

LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTION REPORT
SECTOR MARYLAND-NCR
ANT CRISFIELD
HOOPER ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE
LLNR 7590

Structure Type: White conical tower on brown cylindrical base. Advertised focal plane height of 63 feet.

Location: Chesapeake Bay, south of Barren Island and 3.3 NM west of Hoopersville, (Hoopers Islands) in position 38-15-22.500N / 076-14-59.300W, approximately 25 NM NW of Crisfield, MD. The Structure stands in 18 feet of water.

Signal: Lantern is a VLB-44 providing Fl W 6s.

Responsible Unit: ANT Crisfield

Sector: Maryland-NCR

Inspection: The inspection was performed on July 9, 2019 by CWO Runt of Sector Maryland-NCR and BMC Durfee of ANT Crisfield.

Background: This lighthouse is 117 years old; construction completed in 1902. In 1976 the original Fresnel Lens was stolen and the lighthouse vandalized. Vandalism continues today as during this inspection we found the main door broken and open, however the access hatch from the ladder was locked. The panels of the door were kicked in and missing entirely. In 2006 GSA transferred ownership to the U.S. Lighthouse Society, who maintains Thomas Point Shoal Light. In February 2017 GSA announced they are looking for a new owner. There were reports that Dorchester County were in talks with GSA to transfer ownership. Dorchester County had originally applied for ownership when the U.S. Lighthouse Society received the light in 2006. In 2016 ANT Crisfield submitted an SSMR to repaint the entire structure (interior and exterior), repair wood flooring, replace access ladders, and install interior ladder handrails. This will not be possible due to the lighthouse being private property. The last CEU contracted structural inspection was completed September 24, 2015 (due every five years) and is available at

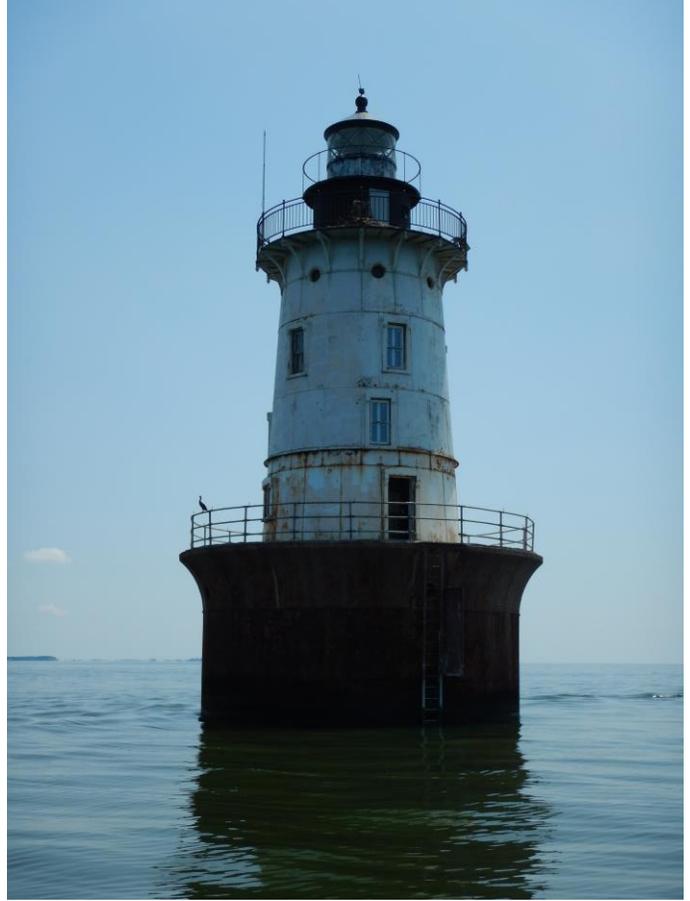
<https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/d5/DPW%20Resource%20Library/ATON%20Structural%20Inspection%20Reports/7590%20Hooper%20Island%20Light.pdf>

Findings: Fair condition, but approaching poor. The main door to the structure is missing, allowing vandals and wildlife unobstructed entry to the structure. The main access ladder from the water is in good condition and the access hatch is locked. Walking surfaces on the top of the caisson are in good condition as is most of the surfaces within the tower. The largest problems were found to be a panel failing on the exterior, the exterior coating and the missing door. This lighthouse would be in good condition if not for those discrepancies. The structure was last inspected by Tower Inspection in September 2015 for the CEU structural inspection required to be completed every five years.

