



LIGHTSHIP

CHESAPEAKE

Welcome Aboard the

A proud ship with a NEW MISSION

Lightships were essentially floating lighthouses. Anchored in waters where other types of navigation aids were impractical, they marked major shipping channels and harbor entrances. A welcome sight to ships' captains for many years, these vessels were easily identified by their bright red hulls, the name of their duty station painted on the side in large white letters, and the beacon lantern atop the mainmast. Gradually, however, lightships have become victims of technology. Most of those that used to dot the United States seaboard have been replaced with modern, automated "super buoys," or steel tower structures. Thus, it was after 40 years of distinguished service that Lightship 116, the CHESAPEAKE, was retired in 1971 and transferred to the National Park Service for conversion to a floating environmental awareness site. When refurbishing of the ship was completed at the Washington Navy Yard in the fall of 1972, the CHESAPEAKE moved to her permanent mooring site off of the East Potomac Park in the Washington Channel.

The ship is open to the public for tours and used by area educational institutions as a resource to supplement their classroom curriculum in a wide range of nautical and environmental areas. The program is designed to increase the students' awareness and involvement in their environment.

METROPOLITAN AREA ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS have a unique opportunity to systematically experience the confined spaces of the ship and its relationship to the openness of the Potomac River environment. This in-depth approach helps students gain an insight into the interactions and interdependencies of the aquatic environment. Local colleges participate through independent projects in ecology and environmental education. The ship is still completely operational and at times goes underway for specially designed awareness programs. The CHESAPEAKE has been designated as a National Environmental Study Area (NESA).

The PUBLIC is invited to tour the ship's facilities and experience a little known but integral part of nautical American History.

Admission is free.

WELCOME ABOARD
THURS. — SUN.
10 A.M. — 4 P.M.
SOFT SOLED SHOES
RECOMMENDED

Lightship Chesapeake

Service CAREER

- 1930 Built in Charleston, South Carolina, for the Bureau of Lighthouses and designated LS 116. Maiden voyage on August 17, from Charleston to Norfolk. First duty station: Fenwick Island, Delaware.
- 1933 July 17, began 29 years of service off the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.
- 1939 Lighthouse Service absorbed into the U.S. Coast Guard. Ship redesignated WLV 538 (although rotating through various duty stations which changed the name of the ship, vessels retained their original number designations).
- 1940 Pressed into service by the U.S. Navy during World War II and activated off Sandwich, Massachusetts. Relieved in 1945, she returned to the Chesapeake Bay station.
- 1962 CHESAPEAKE's pilot house severely damaged by the force of 75-foot waves of a hurricane.
- 1965 Replaced at Chesapeake Bay station by platform light; moved to entrance of Delaware Bay assuming the name DELAWARE.
- 1971 Decommissioned by the U.S. Coast Guard; transferred to the National Park Service.

