



PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

117 Year Lens Lighting
Project & Event



Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site



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November 16 - 17, 2022

117 Year Lens Event

December 9, 2022



BACKGROUND

Following the 2019 site transfer from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission, efforts quickly commenced to source funds and support to refit the lantern room with a historically accurate reproduction of a 3rd Order Fresnel Lens.

Built in 1852 to protect maritime traffic in the Brazos Santiago Pass, the Point Isabel Lighthouse was active off and on until it was decommissioned in 1905. The lens was removed, and the tower sat darkened until it became a Texas State Park in 1952. Ornamentally illuminated, the Lighthouse continued as a beacon for tourism for seven decades.

In 1952, the Lighthouse opened for public self-guided tours. A Visitor Center was built in the 1990s when a reproduction of the 1855 Keeper's Cottage was built in the park. And now, the installation of the 3rd Order Fresnel Lens will bring a broader and more authentic visitor experience to the only Lighthouse open to the public on the Texas Gulf Coast.

On April 19, 1853, this short announcement was published in the New York Herald, "**Notice to Mariners. The lighthouse at Point Isabel and the beacon at the entrance to Brazos harbor, were lighted 20th ult., 1853.**"

On December 9, 2022, the Texas Historical Commission proudly announced a Notice to all Travelers, the Lighthouse at Port Isabel has been lighted, on this day, December 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Pictured above: A lume travels overhead and to reach the Gulf of Mexico.

Request for Proposals
FOR
Design, Fabrication, and Installations
of a Fresnel 3rd Order Lens, Pedestal, and Lamp
at
the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site

RFP # 808-21211541

THC CONTACT:
Christi Duve, THC Purchaser
512.475.3909, christi.duve@thc.texas.gov

ISSUE DATE: July 19, 2021
PROPOSALS DUE: August 3, 2021
2:00 P.M. Central Time



RFP # 808-21211541



SECTION 1 GENERAL

1.1 *SCOPE.* The State of Texas, by and through the Texas Historical Commission (THC) seeks sealed proposals from qualified firms for the procurement of the design, fabrication, and installation manufacture and installations by an experienced lighthouse lens company of a Fresnel 3rd Order flashing lens with an appropriate rotating pedestal and reproduction lamp, based on mid-19th century examples and surviving evidence researched on the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site. Lens must be fabricated of optical quality acrylic to reduce weight and must be eight-sided with eleven (11) prisms above and four (4) prisms below per historic design. Framing should be of brass or other period appropriate material used on 19th century Fresnel lenses.

[Excerpt from Port Isabel Lighthouse RFP for Design, Fabrication, and Installation of a Fresnel 3rd Order Lens, Pedestal, and Lamp at the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site]

ABOUT THE LENS

The Fresnel Lens changed the world and saved countless lives – the new technology was a monumental step forward in lighthouse lighting technology and maritime safety. The lens could produce an unlimited number of flashing combinations and intensified the light so it could be seen at greater distances, allowing mariners a greater deal of safety in their navigations near shore.

By 1850, the Fresnel Lens became the standard for Lighthouses in the United States.

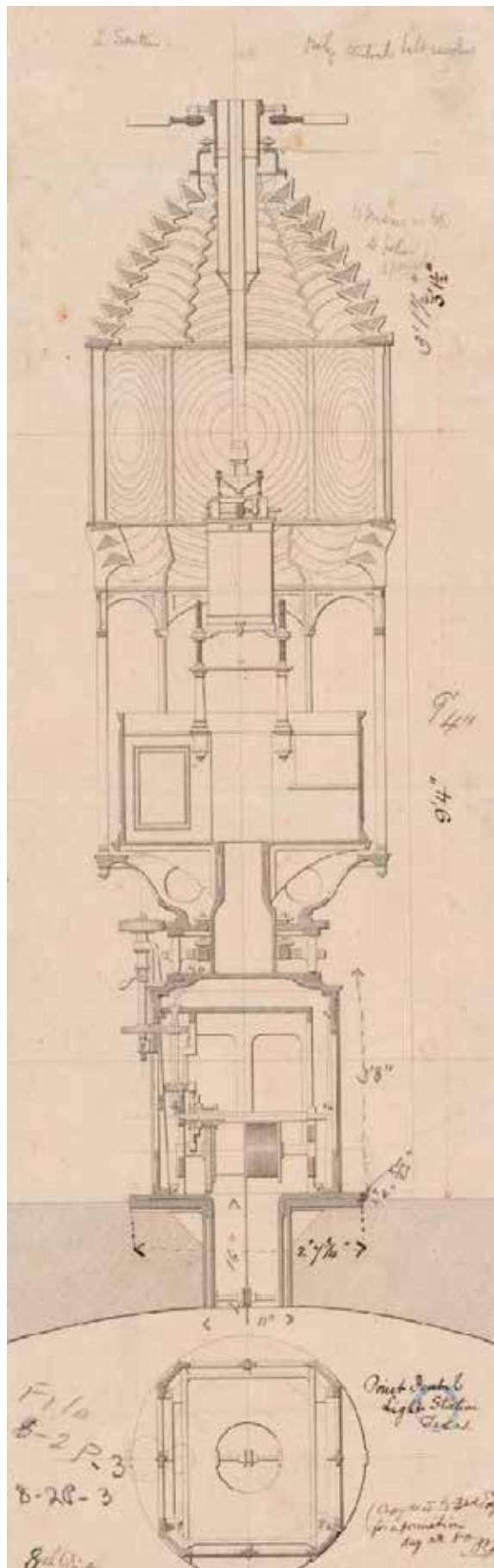
ABOUT THE PIL LENS

At the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site, Dan Spinella and the team at Art-Works Florida have replicated a functional Fresnel lens, pedestal, and lamp, based on a 19th century plan showing the design of the lens specific to the site.

There are a number of Fresnel lenses operating inside lighthouses, but you can also find them inside tons of everyday items: magnifying glass, cameras, traffic lights, solar panels, modern VR technology, and many more applications.

The lens designed for the Port Isabel Lighthouse was modified from its original 5'6" height to 5'3" to accommodate changes that had been made in the lantern room. The lamp is electrified and ties into the electronics in the pedestal which houses switches for the lamp and the motor that rotates the lens. The lens sits on a base-plate designed to support the weight of the 2,300 pound lens on the castiron floor of the supply room.

Pictured left: Engineering drawings of the lens for the Point Isabel Lighthouse.

