

## **Sharps Island Lighthouse Timeline**

(The leaning light of the Chesapeake Bay)

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1838</b>    | First lighthouse, a wooden tower, built on the island (900 acres).                                                                   |
| <b>1848</b>    | Lighthouse moved inland due to erosion (now – 450 acres).                                                                            |
| <b>1855</b>    | Lighthouse refitted with 5 <sup>th</sup> order Fresnel lens.                                                                         |
| <b>1865/66</b> | Second light, a screwpile, built on shoal.                                                                                           |
| <b>1881</b>    | Screwpile destroyed by ice. Structure w/ keepers aboard carried away by ice floes.                                                   |
| <b>1882</b>    | Present caisson, 54 feet tall constructed. 4 <sup>th</sup> order lens lit on February, 1882.                                         |
| <b>1890s</b>   | Resort hotel built on eroding island.                                                                                                |
| <b>1900</b>    | Island shrinks to 94 acres.                                                                                                          |
| <b>1940s</b>   | Island completely disappears                                                                                                         |
| <b>1976/77</b> | 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