

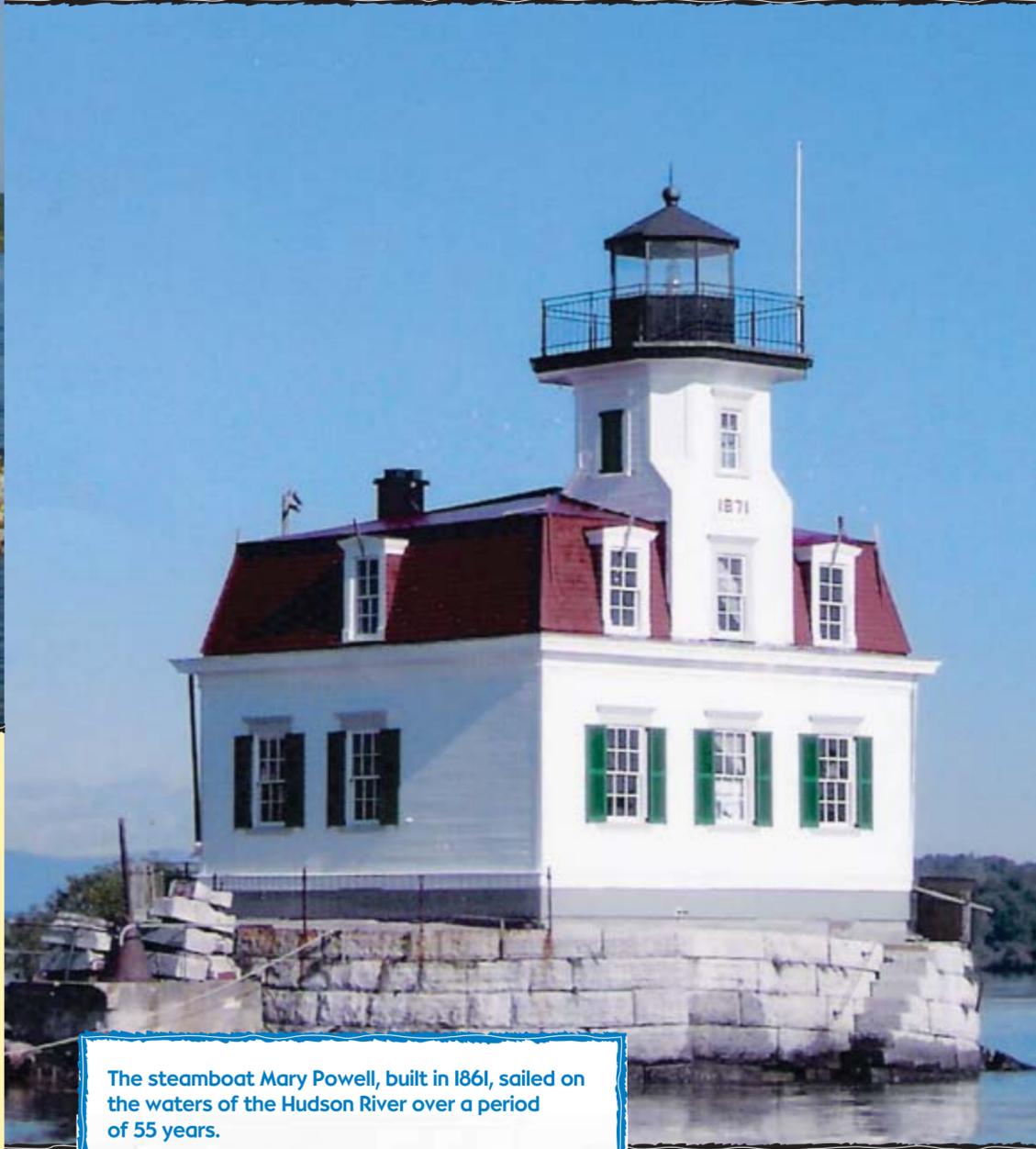
Rondout Area Lighthouses

The Rondout area is home to two of the eight remaining historic Hudson River Lighthouses. These historic structures are being preserved thanks to the efforts of many. The lighthouses evoke the bygone era of steamboats and sailing ships that transported passengers and cargo from the vital river port of Kingston/Rondout during the 1800's.



Rondout Lighthouse

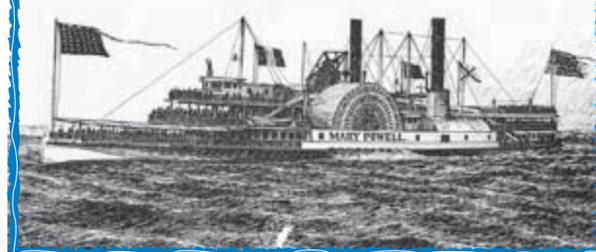
The first Rondout Lighthouse constructed in 1837, was replaced by a bluestone building in 1867. As boat traffic increased on the Rondout, dikes were extended into the river more clearly marking the entrance to the creek and plans were made to build a replacement light. Constructed of brick in 1915, the current lighthouse is uninhabited but remains an important aid to navigation on the Hudson River and stands as a sentinel at the mouth of the Rondout Creek. In 2002 the U.S. Coast Guard turned over ownership of the lighthouse to the City of Kingston which partners with the Hudson River Maritime Museum to care for the structure. Tours are available.



Esopus Meadows Lighthouse

The Esopus Meadows Lighthouse, 'Maid of the Meadows' was originally constructed in 1839. It was replaced in 1871 and is the only remaining wooden lighthouse on the river. The Save Esopus Lighthouse Commission was formed in the summer of 1990 for the purpose of preserving this maritime treasure. In 2004, the U.S. Coast Guard transferred care of the lighthouse to this dedicated group of volunteers. Currently undergoing renovations, the structure is not yet permitting visitors. Some of the best views of the lighthouse can be seen from the west shore at the Esopus Meadows preserve in Ulster Park and from the east at Mills Mansion in Staatsburg.

The steamboat Mary Powell, built in 1861, sailed on the waters of the Hudson River over a period of 55 years.



**Sea Grant**
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