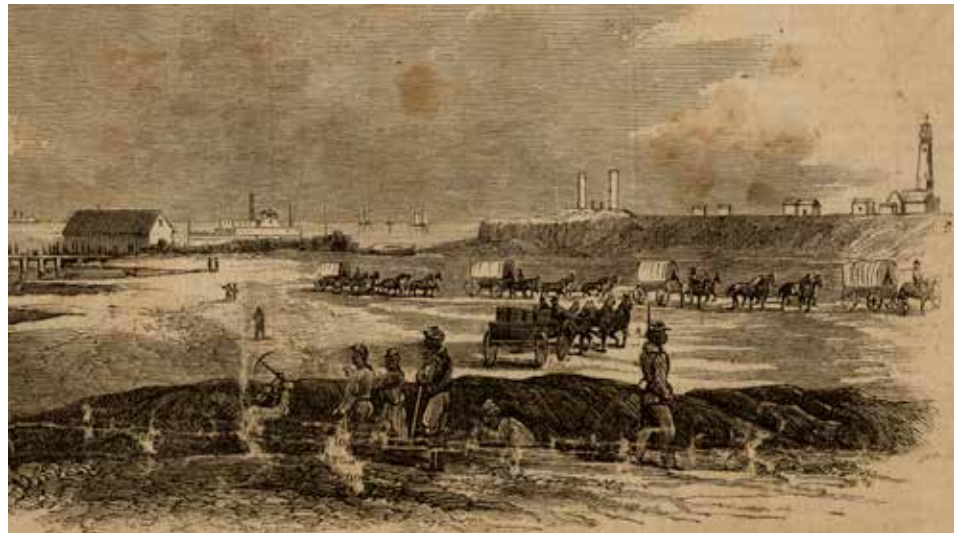


ABOUT THE LIGHTHOUSE SITE

Top: A pre-1880 sketch of the Point Isabel Lighthouse shows the area following the presence of Fort Polk. Several of the buildings are from the 1846-48 era and were repurposed for Lighthouse usage. Indeed, one of the buildings was barged to Brazos Island to be used as housing for the Brazos Island Light Keeper.

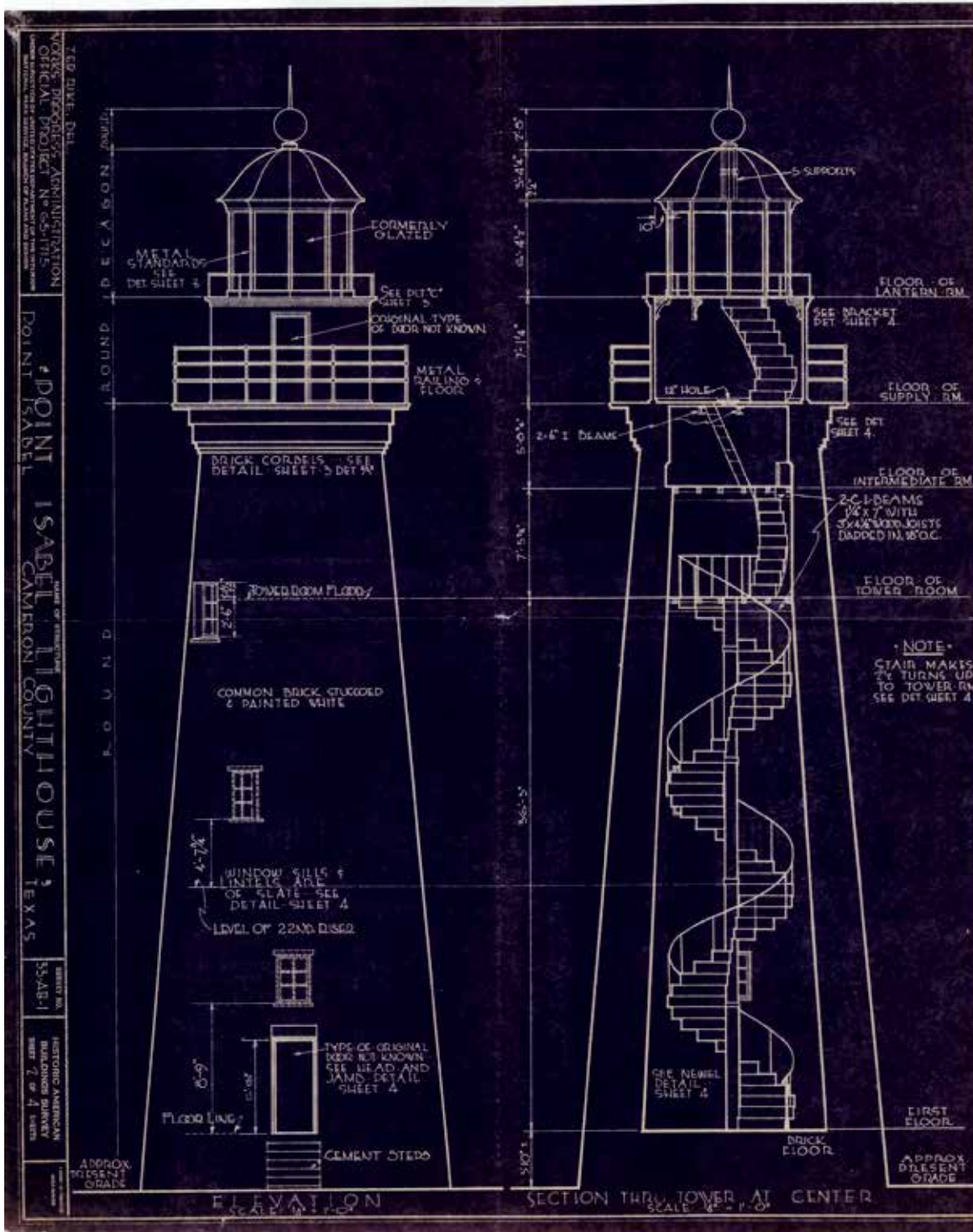


Middle: Lighthouse site during the U.S. Civil War as the area was a transportation hub. Lighters would bring goods from Brazos Santiago for wagon transportation inland.



Bottom: In the 1920s the first of the all-weather roads encouraged travel and development on the coast. The Lighthouse was decommissioned at this point and the keeper's cottage used as a rental.





This WPA Historic American Buildings Survey drawing is a snapshot of the condition of the Port Isabel Lighthouse in the mid 1930s to the early 1940s. The lens had long since been removed, the glass was missing from the Lantern Room and Descriptions include condition of the Lantern Room and the tower described as "Common Brick, Stuccoed & Painted White". The stairs make 2 1/2 turns to the floor of the tower room. The doors on the ground floor and the Supply Room were missing and their material unknown.

LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY

The Port Isabel Lighthouse has been a dominant feature at the southern tip of the Texas Gulf Coast. Its heavy brick walls have stood against the elements since 1852 and protected seafarers until 1905.

This area, long known to coastal Barrodo Indians, was discovered by the Spanish explorer Pineda in 1519 while on a mapping expedition of the Gulf shores. Spanish control was established in the late 1700s, as ranchers began moving into the vicinity from Mexico. By the 1830s a small settlement El Fronton de Santa Isabella, served as headquarters for a large Mexican ranch owned by Don Rafael Garcia.

The Point Isabel region passed almost uneventfully through the period of the Texas Republic to statehood, but it gained widespread attention in 1846. In late April, General Zachary Taylor moved his troops into this area north of the Rio Grande when hostilities between the United States and Mexico seemed imminent. Within two weeks war had begun. The opening battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma were fought just to the south. Point Isabel received the wounded from and served as an American supply depot for the duration of the war.

