

= Chester Rock Light =

Chester Rock Light was a light in Chester , Connecticut on the Connecticut River . It was built in 1889 as part of a \$ 15 @, @ 000 appropriation by the United States Congress . The 21 @-@ foot (6 @.@ 4 meter) tall wooden hexagonal pyramidal tower had a black lantern with a 6th order Fresnel lens . The light was first lit on July 1 , 1889 . The tower was replaced in 1912 by a skeleton tower that was subsequently modified in 1927 . Records do not show the deactivation or destruction of the light , but it was believed to have been removed in the 1930s . In the 1990s , the Deep River Historical Society of Deep River , Connecticut wanted to build a replica of the structure for use as a daymark .

= = Construction = =

The Chester Rock Light was constructed in 1889 as part of a \$ 15 @, @ 000 appropriation by Congress that included several other beacons . The exact cost of the structure is unknown . Originally constructed as a 21 @-@ foot (6 @.@ 4 meter) tall wooden hexagonal pyramidal tower , the Chester Rock Light had a black lantern with a 6th order Fresnel lens . First lit on July 1 , 1889 with a fixed red light the light was changed to a fixed white light on December 15 , 1892 . According to the Light List , the light was located on Chester Rock on the west side of the Connecticut River and about .75 miles (1 @.@ 21 km) north of Deep River , Connecticut .

A Lighthouse Inspection Report from the United States Lighthouse Society from December 1889 states that the hexagonal tower was only accessible by boat . The light 's foundation rested upon the river bottom and was a 15 @-@ foot (4 @.@ 6 meter) square crib that was made of yellow pine timbers and sheathed with planks . The crib was filled with stones and protected by riprap . The crib extended up to the high water mark to a frustum of a 15 feet (4 @.@ 6 m) square pyramid that is reduced to 10 feet (3 @.@ 0 m) at its top and filled with stone . The sides and top are planked and the corners were covered with boiler plate and angle irons . The original light was a hexagonal beacon lantern made of brass and copper . The oil for the light was stored in boxes in the lower portion of the lantern .

= = Skeleton tower = =

According to the Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board , the tower was struck and carried away by a barge being towed by Sachem , a tugboat , on May 10 , 1912 . The cost of repairs , \$ 602 @.@ 40 , was paid by the owner . During the intervening period , a temporary light post was used in its place . Completed on October 22 , 1912 , the replacement skeletal tower was a pyramidal steel structure on a concrete base that held its oil internally . The base of the tower was painted white and the daymark was painted black . The skeleton tower lantern was raised to 25 feet (7 @.@ 6 m) above the water and its light had about 170 candlepower .

It is unknown if a new skeleton tower was installed at a different location than the original tower or if an intervening tower was previously erected in the same location , but the original stone foundation is visible 100 feet (30 m) from the west bank . In 1900 , the geographical coordinates were then given as 41 @.@ 2354 North and 72 @.@ 2602 West , but this differs from the modern GPS location which is 41 @.@ 2322 North and 72 @.@ 2450 West .

= = Service = =

Service records for Chester Rock Light show that the light was deactivated for the winter of 1911 and 1914 . In 1914 , the light was deactivated between January 12 ? 15 and relit between March 14 ? 16 . The skeleton tower was modified in 1927 , but there are no records about additional work or action with the light . In 1931 , an article in The Day noted that the skeleton tower was " in recent years " converted to automatic gas beacons . As of 2014 , the skeleton tower is known as Light 35 and features a green flashing light every 4 seconds .

In the 1990s , the Deep River Historical Society of Deep River , Connecticut discovered a photo of the light and began to research its history . Joel Severance , chairman of the harbor commission , wanted to build a 28 @-@ foot (8 @.@ 5 meter) tall replica that would primarily function as a daymark and their plan was endorsed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation in the United States Coast Guard and both the town of Deep River and Middlesex County , Connecticut , but it was expected to be denied by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection . In 2000 , the plan was rejected by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection .