

S-425

Solomons Lump Light Station

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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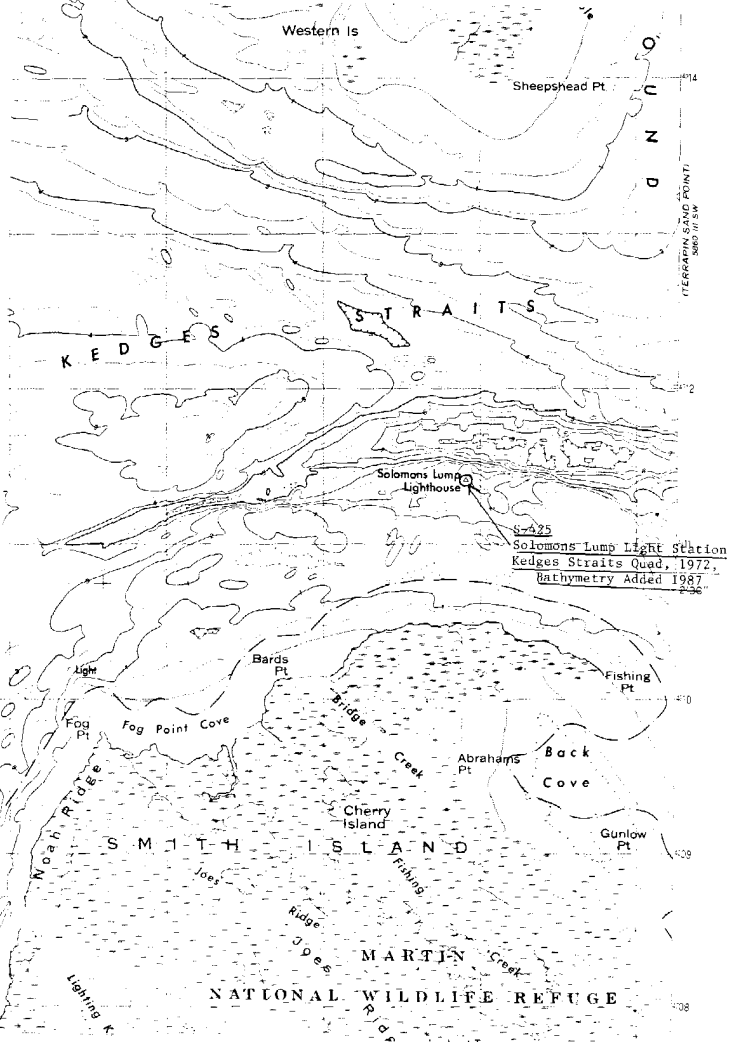
Solomons Lump

The present lighthouse is the second to stand on Solomons Lump, a shallow spot in Kedges Strait north of Smith Island, near the middle of the Bay. The first lighthouse was built in 1875 to take the place of Fog Point lighthouse, on Smith Island, which was discontinued at the same time. It was a small screwpile light, built at a cost of \$15,000.

In January, 1893, it succumbed to the pressures of heavy ice, was sheared off its foundation, tipped over, and was carried away. The keepers escaped unhurt to Smith Island, less than 1,000 yards away. If fire or high winds and water were feared by lighthouse keepers in other parts of the country, ice was the greatest enemy of the lighthouses in the Chesapeake, and dozens were destroyed or damaged during heavy winters.

Construction of a new lighthouse began the following year, and on September 30, 1895, a 47-foot caisson tower, sunk in seven feet of water, was commissioned. The caisson is 25 feet in diameter, and the keeper's quarters were octagonal. The lighthouse was automated in 1950 and shows a flashing white light every six seconds.





**Solomons
Lump**

De Gast, Robert
1973 *The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake*. Baltimore: Johns
Hopkins University Press.