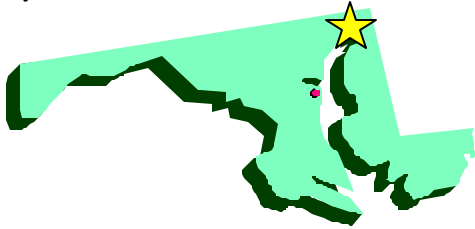


TURKEY POINT LIGHT HOUSE

The Turkey Point Lighthouse is located on four acres of ground easily accessed by land in the Elk Neck State Park, Cecil County, Maryland. The lighthouse tower is situated on a 100-foot bluff that overlooks the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (C&D Canal) where the Elk and North East Rivers meet in the upper part of the Chesapeake Bay.



Plans for the lighthouse began as early as 1812, by the Lighthouse Service that is now known as the United States Coast Guard. In 1832, ground was purchased by the Federal Government to build the lighthouse and several outbuildings. The Turkey Point Lighthouse was to be known as a “family station”, thus requiring a house and additional buildings in order to maintain a family. The Lighthouse Station was completed in 1833. John Donohoo of Havre de Grace, a prolific builder of lighthouses on the Chesapeake, was the builder.

The purpose of its tiny beacon of light was to guide and give ships’ captains and sailors time to change their navigational course into the mouth of the newly completed C&D Canal. The grounds originally contained the 35-foot lighthouse tower, keeper’s house, bell house and several service buildings. Today all that remains is the lighthouse, a building used to store oil and some concrete fence posts that used to contain the keeper’s garden. The keeper’s house and the other outbuildings were demolished in 1971.

The lighthouse contained a fourth order Fresnel lens that was imported from France. The lens consisted of a cylinder of brass and prisms.

The Fresnel prisms had to be dusted on a daily basis with a soft chamois and polished weekly in order to project light down the Bay. Also, the three brass oil lamps had to be filled and cleaned daily. The last lamp used was an Aladdin oil lamp because of its superior bright light. The light used only one lamp; an additional lamp was kept ready for emergency service and a third for use in going to and from the tower. **The beacon was visible for 13 miles. It has the highest lantern room of the 74 lighthouses located on the Bay.**



(Photo: Courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard Historian’s Office)

In early 1943, the lighthouse was electrified requiring that the keeper only make one trip a day to the tower. Until the retirement of the last lighthouse keeper, Fannie May Salter, in 1948, the brass lamps were maintained in case the electricity failed. The need for the keeper’s house was eliminated when the automation was completed.

Prior to 1948, the light was considered to be a fixed light. However, in 1948, the light was changed to a flashing light. The light was powered by a solar charged battery and was controlled by a sensor on the tower’s roof that operated the light at night and on cloudy days.

The Coast Guard decommissioned the lighthouse in April 2000. The lighthouse is currently a “Private Aid to Navigation”. It is maintained by Turkey Point Light Station, Inc.

KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT

It took a special kind of person to “keep” a light. The Fresnel prisms had to be cleaned every day, the fuel carried up the tower to the light, the wick trimmed and maintained and the light lit and extinguished. This was a 7 days a week, 365 days a year job in all kinds of weather. When necessary, the keeper also rang the warning bell. The keepers at Turkey Point Lighthouse (and all the other manned lighthouses) were a special lot of people.

Added to the responsibilities of the job was the isolation of the lighthouse. While some supplies came by boat from Havre de Grace, the nearest settlement, North East, Maryland was over **12 miles away**, a long distance in the pre-automobile era. As a result, the Turkey Point Lighthouse was a self-sufficient homestead for the keepers. They farmed the adjacent land, hunted in the forest, and harvested the bounty of the Chesapeake Bay – shellfish, fish and fowl.

These were the keepers of Turkey Point Lighthouse and their dates of service:

1833 – 1841	Robert Lusby
1841 – 1843	John C. Waters
1843 – 1844	Robert Lusby
1844 – 1862	Elizabeth Lusby, wife of Robert Lusby
1862 – 1865	Edward Clonan
1865 – 1873	John Crouch
1873 – 1895	Rebecca Crouch, wife of John Crouch
1895 – 1919	Georgianna Brumfield, daughter of John and Rebecca Crouch,
1920 – 1922	Caleb Stowe
1922 – 1925	Clarence Salter
1925 – 1948	Fannie May Salter, wife of Clarence Salter
1948 – 2000	Automated (had no keeper)
April – 2000	De-commissioned by USCG
Nov. – 2002	Re-lit as a Private Aid to Navigation.

Of the 10 keepers, 4 were women, 3 being wives who succeeded their husbands. This was in the days before women’s rights were fashionable or even considered.

THE KEEPER’S HOUSE

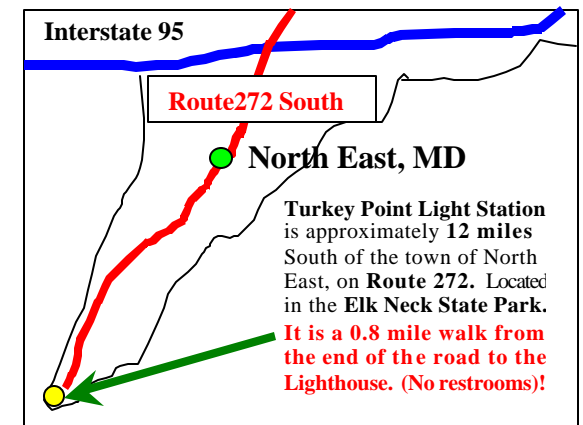
Upon reconstruction, the light keeper’s house will be a fully habitable building. While faithful to the original building, one major enhancement will be the construction of access ramps for physically handicapped visitors.

