



## Cape Canaveral Lighthouse To Get Three Keeper's Cottages



Circa 1960s, courtesy Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — After years of work by many people, groups and organizations, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation broke ground and is moving forward with the building of the first of its keeper's cottages. The recreation of the cottage as it existed at the foot of the lighthouse, is to be completed, while the foundation celebrates the 150 years of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse later this year. The lighthouse, which is on the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, is owned by the US Air Force and operated by the US Coast Guard.

"We are extremely grateful to the Brevard County Commission, the Brevard Tourist Development Council and the State of Florida," said Rocky Johnson, president of the Cape Canaveral

Lighthouse Foundation. "There are so many in our community who value the preservation of history. The 45th Space Wing has been a God-send. We are grateful to the thousands of volunteer hours dedicated by so many people."

The cottage will function as a museum and showcase the local cultural, maritime, economic and aerospace history for thousands of visitors. The Lighthouse Foundation is dedicated to promoting access to the lighthouse and providing the public with knowledge and history of one of the most unique lighthouses in the United States. When tourists come from around the country to visit the lighthouse they will learn how this lighthouse's location helped in the decision to locate Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and

Kennedy Space Center here.

The current lighthouse was originally located about a mile and a half east toward the tip of Cape Canaveral but was not the first lighthouse located on the cape. The first tower, built of brick, was just 65 feet tall. After many mariners voiced their concern that this structure was not tall enough to sufficiently warn ships of the abundance of shoals just off the cape shores, the government approved construction of the current tower. It was originally built about 80 to 90 feet from the first brick tower but was moved inland in the late 1800s due to the encroaching sea.

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is on Lighthouse Road.

For additional information, [www.canaverallighthouse.com](http://www.canaverallighthouse.com) or 321-453-3994.

## Sheffield Island Lighthouse Turns 150

NORWALK, CONN. — In 1826, agents of the US Treasury Department decided that the western end of Sheffield Island was the most suitable spot for a light to mark Norwalk Harbor. By the middle of 1827, a 30-foot-tall stone tower had been constructed. Unfortunately, mariners eventually complained that the light at Sheffield Island was not bright enough, and that the tower was too short for the light to be properly seen. When the Civil War ended in 1865 and shipping traffic in the harbor increased, Congress appropriated funds to build a new lighthouse and keeper's quarters, which was completed and opened in 1868. The original keeper's dwelling still stands behind the granite lighthouse, although the old tower was torn down and its site is now under water.

On August 17, 1869, the *Nor-*

*walk Gazette* published the following on the new lighthouse: "The view from the top of the Sheffield Lighthouse, on a clear summer's day, is worth a journey of a thousand miles to see."

Around the beginning of the Twentieth Century, shipping traffic in Norwalk Harbor was at a peak, led by the booming oyster industry. The harbor was dredged, and when other improvements made, a petition was circulated calling for the abandonment of Sheffield Island Light in favor of lights on Greens Ledge and Peck Ledge. It was retired on February 15, 1902, although the keeper's quarters remained a shore station for keepers at Greens Ledge for a few years more.

In 1914, the Lighthouse Service declared Sheffield Island Lighthouse surplus property and put it up for sale; it was purchased by a South Norwalk,

Conn., resident, who used the lighthouse as a summer residence. The lighthouse remained in the owner's family until 1986, when it was sold to the Norwalk Seaport Association. During the late 1980s, the lighthouse was refurbished, mostly by volunteers, and in 1989, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2011, a solar-powered light was installed, though it was focused towards the shore and is not used for navigation purposes.

A highlight of visiting the lighthouse is the cruise itself, which allows passengers to experience the beauty of Norwalk from the water with wonderful views of the shoreline, islands and the harbor. The fresh sea breeze and birdlife are enjoyed in the comfort of the seaport's modern vessel on the way to and from the island.

Upon reaching the island, passengers take a tour of the ten-



Sheffield Island Lighthouse, Don Burr photo, courtesy Norwalk Seaport Association.

room lightkeeper's cottage and the lighthouse that is furnished in period furniture, giving visitors a glimpse of what life was like as a lighthouse keeper. If the day is clear, the New York

City skyline can be seen.

Visits to the Sheffield Island Light are through the Norwalk Seaport Association. For additional information, 203-838-9444 or [www.seaport.org](http://www.seaport.org).

## New London Maritime Society Lighthouses

NEW LONDON, CONN. — The New London Maritime Society (NLMS) oversees three historic lighthouses: Ledge Lighthouse, Race Rock Lighthouse and the New London Harbor Lighthouse. Ledge Lighthouse is accessible through regular tours departing from New London's Waterfront Park. Access to Race Rock Lighthouse is available on a more limited bases.

The NLMS plans to continue preservation work at all three lighthouses. At the Harbor Lighthouse, the interior of the lighthouse and stairs will be painted, the rope railing will be completed, and the site will be landscaped. Electrical issues at Ledge Lighthouse will be addressed, and the white base may be painted. An architectural assessment of Race Rock Lighthouse may be undertaken, as well as superficial maintenance.

NLMS and the Custom House Maritime Museum is at 150 Bank Street. For information, 860-447-2501 or [www.nlmartimesociety.org](http://www.nlmartimesociety.org).



Ledge Lighthouse, courtesy New London Maritime Society

PORT WASHINGTON, WIS. — The distinctive Art Deco lighthouse that has become an iconic symbol for the area has been deeded to the city of Port Washington after the US Coast Guard, which had been the previous owner, had declared it surplus property. The automated light at the top of the lighthouse will remain under the ownership of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In acquiring the lighthouse, the city will be able to maintain the building for future generations. Kathy Tank, executive director of Port Washington Tourism Council, said the lighthouse is Port Washington's icon. It is pictured in the city's logo, police cars and water tower.

"It's not just this tower in the middle of the lake. It represents our city," Tank said. "It would have been really hard to let that go under somebody else's ownership."

Tank said lighthouse buffs from around the country come to visit Port Washington's lighthouse, which was built in 1935 for \$38,000 and consists of a metal Art Deco tower that rests on a 20-foot-square cement base with large arches

## City Can Keep Lighthouse Icon



Port Washington Breakwater Lighthouse, 2007 photo, courtesy United States Lighthouse Society.

on each of its faces. It is one of only two lighthouses in the Great Lakes region constructed in the Art Deco style and replaced an earlier structure, which was built in 1860 and is now a museum under the jurisdiction of the Port Washington Historical Society.

Fundraising efforts are underway for funds to reno-

vate both immediate and long-term restoration needs, ranging from replacing old porthole glass and roof repairs to a new paint job.

The city is also applying to get the lighthouse listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For additional information, [www.cityofportwashington.com](http://www.cityofportwashington.com).