

OUR UNIQUE HISTORY

THE STORY OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

Rooted deep in Bay Area history, part of what makes our beautiful property so unique is our story.

In the mid 1800s, ship traffic from San Francisco to the California Delta increased dramatically due to the discovery of Gold at Sutter's Mill and the construction of the first Navy base on the West Coast on Mare Island.

Not long after constructing the Mare Island Lighthouse, the Lighthouse Board realized that a beacon positioned offshore near the junction of Carquinez Strait and the Napa River would better serve navigation in the area - and this is where our story begins.

In 1907, Congress appropriated \$50,000 for a small light and fog signal at Carquinez Strait. Starting in 1908, hundreds of wooden piles were driven into the strait's muddy bottom to create a long pier extending out into the water over a mile from Carquinez Heights.

At the very end of the pier, a dock and causeway led to a platform which supported the lighthouse. Completed in 1909, the spacious 28-room, three story dwelling had a veranda which wrapped around the northern side. It housed three keepers and their families.

The red light from a fixed, fourth order Fresnel lens first shone in 1910, and the nearby Mare Island Lighthouse was discontinued seven years later.



The Carquinez Strait Lighthouse served until 1951 when it was replaced by a smaller automated beacon and fog signal. Four years later the lighthouse was offered for sale.

The building was purchased in 1955 and moved to its current location in Elliot Cove, next to Glen Cove, where the docks you see today were built around it. Intended to be named Lighthouse Harbor, the marina eventually became Glen Cove Marina. Sadly, the tower and lantern were destroyed during the move, but most of the building remains intact.

The Lighthouse Banquet Room is located on the veranda, enclosed with giant windows so clients and guests can admire the views of the marina and Carquinez Strait.

The two top levels of the house now serve as The Lighthouse office and a three-bedroom Inn for our guests to enjoy, whether as a part of the venue rental, or separately as a vacation rental.

Over the past several years, the current owner of the marina and Lighthouse has invested countless hours, heart, and money into renovating the building and surrounding marina to be what it is today:

Northern California's most unique and scenic waterfront wedding and event property and Inn.

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