

WO-347
United States Coast Guard Tower
Ocean City
Private

1934-1935

The United States Coast Guard tower is a five-story, braced metal structure situated at the foot on the boardwalk next to the Ocean City inlet. The tapering tower contains a four-flight ladder-type stair that rises within the structure to a trap door is the cabin floor. The platform cabin is of frame construction with corner pilasters and weatherboard sides.

This is the oldest observation tower standing along Maryland's seashore. Erected in 1934-1935, the tower was was built to aid in the life-saving services provided by the United States Coast Guard.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TOWER

MHT Inventory Number: NO-347

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE
TRANSPORTATION

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

MODERN PERIOD 1930- PRESENT

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE
COASTAL OBSERVATION TOWER

Survey No. WO-347

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TOWER

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South end of the Boardwalk and South 2nd St. ___ not for publication

city, town Ocean City ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name City Council of Ocean City

street & number City Hall telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code MD 21842

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-347

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The United States Coast Guard tower stands at the south end of the boardwalk along South Second Street in Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland.

Erected in 1934-1935, the braced metal tower tapers as it rises four flights to the observation platform which has an enclosed cabin. The cross-braced riveted structure contains is enclosed at its base with a combination of picket fence and display cases for the adjacent Life-Saving Station museum. Contained within the outside metal structure is a ladder-type stair that rises in four steep flights with a fixed handrail. The top flight provides access to a trap door fixed in the floor of the observation cabin. The frame cabin is a weatherboarded structure approximately 10' by 10'. Trimming the exterior corners are simple pilasters. The south face of the cabin is pierced by a tripartite window, whereas the west side is marked by a single window and door. The door provides access to the small deck that encircles the cabin. A pipe railing encloses the deck.

Rising against the west side of the cabin is an attached ladder that leads to the rooftop observation platform atop the cabin. A pipe railing encloses the top of the platform.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-347

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The United States Coast Guard tower is a five-story, braced metal observation tower erected at the south end of Ocean City after the inlet was formed during the 1933 storm. The tapering tower contains a four-flight ladder-type stair that rises within the tower structure to a trap door in the cabin floor. The platform cabin is of frame construction with simple pilasters defining the exterior corners. A vertical ladder fixed to the west side of the cabin provides access to a observation deck on the roof of the cabin.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

This is the oldest observation tower standing along Maryland's Atlantic seashore. Erected in 1934-1935, the tower was situated at the foot of Ocean City next to the newly created inlet, carved through the barrier island by the destructive 1933 storm.

