



# JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE *a n d M u s e u m*

## Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Facts

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>First Lit</i>          | July 10, 1860  |
| <i>Location</i>           | Latitude 26° 56.9' 37" North, Longitude 80° 4.9' 17" West  |
| <i>Construction</i>       | Brick, double masonry walls, outer conical, tapering from 31.5" (8 bricks thick) at ground to 18 inches (3 bricks thick) at base of lantern. Inner wall cylindrical and 2 bricks thick throughout. Circumference at base is about 65' and at top about 43'.  |
| <i>Height</i>             | 156' - 108' tower on a 48' hill, Native American archaeological shell mound  |
| <i>Focal Plane</i>        | 146'. This is the level at which the beam of light is emitted.   |
| <i>Steps</i>              | 105 cast iron stairs spiraling counterclockwise around a central iron column with three landings.  |
| <i>Optic</i>              | First order Fresnel lens, manufactured in Paris by Henry-Lepaute and reputed to be the oldest existing first order Fresnel lens in Florida. Of the six regular orders of lenses, the first is the most powerful.   |
| <i>Lamp</i>               | 1000 watt, 120 volt, GE quartz-iodine bulb socketed in a lamp changer with an identical spare. The second bulb rotates into position and turns on whenever the first bulb fails.   |
| <i>Range</i>              | 24 miles. This is the distance that the light can be seen at sea. To someone in an airplane, the light would be visible 40-50 miles away.  |
| <i>Electrified</i>        | 1928. A 1/3 horsepower motor turns the lens carriage.  |
| <i>Automated</i>          | June 8, 1987. A photoelectric cell turns the bulb and motor on when the sun sets and off when the sun rises.   |
| <i>Daymark</i>            | Red with black lantern. Coastal lighthouses have different markings to enable ships to determine their location during daylight.   |
| <i>Characteristic</i>     | Flashes 1.2 seconds, eclipses (darkens) 6.6 seconds, flashes 1.2 seconds, eclipses 21 seconds, and then repeats the cycle. The bulb does not blink (neither did the original oil lamps, which is why the lens rotated). As the bull's-eyes (there are four) cross the viewer's line of sight, the bursts of light are perceived as a flash.  |
| <i>Lighthouse Keepers</i> | Captain Thomas Twiner June 12, 1860 – December 13, 1861; Captain Joseph F. Papy, January 1, 1861 – August 1861; Captain William B. Davis 1866-67 Head; Capt. James Arango Armour, asst. 1866-68, head 1868-1908; Hannibal D. Pierce, assistant, 1872; Charles Carlin, assistant, 1872; Melville Spencer, assistant 1881-84; Dwight Allen, assistant; Captain Joseph Wells, head, 1908 – 1918; Capt. Thomas Knight, a few months in 1918; Capt. Charles Seabrook, head, 1919-1947; Raymond C. Phillips, head, 3 years 1950s-60s |

## History Time Line

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Event</u>  |
|-------------|---|
| 1838        | After the Battle of Loxahatchee, the Army created the Fort Jupiter Reservation, which included the land on which the Lighthouse stands.   |
| 1853        | Congress appropriated \$35,000 for a Lighthouse in Jupiter  |
| 1854        | President Franklin Pierce signed the order to set aside a 61.5-acre site on the Fort Jupiter Reservation for a lighthouse. Lieutenant George Gordon Meade visited the site and submitted a design for a lighthouse. |
| 1855-58     | Construction was halted by Seminole attacks and later because the workmen were plagued by mosquitoes, extreme heat, and diseases, which were called Jupiter Fever, most likely malaria or yellow fever.             |
| 1859        | The first Keepers' House was built and was 26' x 30'. The Head Keeper and two Assistant Keepers lived here with their families and shared an outdoor kitchen.   |
| 1860        | Light was lit for the first time on July 10.  |
| 1861        | Three Confederate sympathizers removed enough of the apparatus to extinguish the light for the duration of the Civil War.   |
| 1866        | Light was relit on June 28.   |
| 1875        | A kitchen building was added to the Keepers' House.   |
| 1883        | A two-story dwelling was built to accommodate the two Assistant Keepers and the old house was renovated for the Head Keeper.  |
| 1886        | Kerosene replaced the original fuel, which was lard oil.  |
| 1905        | The Navy established a radio station at this site.  |
| 1910        | The tower was painted red. During the previous 50 years the bricks were never painted.  |
| 1921        | Palm Beach County moved the mouth of the inlet 1,200 feet north. The tower, originally $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile inland, stands a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Atlantic Ocean.   |
| 1927        | A fire destroyed the original Keeper's house.   |
| 1928        | The worst hurricane on record blew out one of the bull's-eye lenses. The lens was reassembled and held in place by two bronze crossbars.  |
| 1929        | The Navy acquired 8.4 acres of the Jupiter Lighthouse reservation and started to broadcast weather information and monitor ship-to-shore and aircraft distress calls.   |
| 1939        | US Coast Guard took over the operation of this Lighthouse and all US Lighthouses.   |
| 1942        | The Marines arrived to protect the Navy's radio station.  |
| 1950s       | The Air Force set up and operated the first missile tracking station south of Cape Canaveral while the Army handled supplies and maintenance.   |
| 1954        | <i>Robert G. Denaro (Air Force)</i> was stationed in Jupiter at the Jupiter Auxiliary Air Force Base in 1954 to clean up and close down Air Force operations.   |
| 1959        | The Keepers' houses were demolished.  |
| 1973        | The Lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.  |
| 1985        | The archaeological site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.   |
| 1994        | The Lighthouse was open to public tours administered by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, formerly the Florida History Center & Museum.   |
| 2000        | Lighthouse was restored by a grant in excess of \$858,000 administered by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS).  |
| 2006        | Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum opened in December & operated by the LRHS.  |