



BUG LIGHT

PORTLAND, ME
SEPTEMBER 9, 2006

PORTLAND BREAKWATER LIGHT (“BUG LIGHT”)

STANDING ONLY 26 FEET HIGH ELEGANT PORTLAND BREAKWATER LIGHT, ALSO KNOWN AS “BUG LIGHT”, IS LOCATED AT THE END OF A BREAKWATER ON PORTLAND HARBOR, PORTLAND MAINE.

THE ORIGINAL LIGHT STATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1855 AND THE CURRENT CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURE WAS BUILT IN 1875. THIS UNIQUE LIGHTHOUSE IS INSPIRED BY THE FOURTH CENTURY B.C. GREEK CHORAGIC MONUMENT OF LYSICRATES. IT INCORPORATES SIX CORINTHIAN COLUMNS AND GREEK ROOF EDGE DECORATIONS CALLED PALMETTES IN ITS DESIGN AND RESTS ON A GRANITE BLOCK FOUNDATION. THE COLUMNS CONCEAL THE SEAMS BETWEEN CURVED CAST IRON PLATES WITH A BRICK LINING. STARTING IN 1896 THE STATION WAS EQUIPPED FIRST WITH A 400-POUND AND LATER A 1000-POUND FOG BELL. THE KEEPER’S QUARTERS WERE REMOVED IN THE 1930’S WHEN THE STATION WAS AUTOMATED. THE LIGHT WAS DISCONTINUED IN JUNE OF 1942 FOR WARTIME SECURITY REASONS AND THE LENS REMOVED IN 1993. A NEW 250MM OPTIC WAS INSTALLED IN THE 2002 RESTORATION AND THE LIGHT WAS RELIT AS A PRIVATE AID TO NAVIGATION BY SENIOR CHIEF TOMMY DUTTON OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD’S AIDS TO NAVIGATION TEAM SOUTH PORTLAND IN A CEREMONY ON AUGUST 14, 2002.

BUG LIGHT IS CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, WAS REFURBISHED BY THE SOUTH PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB AND THE SPRING POINT LEDGE LIGHT TRUST FOR THE RELIGHTING AND IN 1973 WAS LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

THE LIGHTHOUSE IS SURROUNDED BY BUG LIGHT PARK, THE SITE OF A FORMER SHIPBUILDING COMPLEX WHERE WORLD WAR II LIBERTY SHIPS WERE BUILT. THE LIBERTY SHIP MEMORIAL SPONSORED BY THE PORTLAND HARBOR MUSEUM IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PARK WITHIN SIGHT OF BUG LIGHT AND COMMEMORATES THE 266 LIBERTY SHIPS BUILT BY THE COMPLEX TO CARRY MEN AND SUPPLIES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC DURING THE WAR.

THE IMAGE

THIS IMAGE IS FROM A SINGLE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN USING A HANDHELD 6.1 MEGAPIXEL KODAK EASYSHARE Z760 DIGITAL CAMERA AND PROCESSED IN ADOBE PHOTOSHOP WITH THE GENUINE FRACTALS PLUGIN RUNNING ON A POWERBOOK G4. THE IMAGE WAS PRINTED USING EPSON ULTRACHROME (GICLEE) TECHNOLOGY.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

TOM WRIGHT IS A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF GOFFSTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE WHO IMMIGRATED FROM UPSTATE NEW YORK BY WAY OF VERMONT. HIS INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY IS INHERITED FROM HIS FATHER, WENDELL F. WRIGHT, WHO WAS A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER ALL HIS LIFE, AND HIS LOVE OF ART FROM HIS YOUNGER SON WHO GRADUATED FROM RINGLING SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN IN SARASOTA, FL IN 2005 WITH A DEGREE IN ILLUSTRATION. A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE IMAGES GO TO THE THERESE G. WRIGHT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR STUDENTS AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT MANCHESTER.

PERSONAL NOTE: WENDELL F. WRIGHT RETURNED FROM EUROPE FOLLOWING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WHERE HE SERVED IN A U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS PHOTOGRAPHIC UNIT, ABOARD A LIBERTY SHIP.

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