

What is the 1866 Kenosha (Southport) Lighthouse?

A project of the Kenosha County Historical Society

The Kenosha Southport Lighthouse built in 1866 is in fact, the Kenosha Southport light station located on Simmons Island (formerly Washington Island) in Kenosha, Wisconsin and is listed on the Wisconsin and National Registers of Historic Places. It is the third light station on the island.

The tower is constructed of yellow Milwaukee Cream City Brick, conical in shape. The height of the tower from the base to the lens focal plane is 55 feet. There is an additional 19 feet from the base to the water level, making the focal plane of the light 74 feet above the lake level. There are 72 steps from top to bottom of the structure. The light was a fixed white light varied by flashes from the fourth order Fresnel lens.

Originally designated as a coast and harbor light, the light Station was the first navigational light a mariner would see upon entering Wisconsin from Chicago. It was functional until 1906 at which time higher Light Stations

were built to the north and south replaced it. A new Pier Head Lighthouse at the north harbor pier identifies the harbor entrance.

The Lantern room was removed around 1913 and replaced with a 25-foot tripod mast for the display of storm warning flags and lights. The weather signal tower was removed in the 1960's and the tower was boarded up.

A 1989 restoration feasibility study by the Kenosha County Historical Society & Museum, led to the preservation of the tower. A replica of the lantern room was positioned on the tower May 7th 1994 completing the first phase of the restoration.

When is the Lighthouse lit?

The Lighthouse is lit from dusk until dawn starting at dusk on the requested date and ending at dawn the following morning

Who can light the Lighthouse?

Any individuals or organizations can "Light the Light" for any

occasion be it a celebration or a memorial.

What can I expect with the "Light the Light" program?

Besides the previously mentioned "lighting" of the tower a black and white Ad will be placed in the Kenosha News on your requested date. The Ad will be in your own words for the occasion and picture if you choose.

How do I "Light the Light"?

- All reservations must be made with the Museum staff at the Kenosha History Center, either in person or via telephone
- Ad's placed will need to be received in office no later than 10 business days prior to the publication date. This is to ensure accuracy of your Ad. Any Ads processed later can not be guaranteed for accuracy,
- Typed or handwritten print only will be accepted via mail, facsimile or in person. Ads/Reservations will not be confirmed until payment is received in full.

What's the cost for "Light the Light"?

- \$35.00, an Ad without a picture
- \$50.00, an Ad with a picture

If your Ad is exceptionally long the ad will be subject to an additional \$10.00 fee

EXAMPLE

THE LIGHT SHINES!
Tonight the 1866
Kenosha (Southport)
Lighthouse Shines
August 24, 2010
In loving memory of

(Picture if Applicable)

Catherine Dana Durkee
Sunrise 1813 – Sunset August 24, 1838

Wife of one Kenosha's founding fathers, Charles Durkee and the first official resident of Green Ridge Cemetery, land donated by Charles for use as a cemetery. Catherine fell in love with a grassy hill in what was then a rolling field. She expressed her desire to be buried in the very spot where she lies today. Long at peace but still making history today, she is now believed to be the mysterious ghost roaming the historical Simmons Library.

Honored with gratitude and great
Respect by all Kenosheans on this day,
The anniversary of her passing

All information in this sample Ad is historically correct and an example of information that can be researched at the Kenosha History Center in the Archives Library.

Light the Light

Lighting the 1866 Kenosha (Southport) Lighthouse in honor of any Special occasion, Birthday or Memoriam



Call/Email for reservations

Tue-Wed- Fri

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Kenosha History Center
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Kenosha, WI 53140
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Museum hours:

Tues. - Fri. 10am - 4:30 pm
Sat. 10am-4pm Sun. 12pm-4 pm
Closed Mondays