

U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Station Humboldt Bay, California

USLSS Station #5, Twelfth District
Coast Guard Station #316



Location:	Near south end of North Spit, on west side Humboldt Bay, 5 miles northeast by north from Table Bluff Light; 40-46' 00"N x 124-13' 00"W
Date of Conveyance:	1892
Station Built:	1878 (first station); 1937
Fate:	Still in operation

Remarks:

Occupied a portion of the lighthouse station.

The February, 1937 issue of the *Coast Guard Magazine* had an article on the station. It read:

Contractors expect to have the new \$78,000 Humboldt Bay Coast Guard station ready for occupancy February [1937]. Equipment and furnishing will cost \$50,000 more. The new station on the peninsula has been erected on the site of the old one, which has seen more than half a century of service. The new structure is of a type originally designed for the east coast, and built to withstand the roughest storms. All doors and windows will be weather-stripped and the walls insulated with wool. There will be steam heating.

Modern equipment to go with the new station includes a truck to carry surfboats up and down the coast, a new eight-oar 25-foot surf boat, and a self-bailing and self-righting motor lifeboat, and a line throwing gun with a range of 500 feet and a rewinding machine. Standing above the second floor of the new building will be a glass enclosed lookout with the latest type government radio. Coast Guardsmen there will stand unbroken vigil. The crew of 14 now in charge of the station is to be increased to 25 after the new station is placed in service.

Keepers:

- Frederick Star was appointed keeper on 25 October 1878 and resigned on 22 January 1883.
 - William Osberg was appointed keeper on 18 January 1883 and was dismissed on 27 March 1886.
 - Robert E. Hennig was appointed keeper 7 April 1887 (?) and resigned on 20 August 1908.
 - Lawrence Elleson was appointed keeper on 31 July 1908 and was still serving in 1915.
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No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.



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The station's current (2010) website states:

Station Humboldt Bay's area of responsibility encompasses the a large portion of the coastline of Humboldt County and a small portion of southern Del Norte

county. The station's crew is responsible for protecting life and property in over 5,000 square miles of the Pacific Ocean.

Station Humboldt Bay is one of 21 surf stations in the Coast Guard. Surf Stations are required where surf greater than 8 feet occurs 10% (36 days) or greater each year. Our station is located on Humboldt Bay, home to one of the most treacherous bar entrances in California. The entrance to Humboldt Bay is the site of many famous shipwrecks and has had Coast Guard presence since 1856.



Sources:

Station History File, CG Historian's Office

Dennis L. Noble & Michael S. Raynes. "Register of the Stations and Keepers of the U.S. Life-Saving Service." Unpublished manuscript, compiled circa 1977, CG Historian's Office collection.

Ralph Shanks, Wick York & Lisa Woo Shanks. *The U.S. Life-Saving Service: Heroes, Rescues and Architecture of the Early Coast Guard*. Petaluma, CA: Costano Books, 1996.

U.S. Treasury Department: Coast Guard. *Register of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers and Cadets and Ships and Stations of the United States Coast Guard, July 1, 1941*. Washington, DC: USGPO, 1941.

