from the steam winch house), assistant keepers' triplex, three car garage and cistern. U.S. Coast Guard photo, circa 1962.

A tour of this station is a must for any lighthouse enthusiast visiting the central California coast. For information, contact the group at: Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers, P.O. Box 223014, Carmel, CA 93922, phone (831) 625-4419. See each of their buildings and take a virtual tour of the site on their excellent website: www.pointsur.org.

Point Fermin's 130th Birthday

San Pedro, CA

Last December the Point Fermin Lighthouse celebrated its 130th birthday. The party included free birthday cake, crafts, games, music, historic entertainment and the opening of the children's exhibits. Admission was free.

The historic redwood Victorian underwent a $2.6 million face lift in 2002 and 2003. Our newest chapter is one of the leading players in opening this lighthouse to the public. Our chapter president, Martha McKenzie, is the granddaughter of the last keepers. She has her grandfather's log book for the station.

Contact the folks at Point Fermin Lighthouse at 807 Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90731, phone (310) 241-0684, website: www.pointferminlighthouse.org. Their curator is Kristen Childs. Lighthouse tours are conducted daily except Mondays. Call or see their website for details.

Assistant Keeper's Dwelling Reconstructed

Old Point Loma, San Diego, Ca

Earlier this year the National Park Service celebrated the grand reopening of the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, located within the Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego. The lighthouse was first lit in 1855 and extinguished in 1891 when the light station was reestablished closer to the water, and below the fog line.

In 2003-2004, the area around the lighthouse was significantly landscaped to more resemble its appearance when the Point Loma Lighthouse was in service. The cement water catchment basin, which funnels rainwater into the cistern, was also reconstructed on the slope east of the old lighthouse.

The NPS built a 900-square-foot exhibit shelter southeast of the lighthouse on the





Top – The Point Cabrillo Light Station completed in 1910. From left – combination lighthouse/fog signal building, carpenter/blacksmith shop, dwellings. U.S. Lighthouse Society photo circa 1930.

Above – The replicated Point Loma assistant keeper's dwelling at right, used as a visitor center. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service, Cabrillo National Monument.

footprint of the long-gone assistant keeper's dwelling. The shelter is similar in appearance and incorporates materials similar to those used in the original dwelling. The shape, roof line, siding and windows approximate those details of the nineteenth-century assistant keeper's house. The structure now houses the original third-order lens from the New Point Loma Light Station.

For more information log on to: www.nps.gov/cabr/lighthouse.html. Write them at Cabrillo National Monument , 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive, San Diego, CA 92106-3601, phone (619) 557-5450.

Point Cabrillo Light Station

Fort Bragg, CA

The Point Cabrillo Lighthouse Keepers Association has announced an appeal to help raise $160,000 in matching funds promised by the California Cultural and History Endowment. The funds will be used to reconstruct the station's barn, pump house and water tower. These are the only elements missing from the station grounds. The three dwellings, carpenter-black smith shop, oil house and combination tower/fog signal building remain.

The association is also looking for period furnishing from the 1900 – 1935 era. Specifically; oil lamps, carpets, chairs, tables, a wall mounted coffee grinder, kitchen utensils and produce tins and boxes.

Recently the association competed restoration to the eastern most keeper's dwelling. The project involved restoration of some of the wood siding and replacement of the windows. Last year the lighthouse/fog signal building restored and the 3rd order lens completely refurbished.

If you are able to assist in any way please contact them at: Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association, P.O. Box 641, Mendocino, CA 95460, phone (707) 937-6120 or 6123, website: www.pointcabrillo.org.