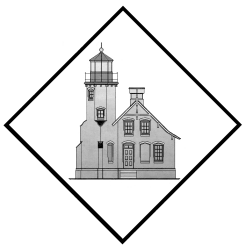
Vermilion Light

By

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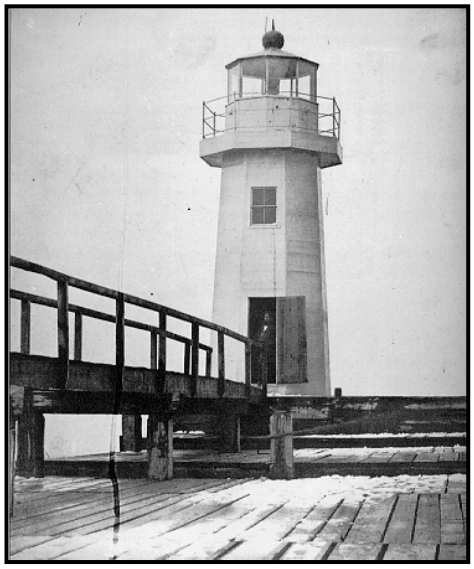
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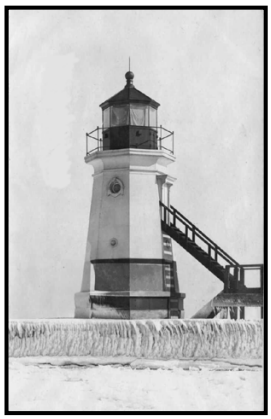
Vermilion Lighthouse through time



(Photo Courtesy Great Lakes Historical Society)
Vermilion Lighthouse 1859



Vermilion Harbor 1905



(Photo Courtesy Great Lakes Historical Society)
Vermilion Lighthouse ca. 1909



Vermilion 1919



(Photo Courtesy Great Lakes Historical Society)



(Photo Courtesy Great Lakes Historical Society)

Vermilion Tower relocated to East Charity Shoal Lens in Replica Lighthouse

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

Vermilion Light Station, Ohio
Lake Erie

(Established in 1847. Rebuilt in 1859, & 1877)

Appropriated by act of Congress, for a beacon light, & preparing the head of the pier for the same, at Vermilion River, Ohio - March 3, 1847 - $3,000

For renewing the light at Vermilion Harbor, & repairing the pier on which it is placed - August 31, 1852 - $3,000

For repairing the lighthouse pier at Vermilion - March 3, 1859 - $5,000

For a dwelling for the keeper of Vermilion Lighthouse - March 3, 1871 - $4,000

27th Congress 2nd, Doc. 811, 1842

pp. 70
Vermilion Harbor, Ohio
Appropriations from 1836 to 1838, both inclusive, $53,626; original estimate, $61,563; second estimate, (1838,) $74,342

Report of 1839: Estimate to complete the two piers, $27,811. Estimate of permanently improving the harbor, average of seven modes, $140,000.

pp. 71
List of public works, original estimate of cost, expenditure, and estimate to complete them.
Original estimate of cost - $61,000 Expenditure-$53,000
Estimate to complete work $140,000

State of the Lighthouse 1849

Status as of December 31, 1849			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks**
Vermilion Lighthouse	**4**	**29**	

30th Congress 2nd, Doc. 2, - 1849

pp. 67
Lists of lighthouses, &c. As of October 1, 1848

Vermilion River Beacon Lights, 1 Keepers, 1 Salary, $180.00 Lamps, 1

31th Congress 2nd, Doc. 2, No. 14 - 1850

pp. 87
Everything in good repair, conduct of keeper good.

pp. 91
Vermilion Beacon
Oil delivered Winter - 39 1/2 gal. Spring - 0 Total - 39 1/2

State of the Lighthouse 1851

Status as of December 31, 1851			
Location	**Number of lamps in use**	**Gallons of Oil Consumed**	**Remarks**
Vermilion Lighthouse	**4**	**48**	

Report of the Lighthouse Board, H. Doc. 23, January 15, 1853

pp. 92
Vermilion Harbor - Renewing lighthouse $3,000, referred to Topographical Bureau to be reported upon.

The Congressional Globe August 31, 1852

For removing the light at Vermilion Harbor, and repairing the pier on which it is placed, three thousand dollars.

