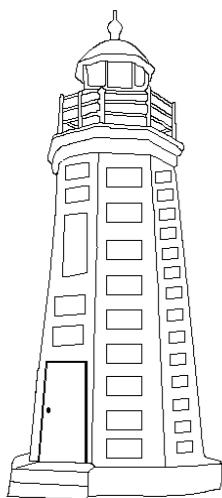
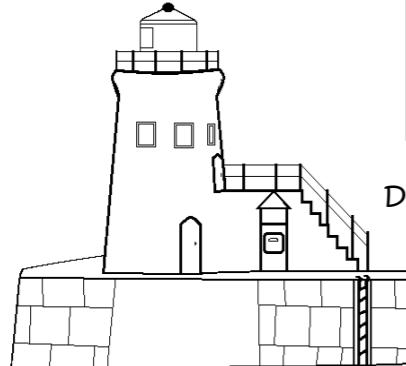


## Design a Lighthouse

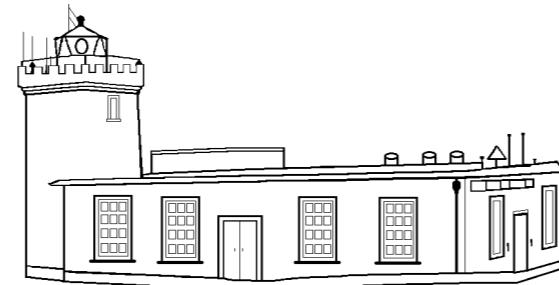
Below are three different lighthouses from along the Caithness coastline. Look carefully at them. Now design your own lighthouse in the box below.



