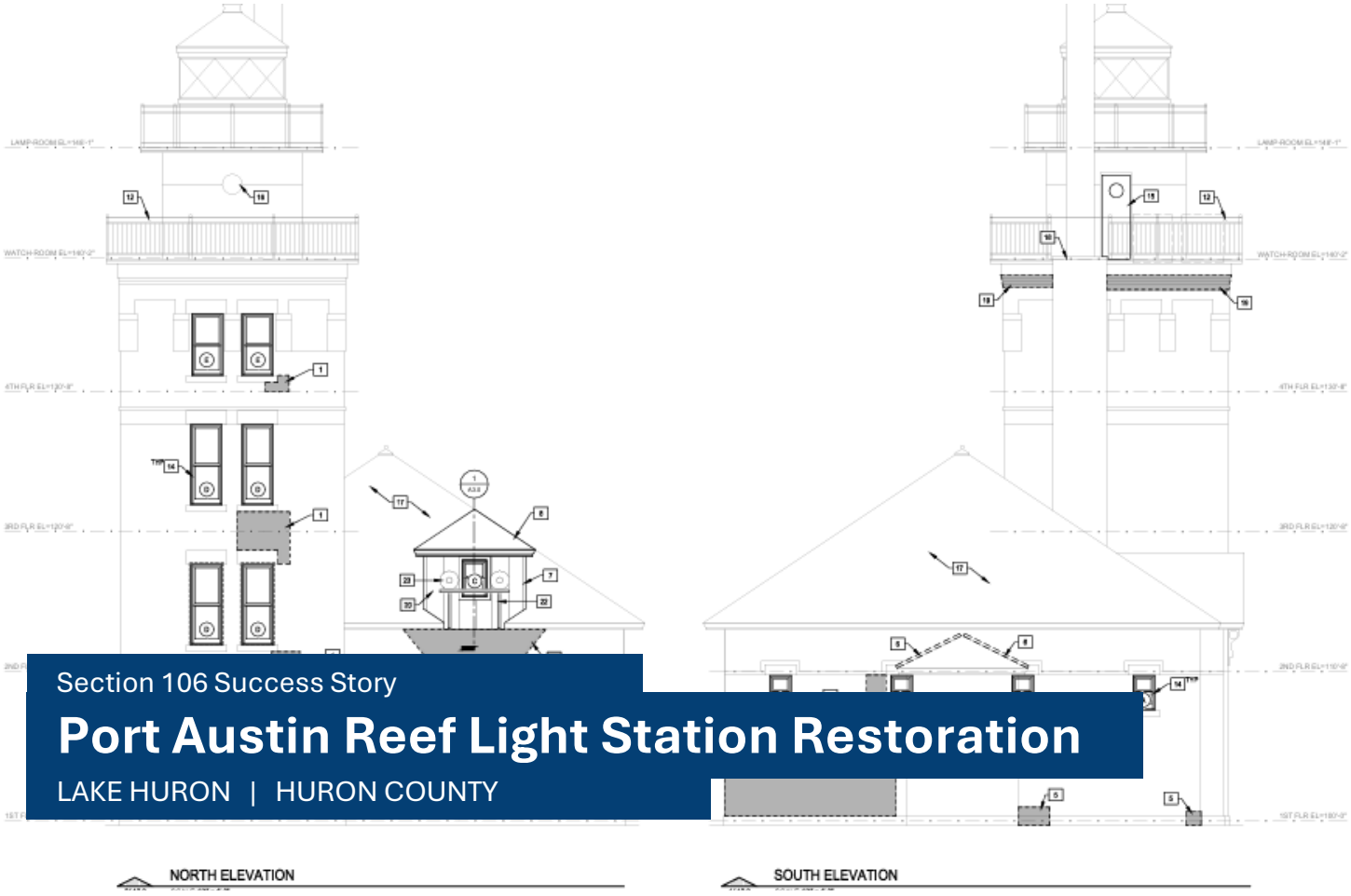


Section 106 Success Story

Port Austin Reef Light Station Restoration

LAKE HURON | HURON COUNTY

Once known as the "Castle on the Lake," the Port Austin Reef Light faced severe decay after decades of neglect. Its survival is thanks to a determined local nonprofit and multi-agency consultation effort. Among the funding sources was a federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant, from the National Park Service, administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The village of Port Austin worked collaboratively with an MDOT Historian and a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Architect to move the process forward. The off-shore location of the lighthouse was logistically challenging, so the advance consultation was necessary to ensure construction activities moved smoothly.

From the Michigan Historic Preservation Network:
“This project combined technical precision with deep community roots. Divers salvaged original bricks from the surrounding reef for masonry repairs, and a historic staircase—originally built for the light—was returned to the structure after decades away. From traditional plaster work to the installation of a new Fresnel lens, every detail preserves Michigan’s maritime history. Supported by state grants and local donations, the lighthouse is now fully restored and open for public tours.”

LOCATION

Lake Huron, Port Austin, Huron County

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9

FEDERAL AGENCY

National Park Service

PROJECT DATE

2022