

Welcome to Cove Point Lighthouse -

Maryland's oldest continuously operating lighthouse. Opened to the public in May 2001, the lighthouse is a project of the Calvert Marine Museum. The aids-to-navigation are maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Cove Point Lighthouse was built by John Donahoo of Havre de Grace, Maryland, in 1828 on just over four acres of land. It was designed to mark one of the narrowest parts of the Chesapeake Bay and guide ships safely into the Patuxent River. The tower is of brick, forty feet high, surmounted by an iron lantern containing a fourth-order Fresnel lens, built in France in 1897. The six-panel lens rotates once every minute, producing a flashing white light every ten seconds.

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The keeper's house was originally a small, one-and-a-half story brick structure. It was later enlarged twice, in 1883 and 1925.

James Somerville was appointed the first keeper, with an annual salary of \$350. Later, an assistant keeper was added. The station was staffed until its automation in 1986.

The fog signal was originally a hand-operated bell. Now discontinued, the last electric signal sounded a two-second blast every fifteen seconds. In the past, the site also operated a radio navigation beacon and served as a vessel-reporting station for the Baltimore Chamber of

Commerce. Today, the Coast Guard Auxiliary operates a radio station in building 4 on summer weekends.

Calvert Marine Museum, on behalf of Calvert County Government, became the new steward of historic Cove Point Lighthouse in 2000, following over 150 years of faithful service by keepers of the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the U.S. Coast Guard.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Cove Point Lighthouse. While in Calvert County, please tour the 1883 Drum Point Lighthouse, located on the grounds of the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons.

