There's an 800-pound slab of marble gathering dust in a New Orleans' attic. The marble is a clue to history, a reminder that graces the harbor of New York.

The slab is one of the few remaining pieces of the first permanent lighthouse to be built on the Mississippi River. It was begun in 1805 and, after various delays and changes, was finally completed in 1823. The cornerstone was recovered a few years ago from the mud of the Mississippi and now sits in the New Orleans' Institute building.

The lighthouse was built at the mouth of the Mississippi River, at Frank's Island, to guide migrants hoping to reach New Orleans. The lighthouse was abandoned 22 years later.

Today, the lighthouse stands as a stark reminder of a river gateway that once was, of an early settlement, and of the people who built it. It is a testament to the ingenuity and resilience of those who came before us.

The slab is a piece of history, a reminder of the past. It is a clue to the story of the Mississippi River, of the people who lived and worked along its banks, and of the lighthouse that guided them.

But what is the story behind the slab? How did it come to be in New Orleans? And what is its significance in the history of the Mississippi River?

These are questions that many historians and archaeologists are still trying to answer. The slab is a piece of history, a clue to the past, and it is up to us to uncover its secrets and share them with the world.