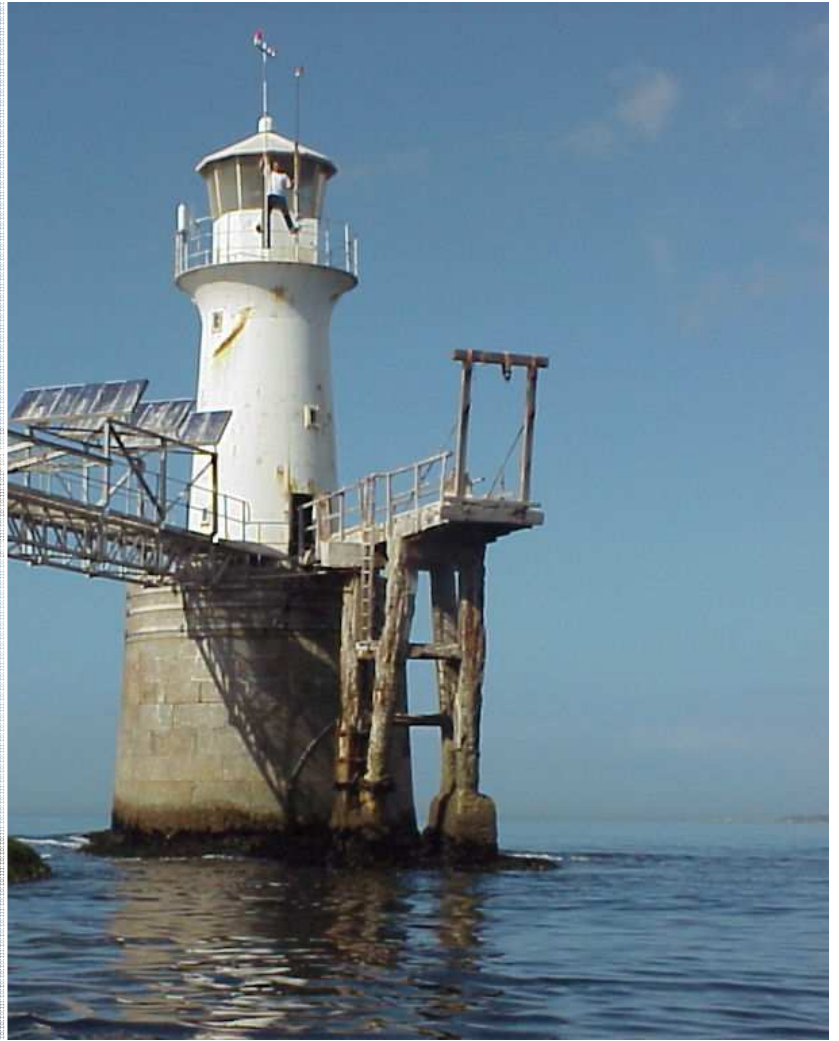


Roman Rock Lighthouse

Familytreehouse.co.uk

2008



After spending many hours trawling the internet, trying to find out information about Roman Rock lighthouse, its keepers and history. I have collated the information into a pdf document, hopefully it will be of use to others. If you have any further information about the history of the lighthouse, especially the lighthouse keepers, please let us know!

Roman Rock is situated in False Bay at the entrance to the historical naval harbour of Simons Town.

Roman Rock lighthouse is the only lighthouse in South Africa to stand on a rock. which is exposed at low water, while at high tide is covered completely, making for very primitive living conditions to any keeper. On account of high tides and gale-force winds, work could only be carried out 7 days a month and consequently it took 4 years to build - from 1857 to 1861.

The lighthouse owes its existence to a Joseph Nourse Commodore, Royal Navy, Simons Town who when writing to the Secretary General of the Admiralty in London, stressed the importance of the safety of His Majestys ships coming into the anchor at Simons Bay at night.

[Source: http://www.simonstown.com/museum/stm_hist_lighthouses.htm accessed 28th July 2008]

From 1823 to 1853, three or four other possible sites were suggested. But in the end it was Roman Rock who won, despite the great costs of erecting it on this site.

prefabricated
the 16
its first light,
gales and
for 142 years.

In 1919, a
then no
inhospitable
guiding home

Court
Roman Rock
structure and

An automatic
Lighthouse
ideal
km offshore
m above sea
local heating

[Source:
accessed 28th



It took four years to complete the installation of the cast iron tower, which was sent out from England. On September 1861 the Roman Rock lighthouse shone and still remains today having defied the South-East surging seas which have submerged it every summer

fully automatic lighting system was installed and since lightkeepers have been stationed at this watery and site which keeps watch over the waters of False Bay, the Naval ships to their harbour.

Helicopters ferried equipment and personnel when lighthouse underwent extensive renovations to its electrification system.

weather station was erected on the Roman Rock during April 2002. This new facility provides for an monitoring site of maritime air. The site is situated 1.5 and provides measurements (approximate height 17 level) of weather unaffected by land features such as and buildings.

<http://www.simonsbay.co.za/sw4weather.htm>
July 2008]