Recommendations: General housekeeping and cleaning of the interior of the structure is not recommended. The presence of hazardous materials such as lead-based paint, asbestos, benzene, and a host of other dangerous compounds make it dangerous for Coast Guard crews to disturb the material when they are not trained nor equipped to do so.

1. Placement of a sign near the ladder access to warn unauthorized persons that the structure is US Government property and listing penalties.

2. Replace the broken/missing door with one that is capable of withstanding weather and vandals. This is to protect not only the structure, but also the CG owned equipment housed within the lighthouse not only from vandals, but also wildlife.
3. The owner needs to remove scaling and rust in an approved manner and paint the caisson to protect the structure base. The lighthouse tower also requires the same to protect the tower and to provide the advertised characteristic of a white tower. Much of the tower is rust colored and will worsen with the passage of time.
4. Decking on the fourth deck is missing planks as is the overhead. This was caused by water penetration a number of years ago, but the source has been repaired.
5. Keep the structure secure to prevent further birds from entering and dying within the structure.



Hooper Island Lighthouse



Locked access gate



Broken door



Failing panel



Caisson interior



Spaces within the caisson foundation



Spaces within the caisson foundation



Caisson overhead and support pile



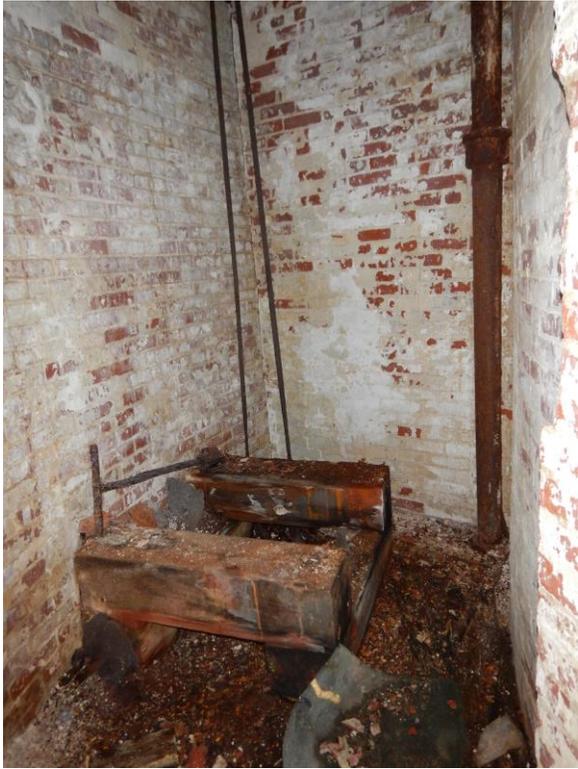
Space within the caisson foundation



Caisson overhead and support pile



Space within the caisson foundation



Spaces within the caisson foundation



Space within the caisson foundation



01 Deck



01 Deck



02 Deck



02 Deck



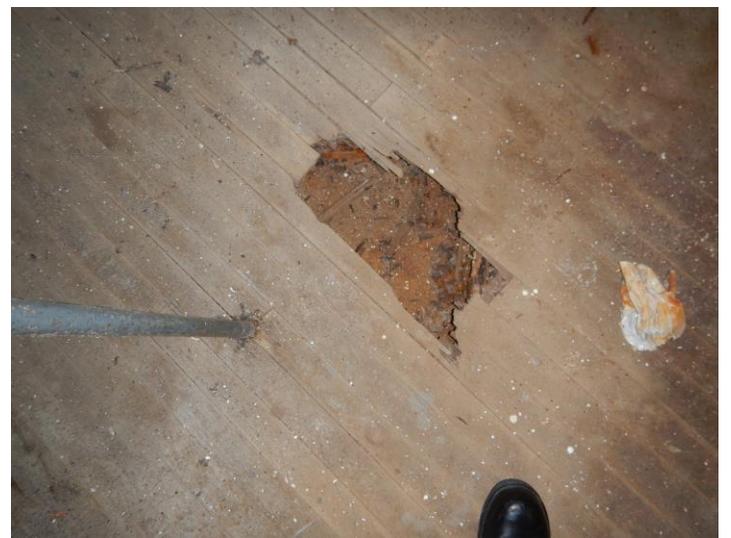
03 Deck



04 Deck (missing flooring planks)



04 Deck (missing flooring planks)



04 Deck (missing overhead planks)



05 Deck



05 Deck (dead birds)



05 Deck exterior



05 Deck (looking up the access ladder)



06 Deck (cupola)



06 Deck (cupola windows)



06 Deck – VLB-44 and newly installed stand