Report of the Lighthouse Board, November 19, 1853

pp. 191
The appropriation for repairing the lighthouse pier, &c, at Huron and Vermilion, have been placed in the hands of Capt. H. Stansbury, United States Corps of Topographical Engineers. With the consent of the chief of that bureau, reserving only a sufficient sum from each appropriation to provide the necessary illuminating apparatus and to pay for the necessary repairs upon the towers.

pp. 215
Vermilion Harbor - Repair to lighthouse piers August 31, 1852 - $3,000. Work in charge of an officer of Topographical Engineers, and will be completed this season to the amount of the appropriation.

Report on the finances No. 37, Report of the Lighthouse Board - 1854

pp. 306
Repair to lighthouse piers - August 31, 1852 $3,000 Under Construction

36th Congress 1st, Doc. 3, - 1859

pp. 296
Vermilion pier and beacon have been rebuilt.

ARLB 1867
Repairs

ARLB 1868

pp. 372
The tower, a small structure of wood, has been forced out of perpendicular by the action of the waves in gales of wind and requires repair.

ARLB 1869

Clipping File - National Archives
Vermilion Beacon - The wooden tower, the only structure on this station, is in good condition. There is no dwelling for the keeper at this station.

ARLB 1870

pp. 380
This light station has not been provided with a dwelling for the light keeper. An appropriation is asked of $4,000, for the purchase of a site, to erect a suitable frame dwelling and for repairs of the pier of protection to the light.

ARLB 1871

pp. 529
An appropriation was made March 3, 1871, for building a light keeper's dwelling at this station. The station was visited May 18 for the purpose of selecting and purchasing a suitable site. No suitable vacant lot could be purchased that was easily accessible from the piers, and from which the beacon could be seen, and in consequence a purchase was made of a lot with a new house upon it,

containing every convenience for a keeper's dwelling. Occupation will take place when the papers necessary for vesting title in the United States have been examined and approved by the Attorney General.

ARLB 1872

pp. 67
The house and lot purchased in this village for the use of the light keeper were transferred to the United States in April. A few alterations have been made to the house to furnish accommodations for, oil, and a cellar, a neat enclosure, and a stone sidewalk have been added. The station is in fine order.

ARLB 1873

Repairs

ARLB 1874

Repairs

ARLB 1875

Repairs

ARLB 1877

Clipping File - National Archives
Vermilion, Lake Erie, Ohio - The tower is old, decayed, and in danger of falling down. A new iron tower has been ordered to replace it. The elevated walk will also be extended to the shore.

ARLB 1878

Clipping File - National Archives
The old beacon tower has been pulled down and replaced by a new one of iron, resting upon an oak foundation forming the top of the old crib, and supporting a new lantern of the sixth order. The old sixth-order light has been replaced by one of the fifth order.

ARLB 1880

Clipping File - National Archives
The elevated walk was rebuilt for a distance of 620 feet. At the opening of navigation the color of the light was changed to red. The beacon was repainted and some slight repairs were made.

ARLB 1881

Repairs

ARLB 1887

pp. 85
The upper timber course of the foundation supporting the iron tower was renewed and leveled, and minor repairs were made.

ARLB 1890

Repairs

ARLB 1891
Repairs

ARLB 1892

pp. 158
The base of the beacon was protected with plank sheathing to prevent the direct action of the water upon the bed timbers during high winds, which had been hastening their decay. The elevated walk leading to the tower and the plank walk about the keeper's dwelling were repaired with new material, and the stone sidewalk around the lighthouse reservation was raised and leveled to conform to the adjoining walks.

ARLB 1893

Clipping File - National Archives
Vermilion, on the outer end of the west pier, entrance to Vermilion Harbor, Lake Erie, Ohio - On April 27, 1893, the light tower on the west pier was struck by the schooner *M. S. Bacon,* while she was being towed out of the harbor by the steam tug *J. P. Devney*. Two angle-iron plates in the second section of the tower were so badly injured that new plates had to be made to replace them. Many of the joints between the outer plates of the tower were strained, the interior somewhat injured, and one corner of the beacon raised about 2 inches. The beacon was repaired and a bill for the cost was presented to the owners of the *Devney*. They declined to pay it. The case was turned over to the Department of Justice, that proper legal proceedings might be taken.

ARLB 1894

pp. 154
The iron beacon was moved to within about 25 feet of the outer end of the pier and the timbers of the beacon foundation, which were decayed, were replaced.