The "Point" continued in use after the war to supply two military stations on the Rio Grande—Fort Brown and Ringgold Barracks. Heavy shipping traffic through Brazos Santiago Pass to Point Isabel demonstrated a need for a navigational light. Land at the point was made available by the War Department, money was authorized by Congress, and construction of a lighthouse was underway by 1851. Two years later, the brick tower had been completed and was topped by a stationary white light that could be seen for almost 16 miles.

The Civil War brought armed conflict once again to Point Isabel. Confederate forces held this area in the early stages of the war but gave way in 1863 to Federal troops who were sent to strengthen the blockade on Southern shipping. Both sides used the lighthouse as an observation post. At nearby Palmetto Ranch, Union and Rebel soldiers clashed on May 13, 1865, more than a month after General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, in what has since been acknowledged as the last battle of the war.

In 1866 the lighthouse was repaired



and relit. For the next two decades its beacon guided large numbers of commercial vessels to southernmost Texas. The light was extinguished between 1888 and 1894 during negotiations over ownership of the site; when finally reactivated, its years of service were numbered.

The lighthouse was abandoned permanently in 1905 after shipping traffic declined. And although the coast was later active with defense measures during the two world wars, the tower at Point Isabel stood a dark watch.

The lighthouse and its associated buildings were donated to the state in 1950 as a historic site by Mr. & Mrs. Lon C. Hill, Jr. and the Port Isabel Realty Company. The State Parks Board remodeled the tower by replacing the iron platform with concrete and by raising the glass dome to provide easier access for visitors. Additional repair work by the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD Point Isabel Lighthouse flyer) was completed in 1970 and again in the 1990s.

Of sixteen lighthouses constructed along the Texas coast, Port Isabel Lighthouse is the only one now open to the public.



INSTALLATION OF A 3RD ORDER FRESNEL LENS

Day 1

Installation of a reproduction 3rd Order Fresnel Lens took place over the course of two days at the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site in Cameron County. Dan Spinella of Artworks Florida and Kurt Fosburg delivered the lens and pedestal and started about 9 a.m. 11/16. The weather was cold and dry, but rain started and was persistent until the evening of the 17th. Paula Rhodes (Architect, Historic Sites Division), Hal Simon-Hassell (Chief Interpretive Specialist, Historic Sites Division), Ellen Cone Busch (Director of Historic Sites Operations) were also in attendance.

Tools and hardware and nearly 2,300 lbs. of lens parts were hand carried up the stairway and the two ladders to the supply room. Early afternoon of Day 1 (12:16 p.m.), the cabinet was hoisted up outside the Lighthouse as it was too large to fit through the hatch door. Port Isabel Public Works and Building Maintenance staff assisted ensuring windy conditions didn't slam it into the side of the Lighthouse. Rain was still falling at a steady pace. Except for the cabinet, each part was carried by hand up the 75 stairs and 2 short ladders to the floor of the supply room. Over the course of the two days of the installation a minimum of 300 trips were made to the top of the Lighthouse.

Coordinating the use of space and bringing up items in the correct order was crucial to the organization of the process due to the limited space. Some items waited in the base of the Lighthouse until they could be brought up and installed. Because of the limited space and for the safety of the team, media was not offered access to the actual installation.

At the end of **DAY 1**, the pedestal installation was nearly complete. It was still raining.



Day 2

DAY 2, additional lens parts and tools were moved into the Lighthouse and organized for the trip to the lens installation site. Weather was still cold, windy, and wet.

Mid-afternoon, the switches were installed in the pedestal and construction of the lens began. Careful measurements had been taken over the last year and a half. The height between the supply room floor and the bottom of the bulb in the cupola, width of the hatch, diameter, and shape of the railing on the top catwalk, etc. At about 4:15 p.m. the first of the top eight panels of the lens were put in place with great finesse. The brass plate that tied all the panels together was maneuvered under the existing bulb and on top of the first two top panels.

Throughout the planning process, it had been difficult to envision exactly how the existing bulb would work with the new lens. The housing fits down in the center and illuminated the lens to a limited degree. Inside the outer cupola, there is another cupola that was probably meant to collect and runoff any moisture that can leak through the roof. There was a persistent drip that had to be repeatedly wiped off the top of the pedestal as rain continued to fall.

By 5 p.m. the machined brass screws are all tightened in the lens frame, the lamp was installed, switched wired, a 1,000-halogen bulb fitted to the socket and the power turned on. We got our first look at illumination and rotation. Astonishing!

Sunset at 5:39 p.m., November 17, 2022, and the weather cleared. Dan puts the finishing touches on the lens, polishing brass and removing any stray fingerprints and water spots.

Pictured above, Dan Spinella and Kurt Fosburg installing the first of the panels in the 3rd Order Fresnel Lens.



Day 3

DAY 3, we meet with Dan Spinella for a crash course in the care and feeding of a 3rd Order Fresnel Lens. Staff is also trained on lens operation, wattage and rotation speed. The week following the installation was exceptional as the rain and fog required that we close the Lighthouse. Staff visited twice a day to make sure that all water spots were removed, and the brass was polished.

ONGOING: Challenges includes access to the lamp switches as the pedestal contains the switches for the motor and the lamp and is accessible to the public. We have since reconfigured the hinges on two doors and added a lock to the third. Protective film has been installed on the Lantern Room windows. Schedules have been adjusted so staff has adequate time to maintain the lens. Minimum age is now 5 years old for admission. The lens does not rotate but remains on at a lower wattage.

LENS PROTOCOL: December 1, we meet with Chief Uhr, South Padre Island USCG Station, to demonstrate the lens and talk about possible lighting protocols. December 4, the USCG launches a boat in the Laguna Madre Bay, 1nm and we communicate about beam impact using a range of wattages and rotations. Chief Uhr also contacts a ship at 5nm who describes the beam as a possible distraction to maritime traffic. Currently, the lens is illuminated daily at about 300-400 watts and is fixed (not rotating). The USCG has reported no negative interactions to date. Maximum wattage is 1,000 watts.

Pictured above, Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site staff on the frontlines, Jeannie Flores, Carmen Alaniz, Coty Camacho [left to right].

INSTALLATION OF THE LENS



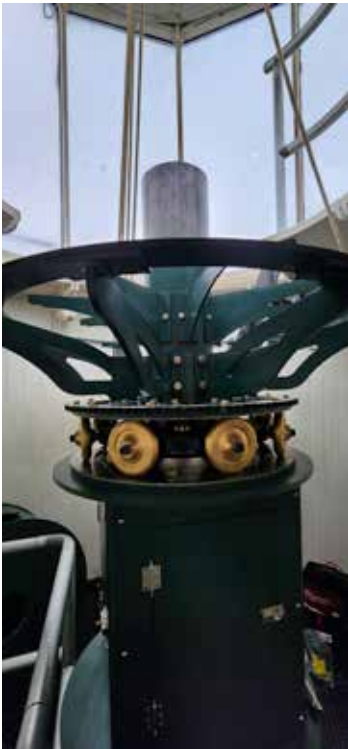
Floor cabinet assembly is maneuvered in place.



