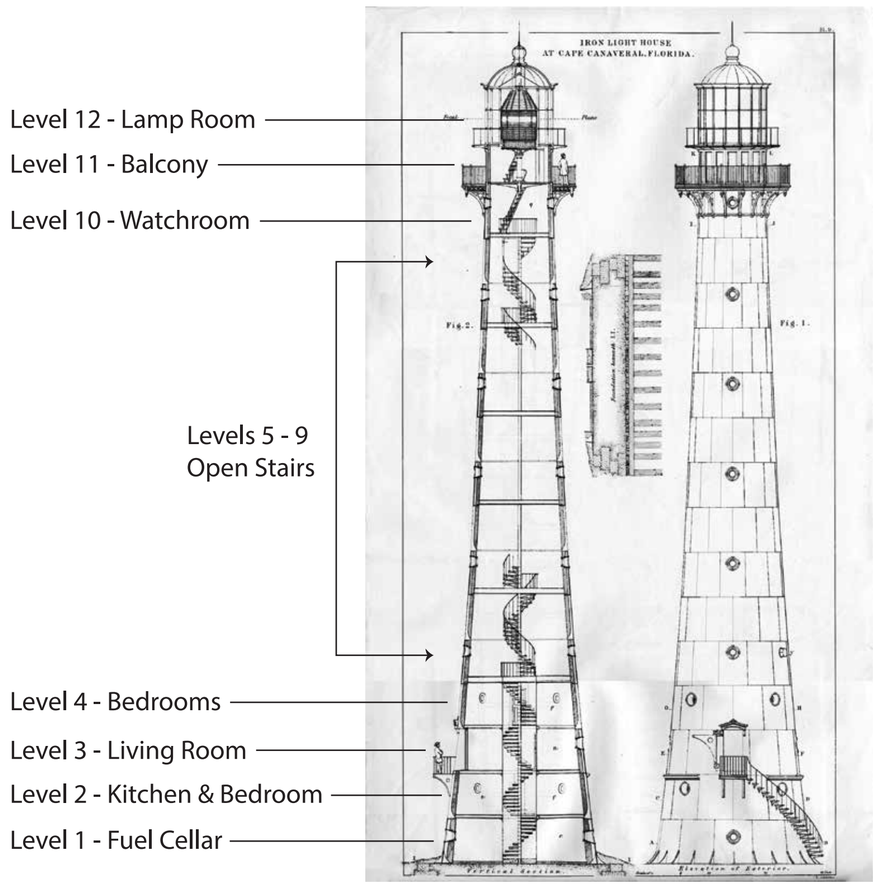
1868 - 1885

Learning to Operate the New Lighthouse

Floorplan Has Work, Storage and Living Space

The new Lighthouse design provided for a living room, kitchen, three bedrooms and storage.

The hot Florida sun kept the Keepers and their families from staying in the metal structure, except during strong storms. The living quarters were mainly used for storage and, later, a weather station.



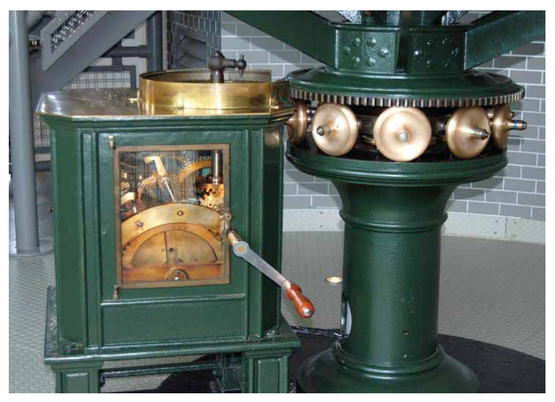
Runs Like Clockwork

The Fresnel lens system sat on a platform that was rotated by a "clockwork" that maintained a constant turning speed, driven by descending weights. The Keepers had to wind them every few hours. It was set to rotate so the light would flash once every minute.

Because the Florida sun can be so strong and might damage the glass prisms in the Fresnel lens, or start a fire from the sun shining through the prisms, the Cape Canaveral Keepers closed canvas drapes during the day and opened them just before they lit the light each night.

Cape Canaveral 1st Order lens

Keeper Willis Inside Lens ca. 1939



Hand-Cranked Clockwork

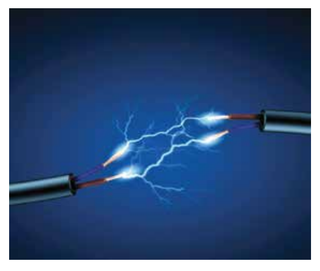
Different Fuel Sources were Used Through the Years

Fuels used to light the Fresnel lens changed over time, keeping up with advancements in other industries. The Lighthouse Board required all larger lamps change from sperm oil to lard oil by the time the iron Lighthouse was built in 1868.

The Lighthouse switched from lard oil to kerosene in 1885. This would be the fuel used until electricity came to the Lighthouse in 1931.

Lard Oil
1868 - 1885

Kerosene
1885 - 1931



Electricity
1931 - Present