

The Ridges Sanctuary

Range Lights Interpretive Concepts

A tangible connection to the local community and its maritime history

Interpretation will tell the stories of the light keepers, their families, and to a lesser degree, the technical aspects of the lights and navigation. Light stations are of interest to most visitors but they also attract a niche audience of lighthouse enthusiasts.

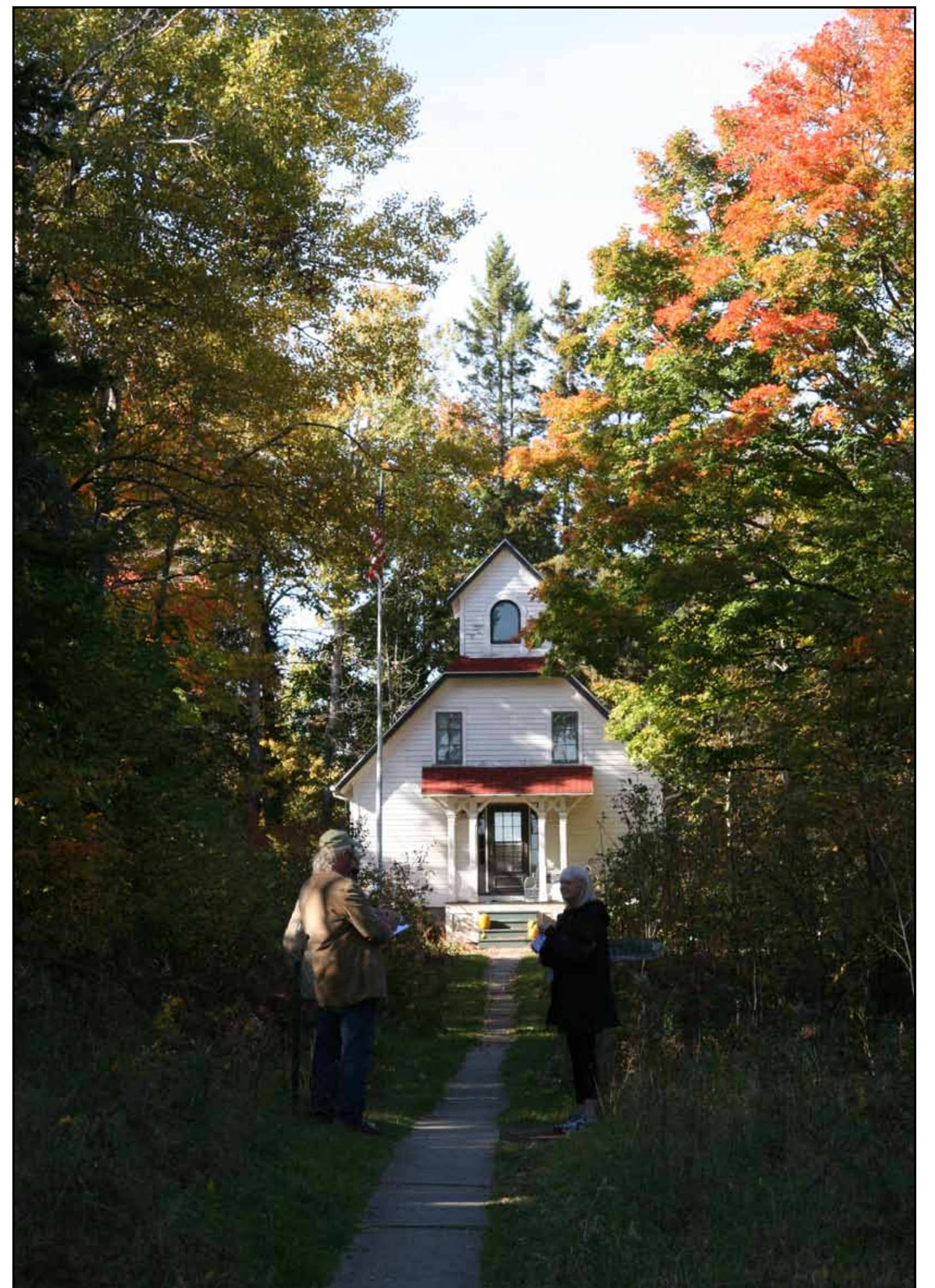
- ▶ During peak periods of visitation the building will be open for self guided tours of the keeper's office and the tower. Exhibits give visitors glimpses into life at a light station.
- ▶ Exterior wayside exhibits will help visitors "experience" the place when the building is closed.



Lighthouse enthusiasts will climb the same stairs that keepers used to tend the light.




They will experience a great view from the tower to the lower range light and Baileys Harbor.




Concept Design for a Range Light exterior wayside exhibit sign

Keepers of the Lights



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These range lights guided ships into the safety of Baileys Harbor for a century. This upper range light was home to eight lighthouse keepers and their families. In 1930 the lamps were replaced by automated electric lights and keepers were no longer needed. In 1969 the lights were extinguished forever.

First Keeper (1869-1872)
Fabien Truedell took his post on December 1, 1869. Though he was in his seventies when he became the keeper, he was the first to walk the long boardwalk between the buildings, carrying oil for the lamps in all weather.