Removing the rigging used to bring the cabinet up.



Steel column to support the rotation mechanism.



The lens rotation mechanism and fan leg assembly.

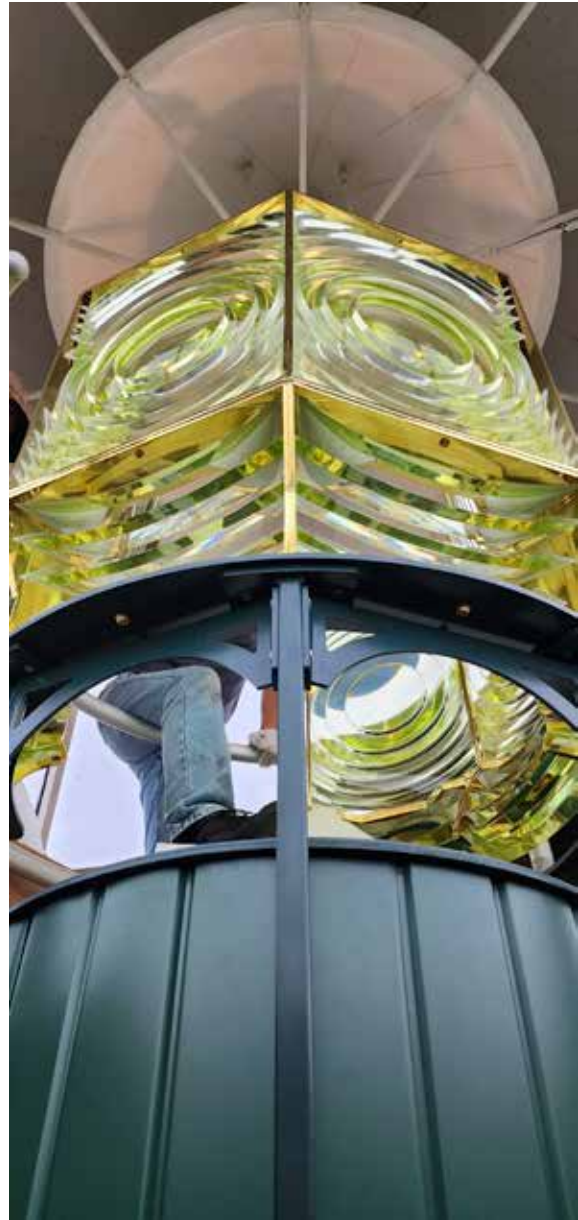


View from the bottom of the pedestal to Lantern Room catwalk.



View of cabinet, fan leg assembly and lens.

INSTALLATION OF THE LENS



A view from the Supply Room to the Lantern Room before and after installation. The catwalk was used by the Lighthouse Keeper to service the lens when the Lighthouse was operational. Today the catwalk is used by tourists for a view of the lens.

INSTALLATION OF THE LENS



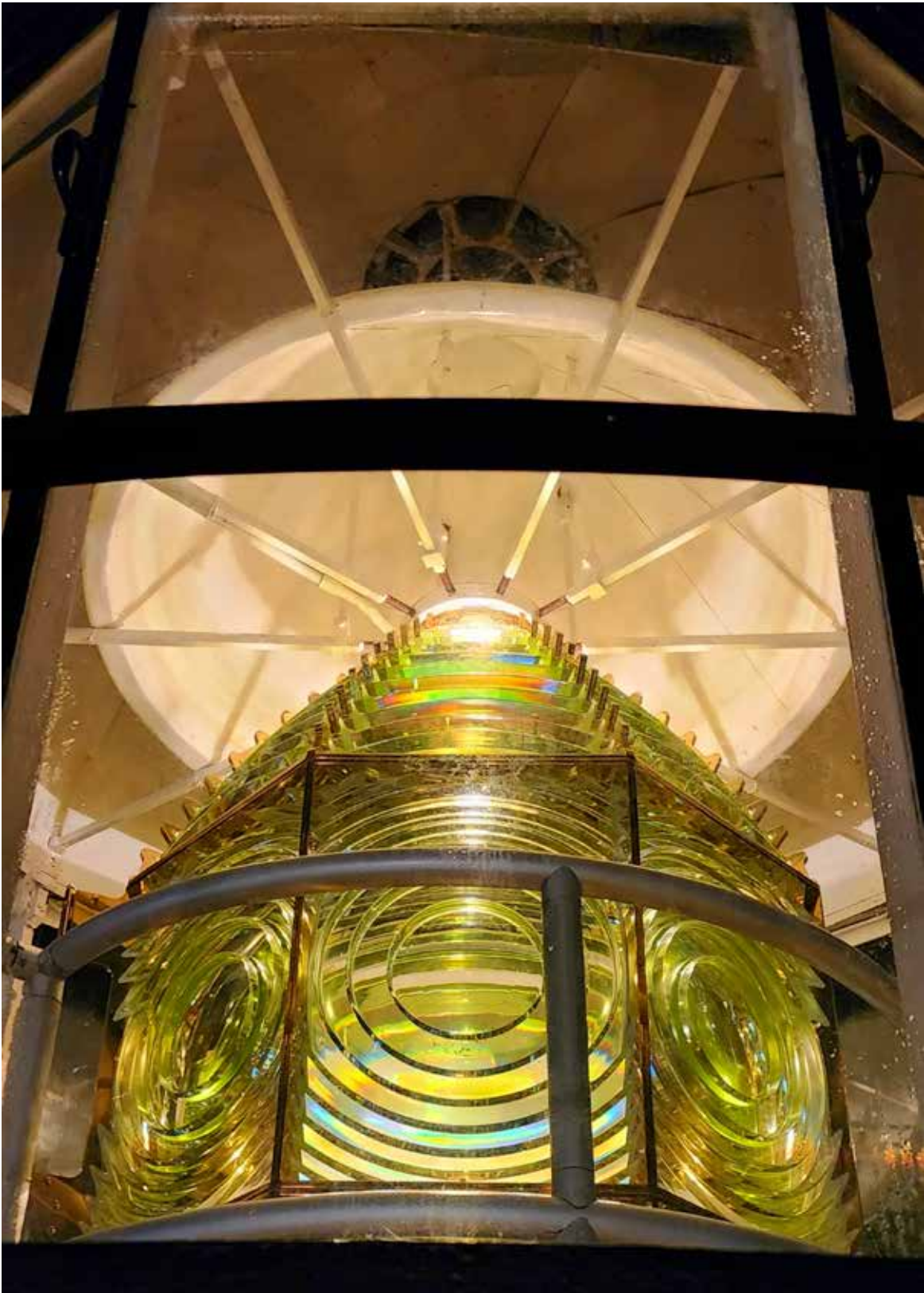
View of the lens with the Queen Isabella Causeway and South Padre Island to the right. The diameter of the lens fills the void in the center of the catwalk in the Lantern Room.