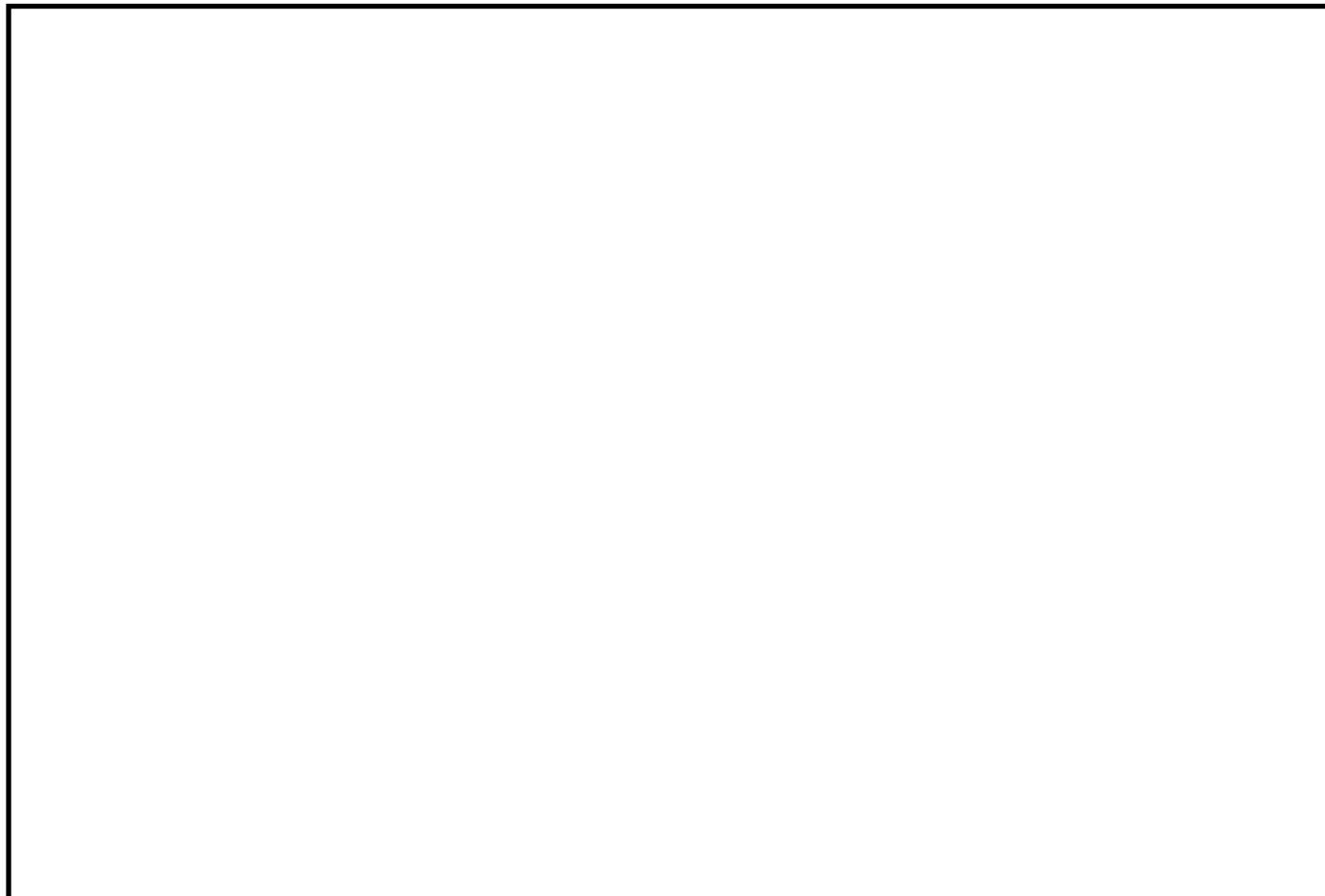
Wick Lighthouse



Lybster Lighthouse



Duncansbay Head Lighthouse



## Lighthouses



Wick Heritage Centre has the lens and machinery from Noss Head Lighthouse. In 1981, when the light was to be converted from paraffin to electricity, these were to be sent to the Northern Lighthouse Board storage at Granton, however Iain Sutherland, part of the society at the time heard about it and asked his wife Maise to contact them and ask that it stay in Wick. They agreed but gave them a deadline of 24 hours to remove everything from the lighthouse. And so, locals with trucks, cars and vans gathered and were able to move everything to the heritage centre where a room had already been selected to erect it. It took months, but eventually it was all rebuilt and is in full working order.



The most famous lighthouse and one of the Seven Wonders of the World was the Pharos of Alexandria. Built c.284-246 BC during the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus it was estimated to be at least 100m (330ft) in height and was one of the tallest man-made structures in the world for many years. Sadly, it was severely damaged by earthquakes between 956-1323 AD leaving little but a ruin behind. Up until quite recently the term 'Pharos' was used for lighthouses.

# Light Character

Every lighthouse has a unique sequence of colours, frequencies and light patterns, this is called a **light character**. This helps mariners identify which light they are seeing, and where they are. The table below shows each character and its abbreviation.

Description	Characteristic	Chart Abbreviation
Alternating		Alt. R.W.G.
Fixed		F.
Flashing		Fl.
Group flashing		Gp Fl.(2)
Occulting		Occ.
Group occulting		Gp Occ(3)
Quick flashing		Qk.Fl.
Very quick flashing		V.Qk.Fl.
Isophase		Iso.
Morse		Mo.(letter)

Duncansby Head Lighthouse has the following character: **Fl. W 12s**

This means it **Flashes a White light every 12 seconds**.

Using the table, write out the characters of other Caithness lighthouses below. Then try designing your own.

Noss Head - Fl. WR 20s \_\_\_\_\_

Dunnet Head - Fl.(4) W 30s \_\_\_\_\_

Holburn Head - Flashing white and red every 10 seconds \_\_\_\_\_

Stroma - Flashing 2 white every 20 seconds \_\_\_\_\_



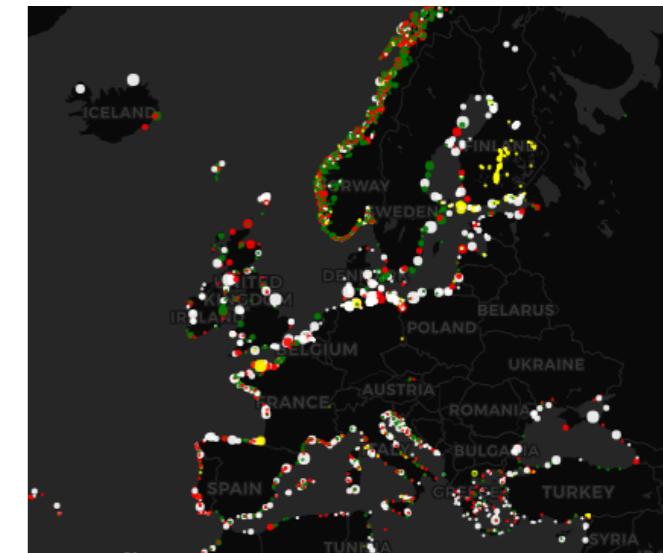
# Lighthouses

If you'd like to see what the different lights look like, there's an Interactive Lighthouse map called Lights At Sea: <https://geodienst.github.io/lighthousemap/>



## LIGHTHOUSES DURING THE WAR

We have records in our Northern Constabulary Collection (NC) that reveal that German aircraft were using Duncansby Lighthouse as a landmark during the war. (NC/7/3/3). It was suggested that they camouflage the paint as the white was very visible.

