



History Timeline

<u>Year</u>	<u>Event</u>
1846	New York maritime interests petition Congress for maritime aids to navigation in Florida, including a new lighthouse near Jupiter Inlet. The request is repeated in 1850.
1852	"Report of the Officers Constituting the Light-House Board" lists a lighthouse between Gilbert's Bar and Jupiter Inlet as the greatest need on the entire Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.
1853	Congress appropriated \$35,000 for a Lighthouse in Jupiter.
1854	President Franklin Pierce signed an executive order setting aside a 61.5-acre Jupiter Lighthouse Reservation. Lt. George Gordon Meade (who later defeated Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg) visited the site and submitted a design for a lighthouse.
1855	A construction crew under Reverdy Alexander is sent to Jupiter Inlet, but their work is cut short by the outbreak of the Third Seminole War. It's unclear if they even reached the lighthouse site.
1856-58	Construction postponed due to fear of a Seminole attack.
1859	Edward A. Yorke arrives at Jupiter Inlet on January 13 with workers and supplies to construct the lighthouse. Difficulties transporting supplies to the site combined with weather, mosquitoes, and disease result in only about a quarter of the tower being complete by June when work is postponed.
1860	Edward A. Yorke returns to Jupiter with a work crew in January. The lighthouse, oil house, and keeper's dwelling are completed by May.
1860	Lighthouse officially lighted on July 10.
1861	Confederate sympathizers chase off the head keeper. They take the oil, lamps, and other supplies, and disable the lighthouse for the duration of the Civil War. The Fresnel lens is not removed.
1866	Light was relit on June 28, with a new first-order Fresnel lens manufactured by Henry-Lepaute.
1883	A separate dwelling is built for the head keeper and his family.
1886	Light converted from lard oil to kerosene.
1888	Jupiter Weather Bureau and Signal Station commissioned next to the light station.
1891	The Weather Bureau becomes a civilian organization separate from the Army Signal Corps.
1898	The battleship <i>USS Oregon</i> visits Jupiter Inlet during the Spanish-American War after its famous voyage around South America. The crew telegraphs the Navy from the Weather Bureau Station.
1905	The Navy established a wireless telegraph (radio) station at this site.
1905	The lighthouse's bricks are painted red for the first time; they were previously unpainted. The ironwork is painted black for the first time (previously red or brown). The oil house is renovated and extended.
1911	Opening of the Miami Weather Bureau Office resulted in the closing of the Jupiter station
1923	Manmade Jupiter Inlet opened 1,200 feet north of the natural inlet and the old inlet is filled in. The lighthouse, originally $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Jupiter Inlet, now stands a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Atlantic Ocean.
1927	A fire destroys the 1860 assistant keepers' dwelling.
1928	Radio beacon installed at Jupiter Inlet Light Station and lighthouse electrified. Later in the year the deadliest hurricane on record in Florida blew out one of the bull's-eye lenses. The lens was reassembled and held in place by two bronze crossbars. The storm also destroyed the former Weather Bureau building, the metal radio beacon building, the lighthouse's boathouse, and a radio antenna at the Navy station. A replacement concrete building is constructed for the radio beacon.
1929	A new duplex is built for the assistant keepers at the former location of the weather bureau. The keeper's workshop is constructed with three-rooms: pump house, paint storage locker, and general workshop/office space. A three-bay garage is built to replace the destroyed boathouse.
1929	The Navy acquired 8.4 acres of the Jupiter Lighthouse reservation to expand their radio station.

- 1939 US Coast Guard took over the operation all US Lighthouses, including Jupiter.
- 1940 The Navy's secret WWII radio *Station J* came online as a tip-off station to listen to German U-boat transmissions and stop the sinking of merchant vessels in the Atlantic, especially near Florida.
- 1941 Coast Guard lookouts assigned to the lighthouse after the US joins World War II.
- 1942 Marine Corps guards assigned to Station J. Married Men's Quarters built (current museum building).
- 1945 July 15: Station J transferred from the Navy to the Coast Guard.
- 1947 Coast Guard closes DF Station Jupiter in favor of another radio station near Miami.
- 1951 The Air Force set up and operated Jupiter Auxiliary AFB, the first missile tracking station south of Cape Canaveral. The Army handled supplies and maintenance.
- 1954 Air Force moves out of former Station J buildings, contracts missile range operations to civilians.
- 1959-62 Coast Guard extensively renovates the light station. Head keeper's dwelling, many auxiliary light station buildings, and most of the former Navy radio station are demolished. 11 new concrete block stucco single-family dwellings are constructed for the lighthouse keepers and other Coast Guard personnel.
- 1967 Coast Guard partly rebuilds the lighthouse dock, including adding some concrete pilings.
- 1973 Lighthouse bricks repainted a chalky, pastel red.
- 1973 The Lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1979 1929 assistant keepers duplex demolished by the Coast Guard.
- 1985 The archaeological site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Lighthouse painted fire engine red with a white undercoat.
- 1987 Lighthouse fully automated. Last lighthouse keeper transferred.
- 1994 The Lighthouse opened to public tours administered by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS).
- 1999-2000 Lighthouse and Oil House restored by a grant in excess of \$858,000 administered by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. Lighthouse color restored to historic dark red.
- 2004 Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne sandblasted the Lighthouse tower and pitted the lantern room storm panes, necessitating a complete replacement of the hand-cut triangle glass panes, repair of the astragals holding the panes in place and repainting of the entire exterior of the lighthouse.
- 2006 The LRHS moved its museum and society headquarters from Burt Reynolds Park to Lighthouse Park into the restored WWII building on its dedication day, December 7th. The new *Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum* opened on December 20th with the exhibit *Florida In World War II*.
- 2008 May 8: Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and surrounding 120-acres Congressionally-designated an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) in the National Landscape Conservation System (now National Conservation Lands), one of only three ONAs in the United States.
- 2009 Restored 1892 Tindall Pioneer Home opens on site.
- 2010 Keepers' Workshop restored. Archaeological dig uncovers the remains of the original keepers' house and cistern. The wooden lighthouse deck is built over the foundation. Learning chickee ("ah-tah-thi-kee") built by James Billie of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and his crew.
- 2013 Coast Guard personnel move out of all dwellings on site.
- 2017 With permission from the US Coast Guard, the Jupiter Light turned off in the month of May in order to wrap the lens and build a special encasement to protect the first-order Lens during the major repair work on the Lighthouse roof. Other preservation work included repairs to the cupola and watch room door, and the installation of a safety handrail at the top of the spiral staircase for easier entry into the watch room. The Lighthouse was relit on June 2 and the Lighthouse reopened for tours the next day. The LRHS raised \$152,000 for the project.
- 2019 Coast Guard Exchange closes. Lighthouse, light station, and former Coast Guard housing officially transferred from the Coast Guard to the Bureau of Land Management on July 31. Official relinquishment ceremony held on the Lighthouse Deck on November 11 with the USCG, BLM, and LRHS. Lighthouse closed and darkened Oct 21 – Nov 15 for a major repainting and restoration project by the LRHS.
- 2020 Lighthouse & Museum closed to the public on March 16 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lighthouse reopened on May 28th with reduced hours and access.