

Thimble Shoal Lighthouse Timeline

(Located 3.5 miles east of Old Point Comfort, mouth of James River, Hampton Roads, VA)

- 1821** Lightship stationed near Thimble Shoal.
- 1872** First lighthouse, a screwpile, erected.
- 10/30/1880** Screwpile cottage destroyed by fire. Foundation survives.
- 12/24/1880** Screwpile cottage, destined for Bells Rock, VA installed instead on existing ironwork. 2nd fog bell installed.
- 1891** Lighthouse rammed by hit-and-run steamer and damaged.
- 1898** Lighthouse rammed by coal barge, causing considerable damage and extensive repair.
- 12/27/1909** Lighthouse severely struck by schooner *Malcolm Baxter, Jr.* nearly splitting cottage in two; resultant fire destroys cottage. Three keepers on duty escape in small boat.
- 1914** Present caisson, three story cast-iron tower standing 55 feet above the bay, constructed and equipped with 4th order Fresnel lens.
- 1915** Schooner *Addie M. Lawrence* strikes lighthouse.
- 1964** Power cable from mainland and battery backup installed.
- 1987** Solar cells replace electric cable.
- 2003-04** Lighthouse becomes available for transfer or sale under the provisions of the NHLPA.
- 2005** Lighthouse sold to Peter Jurewicz of Smithfield for \$65,000.

Source: *Bay Beacons* by Linda Turbyville, *Lighting the Bay: Tales of Chesapeake Lighthouses* by Pat Vojtech and *Lighthouses of Maryland and Virginia – History, Mystery, Legends & Lore* by Bob Trapani, Jr.