

Chapter 1 : Joe's Guide to Acadia National Park - Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse Photos

The cliffside Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse in Acadia National Park, located in the village of Bass Harbor within Tremont, Maine in the United States, marks the entrance to Bass Harbor on the southwestern side of Mount Desert Island.

Long before Europeans arrived at Mount Desert Island, the Wabanaki, a collective group of four distinct tribes of Native Americans inhabited the land. Wabanaki roughly translates to "People of the Dawnland. They built bark-covered conical shelters and traveled in birchbark canoes. They lived off the land by hunting, fishing, collecting shellfish, and gathering plants and berries. Although the first meeting between the Europeans and the Wabanaki is unknown, Samuel Champlain, a Frenchman, led an expedition that landed on Mount Desert Island on September 5, 1604. It was during this trip that he provided the name Isles des Monts Deserts, or "island of the Bare Mountains. The French soon began to settle when an English ship commanded by Captain Samuel Argall destroyed their mission. With English settlements to the south and French colonies to the north, both groups left Mount Desert Island alone until when Antoine Laumet a French immigrant arrived. Upon arrival, he changed his name and gave himself the title of Sieur de la Mothe Cadillac. The governor Jacques-Rene de Brisay de Denonville gave him the estate of Les Douacques, which included thousands of acres of land along the Maine Coast. Within a few years, the English captured the area, and by 1674, de la Mothe Cadillac had founded Fort Pontchartrain, which would later become Detroit. The English succeeded in driving the French from their stronghold of Quebec in 1760, which opened up the Maine coast for English settlement. Although governor Francis Bernard had received a royal land grant to settle Mount Desert Island, the onset of the Revolutionary War scuttled his plans. After the war, Mount Desert Island was divided. John Bernard, son of Governor Francis Bernard, received the western half, while Marie Therese de Gregoire, the granddaughter of Cadillac, was given the eastern half. Both parties eventually sold their property to non-resident landlords. By the start of the 18th century, the number of settlers on Mount Desert Island steadily increased. By the 1780s, lumbering, farming, shipbuilding, or fishing were the industries that employed most homesteaders. Over the next 30 years, the link to the sea expanded as more fish racks and shipyards dotted the landscape. Around the 1820s artists and journalists started visiting Mount Desert Island. These so-called "rusticators," sought out fisherman and farmers to put them up and through returning summer after summer forged friendships. It was through their works of writing and paintings that outsiders were "introduced" to the area. The first record of summer vacationers arriving on the island was in 1825, and by 1830, steamboat service from Boston had started. The influx of visitors put a strain on lodging, and by 1840, there were nearly 30 hotels in the area. By the 1850s, many prominent East Coast families, such as the Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Astors, and others had luxurious estates on Mount Desert Island they euphemistically called "cottages. Franklin, the lighthouse inspector for Maine and New Hampshire noted: There is a very good harbor about four miles west of Mount Desert harbor, called Bass harbor. By the time the Attorney General had approved the title for the site of the Bass Harbor Head lighthouse, it was too late in the season to start construction. Work began in the spring of 1869 and finished up by early fall. Workers erected a 40-foot-tall cylindrical brick tower, but given that the tower stood atop a granite bluff, the light from the fifth-order Fresnel lens displayed at 56 feet above sea level. The Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse was a single family station. A foot long covered walkway connected the tower and the house. He placed the fixed red light into service on the night of September 1, 1869. A red chimney arranged over the lamp within the lens gave the light its color. The station received a fog bell in 1870, and along with being repainted in 1871, several other changes occurred. The Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board detailed them below: The tower floor was raised, and the work-room and porch rebuilt. In 1872, workers erected a 40-foot by 10-foot boathouse and a 40-foot long boat slip. The following year, the Lighthouse Board supplied a hand winch to help the keeper pull the boat out of the water. The fog signal received a much-needed upgrade in 1873. The Lighthouse Board erected a one-story brick structure just east of the lighthouse tower. Suspended outside the building was a 4,000-pound bell. No longer would the keeper need to strike the bell manually, machinery inside automated the task. The ell of the house was extended ten feet to enlarge the kitchen and add an office in 1874. At that same time, the boat slip was extensively

