



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Station Aransas (Port Aransas), Texas

USLSS Station #5, Eighth District
Coast Guard Station #221

Location:	Northeast end Mustang Island; 27-51' 00"N x 97-03' 00"W
Date of Conveyance	1911
Station Built:	Unknown
Fate:	Still in operation

Historical Remarks:

Station Port Aransas was established by an act of Congress in June, 1878. For 30 years business was conducted on land owned by the state of Texas. In 1911, the present site was purchased by the U.S. Government at a price of \$750.00. The station was destroyed during the hurricane of 1919 and was rebuilt.

Failure in the concrete foundation of the building required its replacement in 1976. The "new" building's look preserved the time- proven designs of the Texas coastal island chain. Living quarters and administrative functions were divided into two separate pavilions covering an area of 20,500 square feet of floor space. This station was dedicated on 19 November 1976.

Keepers:

John G. Mercer was appointed keeper on 27 October 1880 and resigned 12 September 1882.

John H. Cranston was appointed keeper on 5 September 1882 and resigned on 30 June 1886.

Edward White was appointed 21 July 1886 and was relieved in 1918.

Addison Dierlam relieved White in 1918.*

Dierlam was relieved by Herman M. Teller, who had been the keeper of Station Galveston (as of 1920). He served as keeper until 1937.

James A. Alsup: 1937 - 1942

Jorgen A. Pedersen: 1942 - 1945

Walter M. Frank: 1945 - 1946

"D" "Q" Hurst: 1946

William B. Gull: 1946

F. T. Mosher: 1947 - 1948

Bertie C. Piner: 1949 - 1950

Joseph C. Chighizola: 1950

James P. Beaty: 1950 - 1954

Joseph C. Chighizola: 1955 - 1959

A. F. Jensen: 1961 - 1964

G. R. Brower: 1964 - 1967

W. G. Sears: 1967 - 1970

G. H. Yarrington: 1970 - 1973

C. Parker: 1973 - 1976

H. P. Huffman: 1976 -

*Information courtesy of Leslie Willey, Jr., whose father served 21 years in the Coast Guard and retired at Station Aransas in 1973.

Photography:



A photo of the first Port Aransas station, which was in service from 1878 until it was destroyed by the Hurricane of 1919.

Official caption reads: "U.S. LIFE SAVING STATION, TARPON, TEX."; no date/photo number; photographer unknown. Provided courtesy of Leslie Willey, Jr.



A photo of the second Port Aransas station, which was in service from 1925 until 1976.

No official caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.
Provided courtesy of Leslie Willey, Jr.



PORT ARKANSAS [sic], Tex. (Feb. 7, 2001) Coast Guard Cutter Steelhead, an 87-foot coastal patrol boat, is co-located at Station Port Arkansas [sic] along with Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Port Aransas." USCG photo by PA2 James Dillard. No photo number listed.



PORT ARKANSAS [sic], Tex. (Feb. 7, 2001) Coast Guard Cutter Steelhead, an 87-foot coastal patrol boat, is co-located at Station Port Arkansas [sic] along with Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Port Aransas." USCG photo by PA2 James Dillard. No photo number listed.

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.