INSTALLATION OF THE LENS



View inside the lens at the lamp and right, Dan Spinella puts the final touches on the installation.

INSTALLATION OF THE LENS



*View of the lens from the exterior catwalk moments after it was illuminated.
11/17/22.*

INSTALLATION OF THE LENS



Top: View of the lens the evening before the Lens Dedication Event. The Lighthouse is situated 1/2 block from the Laguna Madre Bay and 2.6 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and the Brazos Santiago Pass.

Right: The 3rd Order Fresnel Lens has eight bulls-eyes that concentrate beams of light from the lamp called lumes.





LENS FAQs

Total weight: 2,100#

Height of Lens:
5' 3 1/2"

Total height including pedestal:
13' 5 1/4"

Cost of 3rd Order Fresnel Lens:
\$200,000

Installation date:
November 16-17, 2022

Lens contains 22 acrylic panels framed by brass

Lens is lit daily at a lower wattage from the maximum 1,000 watts and is fixed (not rotating)

The 8 beams of light from the lens are called lumes

The best view of the lumes is during foggy weather



12/9/2022 EVENT

Texas Historical Commission celebrates relighting of Port Isabel Lighthouse with Free Public Event

Witness the first official lighting of the historic lighthouse in 117 years

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site will commemorate the first official lighting of the historic lighthouse in 117 years at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 9, 2022.

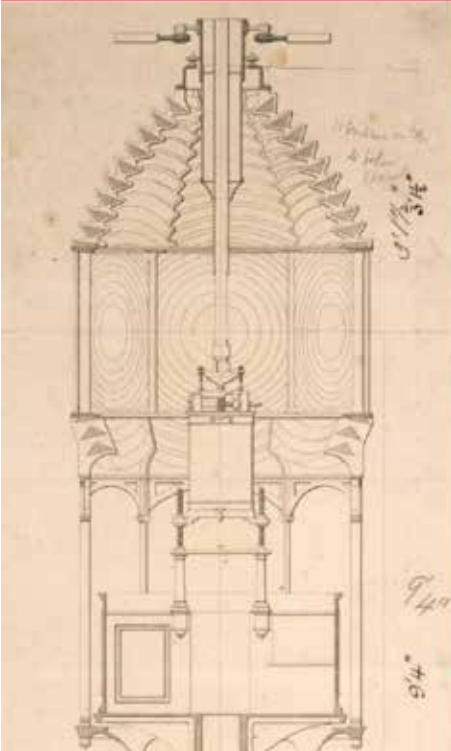
The THC funded and coordinated the reproduction of a 3rd Order Fresnel Lens to be fitted into the lantern room at the top of the lighthouse. The new installation will offer visitors a glimpse into the working past of the lighthouse and the service it provided to the Gulf Coast.

"The Port Isabel Lighthouse is a major heritage attraction for visitors, offering a glimpse into the past of the community and its maritime history," said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC. "Thanks to the support of the Texas legislature and our statewide leaders, visitors will now see the lighthouse much as it would have appeared more than a century ago."

Admission fees will be waived for the lighthouse and the Keeper's Cottage Dec. 9–10.

Who: Texas Historical Commission (THC) and City of Port Isabel
What: Free public event to celebrate the lighting of the Port Isabel Lighthouse.
When: Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Where: Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site
421 East Queen Isabella Blvd.

YOU'RE INVITED



Dedication of a 3rd Order Fresnel Lens in the

PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

6:30 P.M. • DECEMBER 9

421 E. Queen Isabella Blvd. Port Isabel, Texas

RSVP to info@copitx.com or call (956)433-1015

DECEMBER 9, 2022 • 6:30 P.M.

ABOUT THE EVENT

OUTREACH: Promotions and invitations for the event went out the week of November 2. RSVPs opened and social media ad campaigns launched. Locally, flyers and postcards were printed and distributed. Media and email subscribers were notified.

SITE PREPARATION: Improvements and repairs were made to the Lighthouse Site in the days leading up to the 12/9 event. The lens was also tested.

Interior of Lighthouse

- New netting on the stairway
- Lock on cast iron exterior doors
- Lock on lens pedestal
- Repair wooden floor next to last ladder
- Paint brackets, cast iron doors, base board, doors, wall, railings, center pole
- Repair latches on windows

Exterior of Lighthouse

- Replace uplighting
- Paint railing on Lighthouse steps

- Paint railing on steps up to sidewalk
- Lighthouse flag and flag pole

Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage

- Replace lights on front porch
- Christmas trees in porch pots
- Pressure wash the cottage
- Repair lighting on back porch
- Install signs on front and back door
- Weld crack in ramp walkway
- General clean up

EVENT SCHEDULE: The Lighthouse opened at 9 a.m. and closed at 6:30 p.m. when the ceremony started. After the lens lighting, the Lighthouse remained open and with an attendant posted at the top with the lens. The Lighthouse closed at 9 p.m.



Dedication of a 3rd Order Fresnel Lens in the
Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site

PROGRAM

December 9, 2022 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Jared Hockema

Port Isabel City ManagerMaster of Ceremony

U. S. Coast Guard South Padre Island Color Guard

Mark Wolfe *THC Executive Director*

Lilia Garcia *THC Commissioner*

Mayor Cantu Jr. *City of Port Isabel*

Countdown to the Lighting of the 3rd Order Fresnel
Lens at the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site



*Refreshments offered by the Texas Historical Commission
and the City of Port Isabel*



Lighthouse Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Free admission.



WELCOME TO THE

Dedication of a 3rd Order Fresnel Lens in the

**PORT ISABEL
LIGHTHOUSE
STATE HISTORIC SITE**

6:30 P.M. • DECEMBER 9, 2022
421 E. Queen Isabella Blvd.
Port Isabel, Texas

OPEN HOUSE: All Day 12/9-10
Lighthouse Hours:
12/9 9a-8p • 12/10 9a-6p





ABOUT THE EVENT

- 520 people RSVP'd for the event.
- Attendance estimates in the immediate area of the park 2,500-3,000. In addition to those inside the park, there were spectators on the medians and every sidewalk surrounding the Lighthouse and across Highway 100 and as far away as Doubleday's (1/2 mile away). Bayside eateries on South Padre Island advertised their views.
- Media coverage during the event: South Padre Island CVB, KRGV (ABC), Texas Public Radio, Port Isabel South Padre Press, KRGV Azteca Valle, News Channel 4 (CBS), KVEO (NBC), Telemundo 40 (NBC)
- Lighthouse visitation over the 2 day Open House: 640.
- 500 goodie bags were given out at the event.
- 105 email addresses collected via RSVPs.
- FB @Port Isabel Texas Live broadcast of event: 31.2K (Reach); 2K (Likes/Reactions); 445 (Comments); 319 (Shares); 17 States.
- Day 2 Open House Facebook post: 66.6 (Reach); 5.7K (Engagement); 2.7K (Reactions); 236 (Comments); 295 (Shares)
- 587 New FB Page Likes / 121 New Instagram Followers (@Port Isabel Texas) 11/16-12/13
- 199K FB Page reach (11/16-12/13) (@Port Isabel Texas)
- 136 New FB Page Likes / 15 New Instagram Followers (@VisitPortIsabelLighthouse)
- 96.5K FB Page reach (11/16-12/13) (@VisitPortIsabelLighthouse)
- 1529 interactions; 796 website clicks on Google Business Profile 11/22-12/13
- 31 NEW Google Reviews (1,485, 4.6 Rating)
- Close to 40 media posts on the Lens Lighting Event (as of 12/12/22)

Above: photo by Carmen Alaniz from the top of the Lighthouse moments before the lighting

ABOUT THE EVENT

Right: U. S. Coast Guard South Padre Island Color Guard caught at the moment the 3rd Order Fresnel Lens was turned on. (Photo courtesy of Tracy Lord).



