

Smith Point Lighthouse Timeline

(Located 80 miles south of Baltimore on the Virginia side of the entrance of the Potomac River, 2.5 miles east-southeast of Smith Point)

- 1802-93** Two land-based lighthouses, two lightships and one screwpile in service.
- 1893** Screwpile damaged by ice. Keepers abandon station.
- 1895** Screwpile carried away by ice.
- 1897** Present 52 foot tall caisson light in 20 feet of water, constructed from the same plans to build Wolf Trap LH and using pneumatic process. Octagonal, two story brick dwelling with square tower rising 30 feet above the top of the cylinder. 4th Order Fresnel lens from last screwpile installed in tower.
- 1936** Station fitted with radio equipment.
- 1970** Termites found in wooden areas of third level. Eradicated by Orkin Pest Company.
- 1971** Automation.
- 1980s** New submarine power cable installed.
- 1991** Major overhaul by U.S. Coast Guard.
- 12/05** Lighthouse purchased by Dave & Teri McNally of Minnesota. Tower remains active aid to navigation.

Sources: *Bay Beacons* by Linda Turbyville and *Lighthouses of Maryland and Virginia, History, Mystery, Legends & Lore* by Bob Trapani, Jr.