

Weddings & Special Events



The Fort Gratiot Light Station provides the perfect setting for weddings, celebrations, showers, and reunions. For more information, call (810)982-0891, ext. 118 or email reservations@phmuseum.org



Overnight
at the *Lighthouse*
FORT GRATIOT LIGHT STATION

This unique activity is well-suited for scouts, youth groups, school groups and families. Your "Overnight at the Light" will include a tour of the station, which highlights the historic uses and current renovation plans. A program relating to the site will be presented, then a snack and lights out! Sleep in the newly-renovated Duplex and have breakfast on your own the next day. Cost is only \$25 per person, with a minimum of 20 people (or \$500.00) required to reserve a date. A maximum of 40 people may participate.

For more information or to book an Overnight, call (810) 982-0891, ext.118 or email reservations@phmuseum.org

Volunteers Needed

Do you have a few hours a week/month to volunteer? Contact, the Port Huron Museum Visitor Services Coordinator at (810) 982-0891, ext. 118, or email volunteer@phmuseum.org for information and opportunities.



SandFest is Michigan's first and only professional sand sculpting competition, which takes place at the Fort Gratiot Light Station. For more details visit www.bluewatersandfest.com

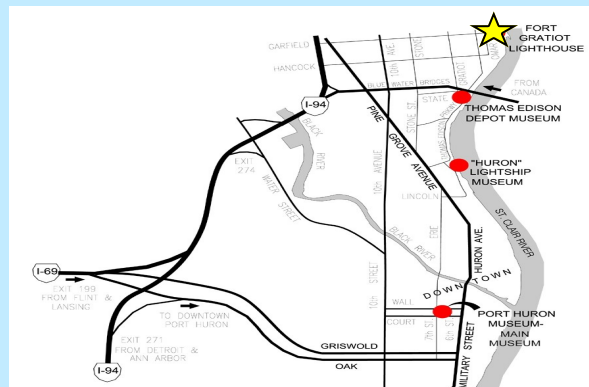
Admission Fees:

	Admission	FGLS Membership	Premier Membership (includes 4 museum sites)
Student/Senior	\$7.00	\$25.00	\$40.00 Save \$10
Adult	\$7.00	\$35.00	\$50.00 Save \$20
Family*	\$30.00	\$55.00	\$75.00 Save \$25

Active Military with ID and children 4 and under - no charge

*Family = 2 adults and up to 4 children, \$2 for each additional child

SAFETY NOTE: For your safety, the tower climb requires closed toe shoes, no flip-flops, heels, or sandals. Also, the tower climbing portion of the tour is weather permitting.



PREMIER PASSPORT

Visit all 3 PHM locations and the Fort Gratiot Light Station for one low price!

Adults \$25 - Senior/Student \$15 - Family* \$45

Visit All of Our Museum Sites

Carnegie Center - Main Museum - 810-982-0891
1115 Sixth Street, Port Huron

Thomas Edison Depot Museum - 810-455-0035
510 Edison Parkway, Port Huron

HURON Lightship Museum - 810-984-9768
located in Pine Grove Park
800 Prospect, Port Huron

Prices and times are subject to change

For More Information:

Phone: (810) 982-0891

Fax: (810) 982-0053

Website: www.phmuseum.org

PORT HURON MUSEUM



Fort Gratiot
LIGHT STATION

2802 Omar Street
Port Huron, Michigan 48060



2016 Hours of Operation

September 6 - October 30, 2016 ~ Friday - Sunday

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 31 - November 12, 2016 ~ Saturday & Sunday

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

November 13 - December 18, 2016 ~ Saturday & Sunday

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

*Candlelight tours Saturdays from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Closed for the season January 2017 - April 2017

OPEN FOR GROUP TOURS YEAR ROUND!

(810) 216-6923 or (810)-982-0891

www.phmuseum.org

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Presented in partnership by
the Port Huron Museum
with St. Clair County Parks
and Recreation Department



History of the Fort Gratiot Light Station



Fort Gratiot, named after General Charles Gratiot, the engineer in charge of its construction, was established in 1814 to guard the junction of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River.

