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Racine reef light

Reef gibraltar. Racine reef lighthouse photos. Racine reef lighthouse. The reef rainforest cafe. Reef light.

Photos from the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association group on Facebook, reposted here for preservation, show the demolition of the Racine Reef lighthouse in 1961. The process began with the removal of equipment and generators from the station's equipment room. A compressor and its diesel power unit were carefully hoisted from the room to the deck at the light station. Coast Guard crew members then removed diaphone resonators from the tower, followed by the preparation of a lens panel for lowering down to the deck and transportation to shore. The US Army Corps of Engineers tug RACINE and demolition barge arrived on site, with the lighthouse crew having already stripped the crib deck of all storage tanks, cranes, and equipment. Demolition began at the top of the tower, working its way down to the foundation. Only rubble remained on the deck before the final stages of demolition. The new skeletal aid to navigation structure was delivered to the Racine Coast Guard station, painted, and made ready for transportation out to the cleared crib at Racine Reef. In 2010, the new aid to navigation structure sat atop the cleared Racine Reef crib. Off the City of Racine, just feet below Lake Michigan's waters, lies a massive limestone structure created by nature millions of years ago - the Racine Reef. The Racine Reef is situated approximately a mile off the shore, stretching roughly a mile long and three quarters wide. In the past, numerous ships have been damaged or wrecked on the reef while sailing near Racine, prompting government efforts to mark the hazard effectively. The first attempt involved constructing the Root River Light in 1839, followed by the placement of a can buoy at the eastern end of the reef, and later, the construction of the Wind Point Lighthouse in 1880. Despite these attempts, the reef remained a danger to navigation, with depths ranging from around five feet near the center to over forty feet below the surface at the eastern end. Although clearly marked today, recreational boats still occasionally hit the reef, causing damage. The Root River, which empties into Lake Michigan, was named Chippecotton by Native Americans due to its abundance of intertwining roots in its riverbed. A Lieutenant Pendergrast examined sites for lighthouses on the Great Lakes in 1837 and noted that the Root River is situated twenty-five miles from Milwaukee. He recommended building a lighthouse at this location, citing its potential as a place of importance and the need to warn vessels of a dangerous reef lying two and a half miles offshore. In 1838, Benjamin Pratt began constructing the conical lighthouse, which stood just over twenty-eight feet tall and was equipped with a lighting apparatus that produced a white flash every ninety seconds. The light had a focal plane of seventy-five feet due to the bluff on which it was located. A keeper's dwelling was built shoreward of the tower, near the present-day intersection of Seventh Street and Lake Avenue. The Racine Harbor Lighthouse, initially built in 1839, underwent significant changes over the years. In 1858, a new fifth-order Fresnel lens replaced the old lamps and reflectors, altering the light's characteristic to fixed white. By 1866, the yellow brick lighthouse stood on a cribwork pier, with a square tower rising from its seaward side. The lighthouse was activated in September 1866 using the fifth-order lens. In 1870, a fourth-order lens was installed, illuminating an arc of 270° instead of the previous 180°. In 1876, L.S. Blake and James T. Elliott sold the lighthouse to Elliott, who later demolished it and built a new home on the site using the same bricks. The pierhead beacon was constructed in July 1872, featuring a red light that ranged with the white light of Racine Harbor Lighthouse. The lighthouse underwent significant repairs between September 10, 1888, and November 20, 1888, including repointing the foundation and walls with Portland cement mortar. A picket-fence was built on top of the crib-work to prevent falls overboard. The dwelling underwent extensive repairs during this period. In 1891, a 60-foot-deep well was drilled to provide the station with water for domestic uses, but the quality or availability of the water remained an issue. The Racine Harbor Lighthouse was connected to the city water mains in the late 1800s. Between 1893 and 1895, the north pier was extended by 300 feet, making it 1,700 feet long, and a conduit was built to run a lantern between the old pierhead tower and the outer end of the pier. In 1896, the conduit was removed, and the pierhead tower was relocated to the outer end of the pier. The lighthouse's sixth-order fixed red light was reestablished on June 18, 1896. In 1901, a new metal pierhead tower was established atop four concrete piers at the outer end of the pier. The Racine Harbor Lighthouse was discontinued on November 23, 1901, and its fourth-order lens was transferred to the new metal tower. The lantern and deck were removed from the lighthouse, along with its iron stairway, and the tower was capped with a hipped roof. A new wooden staircase was installed in the tower, and the attached dwelling was remodeled to provide an apartment for an assistant keeper on the second story and living quarters for the head keeper on the ground floor and basement. The Racine Pierhead Station and Racine Reef Light Station were consolidated in 1933, when a tender laid 18,000 feet of telephone and control cable between the two stations. Conduits and cable were also run from the inner end of the north breakwater to the dwelling on the north pierhead. The Racine Harbor Lighthouse became part of an adjacent Coast Guard station in 1939. The Coast Guard station was decommissioned in 1971, and its buildings are now part of Pugh Marina. The lighthouse and adjacent old life-saving station building were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Keepers: Head: Amaziah Stebbins (1839-1846), John F. Trowbridge (1846-1849), Abner Rouse (1849-1853), Isaac B. Gates (1853-1855), Gideon L. Kelsey (1855-1856), Isaac B. Gates (1856-1857), John Fancher (1857-1860), Edward F. Morris (1860-1861), Milton N. Moore (1861-1865), James Ginty (1865-1883), Lawrence A. Easson (1883-1888), George Larson (1888-1899), Martin N. Knudsen (1899-1917), Edward W. Knudsen (1917-1932). Assistant: William P. Larson (1896-1899), Edward W. Knudsen (1899-1902), John L. Kirchill (1902-1903), Marion L. Brown (1903-1906), George J. Meengs (1906-1907), Jens J. Loft (1907), Therse W. Knudsen (1907), Edward W. Knudsen (1907-1911), Knut A. Nelson (at least 1915), Henrik G. Olson (1924-1933). References: * History of the First Methodist Episcopal Church Racine Wisconsin, E.W. Leach, 1912. * Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board, various years. * Report of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, various years.