

# CHICAMACOMICO LIFESAVING STATION



## *roots* of the US Coast Guard

Home to original station boat from the Mirlo rescue, Surfboat 1046. Site is one of only two 1874 "Coast Guard" buildings left in US, open to the public. First station built in North Carolina. Also has 1911-era station original to Chicamacomico, and together with several outbuildings, makes it likely most complete US Life-Saving Service complex in existence. Lots of artifacts and life circa early 1900's at Cape Hatteras.

## *historic* Save

Crew of the most highly-awarded maritime rescue in US history, August 16, 1918. World War I British fuel tanker Mirlo torpedoed by German submarine U-117. Local surfmen launch rescue boat into burning ocean; 42 of 51 sailors rescued.

*"Think of them as the original EMT's of the Atlantic, working through the worst weather, the biggest waves, and the cruelest wars on the water."*



## beach Apparatus Drill

Still perform erstwhile “Beach Apparatus Drill” during summer program, performed by volunteer active-duty US Coast Guard.

It the largest, most complete USLSS complex in the nation with one of the few USLSS sites in the nation with all its original buildings.

All buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, it is one of 39 destinations listed by the Outer Banks Scenic Byways.



## chica-WHAT?

Same folks, two titles. US Life-Saving Service from 1874-1915, and US Coast Guard from 1915-1954 when it was decommissioned. Chicamacomico was the original “Algonkian” name for the northern Hatteras community, before US Postal Service renamed village Rodanthe, NC in 1874.

Today’s Rodanthe, NC, is yesterday’s Chicamacomico, the Algonquin word supposedly meaning “sinking down sand,” Chicamacomico. and dozens of derivations: Chickony-Commock, Chichinnacomoc, Chick, have been used to describe the northernmost end of Hatteras Island — the Chicamacomico Banks.



### fun Facts

- It sits at the most eastern point in North Carolina.
- Has one of only two 1874 USLSS stations in the nation open to the public.
- Was the first operational station in North Carolina.
- Now the only USLSS site in the state open to the public as a museum.