



Burnt Coat Harbor Light

Swan's Island, Maine

Paint Analysis

Constructed in 1872 by the U.S. Light-House Board, the Burnt Coat Harbor Light Station came under the U.S. Coast Guard in 1939. The station was automated in 1975 and continues to house an active aid to navigation in the light tower. The Burnt Coat Harbor Light Station is owned by the Town of Swans Island and since 2000 the Friends of Swans Island Light have been working on the restoration of the light station. The goal of this project is to document the existing paint layers on the interior surfaces of the Burnt Coat Harbor Light Tower and to determine to the greatest extent possible the paint colors on the interior surfaces during the period of interpretation for the Light Station, which has been identified as the 1930s.

SCC gathered paint samples from the interior of the light tower in July 2013 in order to document the remaining layers on the interior of the tower. Cross-section microscopy has been utilized to analyze the paint and coating layers.

Evidence in the paint samples suggests a major repainting and or possibly renovation to the tower in the second half of the 20th century. The Keeper's Logs kept by Light Station Keeper Roscoe Chandler from January 1930 - July 1941 illustrate how maintenance of the station included constant touch-up painting. The logs do not, however, document any major renovation projects in the tower in this time period and therefore appear to post-date 1941.

Mag

- 1 Moderate Clear
- 2 Moderate Clear
- 3 SSN fog PM Clear
- 4 Cal PM SSN Clear
- 5 Cleaned out furnace and paint
- 6 Fresh Brags S&E Mowed the l
- 7 moderate S&E Painted steps in
- 8 moderate S Shellaced steps in
- 9 Cal fog PM Clear worked in the
- 10 Fresh Brags S&E PM Rain

