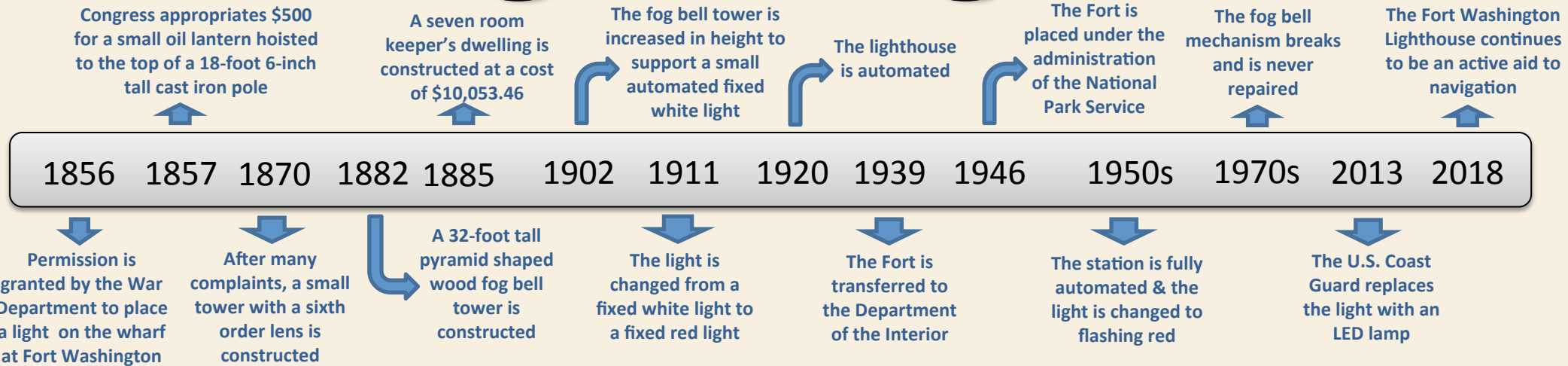


Fort Washington Lighthouse



Fort Washington Lighthouse-2013
Lighthousefriends.com Photo



- Fort Washington is located on the east side of the Potomac River within a curve of the Potomac, so therefore a light was needed to mark the land that protruded into ship's pathways.
- The 32-foot 8-inch tall tower sits on four brick foundation piers, 13 foot square at the base and 4-foot square at the top. It is built using post and beam construction with diagonal bracing and tie rods at each floor level. Inside, there is a wood stairway with one landing. It was constructed at the Lazaretto Depot in Baltimore, Maryland.
- In 1900 the Lighthouse Board requested \$1,600 to build a new tower, but the request was denied. Instead, they increased the fog bell tower height to house a light. This was meant to be a temporary fix, but a replacement tower was never built.
- Approximately 100 wooden fog bell towers were built in the United States & Fort Washington is one of approximately 12 that survived. It was very unusual for a small tower to support both a light & fog bell.



Fort Washington Lighthouse - 1913
U.S. Coast Guard Photo



Fort Washington Lighthouse - 1960
U.S. Coast Guard Photo

Historical display provided in 2018 by the Chesapeake Chapter of the United States Lighthouse Society, cheslights.org

Designed by CCUSLHS Historian Jennifer C. Jones