

## Docent Briefing Information

# Turn Point Keepers' Quarters

### General

The keepers' quarters were designed by famed lighthouse architect Carl W. Leick in the early 1890s. The u-shaped structure is an excellent, surviving example of the Late Victorian/Queen Anne style of architecture. Booker and Shahan were the successful bidders to construct it. They started construction in March 1893 and proceeded as fast as the weather permitted. The building was complete in July 1893.

The first residents were keeper A. F. Allen and assistant keeper Mr. Latta. The station was commissioned on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1893.

The building was originally built as a duplex for two families. Water was collected from the roof and stored in redwood tanks on each side of the building. Earth closets and outhouses were used initially. The building was converted to a triplex in the early 1950s to house three Coast Guard families.

When the Lighthouse Service manned the facility, the head keeper's family occupied one side of the duplex. During the Coast Guard era, the Officer in Charge occupied the south unit.

Lead paint was used for many years. In most cases, the lead has been sealed by encapsulation. Floors have been covered with a layer of plywood and vinyl. In a few cases, the lead paint was removed. Asbestos has been removed from areas open to the public.

When providing period furnishings, TPLPS and BLM chose 1950. What you see is what it might have looked like if you were there in 1950.

### Unit #1

#### Entry Hallway

The original front entry door had 5 wood panels surrounded by glass panes. Inside the door was an entry hallway with a staircase leading to the second story. The floor was originally oiled wood that was later painted. The current floor consists of vinyl resembling wood over 3/8" plywood. The staircase was

vandalized and only two newel posts remained. It was totally restored by TPLPS in 2015. The entry closet and linen closet were added by the Coast Guard in the early 1950s. An access door to a small basement containing a propane furnace is located under the stairs.

### **Sitting Room**

The sitting room originally featured a wood stove and double windows looking to the west. Lath and plaster was used on the walls and ceiling. Much of it exists today but required major repairs in 2006. The floor was originally oiled wood but was later painted. Linoleum was also used on the floor. The present floor is also vinyl over plywood. Keepers brought their own furniture. Kerosene lamps were used until 1925 when electricity was first provided.

### **Dining Room**

The dining room had double windows and a wood stove. Keepers brought their own tables and chairs. Presently, the floor is similar to the sitting room but recently had to have hazardous asbestos tile removed.

### **Kitchen**

The kitchen had a cook stove and sink. The stoves used wood, coal, and oil and were later replaced by electric. Water for the sink came from the redwood tanks outside and used gravity to feed water as long as the water level in the tank was above the faucet. After that water had to be packed indoors. Until 1959 the power was 120 Volts DC. Keepers that brought a refrigerator had to have it converted from AC only. The counters had "battleship" linoleum surfaces that were in sad condition. TPLPS replaced the linoleum in 2015.

### **Pantry/Bathroom**

The small room off the kitchen was used as the pantry until the early 1950s. When the Coast Guard remodeled the building, it became a half bathroom as a full bathroom was made on the second floor. Shelves in the hallway off the kitchen became the pantry.

## **Wood Shed/Utility Room**

The one story extension off the back of the building was used as a wood shed until 1921 and housed an earth closet. An earth closet is basically an indoor outhouse. It was located in the right rear corner. A large bucket was slid under a toilet seat through a door on the back of the building. Once full it was taken to the garden for composting. In 1921 concrete bunkers were constructed behind the building and the wood and coal storage was moved. A full bathroom was made in the front left corner. When the Coast Guard added a bathroom upstairs and converted the pantry, this bathroom was removed and the whole area was used as a utility room with wash machine, laundry trays, and even a TV.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Bedrooms**

There are three bedrooms; two large and one small. The two large ones look like they did 100 years ago with the exception of the plywood and vinyl on the floors. The small one was reduced in size to make a bathroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

## **Closet/Bathroom**

The upstairs bathroom was added by the Coast Guard in the early 1950s. Prior to that it was a closet for the smaller bedroom and had an access into the attic. When the bathroom was added, the closet area was increased by decreasing the size of the bedroom.

## **Hall Closet (Store Room)**

Off the upstairs hallway is a storage area labeled store room on the original plans. Other than a light fixture, little has changed.

## **Unit #2**

Until 1950 unit #2 was a mirror image of unit #1. The Coast Guard made extensive changes to the first floor and used the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to make unit #3. The dining room was converted to a bedroom. The wood shed area was made into a second bedroom. The pantry was made into a full bathroom. This unit was occupied by the Engineer and his family.

### **Unit #3**

A new entry door was added to the front of the building that accessed the stairway directly. The front bedroom was converted to a living room. The back bedroom was converted to a kitchen. The third bedroom was made into a bathroom. A staircase was made to access the attic where three bedrooms were made. This unit was occupied by the Seaman and his family.

### **Future Plans**

Unit #1 is mostly the way it will be for the near future. If we find better, more representative furnishings, then we will upgrade. We would like to make unit #2 or possibly unit #3 a place for our docents to reside. The other unit could be rented out for a week at a time to lightkeepers. Both of these ideas have been proposed as part of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) that is being done by BLM. Even if included in the plan, it will take years and many dollars to make it happen. A source of water needs to be found and a septic system installed. The building would need to be rewired.