As early as 1823, the government recognized the importance of protecting commerce on Lake Huron, and on March 3rd of that year, Congress appropriated \$3,500.00 to construct a "lighthouse near Fort Gratiot, in Michigan Territory." Winslow Lewis, a Massachusetts contractor specializing in lighthouses, was awarded the contract, and he, in turn, contracted Daniel Warren of Rochester, New York to build the tower and keeper's dwelling.

On April 2, 1825, Congress increased the amount appropriated for the project to a total of \$5,000.00 and on November 1st it was completed. The tower rose 32 feet above the ground, was 18 feet in diameter at the bottom, and 9 1/2 feet at the top. It was the first lighthouse constructed on Michigan shores.

During the summer of 1828, the walls began cracking and the tower sagged toward the east. Erosion, caused by the current, was also wasting away the ground and after a violent storm in early September, the tower was severely damaged. It collapsed in late November 1828.

Immediate action was taken to erect a new structure at a better location. By an act of Congress, \$8,000.00 was appropriated for the new tower and on March 2, 1829, Lucius Lyons, who later became a U.S. Senator, was awarded the contract to rebuild the lighthouse.

The new lighthouse was constructed of brick and was 65 feet high, and 25 feet in diameter at the base. In 1862, the height was increased to 86 feet. In 1913, the lighthouse was again threatened by a storm, which almost washed the tower off its foundation. In 1914, the retaining wall was built to prevent future damage to the structure.

In 1971, the Michigan Historical Commission named the Fort Gratiot Light Station a Historical Site. Today the lighthouse is completely automated, with an approximate range of 16 miles and green light that flashes every 6 seconds for a half second. After more than 190 years since the first light was constructed at Fort Gratiot, a silent sentinel still beams out to guide mariners.

Time Line

Daniel Warren of Rochester, New York, completed the tower and keepers' dwelling	1825
Rebuilt the tower after it collapsed in late November 1828 by Lucius Lyon Contractors	1829
Threatened by a storm, the tower almost washed off the foundation; retaining wall built	1913
Became fully automated and has a range of 16 miles	1933
Titled transferred to St. Clair County Parks and Recreation	2010
Restoration of brick on tower completed	2011

Lake Guardian Explorations



Each program is 1 hour in length & includes an additional 1 hour tour.

Weather and Waves—There are many different kinds of waves. Sound waves, light waves, X-rays, microwaves and ocean waves are but a few examples of different types. All waves, however, share some basic characteristics. Participate in experiments to help understand the basic principles of waves, then find out [more](#) about the 40 foot waves that battered our lighthouse during the Storm of 1913. This powerful storm devastated the Great Lakes area over a century ago and impacted our entire area.

Science of the Light— Starting with a simply lit fire in a small stone hut, lighthouses have been around for hundreds of years to help guide sea captains away from shorelines and dangerous areas. From wax lit lamps to tallow (animal fat) and coal powered lights, these beacons evolved to the practical prisms of the Fresnel lenses, which we still use today. In this program, we will discover the history and the science behind these mysterious, flashing lights in the night.

Keeper's Kamp—Beginning with the lighting of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse in 1825 and continuing until 1983 (when the last lighthouse in Michigan was automated), it was the lighthouse keeper's job to keep the light lit every night. A keeper's life was unique, but difficult, with daily chores that would take up most of their day and all of their night. Take a step back in time to learn about the life of a lighthouse keeper and their family. Learn some keepers' "*tricks of the trade*" and take a stab at some of their daily chores.

COST: \$120.00 for up to 20 people, additional students \$6.00 and chaperones \$3.00

Prices are subject to change. To book a Lake Guardian Exploration, call (810) 982-0891, ext. 118 or email reservations@phmuseum.org

Field Trips & Group Tours

To schedule a program or group tour for 20+ guests, please contact the Port Huron Museum Visitor Services Coordinator at (810) 982-0891, ext. 118 or email reservations@phmuseum.org