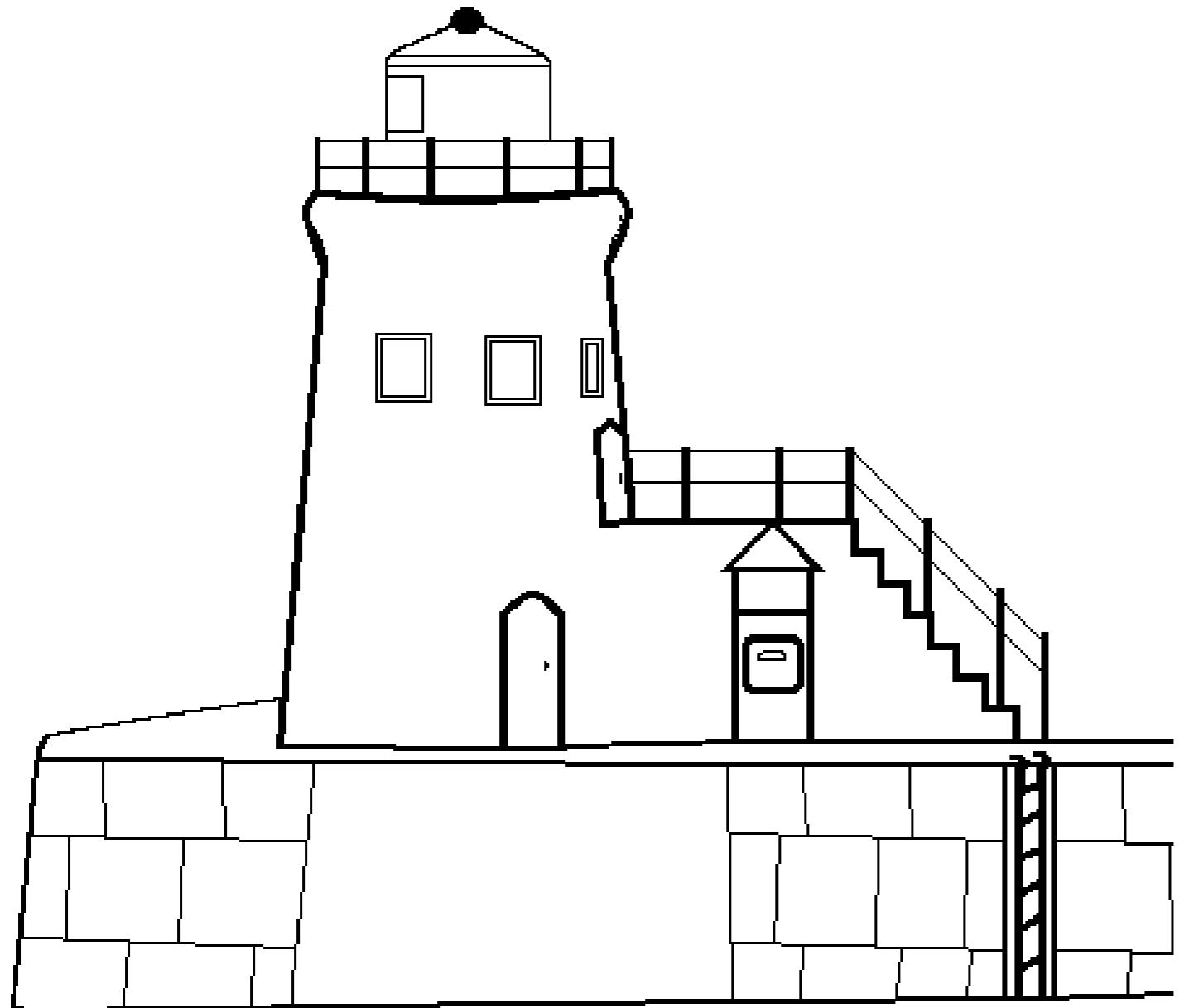


David Fraser's biography '**Sodjer-Lichtie-Polis**' describes the duties he had as a lighthouse keeper and how the different lights he was assigned to worked. Some of the duties are described below:

