

WO-358

1875

Green Run Lifesaving Station
Assateague Island (site)
Public

The Green Run Lifesaving station was one of four frame stations erected along Maryland's seashore during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century to serve stranded or wrecked ocean-going vessels. Records of the United States Coast Guard reveal the Green Run station was built in 1875, and patterned after the early station design of 1874. In contrast to other Maryland or Delaware stations the unconventional eave decoration with wave-shaped panels and Gothic arched trim appears peculiar to Green Run. Built on a remote section of beach near the Maryland-Virginia line, the activity at the lifesaving station was the primary focus of a small village known by the same name.

Although the station was much used through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Green Run was one of the first to be decommissioned in 1939. Lifesaving service keepers of the Green Run station and their respective periods of residence were John Evans (1875-1882), George C. Birch (1883-1892), Adelbert Soper (1893-1898), Albert C. Carey (1899-1901), William B.S. Powell (1902-1909), and Joel R. Gordy (1910-1914).

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: GREEN RUN LIFESAVING STATIONS

MHT Inventory Number: WV-358

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE
TRANSPORTATION

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL - URBAN DOMINANCE
(1870 - 1930)

4) Resource Type(s):

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-358

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GREEN RUN LIFESAVING STATION

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Assateague Island not for publicationcity, town Ocean City vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

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

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

name United States Department of Natural Resources

street & number Assateague National Seashore telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

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

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-358

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

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

The Green Run Lifesaving station formerly stood at the south end of Maryland's portion of Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland. The station stood in the old beach village of Green Run near present-day Green Run Bay.

Built in 1875, the story-and-a-half frame station was supported by a minimal masonry foundation, and the building was sheathed with a combination of vertical board and shingle siding. The steeply pitched gable roof was covered with wood shingles. Rising from the center of station roof was a gable roofed watch tower.

The gable-front main elevation was defined by a center bay doorway with diagonal board doors. Fixed atop the entrance was a large polygonal sign that identified the structure as the "U. S. Life Saving Station." The adjacent wall surface on the first floor was covered with flush vertical board siding, while the second floor was enhanced with flush vertical board siding with decorated ends. The upper gable end was pierced by a pair of side-by-side six-over-six sash windows with corresponding board shutters. Underpinning the extended eaves were brackets at the lower corners, and in the center pointed arch sawnwork trim was flanked by triangular panels with wave-shaped decorations.

The sides of the building were partially covered with shed roofed additions. Gable roofed dormers of various sizes lighted the second floor. Perched atop the building was a gable roofed watchtower with paired two-over-two sash windows on each side. The station extended to the rear with a shorter story-and-a-half wing sheathed with vertical board siding as well. Attached to the back of the station was another single story section.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-358

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1875 **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 Green Run Lifesaving station was one of four frame stations erected along Maryland's seashore during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century to serve stranded or wrecked ocean-going vessels. Erected in 1875, the Green Run station, located at the lower end of Maryland's portion of Assateague Island, was the primary focus of a small village known by the same name. The station was embellished with an unusual Gothic Revival sawn decoration above the double door garage bay. Unusual as well was the vertical board siding with decorated ends.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Records of the United States Coast Guard reveal that the Green Run Lifesaving station was erected in 1875, patterned after the early station design of 1874. In contrast to other Maryland or Delaware stations the unconventional eave decoration with wave-shaped panels and Gothic arched trim appears peculiar to Green Run. The Green Run station, however, was one of the first to be decommissioned in 1939. It was sold into private hands, and parts of the building have been salvaged and used in the construction of other structures.



WO-358
GREEN RUN LIFESAVING STATION (SITE)
Whittington Point, MD. VA.
1964