

BODIE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION



history In The Making

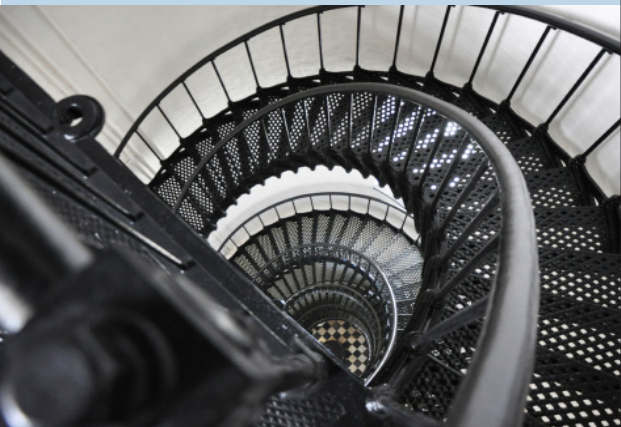
The 1872 Bodie Island Lighthouse, on the National Register of Historic Places, is actually the third lighthouse built along this stretch of the remote barrier islands of North Carolina. The Bodie Island Lighthouse that we see today has stood the test of time. In 1872, the federal government allocated \$140,000 to build a lighthouse, a keeper's quarters, and several outbuildings north of Oregon Inlet. Construction supervisor Dexter Stetson used many of the same techniques he used in the construction of the 1870 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The method known as "Stacking" in which timber pilings are placed below the ground to support a foundation of rubble and granite blocks is found in both lighthouses. Many unused materials from the construction of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse were used two years later in the construction of the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

fun Facts

The Bodie Island Lighthouse stands 156 feet tall.

The height of each stripe is 22 feet.

The lighthouse has 214 stair steps from ground level to the lantern room.



restoration Project

The tower of the Bodie Island Lighthouse recently underwent a major four-year restoration project of both the exterior and interior of the structure as well as the first-order Fresnel lens.

The end result of this project is the perfect balance of saving historic fabric yet making the lighthouse accessible to the public. Coastal environments take a heavy toll on the historic structures located in the parks of the Outer Banks Group of the National Park Service.

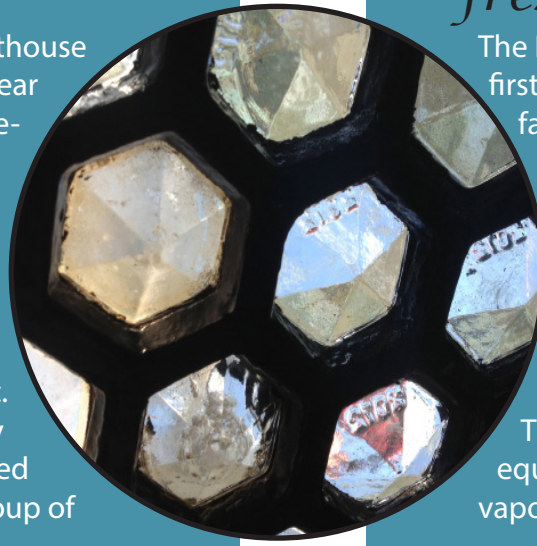
Nearly one and a half centuries of enduring the harsh maritime elements, many storms, and corrosive effects of salt spray from the Atlantic Ocean had badly deteriorated the 1872 Bodie Island Lighthouse.

fresnel Lens

The Bodie Island Lighthouse houses a first-order Fresnel lens. The lens was manufactured by Barbier & Fenestre, from Paris, France in 1871 and is one of the few remaining original lenses of this type.

The lens stands 12 feet in height with 344 glass prisms, with an inside diameter of 6 feet, 9/16 inches and can be seen for nineteen miles out to sea. The 156-foot lighthouse was originally equipped with a fixed light illuminated by a vapor lamp.

When electricity replaced oil in the early 1930s, the steady beam was replaced by a flashing light. On July 13, 2001, the United States Coast Guard transferred ownership of the Bodie Island Lighthouse to the National Park Service.



climbing Season

The renovated 1872 Bodie Island Lighthouse, in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, is open for climbing once again. April 15, 2016 heralds the fourth season ever that this historic beacon will be open for park patrons to climb to the top as a fee-based experience, through October 10 this year. The Bodie Island Lighthouse grounds and museum are open year-round, and free to visit.