



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

The Lighthouse Service in The American State Papers, 1793–1820

The *American State Papers* is a compilation of Congressional documents covering the period 1789 to 1838. The destruction of the Capitol in 1814 as well as the lack of adequate recordkeeping in the early Congresses heightened the interest of Congress in publishing the records of the Senate and House in an organized and accessible form. In an Act of March 2, 1831, Congress made provision to publish executive and legislative writings from the first 13 Congresses in order to preserve them for the public.

Commerce and Navigation (Class IV)

The two volumes in this class include documents pertaining to lighthouses from 1789 to 1823. Both volumes have an index.

Of particular note, Volume II contains a chart (pages 459–460) listing lighthouses constructed between 1795 and 1820 in Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia. The chart includes the name of each lighthouse; its location; the year it was erected; the construction cost; and remarks. For many lighthouses, the chart includes the cost of the land.

Miscellaneous (Class X)

The two volumes in this class include a small amount of correspondence concerning lighthouses; both volumes have an index and include some names of lighthouse service employees.

Volume I contains two 1793 lists: “Superintendents of Lighthouses, Beacons, Buoys, Public Piers, and Steakage” (page 67); and “Lighthouse Keepers” (page 68). Both lists include the employee’s name; where he was stationed; and compensation.

Volume II contains an 1816 list of “Superintendents and Keepers of Lighthouses” (pages 324–325). The list includes the employee’s name; the state or country where he was born; and where he was employed.

How to Locate the American State Papers

Published government documents are usually available at large university or public libraries, and at U.S. Government Depository Libraries. To identify a local depository library, go to the Government Printing Office web site at <http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp> and select the link to “FDLP Public Page.” These volumes are also available online on the Library of Congress web site at: <http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html>.

For more information, see the following reference report: *Lighthouse Service Employees, 1801–1912*

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