Some 56 running feet of elevated walk was built to connect the beacon in its new position with the old walk. In April 1893, the schooner *M. S. Bacon*, in tow of the tug *J. P. Devney*, collided with the beacon in such a manner as to cause serious injury. Repairs were made and the expense, $161.62, was collected and paid into the U. S. Treasury by the U. S. Attorney at Cleveland, Ohio. Various minor repairs were make.

ARLB 1896

Repairs

ARLB 1897

Clipping File - National Archives
About 100 feet of elevated walk on the west pier was rebuilt. Various repairs were made.

ARLB 1898

pp. 162
Some 360 feet of elevated walk on the west pier was repaired.

ARLB 1901

pp. 168
About 186 feet of elevated walk on the west pier was rebuilt. Minor repairs were made to the keeper's dwelling.

ARLB 1904

About 120 running feet of elevated walk was rebuilt. Various repairs were made.

ARLB 1905

pp. 130
The materials for 500 running feet of iron walk to be erected on the west pier were purchased; also the metal work for an iron oilhouse. Various repairs were made.

ARLB 1906
pp. 195
An iron oilhouse, with capacity of 540 gallons, was built. About 500 running feet of iron elevated walk was built on the west pier and about 63 running feet of fence was built on the boundary line. Various repairs were made.

Annual Report Lake Carrier's Association 1919

pp. 99
Vermilion Light, Lake Erie - On September 2, 1919, the characteristic of Vermilion Light was changed to a flashing white every 3 seconds, flash 0.3 seconds duration, candlepower 230.

Commissioner's Report 1920

pp. 687
Lights where illumination was improved during the fiscal year 1920 - Vermilion, Lake Erie, Ohio

Acetylene or other lights changed from oil-wick lights, etc. - Vermilion, Lake Erie, Ohio

Annual Report Lake Carrier's Association 1929

pp. 192
Vermilion Lighthouse, Lake Erie - Owing to undermining of breakwater, the old cast iron tower at this site was removed in March 1929, and a 10-foot skeleton steel tower was erected in its place in a temporary location. On October 5, 1929 the steel tower was moved to new foundation near outer end of west pier.

1932 Relocation of the Vermilion Cast-Iron Tower

In 1932, the old cast-iron tower removed from Vermilion in 1929 was relocated to East Charity Shoal in Lake Ontario where it still stands today.

Annual Report Lake Carrier's Association 1933

pp. 112
Vermilion - Establishing Rear Range Light and installing electricity to improve lights.

Annual Report Lake Carrier's Association 1934

pp. 136
Vermilion Range Lights were established May 1, 1934. Front Light is old Vermilion Light, which was changed to fixed red, of 540 candlepower, and electricity installed as the illuminant. This aid was renamed Vermilion Range Front Light. Vermilion Range Rear Light was establishes about 880 feet 181º from Front Light, red daymark on steel pole, showing a fixed red light, of 540 candlepower, 40 feet above water.

1991 Replica Built

In 1991 an exact replica cast-iron tower was built and erected at the Inland Seas Museum in Vermilion.

File Contents

Clipping file - National Archives
State of the Lighthouse
1849
1851
Beacon Index
Lighthouse Model Creations - 1847
Lighthouse Model Creations - 1878
Vermilion Pamphlet - Vermilion Chamber of Commerce
The Congressional Globe
The Golden Age of Harbour Town – Vermilion 1837 to 1879 by Thomas A. Smith

Photos

Vermilion - 1859
Vermilion - 1909 - Inland Seas Museum
East Charity Shoal - Inland Seas Museum - 3
Last Lightkeeper
Old Vermilion Light now at East Charity Shoal

Clippings

The case of the Missing Lighthouse - Watertown Daily Times - Oct. 15, 1995
Relocating a lighthouse at “East” Charity Shoals - Thousand Island. Sun Paper, Alexandria Bay Weekly
It’s our lighthouse - Vermilion Photo Journal - Vol. 35 No. 12
The mystery of the lost lighthouse
Strauss Construction is project leader - Vermilion, Ohio Chamber of Congress Issue # 3
Inland Seas
Lost Light Found - Lighthouse Digest Vol. 4 # 5
Vermilion Lighthouse - Sandusky Erie County Ohio, Lighthouses
Olin Stevens Tends Beacon (with reference to Vermilion Light) - Jefferson Co. Paper, May - August 1937