

Chesapeake Lightship Timeline

(Designated LV116 / WAL538)

- 1930** 133 foot long lightship w/ 30 foot beam built in Charleston, SC. 375mm electric lens fitted on each masthead. Fenwick Island Shoal, DE – first station.
- 1933** Equipped with radio beacon – moved to Chesapeake, VA – 14 ½ miles east of Virginia Beach, VA.
- 1936** Lost anchor in hurricane.
- 1942** Served as examination vessel (harbor patrol) off Cape Cod – World War II – armed with two 20mm guns.
- 1945** Fitted with detection radar – returned to Chesapeake, VA.
- 1965** Replaced by the Chesapeake Texas Tower – moved to Delaware waters. Last lightship on duty in the mid-Atlantic.
- 1970** Decommissioned by US Coast Guard & retired.
- 1971** Transferred to National Park Service and on display at Hains Point, Washington, DC
- 1982** Moved to Baltimore Inner Harbor.
- 1989** On display as floating museum -Designated National Historic Landmark.

Source: *Lightships & Lightship Stations of the US Government* by William Flint.