Lower left: Carmen Alaniz at the ready to turn the switch on after THC Commissioner Lilia Garcia, THC Executive Director and Port Isabel Mayor Martin Cantu Jr. lead the crowd in a countdown from 10 to 1.

Lower right: 3rd Order Fresnel Lens control panel offers the option to adjust the wattage between 60 - 1,000 watts and to turn the rotation on and off and to control the speed of rotation. The cabinet is secured with a lock.



ABOUT THE EVENT

Right: Following the Lens Lighting, Telemundo 40 (NBC) interviews THC Commissioner Lilia Garcia.

Center: KRGV (NBC) / KGBT (CBS) interviews THC Commissioner Lilia Garcia on the back porch of the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage Visitor Center.

Below left: KRGV (NBC) / KGBT (CBS) interviews THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. And right, THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, THC Commissioner Lilia Garcia pose with Port Isabel Mayor Martin Cantu Jr. and City Manager Jared Hockema.

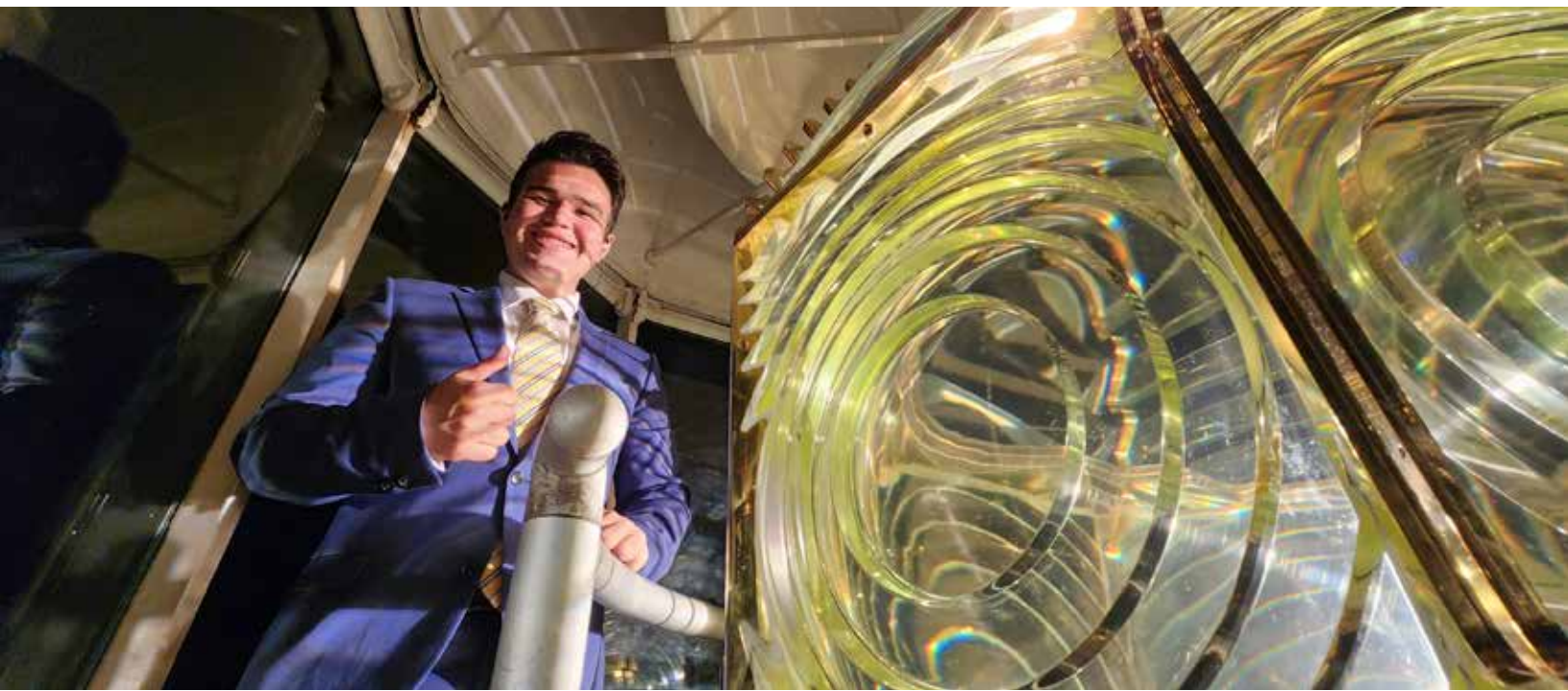
(photo courtesy of Nikki Soto, City of SPI).



My Port Isabel
December 10, 2022 at 12:31 PM · 🌐

The City of Port Isabel wishes to express gratitude to the Texas Historical Commission and all the spectators that came to the Port Isabel Lighthouse 117 Year Lens Lighting event. Mayor Martin Cantu Jr. and City Manager Jared Hockema, pictured here with Texas Historical Commissioner Lilia Garcia and Texas Historical Commission Executive Director Mark Wolfe at Friday's Lighthouse event.





MEDIA

The press release was pushed out on Tuesday, the week of Thanksgiving. Requests for interviews followed immediately. Thanksgiving weekend coverage continued through Christmas. Media at the event included: KRGV (ABC), Texas Public Radio, Port Isabel South Padre Press, KRGV Azteca Valle, News Channel 4 (CBS), KVEO (NBC), Telemundo (40) NBC. Channels 4 (CBS) & 23 (NBC) broadcasted live from the top of the Lighthouse at 10 p.m., pictured above. KRGV (ABC) and South Padre Island CVB streamed the event on their Facebook profiles.

