

Historical Marker - L2186 - Forty Mile Point Lighthouse / Lake Huron Graveyard of Ships (Marker ID#:L2186)



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Front - Title/Description

Forty Mile Point Lighthouse

During the late 1800s, the U.S. Lighthouse Board created a system of coastal lights along Lake Huron's Michigan shore so that mariners would always be within sight of at least one. With a light south of Forty Mile Point on the Presque Isle Peninsula and one to the north at Cheboygan, an eighteen-mile stretch of shoreline remained unlighted and dangerous. In 1890 the board recommended that a light and fog signal be built at Forty Mile Point. The light was completed in 1896, and Xavier Rains served as the first keeper. The lighthouse was transferred to Presque Isle County in 1998, but the Coast Guard retained ownership of its Fresnel lens. The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

Registry Year: 2006 **Erected Date:** 2007

Marker Location

Address: 7323 US-23 North

City: Rogers City

State: MI **ZipCode:** 49779

County: Presque Isle

Township: Rogers

Lat: 45.48591700 / **Long:** -83.91293300

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Lake Huron Graveyard of Ships

Named by seventeenth century French explorers La Mer Douce, the sweet of freshwater sea, Lake Huron is the second largest of the five Great Lakes. It has over 3,800 miles of shoreline and contains 30,000 islands, among them Manitoulin, the world's largest freshwater island. Violent storms on the "sweet sea" have made it dangerous for ships. As of 2006, 1,200 wrecks had been recorded. During the Big Blow of 1905, twenty-seven wooden vessels were lost. One of these, the steamer Joseph S. Fay, ran aground. A portion if its hulls rests on the beach approximately 200 feet north of the Forty Mile Point Lighthouse. The Great Storm of 1913 was responsible for sinking may modern steel ships.