

Cleveland Point Lighthouse

c.1864-1975



HP883: this is one of the earliest photos ever taken of the Cleveland Lighthouse. It was taken in 1871, about seven years after the lighthouse was built. Courtesy of Pauline Davis. William Boag photographer.

What is it?

The Cleveland Lighthouse is a hexagonal wooden lighthouse about 12m (38ft) tall. It is made of painted weatherboards attached to a timber frame. It has a gallery around the top made of painted iron alloy with glass windows. The top (turret) is capped with a painted iron alloy dome. The light used kerosene until 1934 when it was converted to electricity.

Where is it?

The Lighthouse was originally on the north east tip of Cleveland Point, about 3 metres from the concrete light now on the Point. It was moved to its current site in March 1976 when the new concrete light was built.



HP1749: the arrow on this photo points to where the Lighthouse is now. It was moved there in 1976. The photo was taken about 1995. Courtesy of Redland Shire Council.

When was it built?

The Lighthouse was built about 1864. It lit the Point until it was replaced in 1975 by the concrete light.

Why was it built?

In the 1860s there were small farming settlements all along the south coast of Moreton Bay, including at Cleveland, Victoria Point, Redland Bay and along the Logan and Albert Rivers. Small ships (coastal steamers) were one of the farmers' main means of transport. The farmers themselves travelled by ship, and more importantly they sent their crops by ship to market in Brisbane and elsewhere.

Travel by ship could be dangerous. In Moreton Bay, the mudflats and sandbanks move and there are rocks. Moreton Bay is also very tidal, which meant it gets very shallow, especially close to shore. At night, the ships could

not see all the dangers, so many lights, called navigational lights, were put up to help them.

Cleveland Point was a dangerous spot. Before the Lighthouse was built, people living in Cleveland put up small lights to make sure the ships didn't run aground on the Point. These small lights kept getting damaged, and eventually the Queensland Government decided to build a permanent light.

Who built it?

It was built by the Queensland Government. The first lighthouse keeper was Alfred Winship. In 1877, James Troy took over. He and his son Jim and daughter Johanna looked after the light until 1927. The Troys were the longest-serving family of lighthouse keepers in Australia. Jim Klemm was the lighthouse keeper from 1927 until 1951. Several people looked after it after 1951.

Why is the Cleveland Lighthouse important?

The Cleveland Lighthouse is important for two reasons.

The first reason is that the Lighthouse is the only remaining timber-structured, timber-clad 19th century lighthouse in Moreton Bay. It was an experimental design, and one of only three hexagonal lighthouses erected in Moreton Bay. It was one of the first generation of lighthouse construction in Queensland.

The second reason is that the Cleveland Lighthouse is the only clearly visible physical reminder of Cleveland Point's role in early shipping in Moreton Bay. Many other structures were built on Cleveland Point, such as jetties and buildings, but the lighthouse is the only structure that is still standing.

The Lighthouse is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register, the Register of the National Estate (Australian Heritage Commission), the Queensland National Trust, and the Redland Shire Heritage Register.

HP369a: the old and new lighthouses on Cleveland Point. This photo was taken in 1976 just before the old lighthouse was moved about 30 metres away. Courtesy of Redland Shire Council.