- MSN <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/port-isabel-lighthouse-to-shine-beacon-for-first-time-in-117-years/ar-AA14n1Qn>
- Yahoo shares Brownsville Herald story: https://news.yahoo.com/port-isabel-lighthouse-glow-again-045200914.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall
- Brownsville Herald: <https://myrgv.com/local-news/2022/11/26/there-it-glow-again-state-revamps-port-isabel-lighthouse/>
- <https://news.yahoo.com/glow-again-state-revamps-port-215000157.html>
- KRGV (ABC): <https://www.krgv.com/news/port-isabel-lighthouse-to-light-up-after-117-years/>
- KURV: <https://www.kurv.com/latest-lighthouse-renaissance-project-ready-to-be-showcased/>
- Radio interview: UTRGV Vaquero (Timothy Chapman) 11/29 (taped) <https://utrgvradio.com/index.php/2022/12/05/port-isabel-lighthouse-to-light-up-for-the-first-time-in-over-a-century/>
- Radio interview: KURV 956 Drivetime (live) at 4:40 p.m. 11/30 w/ Davis Rankin & Zach Cantu
- Radio interview: Texas Standard Radio show (NPR Statewide) 12/1 11:30 a.m. (taped) <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/after-117-years-the-port-isabel-lighthouse-will-shine-its-beacon-once-again/>
- Austin Chronicle (Gerald McLeod gmcleod@austinchronicle.com)
- NBCUniversal, Telemundo (40 Arturo Vargas Arturo.vargas@telemundo.com)
- <https://www.kut.org/texasstandard/2022-12-05/port-isabel-texas-lighthouse-lighting-after-117-years>
- <https://www.tpr.org/arts-culture/2022-12-05/after-117-years-the-port-isabel-lighthouse-will-shine-its-beacon-once-again>



Media, cont.

- Print article (Spanish): El Nuevo Herald, +1 956-982-6600, info@elnuevoheraldo.com, elnuevoheraldo.com
- Texas Border Business: <https://texasborderbusiness.com/one-day-in-history-the-relighting-of-the-port-isabel-lighthouse-dec-9th/>
- Southern Living: <https://www.southernliving.com/port-isabel-lighthouse-texas-lighting-6889175>
- Texas Public Radio: <https://www.tpr.org/news/2022-12-10/port-isabel-lighthouse-shines-for-the-first-time-in-117-years>
- <https://www.krgv.com/videos/historic-port-isabel-lighthouse-lights-up-for-the-first-time-in-117-years/>
- KRGV FB Live: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=external&v=617903196755278>
- South Padre Island FB Live: <https://fb.watch/hLU7xl4fjp/>
- Valley Central Channel 4 (CBS) <https://www.valleycentral.com/news/local-news/port-isabel-lighthouse-to-shine-beacon-for-first-time-in-117-years/>
- KRGV: <https://www.krgv.com/news/port-isabel-lighthouse-to-light-up-after-117-years/>
- Austin Travels: <https://austintravels.com/travel-news/port-isabel-lighthouse/>
- Lighthouse Friends updated: <https://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=159>
- Artworks Florida gallery feature: <https://www.artworks-florida.com/gallery>
- Port Isabel South Padre Press: <https://www.portisabelsouthpadre.com/2022/12/01/illuminating/>
- Caprock Courier: <https://www.caprockcourier.com/news/texas-historic-port-isabel-lighthouse-shine-again-dec-9>, Barbara Brannon
- Local Today: <https://localtoday.news/tx/port-isabel-lighthouse-lights-up-for-the-first-time-in-117-years-119062.html>
- Channel 4 (CBS) & Channel 23 (NBC) 12/9 Live 10 p.m. broadcast from the top of the Lighthouse
- KURV 710 AM Radio: <https://www.kurv.com/port-isabel-showcases-historic-lighthouse-renovation-project/>
- ValleyCentral.com (CBS/NBC): <https://www.valleycentral.com/news/local-news/after-117-years-the-lighthouse-is-brought-back-to-life/>
- KRGV Azteca Valle: https://www.krgv.com/news/luego-de-117-a-os-se-enciende-el-faro-de-puerto-isabel?fbclid=IwAR3E1sgaiqCbGsNPGAFbzxicy_zNbZCh1iw2iBLFyAy_t8VpqKHtAa6N-Rkk



Media, cont.

- KRGV (ABC): <https://www.krgv.com/videos/port-isabel-lighthouse-glowing-again-after-117-years/>
- KRGV (ABC): <https://www.krgv.com/news/historic-port-isabel-lighthouse-lights-up-for-the-first-time-in-117-years>
- Valle de Texas: <https://www.notigape.com/faro-de-port-isabel-se-ilumina-por-primera-vez-en-100-anos/257014>
- Telemundo 40 NBC: interview with THC Commissioner Lilia Garcia
- Telemundo 40 NBC: <https://www.telemundo40.com/noticias/local/117-anos-despues-el-faro-de-puerto-isabel-despierta-con-su-luz/2248668/>
- Texas Public Radio (Gaige Davila): <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/today-on-texas-standard-december-12-2022/>
- KERA shares Texas Public Radio: <https://www.keranews.org/texas-news/2022-12-12/texas-last-public-lighthouse-shines-for-the-first-time-in-117-years>
- iHeart Radio: <https://www.iheart.com/content/2022-12-13-residents-see-texas-last-public-lighthouse-lit-for-the-first-time-ever/>
- Q101.9: <https://q1019.iheart.com/content/2022-12-13-residents-see-texas-last-public-lighthouse-lit-for-the-first-time-ever/>
- Houston Chronicle: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/home/article/Iconic-Port-Isabel-lighthouse-shining-brightly-for-17678137.php>
- San Antonio Express-News: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/texas/article/Iconic-Port-Isabel-lighthouse-17678299.php>
- Focus Daily News: <https://www.focusdailynews.com/texas-historical-commission-turns-the-lights-back-on-at-port-isabel-lighthouse/>, by JoAnn Holt
- Austin American-Statesman: reprint of Steve Clark/Brownsville Herald

