

= Avery Point Light =

Avery Point Light or Avery Point Lighthouse is a lighthouse in Groton , Connecticut , United States , on the Avery Point Campus of the University of Connecticut . Although construction was completed in March 1943 , the lighthouse was not lit until May 1944 due to concerns of possible enemy invasion . Its original light consisted of eight 200 @-@ watt bulbs that were later replaced by a flashing green light in 1960 . It was deactivated on June 25 , 1967 , when the United States Coast Guard Training Station moved to Governors Island . It is officially listed as the last lighthouse built in the state ; the only other claimant is the replica Mystic Seaport Light .

The lighthouse deteriorated until it was declared a hazard by the University of Connecticut in 1997 . A restoration effort was launched in 1999 through the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) and in 2000 by a new local chapter , the Avery Point Lighthouse Society . The restoration of the lighthouse began in 2001 and was completed in 2006 , requiring a replica lantern and extensive structural repairs and replacement of the crumbling of the blocks . Two bills for \$ 150 @,@ 000 and \$ 100 @,@ 000 were appropriated and used to complete the restoration . The relighting and re @-@ dedication of the lighthouse was held on October 15 , 2006 . The lighthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 .

= = Construction = =

The land upon which Avery Point Light was constructed was owned by Morton F. Plant 's estate ; his Branford Manor is located several hundred feet away . Twenty four years after Plant 's death the estate was sold to the state of Connecticut before being transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard . The Coast Guard 's deed required the construction and maintenance of beacon lights or other navigational aids as part of the Coast Guard 's new training facility . The Avery Point Light was named for Captain James Avery of New London , Connecticut .

The Avery Point Light was designed by Alfred Hopkins and Associates to be a 41 @-@ foot (12 m) octagonal tower . Construction of the tower was completed in March 1943 ; it is built of brown concrete blocks and topped with an octagonal wooden lantern . During the restoration effort , it was discovered that six different types of concrete blocks were used in the construction . The tower has a total of five windows , with two facing south and one for the north , east and west . The lantern gallery deck is constructed of concrete and lined with thirty two Italian marble balusters , originally imported from Italy around 1900 . The interior has an iron ladder , originally wooden , that leads up to the watchroom level . The lighthouse design and masonry tower have Colonial Revival elements . It is the last lighthouse built in the state of Connecticut as an official navigational aid .

= = Service = =

The Avery Point Light was not lighted until May 2 , 1944 , due to concerns about possible enemy invasions by sea . D 'Entremont notes that the first light , consisting of eight 200 @-@ watt bulbs , were an unusual array that created a fixed white light source . Though it never had a formal keeper , the lighthouse was tended by personnel or students from the United States Coast Guard Training Station . In 1960 , the light was changed to flashing green and the candlepower rating doubled from 100 to 200 . The light was deactivated on June 25 , 1967 when the training facility moved from Avery Point to Governors Island .

= = Restoration = =

The Avery Point Light was listed by the university as being in " dangerously poor condition " by July 1997 and declared it a safety hazard . In December 2007 , Lighthouse Digest included a brief article with the title " Avery Point added to Doomsday List " after rumors of it being torn down were reported . The article included two images that show the blocked off lighthouse with its crumbling bricks and a sign reading " Keep Out Hazardous Area " . In 1999 , fund @-@ raising began to save and restore

the lighthouse through the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) and in 2000 through the Avery Point Lighthouse Society (APLS) , a chapter of the ALF .

In 2000 , the APLS website estimated \$ 25 @,@ 000 for the initial engineering study and \$ 150 @,@ 000 @-@ 200 @,@ 000 to complete the restoration . In 2001 , Connecticut State Senator Catherine Cook introduced a bill for \$ 150 @,@ 000 in bonds to fund the restoration of the Avery Point Light ; it was later approved . An article in the New London Day also noted an engineering study valued at \$ 40 @,@ 000 was being conducted for no cost by James Nordon 's engineering firm of Gible , Norden and Champion .

On December 1 , 2001 , the first part of the restoration began with the removal of the lantern . Due the deterioration of the lantern , the decision was made to make a replica of the original lantern . From 2003 through 2004 , the West Mystic Wooden Boat Building Company , donated the materials and labor to construct the replica . The company 's owner , Steve Jones , has close ties to the Avery Point Light ; he is a former lighthouse keeper for the Harbor of Refuge Light in Lewes , Delaware and is also a University of Connecticut professor .

The concrete blocks used in the construction were of poor construction due to the high sand content that crumbled with the expanding and contraction of the mortar . The decision was made to replace the outer face of the concrete blocks and strengthen the remaining original blocks with cement and steel reinforcements . A total of 3 @,@ 000 blocks were needed to complete the restoration and had to be produced using special molds . The restoration work on the tower began in September 2003 . Though increased costs of the restoration resulted in another need of funding to complete the project . In 2003 , federal funding for another \$ 100 @,@ 000 came from the National Park Service 's " Save America ? s Treasures Act " and it was endorsed by Senators Christopher Dodd and Joseph Lieberman . Delays in the appropriation of funding delayed the second phase of the structural restoration until June 2005 ; and the work was conducted from July through early November . The relighting and re @-@ dedication of the lighthouse was held on October 15 , 2006 .

= = Importance = =

The lighthouse has been claimed to be a memorial tower in various sources , including the 1994 America 's Atlantic Coast Lighthouses : A Traveler 's Guide which states " the tower was built as a memorial tower and as a symbolic representation of the USCG lighthouse keeping responsibilities . " D 'Entremont notes that the misunderstanding stems from an article from 1955 in U.S. Coast Guard Magazine and acknowledges that it has come to serve as a memorial . The lighthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 .