



THE OSWEGO WEST PIERHEAD LIGHTHOUSE

KEEPING THE LIGHT

The Oswego West Pierhead Lighthouse was originally outfitted with a Fourth Order Fresnel lens manufactured in Paris, France by L. Sautter, Lemonnier & Co. in 1881. With the aid of red-tinted panels, it produced a flashing red light fifty-seven feet above the waterline.

Pictured right, the original Fourth Order lens (as seen in this exhibit) in service at the Oswego West Pierhead Lighthouse.



The Oswego West Pierhead Lighthouse was staffed by US Lighthouse Service Keepers until 1939, and US Coast Guardsmen until the light was automated in 1968. Accessible only by water through entrances on the west and south sides of the caisson, Keepers used a tender that launched from the shore-based station.



When not on duty at the Lighthouse, keeper's lived in the 22 W. 3rd Street dwelling (formerly 10 W. 3rd Street) between 1846 and 1957 (seen above left). In 1934, a new dwelling was constructed at 31-33 West 5th Street (seen above right) where the Keeper and First Assistant Keeper lived. Beginning in 1934, the Second Assistant Keeper occupied the 22 W. 3rd Street dwelling. Both are privately owned today.