

Spring Point Ledge Lighthouse

TOUR GUIDE FACTS



Step Into History

The Breakwater

- Built by the Army Corps of Engineers
- Began in 1950, completed in 1951
- 875 feet long
- 3 and 5 ton granite blocks quarried in Biddeford and Wells
- Purpose is to protect the harbor from storm surges

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Lighthouse Dimensions

- Lighthouse 77 ft. tall
- Caisson 40 ft. tall 25 ft. diameter
1" to 1.25" thick (corroded in places to as little as 0.5 inch)
- Double brick walls 24" to 16" thick
- Focal plane 54 ft. above average high tide

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First Floor Exterior

- Original iron canopy replaced in 2004 with steel.
- The hole in the floor of the gallery is where the toilet was. Outline on the floor shows where the enclosure was.
- Two pairs of davits (cranes) for lifting dories out of the water. Two small davits for lifting supplies.

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Galley

- Rain falling on the canopy was collected in cisterns in the basement
- Pump on the sink brought the water up
- Reproduction kitchen cabinet 2013
- Original cabinet removed by the Coast Guard to make way for the electrical cable 1934

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Galley

- Coal stove for heat and cooking
- Original double hung windows replaced by glass blocks for security 1960
- Hatch in the entry way was for lowering supplies to the basement.

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Head Keeper's Quarters

- Furniture is not original
- Coal stove for heat
- Used to have a door
- There was a second column for the lens apparatus.

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Keepers

- First keeper – William A. Lane
- Most famous keeper – Gus Wilson
- Keeper's salary in the early days was \$540/year (about \$16,000 in today's money)
- Assistant keeper's salary in the early days was about \$450/year

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Gus Wilson

- Augustus Aaron Wilson
- Keeper at Spring Point 1917 to 1934
- Famous for his carved duck decoys
- One sold for \$195,000 in 2005

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Spring Point Light Sources

- 1897 to 1934 Kerosene lamp
- 1934 to 2010 Underwater electric cable
- 2010 to the present Solar panels

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Spring Point Lenses

- 1897 to 1960 5th order rotating Fresnel lens
- 1960 to 1980's (we don't know the exact date)
375mm drum-shaped Fresnel lens
- Current lens 300mm Lexan plastic Fresnel lens

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Lighthouse Characteristics

- Spring Point light – One flash every 6 sec.
- Spring Point fog signal – One blast every 10 sec.

- Portland Head light – One flash every 4 sec.
- Portland Head fog signal – One blast every 15 sec.

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Lighthouse History

- 1897 Light was first lit
- 1912 Steel bands put around caisson due to cracks
- 1929 Cracks filled and bands replaced
- 1934 Underwater electrical cable installed.
- 1934 Rip rap placed around caisson

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Lighthouse History continued

- 1939 Coast Guard took over and the Lighthouse Board eliminated
- 1951 Breakwater completed
- 1960 Fully automated, keepers gone
- 1998 Ownership transferred to the Spring Point Ledge Lighthouse Trust

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Casco Bay Forts

- Fort Preble, South Portland 1808
- Fort Scammel, House Island 1808
- Fort Gorges, Hog Island Ledge 1857
- Fort Williams, Cape Elizabeth 1872

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Lighthouses of Casco Bay

- 1791 Portland Head Light
- 1828 Two Lights (Cape Elizabeth)
- 1855 Portland Breakwater Light (Bug Light)
1875 current lighthouse
- 1871 Halfway Rock Light
- 1897 Spring Point Ledge Light
- 1905 Ram Island Ledge Light

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Maine Caisson Lighthouses

- Spring Point Ledge, Casco Bay
- Goose Rocks, Penobscot Bay
- Lubec Channel, Lubec
- Crabtree Ledge, Frenchmen's Bay (destroyed in a storm, 1950)

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Sprint Point Ledge Light Trust

- Founded 1998
- Owns and maintains the tower. Coast Guard owns and maintains the light and fog signal.
- All are volunteers
- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- All money raised goes to the lighthouse

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