

PRR Marker and Classification Light Practices

From time to time, railroaders collectors come across marker and classification lamps from the great era of Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) steam locomotives. Lamp styles and practices on the PRR varied greatly over time, so identifying information for specific lamps can be a challenge.

Following is an overview of PRR marker and classification lamp practices from 1922-1957. For this overview, the words "lamp" and "light" are interchangeable. The text was authored by Elmer Steuernagel and first published in the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society's magazine **The Keystone Vol 35, Number 1, Spring 2002**. Bob McCown subsequently extracted this information from the original article and tracked down some photos.

- **1922** - PRR adopts a cast 2 piece (claw foot/rotating 4 lens helmet head) fixture for class and marker lights on steam locomotives
 - 2 pair of marker light fixtures - 1 red lens, 3 amber lens
 - 1 pair mounted on the pilot beam
 - 1 pair on the tender deck corners
 - 1 pair of classification light fixtures mounted on the smokebox - 2 green lenses, 2 white lenses
- **1929** – shops ordered to remove classification lights from locomotives assigned to yard and freight service (except M1/M1a's and other freight locomotives regularly assigned to passenger service)
- **1935** - shops ordered to replace inside and rear facing amber marker light lenses on engines and tender with blank discs - leaving 1 red and 1 outside facing amber lens
- **December 1939** - shops ordered to relocate tender marker lights on K4s and I1s Kiesel tenders to rear shelf platforms - effected classes include 110P75, 110P75a, 130P75, 130F82a
- **June 1940** - PRR ceases to use the train classification light rule (for extra, required white lights; for section(s) following, required green lights) - shops ordered to remove classification light fixtures from locomotive smokeboxes
- **June 1942** - PRR adopts smaller oblong (tombstone) marker light fixture for application to smokeboxes in lieu of pilot beam mounted marker lights. In their housing are two lenses yellow above, red below. Not all locomotives were re-equipped with the new markers
- **August 1946** - PRR adopts a smaller single red lens round "bull's eye" marker light fixture for use on smokeboxes. This is the most common marker light fixture seen on

postwar PRR steam locomotives – however many with tombstone markers retained them until dropped from the roster.

The 1946 standards lasted until the end of steam on the PRR, which was 1957.

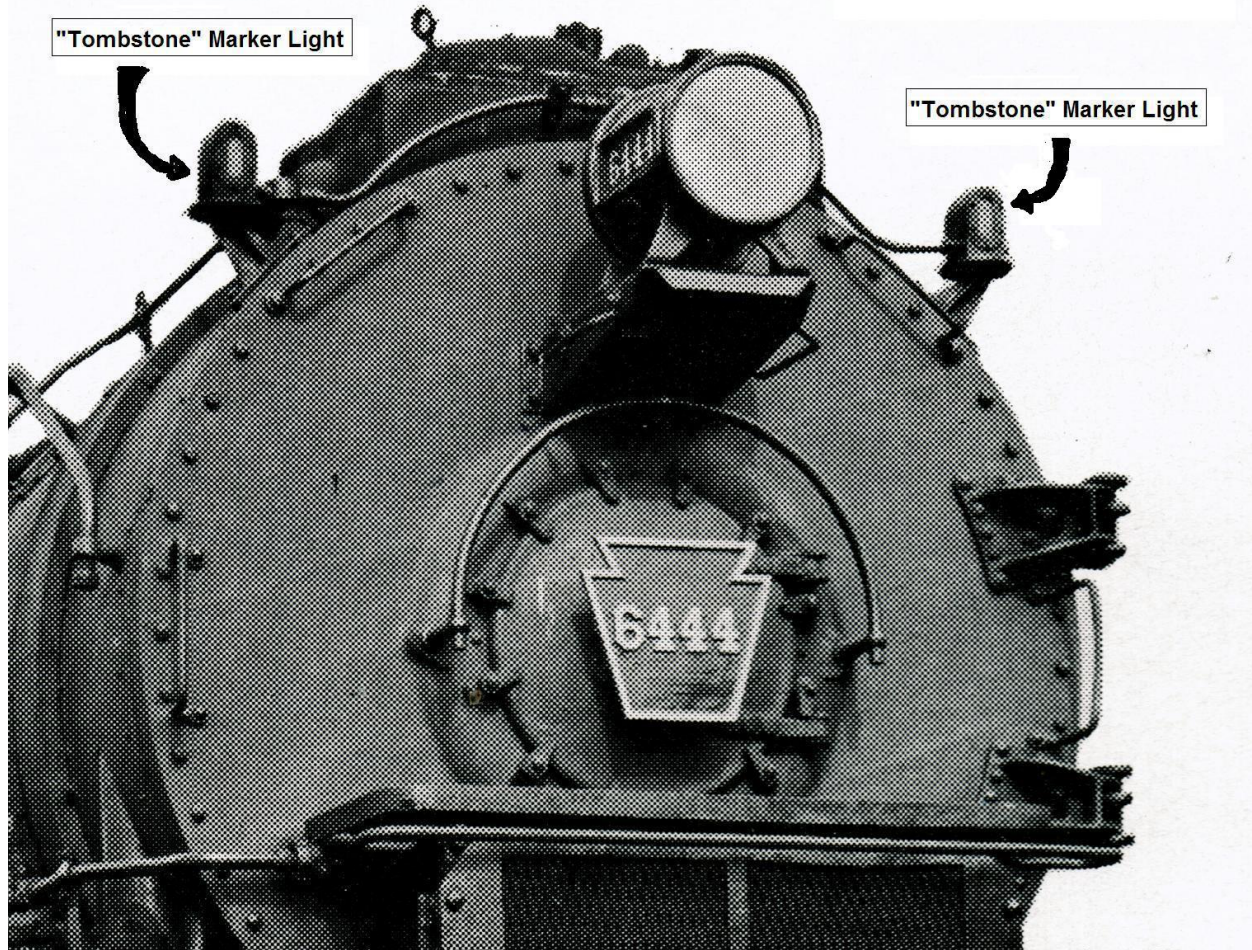
On the following pages are photos of the “claw foot style” and “tombstone style” lamps. Both are Pennsylvania Railroad photos published originally in “Pennsy Power I” by Alvin Staufer and reprinted here by permission from Staufer Books.

Claw Foot Style as Both Class and Marker Lights. (1922 Standard).



“Tombstone” Style Marker Light. (1942 standard).

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