



NMI photo

# Introduction

**Figure 1.** Conducting a condition assessment at Cove Point Light Station, near Lusby, Maryland, in 1995.

The *Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook* was created through a cooperative partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the Department of Defense (DoD). The *Handbook* addresses preservation issues related to historic lighthouses with an emphasis on the maintenance problems associated with the many different materials and construction techniques used in these unique structures. **Historic Lighthouse Preservation** (Part IV) includes data gathered from condition assessments and historic significance evaluations at 21 light stations around the country as well as information from applicable NPS guidance, USCG files, and material generated by non-profit groups, museums, and architectural and engineering firms. **Beyond Basic Preservation** (Part V) includes case studies reflecting lighthouse rehabilitation and restoration projects as well as related activities.

The *Handbook* is a compilation of lighthouse preservation issues, successful lighthouse maintenance solutions and lessons learned in

lighthouse preservation procedures and techniques. The partners in the development of this *Handbook* recognize that the preservation of each lighthouse property must take into account its intended use, the resources available to the property owner or manager, and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. The *Handbook* is intended to be used as a reference to identify lighthouse preservation needs and develop appropriate solutions. Use of this Handbook for regulatory or oversight purposes would not be appropriate.

Production of the *Handbook* has been coordinated by the National Maritime Initiative, a program within the NPS National Register, History, and Education Programs. Compilation of the technical sections was undertaken by the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center (formerly the Williamsport Preservation Training Center) with substantial support and assistance by the USCG. Other major portions were provided through a

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## Note to Readers

The information presented in this *Handbook* is designed to be used by historic lighthouse managers as a reference to guide them through the process of preserving their historic lighthouse. Most sections are generally self-explanatory, however, Part IV., **Historic Lighthouse Preservation** may require some additional guidance to be used effectively.

The information in Part IV is designed to be referenced in either a general or a specific fashion. When planning a preservation treatment for a lighthouse, refer to the sections relating to the lighthouse construction material—masonry, iron, wood or concrete. In addition to information relating to treatments for each construction type, the text will guide you through an inspection

procedure designed to identify potential problems associated with each. The inspection may indicate problems with components not specific to the construction type. For preservation treatments of these specific components refer to the sections on windows, doors, lanterns, interiors, and grounds.

Some information in each of the construction material sections appears to be repetitive; this is intentional. Although the material looks similar, it has been designed to include the specific details associated with each construction material. The intent of this organizational method is to provide “one stop shopping” for the lighthouse manager concerning his or her particular lighthouse. For example, the lighthouse manager responsible for a wood lighthouse may not be particularly concerned with the nuances of the preservation treatments required for a masonry lighthouse, and vice versa. This should not limit the *Handbook*, however, from being used as a general reference for historic lighthouse preservation.

As in any profession, the development of technology in the preservation field is continually evolving. A handbook of this type has inherent limitations and cannot be expected to be the complete and final authority on any matter. If when using this handbook questions arise that are beyond the scope of this document, it is strongly recommended that the advice of an experienced preservation professional is obtained.