

## **Denmark's Anholt Lighthouse, built 1788, under restoration**

Renovation work on Anholt Lighthouse has begun and is expected to be completed in late October. During this time attention will be paid to the station's brickwork, windows and doors. This was announced by the Danish Maritime Authority on 6 June.

This task is now underway and is set to last six months. Once completed the classified (listed) lighthouse on the island of Anholt will be shining brightly. The front of the lighthouse is to be both replastered and painted and, in addition, windows and doors of the old lighthouse will be renovated.

Anholt Lighthouse is one of Denmark's oldest. It was established in 1561 following a Royal Resolution of 1560 when it was decided to construct four strategic lighthouses in Denmark. It therefore represents an important part of the Denmark's maritime cultural past. The first brick-built lighthouse on the island of Anholt was established in the years 1785-1788.

Renovation of Anholt Lighthouse is being carried out by the contractor Aalsrode Carpentry.

In addition to having been developed from being lighted by a wood fire in the 1500s, being rebuilt in the 1780s with provision of a coal fire as the light source, to the current use of electricity, the lighthouse on Anholt has another story to tell.

During the English Wars in 1807, the lighthouse was first extinguished by the Danish authorities to annoy the English and, later, they occupied the island and its lighthouse.

For use by the occupation forces and as part of its defence the English built a casemate around the base of the lighthouse as well as a six-sided redoubt with canons, ramparts, moats and palisades. This fortification was given the name Fort York.

The ring around the base of the lighthouse, which is a characteristic feature of the lighthouse today, is a remnant of the original casemate constructed by the English. Today, the lighthouse and the lighthouse keeper's house are classified or listed buildings.

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