A museum will be housed in the structure offering displays and artifacts about the Chesapeake Bay, Turkey Point Lighthouse and the land on which it sits. Knowledgeable staff will be available to answer questions about the Light Station, its History and its Keepers.

Just outside, the beauty of the Turkey Point Lighthouse and the view from the bluffs overlooking the junction of the Elk and North East Rivers will provide many opportunities for photographs or just enjoying the grandeur of the setting.

One might see an ocean-going ship making its way to or from the C&D Canal. A short hike to the west side of the neck will allow visitors to enjoy a magnificent sunset.

Directions to Turkey Point Lighthouse.



The first electric light used at the lighthouse is mounted on the Gilbert Pavilion in the North East Town Park.

TURKEY POINT LIGHT STATION INC.

Turkey Point Light Station Inc. is a non-profit organization of civic and historically minded citizens who desire to restore the Turkey Point Light Station in scenic Elk Neck State Park to its original condition.

Inspired after painting the lighthouse for a service-organization project, **Dean Rice**, a retired North East (MD) high school teacher, founded Turkey Point Light Station Inc. in 1995. The organization has grown from one person's dream to a group of over **250** members.

The organization has taken on the challenge of raising funds to accurately reconstruct the historic light keeper's house next to the Turkey Point Lighthouse. The State of Maryland has given its approval to this project. Mid-November 2000, TPLS Inc. and the U.S. Coast Guard entered into a 10-year lease with a renewal option. We can restore them to their original configuration using copies of original blueprints.

TPLS, Inc. meets regularly and plans how to meet our goals. We are seeking new members, individual and corporate sponsors.

YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS EXCITING ADVENTURE AND HELP PRESERVE THIS HISTORIC TREASURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!



(Photo: Courtesy of Cecil Whig)

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Estimates to accurately reconstruct the keeper's house are approximately **\$350,000**. It will cost **\$35 to \$50 thousand** to run electric to the Light Station. Then **additional funds** will be required to furnish and maintain the Light Station. To achieve these goals, TPLS Inc. has launched a fund raising drive enlisting local citizens, businesses and talented individuals. **Our efforts include:**

- **Memberships, Corporate Sponsorships, Grants and donations.**
- A special **Maryland automobile license plate** depicting the Turkey Point Light Station may be purchased from the State by dues paying members. (Good Public Relations).
- A **gold pin/pendant** displaying the Turkey Point Lighthouse with the keeper's house. A diamond chip represents the light.
- **Prints, paintings, and photographs of the Turkey Point Light Station** by local artists. (Geraldine McKeown, Janet Hughes, Paul Shertz, Roy Woodall, Les Mahan and Melba Barteau. **We also have framed historic photos.**
- **An exclusive throw depicting the Turkey Point Lighthouse** offered by Donna Woodall, Lighthouse Gifts, Chesapeake City, Maryland.
- **Tee shirts, Sweat shirts, Ball Caps, Christmas ornaments, Coasters, Switch Plates, etc.** depicting the Turkey Point Lighthouse are available at **England's Colony on the Bay**, S. Main Street, North East, MD.
- **Tee Shirts & Sweat Shirts with Turkey Point Lighthouse on them at Bay Dogs** adjoined to **Kathy's Corner**, North East, MD.

The lighthouse is open for public viewing from Easter weekend through mid-November, (weather permitting.) We need volunteers to greet visitors and share information about the lighthouse.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Our Annual Membership Dues are structured as follows: Appropriate "Thank You" gifts are sent to you as part of your membership dues. (The IRS requires the value of the gift be deducted from what you can claim as a tax deductible gift).

Basic Membership Benefits: All levels of membership will receive a Thank You letter, a Membership Card and Newsletters. Other Thank You gifts are listed under each level of membership.

Junior / Student - \$10.00: Basic Benefits.

Single Membership - \$25.00: Basic Benefits, plus a Turkey Point Light Station book mark.

Couples Membership - \$40.00: Basic Benefits, plus (2) Turkey Point Light Station book marks.

Family - \$50.00: Basic Benefits, plus a Turkey Point Light Station key chain.

Assistant Keeper - \$75.00: Basic Benefits, plus a TPLS key chain and a TPLS ink pen.

Light Keeper - \$100.00: Basic Benefits, plus a TPLS coffee mug.

Small Business / Merchant - \$250.00: Basic Benefits, plus a laser engraved TPLS Lighthouse wall plaque, (or gift of similar value).

Corporate - \$1,000: Basic Benefits, plus a laser engraved TPLS wall plaque and a 4th order lighted Fresnel lens replica, (or gift of similar value).

Individual Lifetime - \$1,000: Basic Benefits, plus a laser engraved TPLS wall plaque and a 4th order lighted Fresnel lens replica, (or gift of similar value).

Couple Lifetime - \$1,500: Same gifts as Individual lifetime membership.

Gifts of similar value may be substituted based on availability and to provide variety.

LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION & LIGHT KEEPER'S HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Turkey Point Light Station Inc.

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North East, MD 21901

You can reach us by:

Phone: (410) 287-8170

E-Mail: tpls@charm.net

Visit our web site: www.tpls.org

The Membership Application can be downloaded from our website.