repaired and improved. In 1852, a Stevens striking machine replaced the Shipman oil engines to operate the fog bell. Over the next few years, a few changes occurred at the Bass Head Harbor Lighthouse. The station received an upgraded fourth-order Fresnel lens, manufactured by Henry-Lepaute in Paris, France, and a brick oil house in 1854. And in 1855 a rectangular clapboard barn was erected. Most keepers stayed on average about four to six years. The two longest-serving keepers were Willis Dolliver, from 1852 to 1856, and Joseph M. Gray, from 1856 to 1860. The last civilian keeper was Morton M. Dyer, who arrived in 1860. He retired in 1862 at the age of 42. After that, all keepers were members of the United States Coast Guard. In 1862, for the second time in history, a Maine lighthouse was featured on a U.S. postage stamp. Due to the financial liability of maintaining the property, Kevin Schneider, Acadia National Park Superintendent, said the park service is looking into ways to defray the costs. Several options they were exploring were offering the house as a vacation rental, using the lighthouse as a bookstore or other retail shops, such as a coffee shop or cafe. The problem with a retail shop would be the low turnover of parking spaces, and with only 27 spots, parking would be an issue. Another option that came up was to use the dwelling for employee housing, which Schneider said was sorely needed. Dorr, a private citizen, and lover of nature became disturbed by the growing development around Bar Harbor. Worried what the newly invented gasoline-powered portable sawmill would do to the landscape, Dorr and several others established the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations sole purpose was to preserve land for the perpetual use of the public. Dorr spent the next decade acquiring land, and by 1888, he had amassed nearly 6,000 acres. That same year the Maine state legislature threatened to revoke the nonprofit status of the group. After successfully fighting the measure, Dorr realized that the only way to permanently preserve the area was through the protection of the federal government. After many trips to Washington D.C. Dorr continued acquiring property and working to obtain full national park status, which finally occurred on February 26, 1893. Dorr became the first park superintendent and declined to take any salary except for one dollar a month. He held the position until his death on August 5, 1893. The name of the park was changed to Acadia National Park on January 19, 1909, to honor of the former French colony of Acadia which once included Maine. Dorr is known as the "Father of Acadia National Park."

Chapter 2 : Bass Harbor Head Light history - NEW ENGLAND LIGHTHOUSES: A VIRTUAL GUIDE

Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse is a lighthouse located within Acadia National Park in the southwest portion of Mount Desert Island, Maine, marking the entrance to Bass Harbor and Blue Hill Bay Contents 1 History.

The United States Coast Guard operates and maintains the lighthouse and surrounding buildings. While the lighthouse is not open to the public, visitors can view it up close by way of a short paved path or take a trail and stairway to view it from the shoreline. The lighthouse is located off Route A in the Town of Tremont and accessible by private vehicle. The Island Explorer does not directly serve the lighthouse, but it can drop passengers off the end of the entry road, which is about about half a mile from the lighthouse. At 1, feet m , Cadillac Mountain is not only the tallest mountain in the park, but also the tallest mountain along the eastern coast of the United States. Cadillac Mountain is accessible via a winding, narrow, 3. The road is closed from December through April 14 and whenever weather condtions e. For more information, please visit the Isle au Haut page. If you are looking to camp on Isle au Haut Duck Harbor Campground visit our camping page for more information. This historic road system is open from April 15 through November, 24 hours a day, weather permitting small portions remain open all year. Whether exploring on foot, by bike, or by car, there is something for everyone. Learn more on our Schoodic page. Watch the abundant bird life or just listen to the spring-fed brook in a most tranquil setting. Please refrain from smoking or bringing your pets into the Wild Gardens of Acadia. Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge 50 miles 80 km Composed of islands along the Maine coast, this wildlife refuge protects nesting habitat for diverse seabird and wading bird populations, as well as bald eagles. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge miles km The eastern-most national wildlife refuge in the Atlantic flyway, this wildlife refuge protects migrating waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, upland game birds, songbirds, and birds of prey. Located across Frenchman Bay from Mount Desert Island, it includes a campground, picnic area, and boat ramp. Accessible restrooms are available. Wheelchair-accessible parking and restrooms are available. Only the first floor is wheelchair-accessible. Parking and restrooms are also accessible. Wheelchair-accessible entrance, parking, and restrooms.

Chapter 3 : Bass Harbor Head Light, Tremont, Maine

The light and fog signal are active Coast Guard aids to navigation. The property is owned by the National Park Service as part of Acadia National Park. Accessibility: The lighthouse is at the end of Lighthouse Road off route A in Bass Harbor, free parking.

