



Ocracoke Light Station Preservation Project • Spring 2021



Ocracoke Light Station is located on Ocracoke Island within Cape Hatteras National Seashore (the Seashore). The Ocracoke Lighthouse was built in 1823 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. It is the oldest functioning lighthouse in North Carolina and the second oldest lighthouse still in service in the United States. Buildings associated with the Ocracoke Light Station complex include the Double Keepers' Quarters, carpenter's shop, store house, cisterns, privy, oil house, and generator house. A wooden picket fence encloses the station, and several historic live oak and eastern red cedar, and two bald cypress trees

survive in the landscape near the dwelling. The Ocracoke Light Station and supporting structures have been damaged by Hurricanes Matthew, Florence, and Dorian (2017-2019). The Seashore anticipates that at some time in the future, the area will be overtaken by sea level rise and actions may need to be taken to preserve the historic structures at the site.

The purpose of this effort is to sustainably preserve the historic resources at the Ocracoke Light Station in the wake of recent storm damage and in consideration of future impacts from climate change and sea level rise while providing visitor access to the site.

Please Join Us for a Virtual or In-Person Meeting

Please join us to learn more about this project and the potential options for preservation of the Ocracoke Light Station. You are invited to attend either a virtual or an in-person meeting option to hear more about this project. For both formats, Seashore staff will present information on the proposed project, with an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation. The in-person meeting will be held at the barn at Berkley Manor, on Ocracoke Island, NC, where adequate ventilation will be provided, and cloth face coverings will be required to be worn for everyone's safety. For the virtual meeting, we ask that you log in several minutes in advance to ensure you have a good connection and are ready to access the meeting when it begins. We hope you can join us!

In-Person Meeting:

Date/Time: May 6, 2021 at 1:30 - 2:30 pm
Location: Berkley Barn at Berkley Manor
58 Water Plant Rd
Ocracoke, NC 27960

Virtual Meeting:

Date/Time: May 10, 2021 at 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Link: [Ocracoke Light Station Civic Engagement Meeting](#)
Audio only: 202-640-1187
Conference ID: 38403551#



This figure presents the current features of the Ocracoke Light Station, as well as the buildings present during the 1823-1854 Period of Interpretation.

Site Preservation Ideas

Option 1 – Repair storm damage and preserve the site as-is.

Option 2 – Repair storm damage, replace existing shotcrete at lighthouse with historic parge coat, and elevate all structures, except the lighthouse.

Option 3 – Remove the Keeper’s Quarters 1929 Addition and restore/rehabilitate the Keeper’s Quarters using as many original features (e.g., bricks) from the house as possible; restore/rehabilitate the Light Station structures and site to the 1823-1854 Period of Interpretation; and elevate all structures, except the lighthouse. Restoration/rehabilitation to the 1823-1854 Period of Interpretation would include:

- Replacing existing shotcrete at lighthouse with historic parge coat and exposing original stone foundation at lighthouse.
- Replacing existing metal spiral stair case with historically accurate wood staircase.
- Remove other structures except for the 1823 privy.

Option 4 – Relocate the lighthouse and the Keeper’s Quarters to a higher elevation, more storm- and flood-resistant location on Ocracoke Island.

How to Comment

Public participation is an important element of the planning process, and we welcome your ideas, concerns, suggestions, and potential topics for consideration.

Please share your comments no later than May 28, 2021 online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CAHA> or mail your comments to:

Superintendent
 Attn: Ocracoke Light Station
 1401 National Park Drive
 Manteo, NC 27954



Ocracoke Light Station, 1893

You should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. You may request that the NPS withhold your name and/or address from public disclosure. If you wish to do this, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment and make such a request by checking the box “keep my contact information private” on the website. The NPS will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law, but individuals should be aware that the NPS may still be required to disclose personal identifying information.