Admiralty Head Lighthouse

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The Admiralty Head Lighthouse, built in 1903 is located at Fort Casey State Park near Coupeville on Whidbey Island. This lighthouse was initially named after the Admiralty inlet from the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Designed by the U.S. Lighthouse Board architect Carl W. Leick whose motto was “Build ‘em stout and make ‘em last” (McClary, 2004). He created a California Spanish-style lighthouse standing at 30 feet which was very important for navigating ships that were entering the inlet.

The keepers residence which was two story included three upstairs bedrooms, dining and living rooms. Captain C. H. Davis and his second wife Delia were the first individuals to be the keepers of the lighthouse. They both were the keepers until he passed on January 8, 1914 and eventually was replaced by Edward Scannell. During World War l Fort Casey was used only for a training center for soldiers and never actually saw combat. By the 1920’s sailing ships were beginning to be replaced by steamships and the lighthouse was starting to become unnecessary. On July 1, 1922, after only 19 years of being used, it was officially decommissioned. The last person who was taking care of the lighthouse was Harry “Doc” Kistenmacher, who was an army sergeant at Fort Casey. The lighthouse actually stood vacant until World War ll when the Army decided to reopen and use it as a training facility. On December 12, 1973, the National Park Service listed Whidbey Island on the National Register as an Historic District. Admiralty Head was one of three sites used in the construction of the Puget Sound Defenses; these three locations alone were responsible for protecting/navigating the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Without the defense systems and these navigation tools then the Puget Sound would have been at a serious chance of being attacked or invaded by the enemy. (Word Count: 325)

Links:<https://www.historylink.org/File/5710>

<https://parks.wa.gov/about/news-center/field-guide-blog/washingtons-coastal-and-island-lighthouses>