Burnham-on-Sea Round Tower Lighthouse
(Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset)

History

During the 18th century a light was placed on the top of St Andrews Church tower to guide fishing boats into the harbor. A local vicar, either John Goulden in 1764 or Walter Harris in 1799, raised a subscription amongst the local population to replace the light on the church.

This was built in 1800 to 1801, when the curate David Davies paid the verger £20 to build the round tower attached to his house. Some funds were raised from local merchants and ship owners, however by 1813 funds were insufficient and Davies was given permission to levy dues to supplement the £135 annual income as this wasn't enough for the lights maintenance. A 100 year lease was attached to the permission to levy fees, however the outstanding 85 years of the lease was sold to Trinity House around 1829.
Funds from the sale were used by the then vicar, Rev David Davies, to improve the area in an attempt to create a spa town.

Trinity House operated the lighthouse until 1832 when it became inactive, and was replaced by the High and Low lighthouses.

The tower of the original round tower lighthouse was later shortened from four to two stories to prevent any confusion with the High Lighthouse, and battlements were added for the same reason.

The Round Tower Lighthouse is now a private dwelling.

Location