

Assateague Lighthouse Timeline

(Located within Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague, VA)

- 1833** First brick tower, 45 foot tall, built.
- 1860** Construction of second and present tower begun. Work suspended during the Civil war.
- 1866-1867** Construction of 142 foot brick tower resumed and completed. Fitted with first-order Fresnel lens. Large keepers' dwelling constructed.
- 1874** Life-saving station established three miles SW of lighthouse.
- 1891** President Benjamin Harrison's yacht, *Dispatch*, wrecks off coast. No deaths but yacht & cargo valued at \$135,000 declared a total loss.
- 1898** Telephone line installed – tower connected to life-saving station.
- 1910** Small two-story keeper's quarters built.
- 1922** Present Life-saving station constructed.
- 1933** Electric light, powered by generators replaces oil lamp.
- 1963** Red & white bands painted on tower. Power line and directional coded beacon installed. Fresnel lens removed and later donated to Oyster and Maritime Museum.
- 1994** Tower repainted.
- 2004** Ownership of tower transferred from the Coast Guard to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Source: *Lighthouses and Lifesaving Stations of Virginia* by Patrick Evans-Hylton and *Lighthouses of Maryland/Virginia – History, Mystery, Legends and Lore* by Bob Trapani, Jr.