

= Bridgeport Harbor Light =

The Bridgeport Harbor Light , later the Bridgeport Harbor Lighthouse , was a lighthouse in Bridgeport , Connecticut , United States . It is located on the west side of the Bridgeport Harbor entrance and the north side of Long Island Sound . Originally constructed in 1851 and rebuilt in 1871 with a dwelling , it had a red @-@ fixed light throughout its service life . The builder and first keeper of the light was Abraham A. McNeil who is also credited as improvising the first light for the Bridgeport Harbor in 1844 . By 1953 , the lighthouse was in poor condition and the United States Coast Guard opted to build a skeleton tower in its place . In the 2014 edition of the Light List Volume 1 , the skeleton tower is marked as " Light 13A " with a height of 57 feet (17 m) and a visual marker of a square green dayboard with a green reflective border . The lighthouse was sold and an attempt was made to move it to serve as a monument for Connecticut 's maritime history , but it was later decided to scrap the structure . The lighthouse caught fire and was destroyed during the dismantling in 1953 .

= = 1851 light = =

According to Waldo 's History of Bridgeport and Vicinity , Volume 1 , Abraham A. McNeil first set a light atop a mast to mark the Bridgeport Harbor in 1844 . The next day Captain John Brooks Jr. set up his own improvised light with another boat . Constructed in 1851 , the first Bridgeport Harbor Light was an octagonal tower on a box @-@ like structure stood on iron piles . The exact details of its construction are not recorded and there is no complete description , but it is known to have had a fixed red light . Waldo identifies Abraham A. McNeil as the builder of the light . The light had no keeper 's quarters and was only accessible by boat . By 1870 , a new lighthouse was needed , partly because of the increased maritime traffic .

= = 1871 lighthouse = =

Completed in 1871 , the rebuilt light had a dwelling with the attached tower containing a fourth @-@ order Fresnel lens . It retained the original fixed red light , but also included a fog bell . In 1900 , the lighthouse was identified in the Light List as having a red screw @-@ pile structure , a white tower and dwelling with a slate @-@ gray Mansard roof topped with a black lantern . The lighthouse had a fog signal that sounded every 15 seconds and was operated by machinery . Although the focal height of the light is unlisted , the center of the light stood 34 ft (10 m) above the ground .

In 1873 , a request for \$ 5 @,@ 500 , equivalent to \$ 109 @,@ 000 in 2015 was submitted to Congress for the " additional protection " of the " screw @-@ pile light house " . During the first session of the 43rd Congress , the \$ 5 @,@ 500 was appropriated for the lighthouse . In 1898 , during the Spanish ? American War the lighthouse was equipped with 10 @-@ inch guns to ward off enemy attacks , making it one of the few armed American lighthouses in history . These guns never saw action as there was no attack on the coast . In 1920 , \$ 5925 was estimated to be needed for riprap protection .

By 1953 , the lighthouse was in poor condition and the U.S. Coast Guard opted to replace it with a skeleton tower . The lighthouse was sold to the Fairfield Dock Company , which initially planned to move it ashore , but it was later decided to dismantle and scrap it . A plan existed to move the lighthouse ashore to a city park as a monument to Connecticut 's maritime heritage , but the location could not be agreed upon .

= = Skeleton tower = =

The skeleton tower constructed from 1953 continues to serve Bridgeport Harbor . In the 2014 edition of the Light List Volume 1 , the skeleton tower is marked as " Light 13A " with a height of 57 feet (17 m) and a visual marker of a square green dayboard with a green reflective border .

= = List of keepers = =