

SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE is one of Minnesota's most popular destinations and a jewel in the crown of the Minnesota Historical Society's network of historic sites. The structure itself is more than 110 years old, and after serving its time as a vital navigation aid on the rough waters of Lake Superior, Split Rock Lighthouse has been a place to explore the history of Minnesota and its connections to the big lake.

Beginning in 2022, the staff from Split Rock and MNHS's exhibits team undertook a major project to overhaul the gallery space in the site's visitor center. The previous exhibit was mounted in the 1980s and received only cosmetic updates over the years. The new exhibit, located in the renamed Radzak Family Gallery, explores many aspects of life in and around the iconic lighthouse. Incorporating first-person stories, diverse perspectives, fresh interpretations, and a range of objects and images, the lively new exhibit is sure to fascinate both new and returning visitors to Split Rock.

Several features in this issue of *Minnesota History* highlight the stories behind the site and the development of the new exhibit. For the "Curator's Choice," Site Manager Hayes Scriven describes a centerpiece of the gallery: the *Madeira* wheel, which was recovered from the bottom of Lake Superior more than 60 years ago and is now restored for public viewing at Split Rock. Jeri Bohac, the program manager at the site, delves into a photograph from the lighthouse's original construction in 1909–10. Site Supervisor Abigail Venuso offers an in-depth look at the process behind creating the exhibit and the history leading up to the renovation, as well as highlighting the exhibit's central features. In addition, Rita Walaszek Arndt, program and outreach manager for MNHS's Native American Initiatives department, explains the approach to including the history and perspectives of Native Americans who have called the region home since long before a lighthouse stood on the cliffs above Gichi-gamiing.

Such a massive undertaking at such an important historic site seems worthy of special consideration and celebration. We hope the articles and features contained herein will encourage readers to visit the site as well as to consider the different ways history can be presented through exhibits, spaces, and stories.

—Josh Leventhal, Director of MNHS Press

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