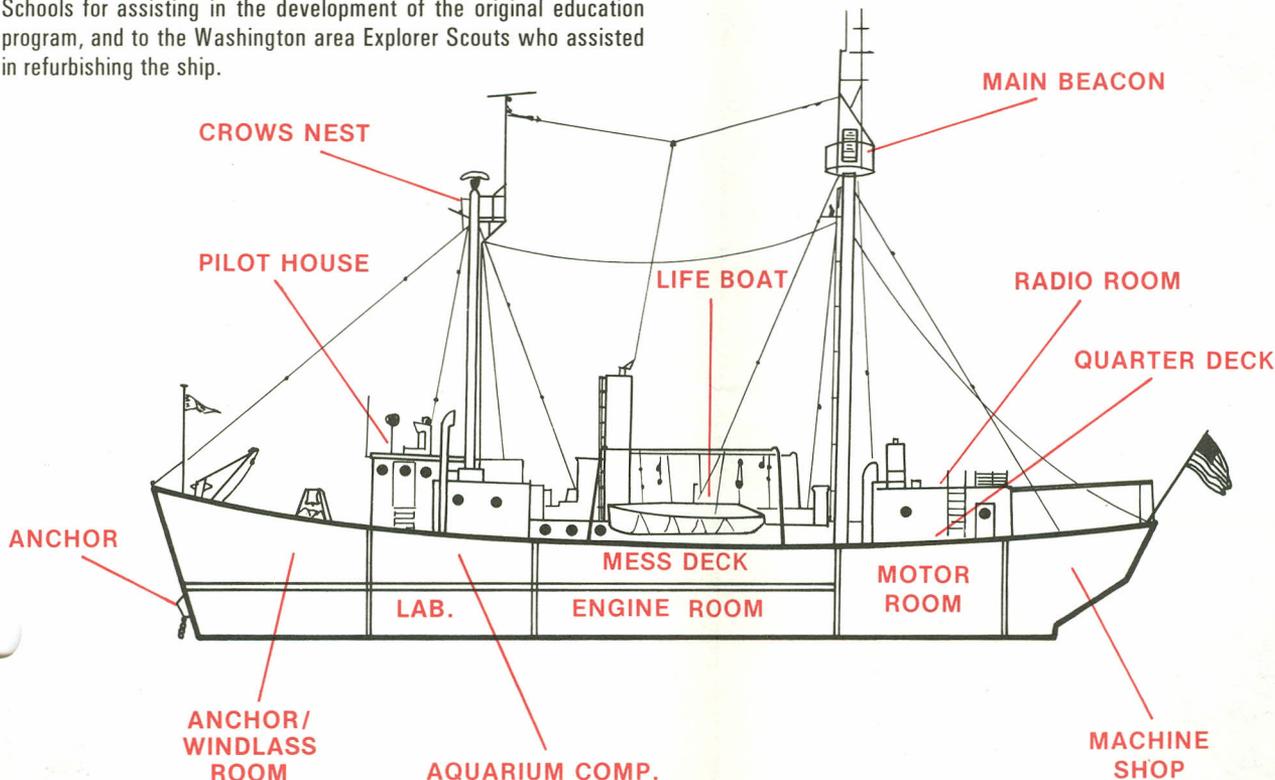
Special recognition is given to the District of Columbia Public Schools for assisting in the development of the original education program, and to the Washington area Explorer Scouts who assisted in refurbishing the ship.

Distinguishing CHARACTERISTICS

The CHESAPEAKE was designed for maximum seaworthiness while riding at anchor under high wind and sea conditions. Her high bow, rounded stern, and high freeboard (sides) are characteristic of her class of ships. Other unique features include the "mushroom" anchor in the bow near the waterline and the double lantern atop the masthead. While on station, the CHESAPEAKE also collected meteorological and oceanographic data.

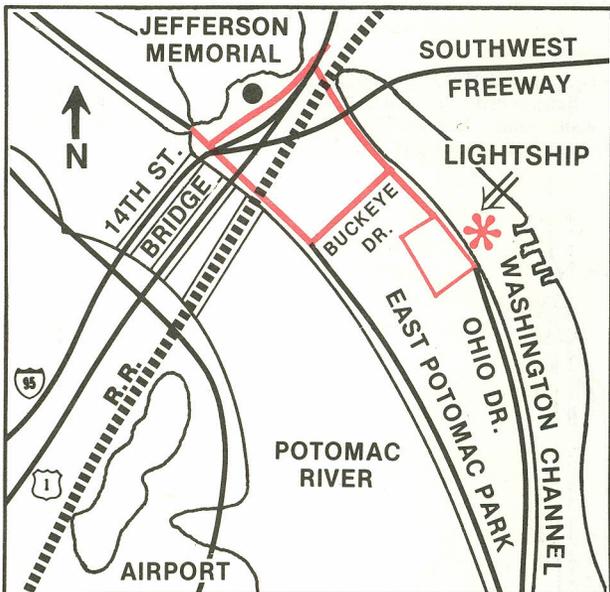
Length:	133'3"
Beam:	30'
Draft:	Loaded—12' forward, 13'9" aft
Displacement:	630 gross tons
Propulsion:	Diesel electric, 350 horsepower
Maximum speed:	9 knots
Berths:	Staterooms—(1) Captain, (4) Ship's officers and (12) Crew

The Lightship CHESAPEAKE is administered by the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. For additional information, write: National Capital Region, Lightship CHESAPEAKE, 1200 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20242; or call (202) 426-6896.





LOCATION



The CHESAPEAKE is easily accessible from Interstate Rt. 95 and Washington's Southwest Freeway via Potomac Park Exits. It is within minutes of the Jefferson Memorial.



GPO 915-809

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Lightship Chesapeake
1200 Ohio Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20242

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

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Clara Y. Young

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