



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Station Spermaceti Cove, New Jersey

USLSS Station # 2, Fourth District
Coast Guard Station #98

Location:	Near south end of Sandy Hook, 1 7/8 miles north of Navesink Light, and 2 1/4 miles south of Sandy Hook Light; 40-25' 39"N x 73-58' 50"W in 1878; 40-25' 40"N x 73-59' 00"W in 1915.
Date of Conveyance:	1849
Station Built:	1849
Fate:	1940

Spermaceti Cove (#98):

This was one of the early stations built in 1849 "two and one—half miles south of Sandy Hook light." In the 1894 Annual Report: "...station has been rebuilt, to take the place of one erected many years ago, which does not now afford adequate facilities for the residence of the crew and the proper storage of the appliances that have been added in recent years, and which also stands within the range of the modern guns now tested on the proving grounds of the Ordnance Department of the Army."

The first keeper was Nathan Wooley. William Casey was appointed in 1853 and William Childs in 1856, but the tenure of these keepers is unknown. Samuel Warner was appointed at the age of 41 on October 2, 1869, and served until he resigned effective May 9, 1874. Curtis W. Taliman was appointed on May 9, 1874, and served until he resigned effective May 24, 1876. Then came Samuel A. Warner, who was appointed on May 18, 1876; the end of his tenure was unrecorded. Next came John Kittle, who was appointed on January 2, 1878, and served until some time in 1879. Following him were J. N. Edwards (appointed August 27, 1879, he filled the post until his resignation due to physical reasons

on January 15, 1900), Joel R. Woolley (appointed February 7, 1900, he served until his retirement December 15, 1916), and Francis W. Downs (acting officer in charge until his appointment June 16, 1917, he served until his retirement on March 17, 1925). In 1922, the station appeared in the records as "discontinued as an active unit," but, by 1924, it was back on the rolls. The station may have been rebuilt during this period, for Keeper Downs remained assigned during the period when it was not an active station. The last known officer's in charge were Chief Boatswains Mates: E. Hulse (1927 until reassignment to Sandy Hook), E. V. Bunting (1930 until reassignment to Bay Head), E. Hulse (again in 1933), B. P. Miller (1935), and E. V. Bunting (again in 1936).

The station probably was located at several places over its history. For example, the 1882 position is given as "east of the upper end of cove." The station is listed as being active in 1940, but does not appear on the 1945 list of stations after the war.

Photographs:



"FIRST LIFE SAVING STATION SPERMACETI COVE";
no date/photo number; photographer unknown.
Courtesy of Van R. Field.



No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.

A color period-postcard of the Spermaceti Cove LSS.



"SPERMACETI COVE"; no date/photo number; photographer unknown.
Courtesy of Van R. Field.



"REDEDICATION OF THE FIRST U.S. LIFE - SAVEING [sic] STATION - SPERMACETI COVE AT SANDY HOOK, N.J. - 5- 21- 30."; no photo number; photographer unknown. Courtesy of Van R. Field.



"U.S. COAST - GUARD - SPERMACETI - COVE - STATION - 1930"; no photo number; photographer unknown. Courtesy of Van R. Field.

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: Costañó 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.

