



## 1886 ROANOKE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE

### *Fast Fact Sheet*

- Believed to be the last remaining original screw-pile light left in the US and the World
- The last remaining of the fifteen screw pile light stations that once dotted NC's inland waterways
- The Town of Edenton gifted to the State an 1888 Fresnel Lens manufactured by F. Barbier and Company. This lens was original to the Holland Island Bar Light, Maryland. That lighthouse no longer exists. The US Guard gifted this lens to the Town of Edenton in the early 1970s. The lens original to the Roanoke River Lighthouses was manufactured by Henry Lapaute, and there are unfortunately no records indicating what may have happened to the original lens of the Roanoke River Light
- The lighthouse was originally located on pilings in the Albemarle Sound, marking the entrance to the Roanoke River near Plymouth
- In 1940 the lighthouse was abandoned by the Coast Guard and laid vacant for about 15 years
- In 1955 the Federal Government ordered all remaining North Carolina lights to be removed or destroyed
- Mr. Elijah Tate bought three of the lighthouses but two of them were accidentally demolished in attempting to remove them
- Emmett Wiggins, a World War II Navy Engineer Captain and underwater Salvager bought the lighthouse from Mr. Tate

- Mr. Wiggins performed a supposed engineering feat by recovering the lighthouse and transporting it to Edenton placing it on land at the mouth of Filbert's Creek
- It was lived in until 1995 by Mr. Wiggins and remained in his family after his death
- On May 15, 2007, the structure officially became the property of the Edenton Historical Commission through a \$300,000 grant provided by the NC General Assembly
- On May 23, 2007, the structure was moved to its new home on the Edenton Waterfront in Colonial Park
- Restoration of the exterior was funded by the NC Department of Transportation using federal stimulus funds, as an example of historic transportation
- The NC Department of Cultural Resources is oversaw the project and A. R. Chesson Construction of Elizabeth City & Williamston did the work
- Tuesday, May 1, 2012, Waff Contracting, Inc. and Worth H. Hare & Sons House Moving, Inc. moved the lighthouse to its permanent location over Edenton Bay
- NC Department of Cultural Resources has obtained \$150,000 in funding for the restoration of the interior and will begin soon
- The Edenton Historical Commission is raising funds to furnish the Lighthouse as it would have been used during its commission as a navigational aid
- The Historic Edenton State Historic Site will provide tours and interpretation of the interior once complete
- For ongoing and up to date information on the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse, visit: [www.edentonlighthouse.org](http://www.edentonlighthouse.org)