

Mission Point Lighthouse Brief Timeline

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Source: Johnson, Laura and Stefanie Staley. *Mission Point Lighthouse*. Traverse City, Michigan 2011. Print.

- September 10, 1870 Mission Point Lighthouse lit
- September 1870 First lighthouse keeper: Jerome Mortimer Pratt (born Granville, Ohio October 13, 1818; died on Old Mission Peninsula of natural causes September 11, 1891)
- Pratt not only signed a petition, along with Perry Hannah (one of Traverse City's founders), to ask for money to build Mission Point, but when the materials arrived, he helped to construct the lighthouse. The lens arrived in August 1870, and his signature indicates that he accepted the delivery. He took his position as first Light Keeper in September of that year.
- January 30, 1877 Jerome Mortimer Pratt removed from duty
- April 1, 1877 Second Lighthouse Keeper: John McHarry (born 1805 in Ireland; died in Traverse City, Michigan on August 4, 1881)
- August 16, 1881 Third Lighthouse Keeper, John Lane (born in Monroe, Michigan August 9, 1827; died at Rushmore/Doherty house in Old Mission December 12, 1906 of natural causes)
- 1890 Minnie Lane (daughter of John and Sarah Lane) married William Rushmore (William would become the proprietor of the Doherty House)
- March 12, 1907 Fourth Lighthouse Keeper (Acting Assistant Keeper), Sarah Lane, wife of John (born in Williamston, Massachusetts on October 16, 1840; died in Rahway, New Jersey on April 2, 1920)
- March 1907 Fifth Lighthouse Keeper: James Davenport (born April 1, 1847 on Mackinac Island, died March, 1932 in Mackinaw City)
- November 1, 1918 Sixth Lighthouse Keeper: William Franklin Green, born April 9, 1875 in Northport, Michigan.
- June 27, 1924 Seventh Lighthouse Keeper: Emil Conrad Johnson (born November 12, 1884 in Sweden; died August 1935 in Chicago, Illinois)
- June 30, 1933 U.S. Lighthouse Service officially closed Mission Point Lighthouse.

1938	An offshore light was installed to replace the lighthouse.
January 30, 1948	Peninsula Township residents collected \$1935.00 to purchase Mission Point Lighthouse, along with 5.38 acres to be used as a public park, from the Federal Government (it actually cost \$1001.00).
1948-2008	Residents replaced windows and completed other necessary repairs to the house. Caretakers hired by Peninsula Township resided in the house and did restoration work through the years. At some point, the shed was moved to behind the lighthouse, where it was used as a concession stand during the 1950's. It still sits in that place today.
1992	Mission Point Lighthouse added to the Michigan Register for Historic Sites.
July 2008	Keeper Program started, gift shop and museum opened, and Lighthouse is open to visitors.
May 2011	Fresnel Lens taken on loan from Coast Guard to display in museum.
Present	Mission Point Lighthouse continues to grow and prosper. The Peninsula Township Parks Commission hopes to continue efforts to restore the buildings and grounds, to offer more educational displays, and to expand the museum and gift shop.