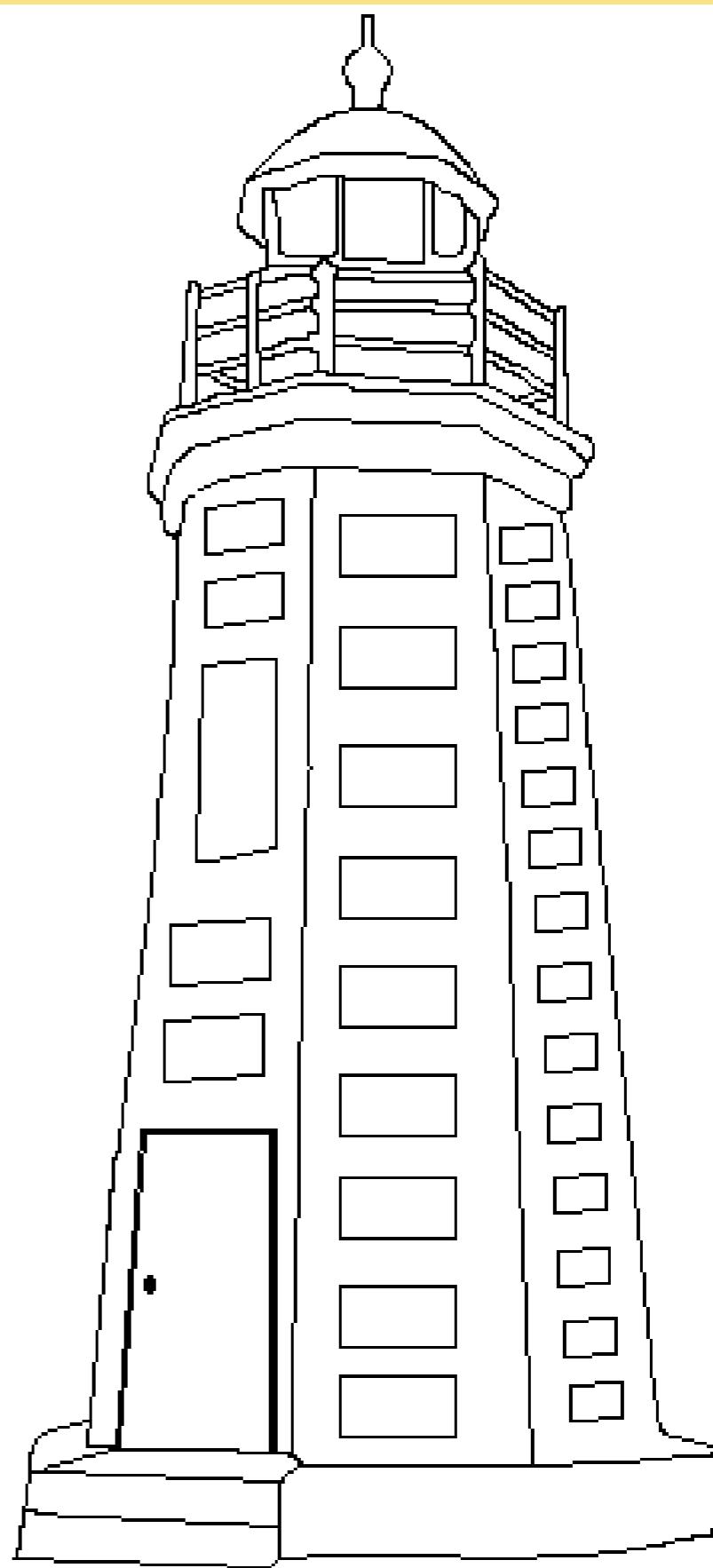
- Ensure the light was kept on and turning—through winding or machinery
- Prepare a weather report every 2 hours and send to the Met Office
- During good weather paint the lighthouse and other buildings
- Look out for fog and turn on the foghorn
- Keep the areas clean and tidy