OTHER

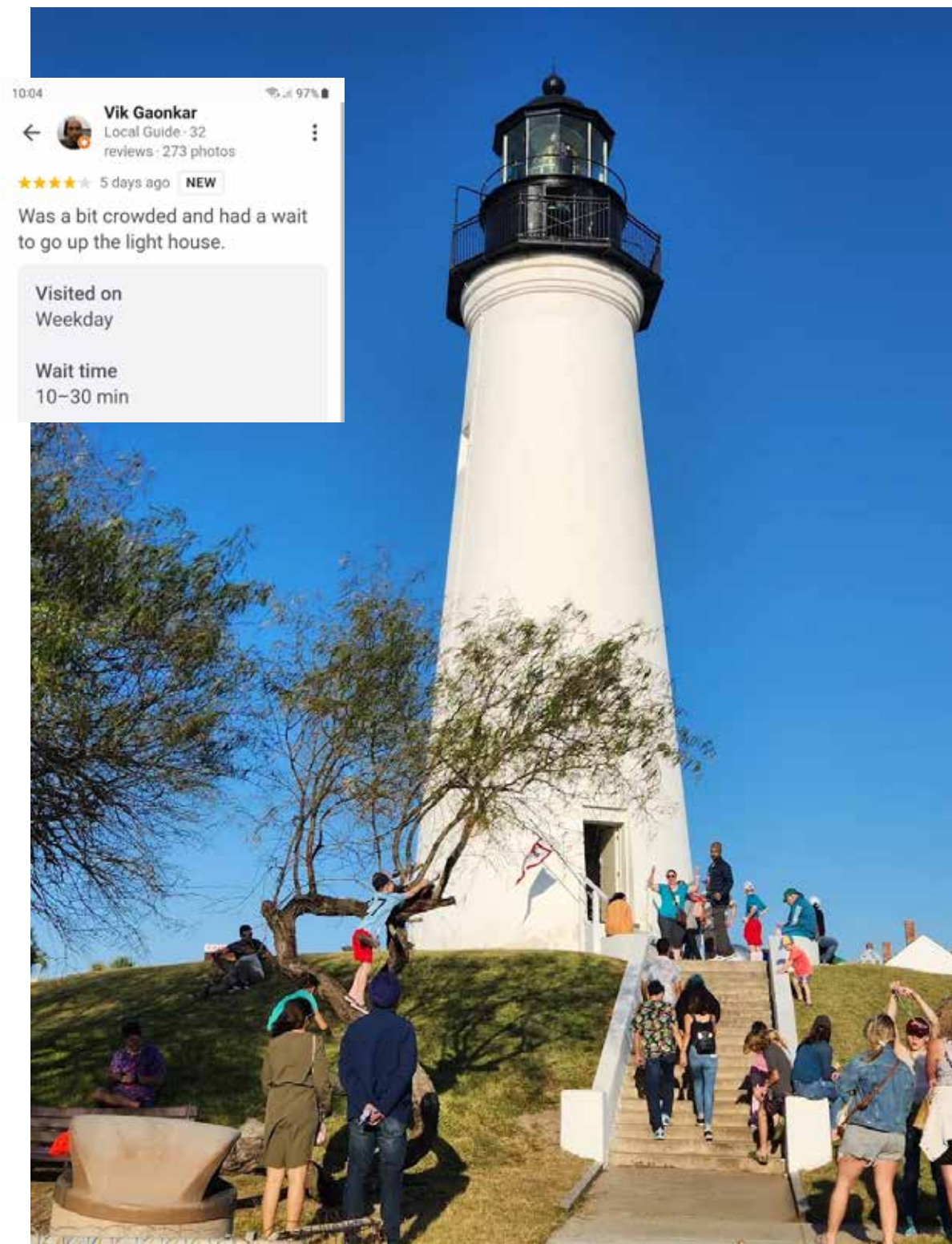
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GCynFJ6TDc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7ssV1Kod5c>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0G_HNI4pB8
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyhJxA71pro>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xm6CBvQaOs>
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point_Isabel_Light. Will add more info and citations.



LOCATION

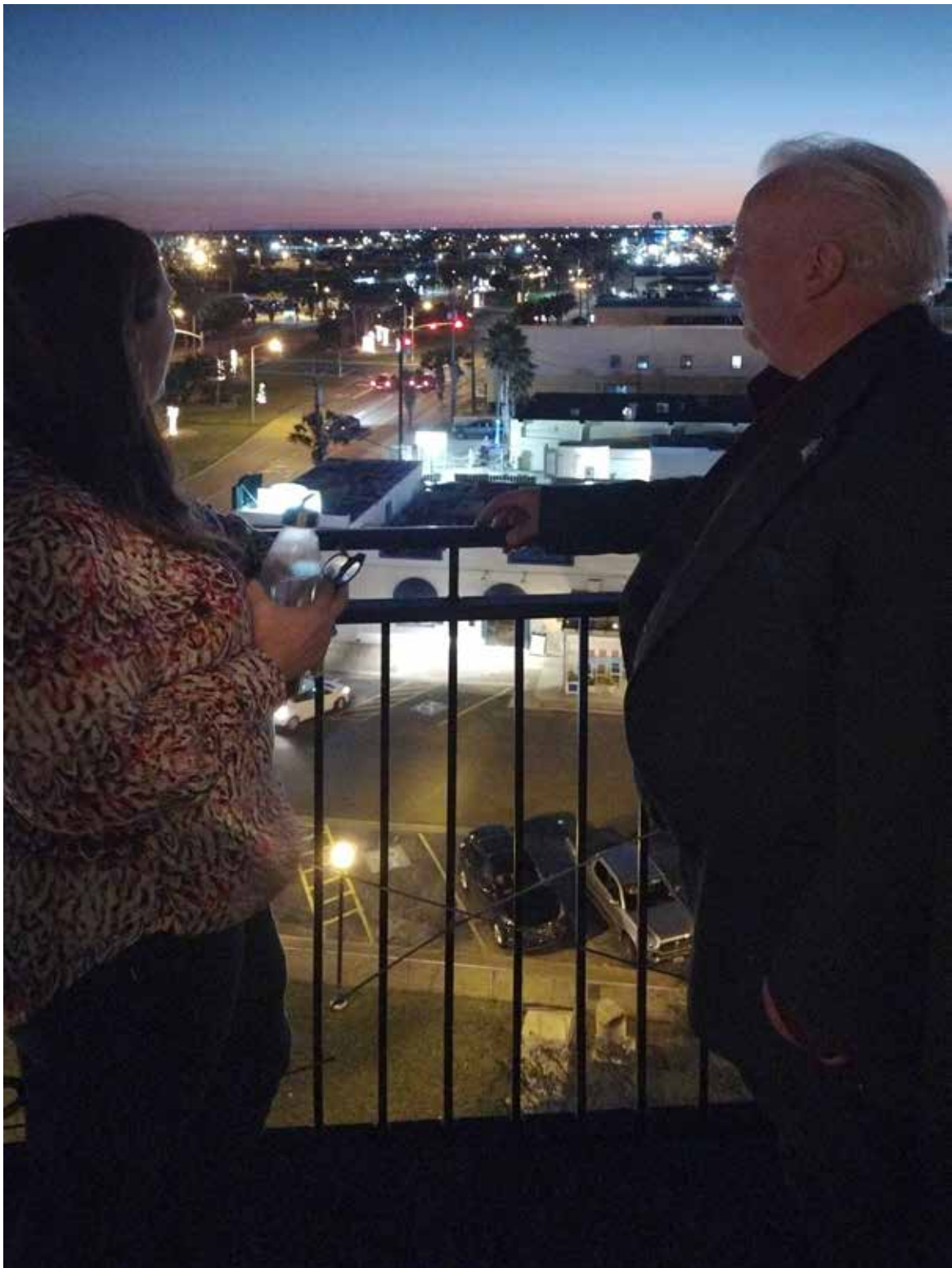


MISSION: The mission of the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site is to protect, preserve, interpret, and share the maritime and military history of the Gulf of Mexico and border region of south Texas and its connection with Texas history.



GOOGLE REVIEWS

1507 Google Reviews, average 4.6. 67 NEW reviews since the Lens Lighting Event. Above: Vic Goankar posts, "was a bit crowded, had to wait to go up the light house."



END OF DAY

Joseph Bell, Deputy Executive Director of Historic Sites and Valerie Bates, City of Port Isabel Marketing Director and PILSHS Manager, at the top of the Port Isabel Lighthouse overlooking downtown. *Photo by Coty Camacho.*