

Group Scheduling

The White River Light Station museum offers educational and interactive programs for students and groups of all ages. Programs are tailored to accommodate various historical topics. A discounted rate is offered for groups of 15+, and school groups tour free! Group/school tours can be guided or unguided depending on the preference of the party. To schedule a group tour please call 231.894.8265.

Event Rentals

Looking for an enchanting venue for your next special event? Located on the channel connecting White Lake and Lake Michigan the White River Light Station offers breathtaking views and quiet charm to make your next event unforgettable. For further inquiry into the rental of the White River Light Station grounds please call 231.894.8265, or check out our website at www.splka.org.



Directions

US-31 to White Lake Drive Exit, turn right (heading west) and continue to South Shore Drive. Turn left on South Shore Drive and continue following museum signs to end of Murray Rd.

White River Light Station Museum
6199 Murray Rd
Whitehall, MI 49461

Museum owned by Fruitland Township and operated by Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association.

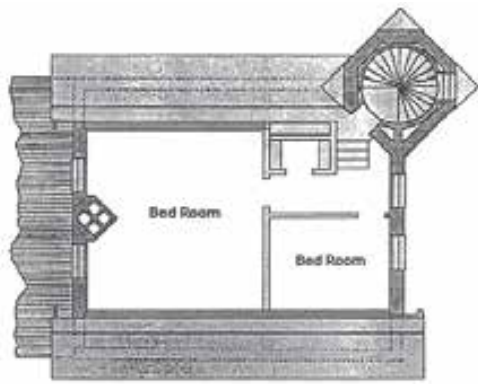
For Group Tours visit our website:
www.spika.org

Phone: 231.894.8265
SPLKA: 231.845.7417
E-mail: whiteriverlight@gmail.com

White River Light Station Museum



Whitehall, MI
1875



(Drawing by Author from plans in the National Archives, Record Group 26)
Drawing of the second floor.



(Drawing by Author from plans in the National Archives, Record Group 26)
Drawing of the first floor.



(Drawing by Author from plans in the National Archives, Record Group 26)
Drawing of the basement.

From the Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board for 1876:

“White River, Lake Michigan, Michigan - The new station was completed last season, and lighted on the opening of navigation 1876. It is a brick dwelling with a square tower rising from the northwest corner.”

Historical Profile of the White River Light Station

By the end of the Civil War, Michigan’s lumbering industry was in full swing. The White Lake area served as a major hub of lumber shipping on Lake Michigan. The increase in lumber demands prompted approval for the construction of a channel and lighthouse at the meeting of White Lake and Lake Michigan. The channel was dug out in 1870, with the lighthouse construction finishing in 1875. The beacon was lit for the first time on May 13, 1876. For nearly two decades the White River Light Station safely guided lumber schooners in and out of the channel. As the lumber industry faded out, the White Lake area became popular as a tourist destination. The channel soon became packed with passenger steamships bringing in vacationers from Chicago and Milwaukee. In the mid 1900’s, lighthouses began to be decommissioned as new technology took over their duties. The White River Light Station was decommissioned in 1960, however it has remained an important part of the White Lake community well past its years as an active light.

Timeline

- 1875—Construction of the light is finished
- 1876—Beacon is lit for the first time
- 1924—Light Station is electrified
- 1960—Light Station is decommissioned

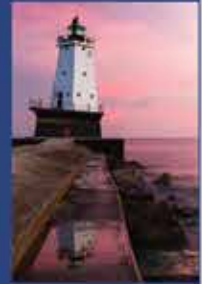
White River Light Station by the Numbers:

- 56 Steps
- 38 Feet tall
- 4th Order Fresnel Lens
- 5 Lighthouse Keepers
- 84 Operational years

Lights of SPLKA

Ludington North Breakwater Light

This majestic steel-clad light was built in 1924, and sits a half mile down the Ludington pier. The Breakwater Light stands 57 feet above Lake Michigan. The light has an active beacon with a 3rd order Fresnel Lens.



Little Sable Point Lighthouse

Little Sable Point was built in 1874. This Chicago Red Brick beauty is located in Silver Lake State Park and stands 115 feet tall. The tower is equipped with its original 3rd order Fresnel Lens, and is still an operational light.



Big Sable Point Lighthouse

Located in Ludington State Park, this picturesque light was built in 1867. It is constructed of painted Milwaukee Cream City Brick. The tower stands at 112 feet tall and remains an active light with a 3rd order Fresnel



These three SPLKA lights are open to the public 7 days a week, 10:00 a.m. —5:00 p.m.