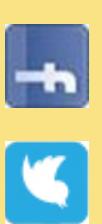
He says as part of his job, each lighthouse keeper was given "*In addition to all the household goods, each keeper received free electricity and a fuel allowance. This consisted of a generous quota of coal, delivered annually and stored in a building attached to the base of the tower. With walls three feet thick, and a good supply of fuel, we were never cold or short of hot water.*"

## COLOUR IN THE LIGHTHOUSE

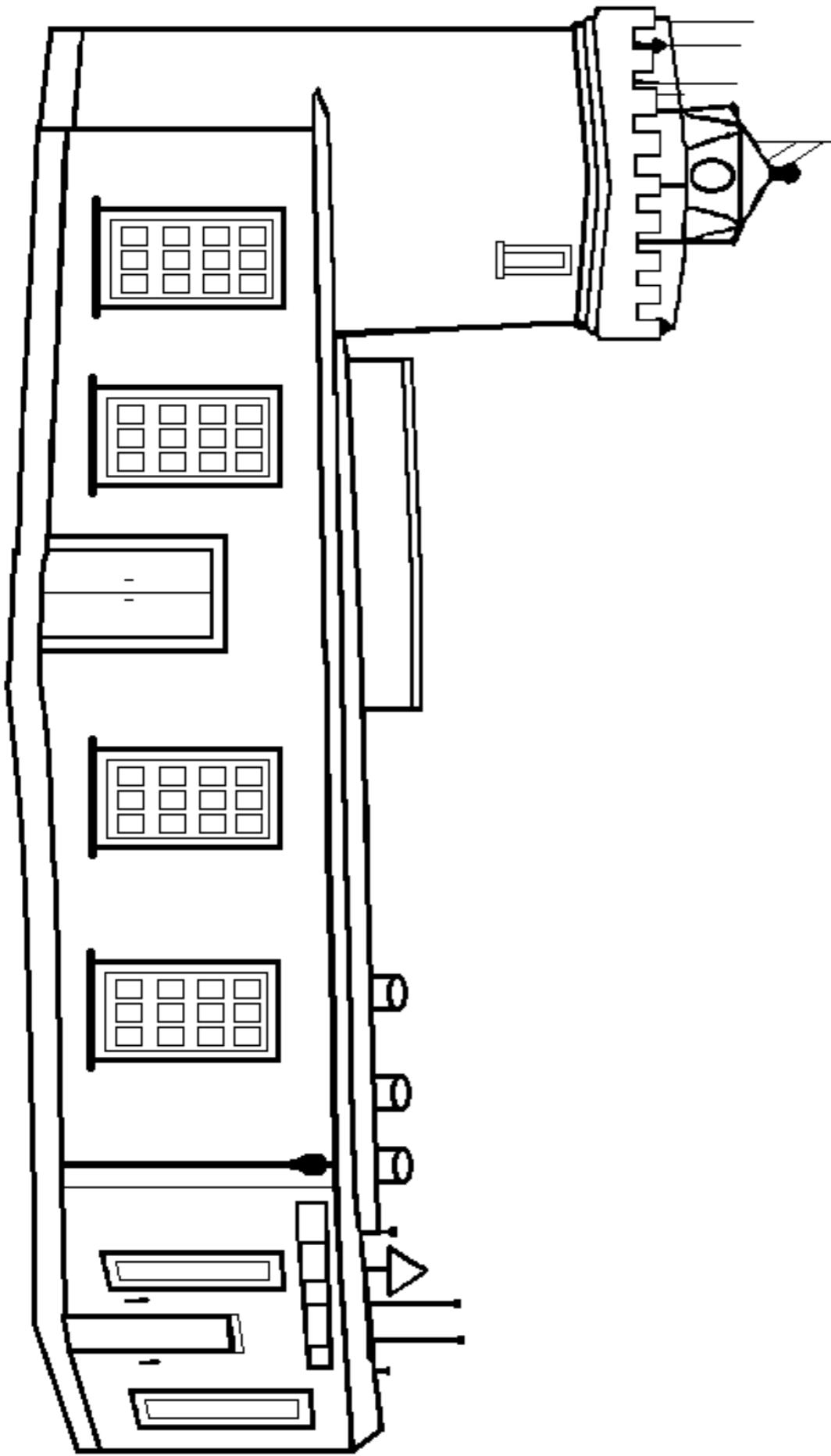


## COLOUR IN THE LIGHTHOUSE





[www.hightlifehighland.com/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives](http://www.hightlifehighland.com/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives)



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