Dorr formed Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations in to preserve lands on Mount Desert Island for the perpetual use of the public, and by , the corporation had acquired 6, acres. Dorr offered the land to the federal government, and in , President Woodrow Wilson announced the creation of Sieur de Monts National Monument. Three years later, President Wilson signed an act changing the national monument to Lafayette National Park, the first national park east of the Mississippi. In , the name of the park was changed to Acadia National Park. Franklin, the lighthouse inspector for Maine and New Hampshire, reported: Roughly three acres on the southwestern tip of Mount Desert Island were purchased for eighty dollars in June , but before the Attorney General approved the title, it was too late for work to begin that year. Originally outfitted with a fifth-order Fresnel lens, the lighthouse was upgraded in to a Henry-Lepaute fourth-order lens. A red chimney was placed over the lamp inside the lens to produce a colored light that was visible for thirteen nautical miles. The residence had two stories with five rooms, consisting of a kitchen, living room, and dining room on the ground floor, with two bedrooms upstairs. There was an outhouse about fifty feet away from the structure. In , a boathouse , which measured twelve by twenty-four feet and was equipped with a foot railway, was erected. Until a road reached Bass Harbor Head, all supplies had to be brought in by boat. A tall, pyramidal bell tower was added to the station in , and then in a brick fog signal building was erected a few yards closer to the rocky cliff. A 4,pound fog bell was suspended outside the fog signal building. This mighty bronze bell was later replaced by an 1, pound version, and then in , a 1, pound bell was mounted on a stand near the tower and electrified. A brick oil house was added in , and a barn in In , it was enlarged to add an office and to make the kitchen larger. Upstairs, a third bedroom and a bathroom were added. The longest-serving keeper at Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse was Willis Dolliver, who was in charge of the station from until Keeper Dolliver began his lightkeeping career in as second assistant keeper on Mount Desert Rock and was seventy years old when retired from Bass Harbor Head. In , ceremonies were held at Mt. Height Cemetery in Southwest Harbor to honor lighthouse keepers buried there, and one of the graves that received a special U. S Lighthouse Service marker was that of Willis Dolliver. The lighthouse was automated in and remains an active aid to navigation. An occulting light four seconds on and one second off is made red by an acrylic shroud that covers the Fresnel lens. The barn has since been converted into a garage to house the now preferred mode of transportation, but according to one coastguardsman, chew-marks left by horses are still evident in the wood inside the garage. The grounds are open to the public, although the lighthouse itself is not. The station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Accompanied by his wife and two daughters, President Obama spent three days in the park and paid a visit to Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse along with other popular sites. The lighthouse received more notoriety in when the U. Roughly , people already visit the lighthouse each year so opening a business that would cause people to stay at the site longer would mean the twenty-seven parking spaces near the lighthouse might be inadequate.

Chapter 4 : Bass Harbor Head Light | DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism

Things to Do in Bass Harbor ; Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse Looked like all other average light houses around Maine. Get quick answers from Bass.

Chapter 5 : Joe's Guide to Acadia National Park - Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse Hiking Guide

A light is necessary to assist vessels in entering it; and I recommend that \$5, be appropriated for a lighthouse on Bass Harbor Head. Congress appropriated the necessary \$5, on August 18, By June , the United States had entered into a

contract to purchase three acres of land for \$

Chapter 6 : Bass Harbor Head Light - Visit Maine

Harbor seals sun themselves on a small, rocky island near Bass Harbor Head Light. Alyson Horrocks The village of Bass Harbor is located within the township of Tremont, on the southwestern point of Mount Desert Island, but the lighthouse itself does not actually sit within the village.

Chapter 7 : Bass Harbor Head Light Trail - Maine | AllTrails

Built in , the Bass Harbor Head is one of the most frequently photographed Maine lights. It sits atop a rugged, pink rock cliff surrounded by dark evergreens.

Chapter 8 : Bass Harbor Head Light - Wikipedia

A light is necessary to assist vessels in entering it; and I recommend that \$5, be appropriated for a light-house on Bass Harbor Head." Congress allocated \$5, on August 18, for purchasing the necessary land and constructing Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse.

Chapter 9 : List of lighthouses in Maine - Wikipedia

To get to the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, drive south on Route along the quiet side of Mount Desert Island and take Route A south through the town of Bass Harbor to Lighthouse Road and the parking area. (Route A is a long loop off of Route and includes the trailheads for the family.