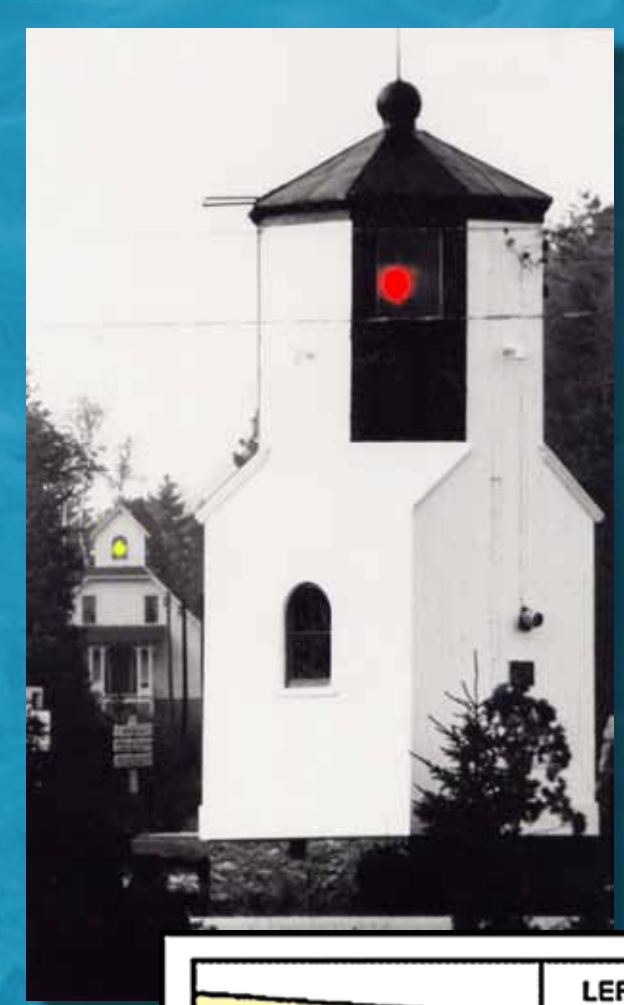
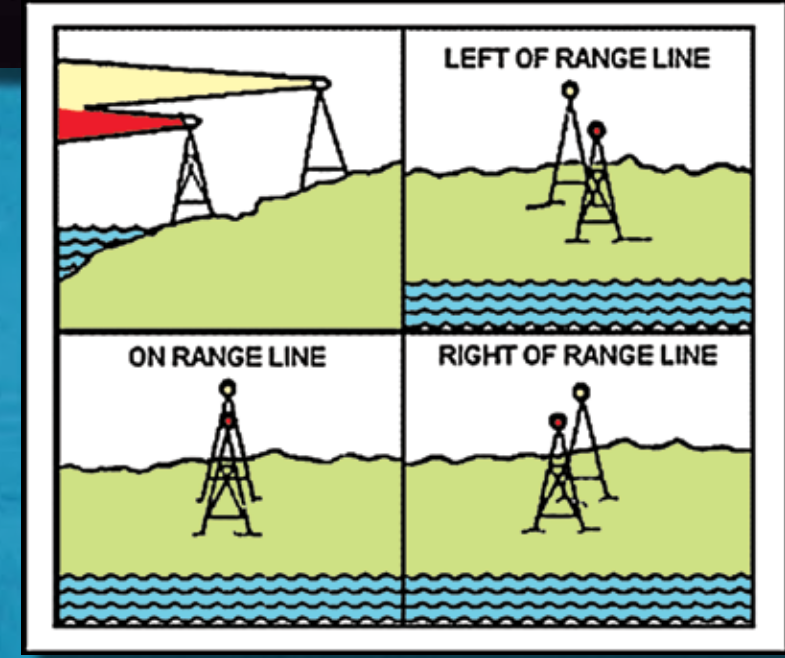
A Tragedy (1872-1875)
Marcus Shaler replaced Truedell in 1872. An outbreak of typhoid fever in the winter of 1874-75 claimed Shaler's wife, Lucy. He resigned his post in grief in April of 1875.

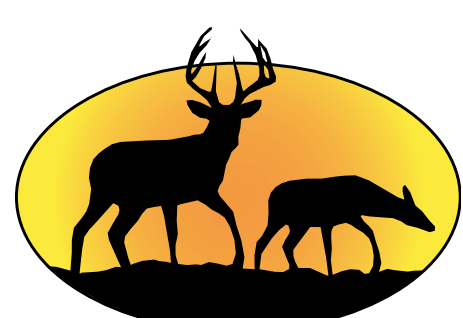
A Joyous Birth (1875-1881)
Shaler was replaced by Civil War veteran **Joseph Harris, Jr.**, who kept the lights burning from 1875 to 1881. His wife, Rosalie, gave birth to the first baby born at the range lights, a daughter, Mabel.

Last Keeper (1896-1930)
Henry Gattie maintained the range lights for 34 years (1896-1930). This handsome bachelor's name and social doings often appeared in the newspaper. Many girlish hearts were broken when he married a local woman, Eva Hendrick. He noted in the station logbook on February 18, 1901, "My wedding at 4 PM".

How Range Lights Work

Ships enter safely into Baileys Harbor by lining up the red light of the lower range light with the white light of the upper range light.



Schmeckle Reserve Interpreters
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



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