

Sharps Island Lighthouse Timeline

(The leaning light of the Chesapeake Bay)

- 1838** First lighthouse, a wooden tower, built on the island (900 acres).
- 1848** Lighthouse moved inland due to erosion (now – 450 acres).
- 1855** Lighthouse refitted with 5th order Fresnel lens.
- 1865/66** Second light, a screwpile, built on shoal.
- 1881** Screwpile destroyed by ice. Structure w/ keepers aboard carried away by ice floes.
- 1882** Present caisson, 54 feet tall constructed. 4th order lens lit on February, 1882.
- 1890s** Resort hotel built on eroding island.
- 1900** Island shrinks to 94 acres.
- 1940s** Island completely disappears
- 1976/77** Lighthouse tilted by impact of heavy, moving ice. Lens removed and replaced by 250mm plastic lens. Deterioration of tower continues.

Source: *Bay Beacons* by Linda Turbyville