



## Station Cape May, New Jersey

USLSS Station #39, Fourth District  
Coast Guard Station #137

<b>Location:</b>	At Cape May Point, 3/16 mile south of Cape May Light; 38-55' 50"N x 74-57 36"W in 1878; 38-55' 40"N x 74-57' 30"W in 1915
<b>Date of Conveyance:</b>	1849
<b>Station Built:</b>	1849
<b>Fate:</b>	Still in operation

### Remarks:

A Life Saving Station was opened at Cape May Point in 1849. The station was moved at various times throughout the years due to the encroachment of the sea. In 1866 another site was acquired. In 1876 a station was built and exhibited at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the conclusion of this exposition, the station was moved to Cape May and placed upon the Lighthouse Reservation there by virtue of a permit dated 1876.

A Lifeboat Station Cape May Canal was proposed in 1947, but the land was disposed of in 1954. The Coast Guard was in negotiations with the U.S. Army about the usage of the U.S. Army Engineer Pier, Cape May Canal in the late 1950s and early 1960s. There are records indicating that the pier had been transferred to the Coast Guard by 1964. Other records indicate the construction of a Coast Guard Station on TRACEN Cape May, 0.5 miles east of Cape May proper.

### Keepers:

Lewis Stevens was appointed in 1853. It is unknown when he left the service.

Christopher Leaming was appointed in 1856. It is unknown when he left the service.

George Hildreth was appointed on APR 12, 1869. He left the service in 1877.

Charles H. Hand was appointed on MAR 16, 1877 and left the service on JUN 7, 1886.

James W. Eldredge was appointed on JUL 27, 1886 and was still serving in 1915.

<p><b>Photographs:</b> <b>(Click thumb-nail image to see full-size)</b></p>	<p><b>Original photo caption; description; date &amp; photo number (if known):</b></p>
	<p>"CAPE - MAY - POINT"; no date/photo</p>

Station Cape May

number;  
photographer  
unknown.

Courtesy of  
Van Field.

No caption/  
date/photo  
number;  
photographer  
unknown.

The pictured  
surfboat is  
the 25-foot  
Type S  
pulling  
surfboat No.  
4435/

Launching Station Cape May's surfboat

CG25419. It was built in 1934.

Photo courtesy of Van Field; information regarding the surfboat was provided by Tim Dring.

Launching Station Cape May's surfboat

No caption/ date/photo number; photographer unknown.

Courtesy of Van Field.

Launching Station Cape May's surfboat

No caption/  
date/photo  
number;  
photographer  
unknown.

Courtesy of  
Van Field.

Station Cape May's crew

"CAPE -  
MAY -  
POINT"; no  
date/photo  
number;  
photographer  
unknown.

Courtesy of  
Van Field.

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Added: February 2001