

Chesapeake Lighthouse, a Texas tower at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. Courtesy U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office.



bottom and filled with rock and concrete to form a foundation. The caisson foundation was sturdier and better able to withstand heavy stress than the pile foundation lighthouses, so it is not surprising that caisson lighthouses were built in areas where moving ice was a hazard. The Craighill Channel Lower Front Range Lighthouse (1873) in

Maryland, is an early surviving example. Where bottoms were harder, contained rocks, and/or needed greater depth of penetration into the substrate, the pneumatic process was used. The substrate within the caisson was removed and the caisson allowed to sink further into the bottom. Eleven pneumatic caisson lighthouses were built in the United States. The Sabine Bank Lighthouse (1905) in Texas is the most exposed, located 15 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico—the only successful caisson south of the Chesapeake Bay. Fifty-nine lighthouses exist today with caisson foundations.

Texas Tower Type. A relatively recent technological development in lighthouse construction was the Texas tower lighthouse type which replaced exposed lightships offshore. These so-called Texas towers were adaptations modeled on the offshore oil drilling platforms first employed off the Texas coast. The first Texas tower lighthouse type in the United States was the Buzzards Bay Light, located in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, and commissioned on November 1, 1961. It has been extinguished and may be dismantled. A total of six Texas tower lighthouses have been constructed.

Adapted from *Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook* section written by Ralph Eshelman

National Lighthouse Organizations

U.S. Lighthouse Society
244 Kearny Street - 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
(415) 362-7255

USLHS provides its members with *Keepers Log*, an illustrated quarterly journal, lighthouse tours, and a general information service on lighthouse and lightship preservation

Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association
Henry Ford Estate
4901 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, MI 48128
(313) 436-9150

GLLKA provides its members with a quarterly journal and hosts annual meetings

Lighthouse Preservation Society
4 Middle Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
(800) 727-2326
(508) 499-0011

LPS is largely an advocacy and fundraising group for lighthouse preservation issues and projects; membership includes the monthly magazine *Lighthouse Digest*

World Wide Web

For more information on publicly accessible lighthouses, visit the National Maritime Initiative's site on the World Wide Web, <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/maritime/ltaccess.html>>. For a listing of lighthouse-related internet sites around the world visit <http://www.maine.com/lights/www_vl.htm>.