



Photo courtesy Alaska State Library

Secretary of State William Seward -- the man who bought Alaska



Preface

Lighthouses are often thought of as towers of mystique and romantic charm, isolated at the foot of storm-tossed waves beating upon the rocky shore. In Alaska, isolation and lighthouses seem synonymous. None of the light stations in Alaska can be reached by car. Most are only easily accessible by helicopter -- weather permitting. Though the lonely sentinels of the sea no longer house lighthouse keepers, the Coast Guard maintains the responsibility for the light's upkeep.

"Coast Guard Lighthouses And other aids to navigation in Alaskan History" was originally published in 1974 by the state of Alaska as, "Aids to Navigation in Alaska History." This third edition of the publication continues to provide an overview of the evolution of one mission of the Coast Guard in Alaska.

Due to the frequent requests for information concerning Coast Guard lighthouses in Alaska, the public affairs office of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District was granted permission to update and reprint this book by the Office of Statewide Cultural Programs, Alaska Division of Parks, the agency which originally prepared the text.

Unless noted, all photographs contained in this book were provided by the U.S. Coast Guard. Anyone with comments concerning this publication, should contact the Coast Guard public affairs office by writing:

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The Seventeenth District dedicates the publishing of "Lighthouses And other aids to navigation in Alaskan History" to those lighthouse keepers and their families who diligently watched over the lights through the years. We hope this publication is enjoyable to you and increases your historical perspective of the Coast Guard and its forerunner, the U.S. Lighthouse Service, and their contributions to the state of Alaska.

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Coast Guard
Lighthouses
And other aids to
navigation in Alaska History
Third Edition

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This document has been reviewed and its recommendations found to be in accord with the philosophy and policy of the statewide historic preservation plan.

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