

Fort Washington Light / Bell Tower Timeline

(Located at Fort Washington Park, Fort Washington, MD – Prince Georges County -revised 09/02/08)

- 1857** Light station – 18 ½ foot cast-iron column with small light established at the intersection of the Potomac River w/ Swan and Piscataway Creeks.
- 1870** Small tower with 6th-order lens built.
- 1882** Present structure – 32 foot pyramidal wooden fog bell tower, painted white constructed (built at the Lazaretto workshop).
- 1885** Keepers' house built.
- 1901** Fog bell tower height increased to support a lens and light (temporarily). Old lighthouse torn down.
- Early 1900s** Light –flashing red w/ 7-mile range – automated.
- 1939** Fortress transferred to the Department of the Interior.
- 1946** Fort placed under the administration of the National Park Service.
- 1950s** Wharf & all buildings, except tower, demolished.
- 1970s** Fog bell mechanism broke.
- 1997** Chesapeake Chapter, USLHS begins restoration work on bell tower.
- 2005** Coast Guard transfers light to the National Park Service.

Source: *Bay Beacons* by Linda Turbyville and National Park Service.