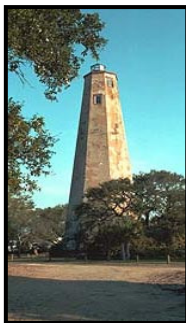


Caches for North Carolina Lighthouses

Bald Head

Built in 1817, it is North Carolina's oldest lighthouse. During its 86 years of service Baldhead Lighthouse guided many ships safely into the mouth of the Cape Fear River. It was retired in 1935 but after an extensive renovation project, the lighthouse is now open to the public for tours.

For how many years was this lighthouse used?



Bodie Island

In 1859 a 90-foot-high brick tower was built as a new Bodie Island Lighthouse. In the early years of the Civil War, this lighthouse was controlled by Union troops. However, in 1861, Confederate troops slipped into the lighthouse and blew it up. The current Bodie Island Lighthouse was built in the model of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, except for having an exposed granite base. Even this lighthouse had a difficult beginning. Soon after it began operation in 1872, a flock of geese flew against the light, breaking glass panes and damaging the lens. Today, the lighthouse is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The lighthouse itself is not open, but the old keeper's house is open as a visitor's center and museum.

Who blew up this lighthouse in 1861?



Cape Hatteras

The outstanding "candy cane" lighthouse towers 208 feet, the tallest in the United States. It stands as part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore at the southern tip of Hatteras Island warning sailors of the shallow Diamond Shoals which reach almost 14 miles into the Atlantic from the Cape. From 1936 until 1950 the light was temporarily located on a steel skeletal tower. The lighthouse was relocated 2900 feet further from the shore in June & July of 1999.

What warning does this lighthouse give to sailors?



Cape Lookout

The original Cape Lookout Lighthouse was established in 1821 at a price of \$21,000. This lighthouse stood along side the present day Cape Lookout for several years until it was destroyed. The present Cape Lookout lighthouse was built in 1859 at a cost of \$45,000. The need for a lighthouse in this area of the Outer Banks was mandatory due to many ships wrecking. The surrounding area is referred to as Lookout Shoals and is known for its shifting sands making the shoreline unpredictable to mariners. The lighthouse is 163 feet above sea level and was equipped with a 1st-order Fresnel lens. The powerful beacon could be seen from several miles away. After its construction, Cape Lookout became the model for all lighthouses constructed on the Outer Banks from that point on. Currently, the Coast Guard owns and operates the lighthouse, and the National Park Service owns the surrounding area.

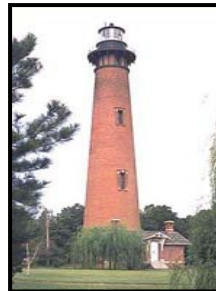
Who owns this lighthouse today?



Currituck Beach

Currituck Lighthouse was established in 1875 and stands 162 feet tall. It is almost identical to Bodie Island lighthouse. Because Currituck Sound was very shallow among the time of construction, the big vessels that brought in the bricks and other building supplies had to go lengths as far as eight miles out. It took around a million red bricks to build the tower. Since the four Outer Banks lighthouses looked so much alike, the Lighthouse Board ordered them painted with different patterns to make them easily distinguishable to mariners. The Board decided to let the Currituck Lighthouse keep its natural brick color.

Why do all of the lighthouses have to be painted differently?



Oak Island

Oak Island Lighthouse was constructed in 1958 by the Coast Guard to guide ships entering the Cape Fear River. It is built of reinforced concrete and the lantern room is constructed of aluminum. It's colors were mixed into the concrete, so it never needs painting. It is 169 feet high and uses an airport beacon rather than a Fresnel lens. Oak Island lighthouse is a part of the Oak Island Coast Guard Station.

Why does this lighthouse never have to be painted?



Ocracoke

The Ocracoke Lighthouse is the oldest working lighthouse in North Carolina, it was established in 1803 and the present tower was constructed in 1823. The current 76-foot-tall Ocracoke Lighthouse, located in the fishing village of Ocracoke on Ocracoke Island, replaced the first Ocracoke lighthouse which was 55-foot-high and made from wood. The original lighthouse was struck by lightning in 1818 and burned down. The 1823 lighthouse was controlled by both northern and southern troops at the time of the Civil War. Confederate troops removed the lens from the lamp in the beginning of the war, while it was replaced by Union troops in 1863. The fuel used to light the lanterns behind the lens was whale oil, then kerosene, and finally electricity. The light now functions like a street lamp, it is on at night and off in the morning. The tower was cemented and covered with its first coat of whitewash in 1868. The whitewash was made from one-half bushel of lime with boiling water, a peck of salt, one-half pound of powdered Spanish whiting (fish), three pounds of ground rice put in boiling water, and a pound of glue.

What happened to the original

Ocracoke lighthouse?



Price's Creek

The Price's Creek lighthouse was built in 1848 on the Cape Fear River at a height of only 20 feet. The brick shell, is the only one of eight lighthouses along the Cape Fear River that is still standing. Eight were needed to lighten the 25-mile length of the Cape Fear River between Oak Island and Wilmington. Price's Creek Lighthouse, was the smaller of the two lights at Price's Creek. During the Civil War, Price's Creek Lighthouse served as a Confederate signal station, helping blockade runners in navigating the river and being identified to the shore batteries. Price's Creek Lighthouse sits on private property, not accessible to the public. However, it can be seen from the ferry between Fort Fisher and Southport as it approaches the Southport landing.

What purpose did this lighthouse serve during the Civil War?



- 1) Bald Head
- 2) Bodie Island
- 3) Cape Hatteras
- 4) Cape Lookout

- 5) Currituck Beach
- 6) Oak Island
- 7) Ocracoke
- 8) Price's Creek

