

**Historical Marker - L1518 - Big Sable Point Lighthouse / Big Sable Point Lighthouse
(Marker ID#:L1518)**



Front - Title/Description

Big Sable Point Lighthouse

Called Grande Pointe au Sable by French explorers and traders, Big Sable Point was an important landmark for mariners traveling a treacherous stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline between Big Sable Point and present-day Ludington. In 1855 twelve ships wrecked in that area. Commerce linked to the burgeoning lumber industry required that Big Sable Point be suitably lighted. State senator Charles Mears pressed the legislature to ask the federal government for a light station at Big Sable. In 1866 the U.S. Congress appropriated thirty-five thousand dollars for a lighthouse, which was built the following year. As the lumbering era waned, steamers carrying coal, foodstuffs, and tourists continued to rely on the lighthouse for navigation.

Significant Date:

Civil War and After (1860-1875)

Registry Year: 1988 **Erected Date:** 2000

Marker Location

Address: Big Sable Point, Ludington State Park

City: Hamlin

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Mason

Township: Hamlin

Lat: 44.05758900 / **Long:** -86.51429000

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Big Sable Point Lighthouse

The Big Sable Point Lighthouse is one of the few Michigan lights with a tower reaching one hundred feet. Completed in 1867, Big Sable's tower measures 112 feet high. In 1902 the deteriorating brick tower was encased in steel. The keeper's dwelling, which once housed a single family, has been enlarged over the years, resulting in the present three-family residence. Indoor plumbing and heating and a diesel electric generator were added in 1949. In 1953 power lines were extended to the Point. In 1968 the tradition of light-keeping begun in 1867 by Alonzo A. Hyde and his wife, Laura, ended when the station was fully automated. Big Sable Point Light Station is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.