



1811 Scituate Lighthouse

Scituate Light is one of the oldest lighthouses in the United States. Built in 1811, it was originally meant to guide mariners to and from Boston Harbor, while they navigated the rocky coasts of the South Shore. The lighthouse has had several iterations in its 200+ year history, most notably a 15-foot addition in 1827 that added a brick superstructure atop the existing 25-foot granite tower. The lights in the lantern room have also changed color and design a few times.

The first keeper of the lighthouse was Capt. Simeon Bates - legend tells us that his two daughters are famous for spotting the British Royal Navy approaching Scituate Harbor during the War of 1812, and took to playing a fife and drum, convincing the army that the American Militia was en route which warded them off. The lighthouse is an important piece of history to the small, coastal town of Scituate, and it was essential it was restored so people could keep enjoying it for decades to come.

In late 2022, an analysis of the lighthouse was performed which determined the lantern room needed to be removed immediately, as the cast iron posts that anchored it in place were badly corroded. This put the lantern room at risk of toppling over in high winds. Later, the lantern would be completely rebuilt to match the original, and placed back atop the tower. The rest of the lighthouse also needed extensive repairs, including rebuilding some of the brick structure, injecting traditional grout to replace washed-out mortar, repairing the windows, creating a new octagonal deck, and more. So, while the newly restored lighthouse might not look any different from the old, the restoration efforts have made it much safer to enjoy, and ensures it will be around for many, many more years.

Scituate Light is loved, admired, and utilized by thousands of residents and visitors a year. The jetty that extends beyond the lighthouse into the harbor is open year-round, and many people can be seen taking their families on trips to admire the structure, walking their dogs, and just taking a break from the daily grind. Brides and grooms come from all over the South Shore of Massachusetts to take wedding photos at the base of Scituate Light. This restoration project ensures the lighthouse will be well-loved for decades to come.

In the Summer of 2024, the Town and Scituate Historical Society celebrated the completion of the landmark's restoration with a relighting ceremony attended by hundreds- featuring the Scituate High School Brass Quartet, a Salute by the Hingham Militia, and remarks from speakers and Senator Markey's office. The preservation efforts by the town and its inhabitants have shown what remarkable things can happen when people come together to protect their built heritage; the 1811 Scituate Lighthouse will continue to serve as a beacon for its community, just as it did for mariners so long ago.