

Avery Point Lighthouse Groton, Connecticut



Built in 1943, the Avery Point Lighthouse overlooks the rocky shores of Long Island Sound in Groton, Connecticut. The lighthouse consists of a tall octagon tower made from gray-brown concrete blocks that is surmounted by an eight-sided lantern constructed of wood, reaching an overall height of 41 feet. The entrance is a panel-and-glass wooden door and there are five light-colored cast-concrete windows. The deck at the top of the tower is surrounded by a railing of white marble balusters. The interior of the tower is open for 17 feet, above which the watch deck is reached by means of a straight iron ladder. The lights consisted of eight hanging 200-watt bulbs that were controlled by an electro-mechanical timer and the plane of the light was 55 feet above mean sea level.

The Avery Point Lighthouse was constructed at a time when resources were scarce and it has a simple and utilitarian appearance. It was especially useful for vessels entering the cove east of Avery Point or navigating the Pine Island channel. The lighthouse was built when the U.S. Coast Guard opened its Avery Point training center to provide technical education for thousands of Coast Guard personnel for normal and wartime duties, including some 500 pharmacist's mates who served aboard destroyer-escorts and transports and 6,000 motor machinist's mates who operated landing craft from Normandy to Guadalcanal. During World War II, 100 new people arrived each week for 13-week-long courses and even after the war, more than 3,000 people graduated annually. The lighthouse was discontinued in 1967 when the Coast Guard relocated its training center and the property reverted to the State of Connecticut. The Avery Point Lighthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. In the early 2000s the lighthouse underwent extensive restoration and a relighting and rededication ceremony was held in 2006.

