Portland Breakwater Lighthouse

Buglight

Fact Sheet

The little lighthouse sitting at the corner of Portland Harbor is both unique, and an important piece of South Portland history. A lighthouse has occupied that corner protecting Stanford's Ledge since 1855.

Portland Breakwater Lighthouse sits at the end of a 1,190 foot man-made breakwater constructed of granite. It was designed after an ancient Greek structure, the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates in Athens. It stands 24 feet high from the base to the ventilator ball. It is 11 feet, 10 inches in diameter and is constructed of brick with a cast iron shell. The exterior is ornamented with six Corinthian columns with palmette, and the top is ringed with acroteria. The interior consists of three stories. The second story has six portholes to view the harbor. The cast iron lantern has ten panes of glass.

Chronology of Important Dates

1836	Breakwater Construction Begun
1855	Wooden lighthouse erected with fixed Red Light
1875	Breakwater Completed
1875	Old wooden lighthouse removed
1875	Present Lighthouse Built
1878	Fixed Light Replaced with a flashing red light
1889	Two room keeper's dwelling connected to tower
1900	Two more rooms and attic added around the first of century
1934	Electricity installed,Light controlled from Spring Point
1935 (?)	Keepers Quarters removed
1940	Edwin Turner inspired to design City Seal
1941	Stanford's Point filled in to make room for WWII Liberty Ship Shipyard
1942	Light extinguished in war effort
1943	Bug Light officially abandoned as an active light
1989	Renovation by Rotary Club, City of South Portland, Lighthouse Bicentennial Funding
2002	Lighthouse re-commissioned as private aid with flashing white light

Compiled by Jack Roberts