

Round Island Lighthouse has endured some of the fiercest storms on the Great Lakes with winds that keep the most seasoned sailor in port and winter ice flows that resemble glaciers. During a severe storm on October 20, 1972, the southwest corner of the lighthouse was destroyed. Between 1974 and 1976, with government funding, private donations, and with the aid of groups such as Friends of Round Island, the walls and foundation were restored. Protective boulders were placed around the lighthouse to reduce wave erosion. The exterior of the building was repainted for the filming of the movie "Somewhere in Time" in 1978 which starred Christopher Reeve, Jane Seymour, Christopher Plummer, and Teresa Wright. It is also featured in several books and in a mystery novel.

Today the site and the 378 acre island is overseen by the U.S. Forest Service, Hiawatha National Forest. Lake Huron Area Council Boy Scout Troop 323 of Freeland, Michigan assist with summer clean-up activities and repairs.



Photo provided by Roger Chase Photography—www.photographicreverie.com/

On your way to **MACKINAC ISLAND** look to the right



Standing alone for over a century is
ROUND ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

This famous landmark welcomes all the travelers and sets the stage for your journey back in time to the magic island of Mackinac. Let it capture your imagination of an era before automobiles and electricity. A time when life was simpler and full of romance.

Come visit the lighthouse at the
OPEN HOUSE in July.



G. H. Wickman collection - circa 1900

Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society Membership Application

IRS 501 (c) 3 Charitable Organization

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ zip _____
Phone # _____
eMail _____

MEMBERSHIP (On a calendar year basis)

☐ Student \$5. ☐ Individual \$10.

☐ Family \$25. ☐ Lifetime \$500.

Mail to: **Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society**

PO. Box 6363

Saginaw, MI 48608-6363

This information will not be sold or transmitted to a third party.
Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society is an equal opportunity provider.



Come visit us at the Annual **OPEN HOUSE** on the second
Saturday of July, weather permitting.

For additional information go to;

<http://roundislandlightmichigan.com>

The lighthouse was built in 1895 at a cost of \$15,000 under the supervision of Frank Rounds from Detroit. Frank originally came to the Straits area to help build the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. It was commissioned on May 15, 1896 under the U.S. Lighthouse Board which became the United States Lighthouse Service in 1910. In 1924 the beacon was automated and the United States Coast Guard was given responsibility for all lighthouses in 1939. The lighthouse was deactivated in 1947, and transferred to the United States Forest Service in 1958.

The beacon went thru several changes of lighting technology, from oil to electricity. It originally had a 4th order Fresnel lens with a steady white light followed by a red flash every 20 seconds. Today it is powered by the sun thru solar cells and storage batteries.

On the first floor, most of the original machinery for operation of the lighthouse and foghorn were removed for scrap to support World War II efforts. The second and third floors provided living quarters for the lighthouse keepers and their families during the shipping season. They spent the winter months back on the mainland.