



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE . Hansville, WA 98340 . Ph: 415-362-7255 . www.USLHS.org



STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB

Number 47 - May 2024

Website: www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club

Email: passportclub@uslhs.org

Spring Has Sprung and Summer is Coming!

The northern states have warmed up and we are looking forward to another year of chasing lighthouses. As you head out to fill up your passports you will note that a number of existing locations have stamps with new designs. This is necessary when older designs are no longer available and new ones need to be created. Additional new designs are necessary when we add a brand new location to our list of participating lighthouses. On the flip side we have several stamps that, for various reasons, are no longer available. In any case, there continue to be more and more opportunities to build your collection.

Location Information Accuracy

We are working on getting updated information for the more than 700 stamps in our portfolio. As you can imagine this is a huge undertaking for our **volunteers** who often have to make multiple attempts to obtain updated information from each location. Many staff, email, website and other changes occur every year, some of which occur after we have verified the current information. Even if we achieve 97% accuracy, more than 20 entries would not be up to date. Therefore, since it is not possible for us to physically visit each location, those of you who do make these visits become our eyes and ears in the field. We appreciate you letting us know about issues you encounter and you can be assured that we follow up on all of your emails.

New Participating Stamp Locations

Cranberry Island Life Saving Station, Maine

It has been a while since we have added a life-saving station to our stamp list, but that has changed with the addition of the Cranberry Island Life Saving Station. The station was established in 1879 and is in its original location. It was closed in 1946. The design of the stamp is similar to the other stamps in the life saving collection. It will be available from the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company.





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South Fox Island, Michigan

The South Fox Light Station, located in northwest Lake Michigan is a very complete station which includes: The original tower (1867), fog signal building & oil house (1895), a skeletal tower (moved from Sapelo Island - 1934) and a two story assistant keepers house (1910). We now welcome this site to our long list of Michigan locations that participate in the Passport Stamp Program.

The stamp is somewhat unusual since it depicts both of the lights that are currently present on the island. It will be available at the lighthouse and on tours.



New Stamp Designs

South Manitou Island, Michigan

According to Native American legend, North and South Manitou Island were created when two bear cubs drown trying to swim across Lake Michigan.

The mother bear made it and became sleeping bear dunes and one of only four National Lakeshores in the country. A new stamp has been created for the South Manitou Island Lighthouse. The stamp listed on our website as Design #2 can be obtained either at the lighthouse itself or on the island at the South Manitou Island Visitors Center.

It will no longer be available at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center for Sleeping Bear Dunes.

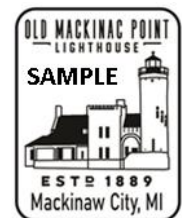


Burnt Island, Maine

Since this stamp went rogue a new stamp is now available for the Burnt Island Lighthouse in Maine. Located at the western entrance to Boothbay Harbor, this light station is run by the Maine Department of Marine Resources. It is the second oldest lighthouse in Maine and got its name because the island's vegetation was burned to keep the land clear for sheep grazing?

Old Mackinac Lighthouse, MI

Built in 1889, the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse guided ships through the Straits of Mackinac. This is a very complete light station with movies, tours, a museum and a fog signal whistle demonstration are all available along with a newly designed passport stamp.



Anniversary Stamps

Ludington North Breakwater & Little Sable Point, Michigan

The Sable Point Light Keepers Association has added two new anniversary stamps to their regular stamp collection. The first is for the 100 year anniversary for the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse and the second is for the 150 year anniversary of the Little Sable Point Lighthouse.

Hereford Inlet, New Jersey

The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was first activated in May, 1874 marking an entrance to calmer waters between barrier islands off the coast of New Jersey. The lighthouse is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year by creating an anniversary stamp which is now available.



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Unavailable/Lost/Missing stamps

Point Adams Lighthouse and Life Saving Station, Oregon

The two stamps for Point Adams (Lighthouse and Life-Saving Station) are currently not available at Fort Stevens. However, the same stamps can be obtained at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria.

Oakland Harbor Lighthouse, California

Quinn's restaurant in Oakland, previous location for this stamp, has closed after 40 years in business. The whereabouts and future availability of the stamp is not currently known.

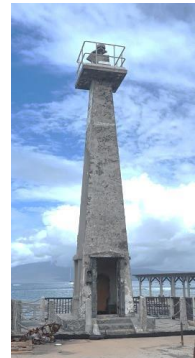
Point Hueneme, California

This stamp has been unavailable for some time and we have decided to remove it from our current list of locations. It will be added back if and when it once again becomes available to the public.

Added Location

Update on Lahaina Lighthouse

As most of you know, Lahaina Lighthouse on Maui survived the devastating fires that destroyed most of the area around it in the summer of 2023. The photo here was taken May 13th. The tower despite being damaged still stands but the stamp and passports they had burned in the fire. They will be receiving a new stamp very soon and if you don't have this stamp, how about sending a donation to get it. It is the same design as the one that was lost but this is an opportunity to help in some small way. Send your request with an SASE, something to stamp and your donation to: Lighthouse Stamp Request, Lahaina Restoration Foundation, PO Box 294, Puunene, HI 96784.



Grand Haven Lighthouse, Michigan

A stamp for Grand Haven lighthouse has been available at the Convention & Visitors Bureau. Now an older stamp for the lighthouse is available at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven. We originally replaced this stamp with a newer one for the Visitors Bureau and their older stamp found its way to the Museum. So, when you are in Grand Haven, be sure to check out both locations.

Donations for Stamps

From its very inception, the Passport Program has encouraged collectors to make a donation each time they receive a stamp. Initially, the suggested amount was \$1, but more recently we have requested that you consider a \$2 donation. However, the stamps are the property of the location holding them and, as a result, they are free to encourage or charge any amount they wish. Some do not ask for a donation, others cannot accept them for a variety of reasons. Most simply request the two dollars. One thing that should be made clear is when a donation is requested, it should be for EACH stamp or copy of a stamp requested. This is especially true for those using the by mail option. The amount of money each lighthouse receives is not that great, but when you consider the number of passports out there and the number of stamps available, the aggregate donations are substantial.



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Stamp Collecting Tips

Seasoned stamp collections have provided us with some tips about stamp collecting and what you might want to have with you on your journeys. First bring your own ink pad to use in place of the one they have at the lighthouse. These are often dried up and low on ink. The image you get may not be clear. You might also carry some 3x5 cards that you can stamp and later paste in your passport. Again, this can assure you that the image is clear. Finally, some folks carry a *non-alcoholic* baby wipe which can be used to clean the stamp provided. This also helps get you that clear image.

Electronic Submissions of Complete Passports

Remember that we will no longer accept printed copies of pages sent via the U.S. Post Office. Scan or take photos of the pages and **submit the completed passport electronically to the Passport Club email** (passportclub@uslhs.org) if you wish to obtain your patches and wings. Please do not submit them to info@uslhs.org.