

Project Gurnet and Bug Lights

keep the lights shining

Project Gurnet and Bug Lights, Inc.

Project Bug Light was organized in 1983 by a group of concerned residents in response to the Coast Guard's plan to replace "Bug Light," (officially known as Duxbury Pier Light), with a light atop a fiberglass pole. Since that time, this preservation group has raised money to repair, restore and maintain the lighthouse. In 1999, Project Bug Light expanded its efforts to include Plymouth Light, also known as "Gurnet Light". To reflect interest and concern for both lighthouses, the group's name was changed to Project Gurnet & Bug Lights, Inc.



Mission Statement

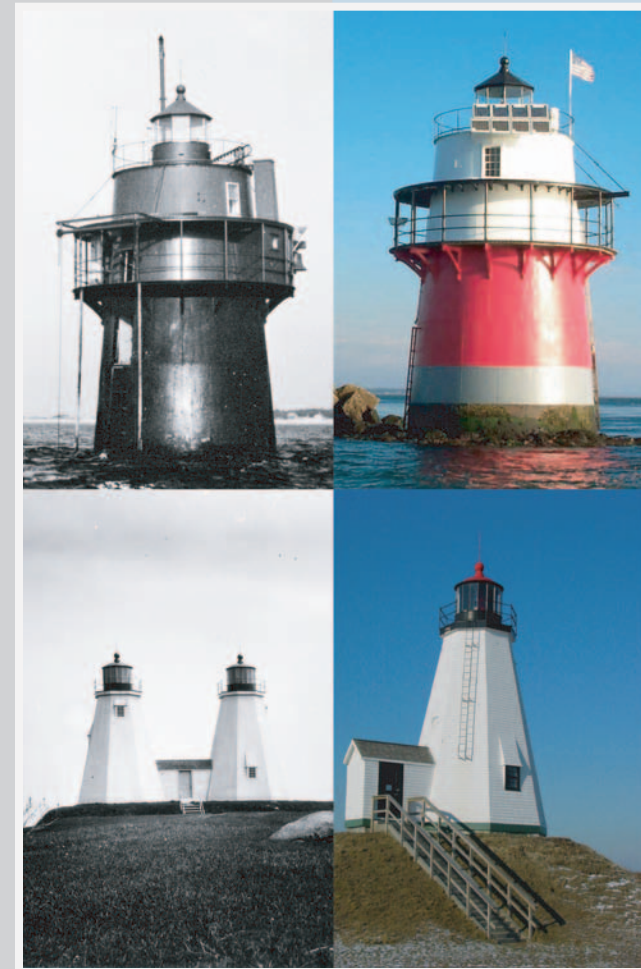
The purpose of this corporation shall be to operate a non-profit organization which shall be actively engaged in the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of both Plymouth Light (The Gurnet) and Duxbury Pier Light (Bug Light), and to encourage public awareness and support of these two unique historic monuments to our nautical past.



Duxbury Pier Light before restoration started.
U.S. Coast Guard photo



Project Gurnet & Bug Lights, Inc.
P.O. Box 2167
Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331
www.BugLight.org



Please join us now!

Ensign \$ 25 _____ Commander \$ 50 _____

Captain \$ 100 _____ Admiral over \$ 100 _____

Name: _____

Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Project Gurnet and Bug Lights, Inc.

Mail to:

Project Gurnet & Bug Lights, Inc.
P.O. Box 2167
Duxbury, MA 02331-2167

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Bug Light Specifications

Duxbury Pier Light ("Bug Light")
Height: 47 feet, 35 feet above water
Construction materials: cast iron
Light Beam: Red
Characteristics: Group red flashing 2 times every 10 seconds
Range: 6 nautical miles
Fog signal: one blast each 15 seconds
Lat: 42 00 12 N
Long: 70 36 24 W



Duxbury Pier Light is a "spark plug" steel caisson light structure located on the northerly side of the channel which leads to Plymouth, Kingston, and Duxbury Harbors. The light was installed to protect mariners from the dangerous shoal off of Saquish Head. The light is affectionately referred to as "Bug Light." The tower contains three levels that were used as living quarters and a watch room.

Bug Light History

- 1871 The construction of Bug Light, the first Caisson-style lighthouse in the United States was completed.
- 1964 Last keeper ends tour of duty when the light station became fully automated.
- 1983 The volunteer non-profit group Project Bug Light, Inc. was formed to provide the Coast Guard with an alternative to replacing the original tower with a fiberglass beacon. A five-year license was given to the group.
- 1984 Project Bug Light, Inc., sponsored the complete rebuilding of the catwalk and roof.
- 1994 The Coast Guard granted another five-year license and Coast Guard gave Bug Light a new east ladder and two new inside galvanized decks.
- 94/95 Project Bug Light organized 30 work days out on Bug Light. Thirty volunteers contributed 420 man/woman-hours of cleaning, scraping, sanding, and painting to the restoration project.
- 1996 Bug Light's 125th anniversary was celebrated.
- 2001 Another major painting and renovation of the lighthouse took place, during which much guano and over 1,200 pounds of rust were removed.

Plymouth Light (or Gurnet Light) is the oldest wooden lighthouse in the United States. It was also America's first twin lighthouse—originally consisting of two lanterns at each end of a 30-foot long by 15-foot wide and 20-foot high Keeper's house.

Gurnet History

- 1768 The first twin lighthouse in North America was built.
- 1776 Hannah Thomas became America's first female lighthouse keeper.
- 1776 A cannonball fired by a British frigate pierced the lighthouse during the American Revolution.
- 1801 The lights burned down completely – only the oil and lanterns were saved. Tired of waiting, the people from Duxbury and Plymouth rebuilt the lights themselves.
- 1803 The government finally replaced the town-built lights
- 1842 The present lighthouse was built—originally a twin light with two wooden octagonal structures.
- 1924 The northeast light was removed, ending 155 years of twin lights at the site.
- 1986 The Coast Guard automated the lighthouse
- 1998 The lighthouse was moved 140 feet back from an eroding bluff.
- 1999 The Coast Guard licensed the lighthouse to Project Gurnet and Bug Lights, Inc.

Plymouth Light Specifications

Plymouth Light ("Gurnet Light")
Height: 39 feet, 102 feet above water
Construction materials: wood
Light Beam: White, red sector
Characteristics: Group flashing alternate single and double white every 20 seconds-includes red sector
Range: White = 16 nautical miles; Red = 14 nautical miles
Fog signal: One blast each 15 seconds
Lat: 41 59 12 N
Long: 70 38 54 W

