



PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT

FORT WILLIAMS PARK
CAPE ELIZABETH, ME
SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT & FORT WILLIAMS PARK

A LIGHT HAS BURNED AT PORTLAND HEAD SINCE THE FIRST WHALE OIL LAMPS WERE LIT 1791, FOUR YEARS AFTER THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS AUTHORIZED FUNDS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF A LIGHTHOUSE. OVER TIME THE FACILITY WAS EXPANDED TO PROVIDE QUARTERS FOR THE KEEPERS AND THE MECHANISMS MODERNIZED.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE LIGHTHOUSE HAS PASSED FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY TO THE US LIGHTHOUSE BOARD WHICH WAS REORGANIZED INTO THE BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES AND EVENTUALLY THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD. IN 1989 OPERATION OF THE LIGHT WAS AUTOMATED. TODAY THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD MAINTAINS THE ACTUAL LIGHT AND FOG SIGNAL. THE REMAINDER OF THE PROPERTY IS OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH.

FORT WILLIAMS WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF BREVET MAJOR GENERAL SETH WILLIAMS (1822-1866), FORMER ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND A MAINE NATIVE, IN 1894 BY PRESIDENT MCKINLEY AND WAS OFFICIALLY SO NAMED BY THE ARMY IN 1899. IT SERVED AS A MAJOR MILITARY INSTALLATION DURING WORLD WAR II SERVING AS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HARBOR DEFENSES OF PORTLAND. THE FORT WAS DEACTIVATED AND CLOSED AS A MILITARY INSTALLATION IN EITHER 1962 OR 1963 AND PURCHASED BY THE TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH IN 1964. THE PROPERTY WAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED FORT WILLIAMS PARK IN 1979.

THE IMAGE

THE IMAGE CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 36 MILLION PIXELS AND WAS BUILT DIGITALLY BY "STITCHING" TOGETHER 13 INDIVIDUAL DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS ARRAYED IN A SINGLE ROW WITH A 50% OVERLAP. THIS PROCESS PRODUCES AN IMAGE WITH A VISUAL ARC OF APPROXIMATELY 230 DEGREES.

THE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN USING A KODAK EASYSHARE Z760 DIGITAL CAMERA OPERATING IN 5.1MP MODE MOUNTED ON A TRIPOD EQUIPPED WITH A KAIDAN KIWI PANORAMIC TRIPOD HEAD. THE FILES WERE THEN DOWNLOADED TO AN APPLE POWERBOOK G4 LAPTOP COMPUTER AND LATER PROCESSED USING APPLE QUICKTIME VR STUDIO AND ADOBE PHOTOSHOP SOFTWARE.

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, 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.

DISTRIBUTED BY: *Digital Vistas Imaging, LLC*

WWW.DIGITALVISTASIMAGING.COM

4 HIGHLAND AVENUE
GOFFSTOWN, NH 03045

FEBRUARY 6, 2007