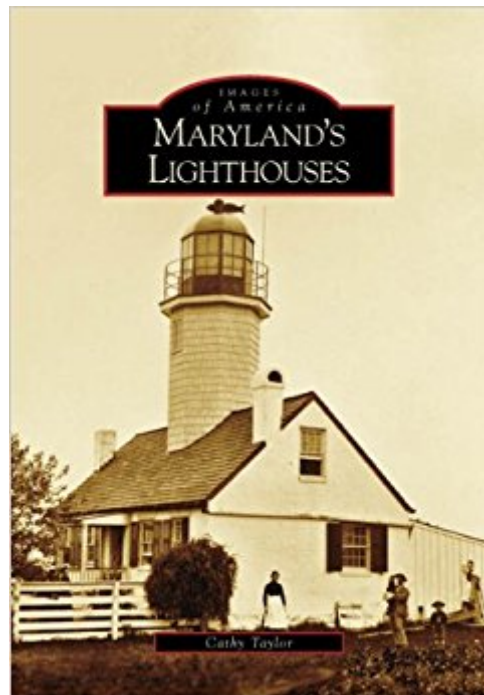




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Maryland's Lighthouses (Images Of America: Maryland)



Synopsis

In Colonial times, as the Chesapeake Bay and larger rivers became vital shipping channels, the need arose to mark Maryland's dangerous shoals and waterways. Lighthouses sprang up throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, including wood-framed cottages placed upon screw pile foundations that stood offshore in the unforgiving waters. Most of these unique structures did not survive, lost tragically to ice that also occasionally claimed the lives of the keepers who faithfully tended them and rescued mariners in trouble. With the advent of electricity and GPS, many beacons succumbed to vandalism and neglect, leaving a fraction remaining.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cathy Taylor, a lifelong lighthouse enthusiast, founded Historical Place Preservation to promote the conservation of lighthouses and their rich histories. A new era began with the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 (NHLPA), which transfers lighthouse structures into public and private ownership. This volume chronicles the history of Maryland beacons: destroyed, decayed, and those lucky enough to receive new life through the NHLPA program.

I received a copy of this book a few years ago as a Christmas gift. I'm a history nut and I love lighthouses so I devoured it! The book is a great little read for anyone that loves lighthouses or Maryland history in general. The author gives the reader a nice insight as to the problems the lighthouses (and keepers) faced as well as a background as to why certain lighthouses were

designed the way that they were. This little treasure is packed with tons of old photographs which I loved! Many of the photographs are of lighthouses which no longer stand. I actually just purchased three more copies of this book to give to friends that are going on a chartered lighthouse tour with me out in the Chesapeake. (The trip is offered seasonally by the Solomons Marine Museum in Solomons MD if you are interested!) A great little book. You will find yourself going back to this one!

American lighthouses are at a transitional point in their history, when automation, abandonment and vandalism threaten to destroy many of them. Yet there is hope. Cathy Taylor's survey of the Maryland lighthouses is both straightforward, delivering their histories in geographical order according to Chesapeake Bay destinations (Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Annapolis, etc.), and culturally insightful, with tales of Fannie May Salter, the last female lighthouse keeper, of ghosts, murder and more. Taylor finishes the book, though, with a survey of the light stations still standing, providing websites for more information, and offering readers enough information to consider how best to support the preservation of the iconic structures.

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