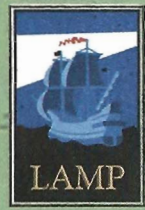


Visitor Guide Map

****Numbers Signify Self-guided Tour Stops****

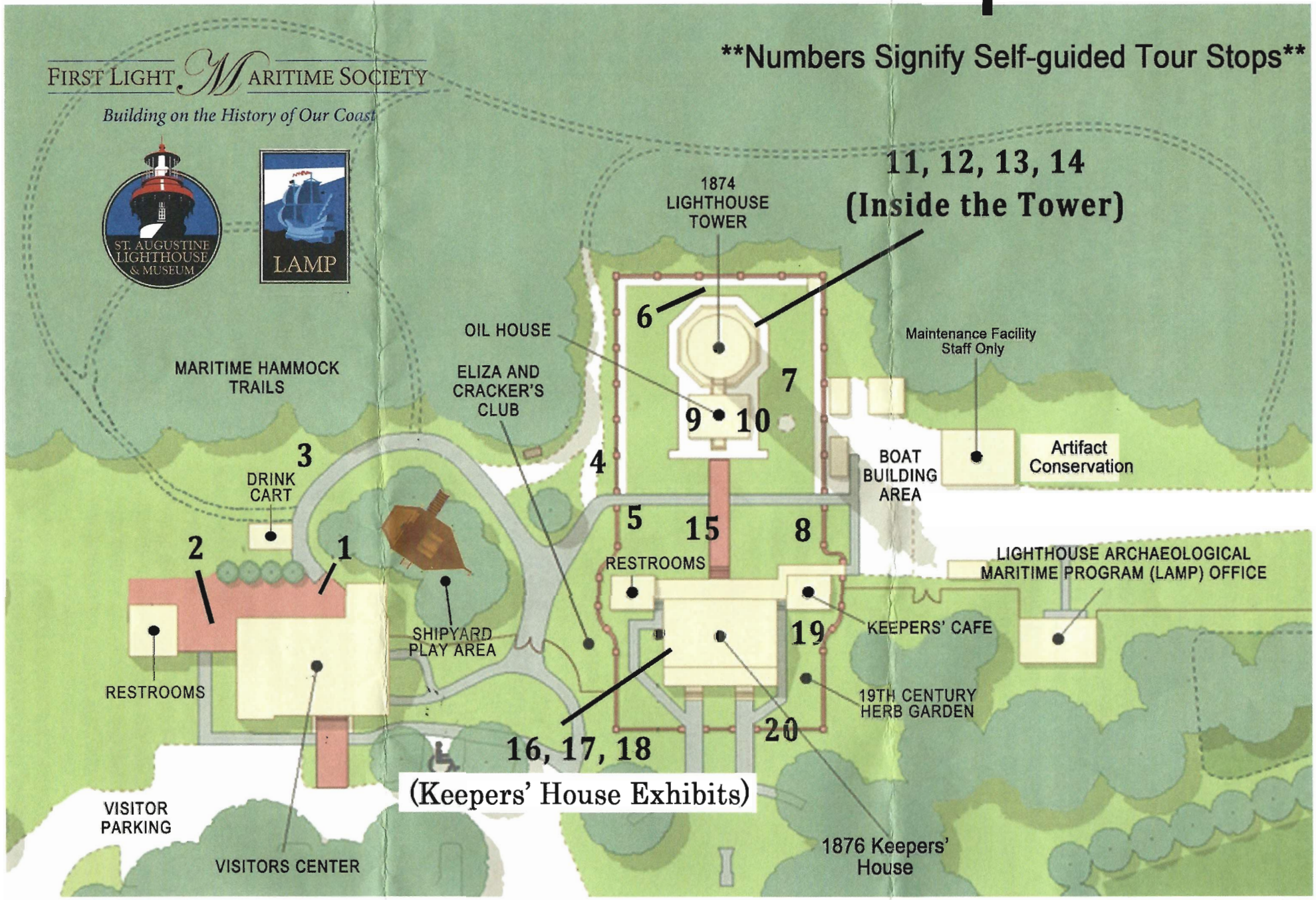
FIRST LIGHT MARITIME SOCIETY

Building on the History of Our Coast



**11, 12, 13, 14
(Inside the Tower)**

**16, 17, 18
(Keepers' House Exhibits)**



****Numbers Signify Self-guided Tour Stops****

This guide follows the numbered tour stops located throughout the site. Feel free to wander the site and learn more about our history one step at a time. You can nominate one person in your group to read aloud from the guide or take turns so everyone gets a chance to share!

1. Welcome

Welcome to the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, the region's premier maritime history, research, and education organization. During your visit, enjoy all we have to offer.

Climb the lighthouse and enjoy the view from 140 ft above the city. Visit the Keepers' House where exhibits detail the lives of the men and women who worked and lived at the light station. View authentic shipwreck artifacts, and see wooden boats being built in our heritage boatworks.

2. Shrimping Industry

The shrimping and boatbuilding industry was an economic boon to St. Augustine during the 20th century. Immigrant shrimping families found St. Augustine, with its mild climate and bountiful waters, a prime location for the fishing and shrimping they had done for generations. In addition to shrimping, they built wooden shrimp boats and drove demand for shrimp throughout the country.

3. Maritime Hammock

This type of overgrown beach dune covered most of Anastasia Island during the early years of the lighthouse. It evolved from a sand dune into a habitat capable of supporting plant and animal life.

Early in the history of the lighthouse, there were no bridges from the mainland and little development on the island. The maritime hammock and the surrounding water isolated the lighthouse and the families who lived here.

4. Back to 1888

Built in the 1870s, the lighthouse, to your left, and keepers' house, to your right, are restored and interpreted to their late 19th century appearance. William Harn was the head lighthouse keeper at the time and lived in the north half of the keepers' house with his wife and five daughters.

Harn saw much change in his time as lighthouse keeper including the construction of the two kitchens on either side of the keepers' house and the requirement that lighthouse keepers wear

uniforms. As a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg among other places, Harn was at home in uniform. Make sure to visit the keepers' house to see a U.S. Lighthouse Service uniform.

5. The Keepers' Families

Lighthouse keepers lived at the St. Augustine Lightstation with their families, who were responsible for daily chores in addition to serving as tour guides for visitors. The lighthouse keepers, in addition to tending the lighthouse, had to maintain signal buoys and channel markers, and attempted to rescue shipwrecked sailors.

The keepers' wives did the cooking and sewing necessary to feed and clothe their families while the children pitched in maintaining the grounds and helping their mothers. Keepers' wives and children over 12 were also required to know how to run the site in the absence of the keepers.

6. Building and Maintenance

Finished in 1874, it took three years and over one million bricks to construct the St. Augustine Lighthouse and outfit it with its distinctive paintjob. The current lighthouse replaced an old Spanish lighthouse constructed in 1737 out of an existing watchtower.

Beach erosion threatened the old lighthouse so the Lighthouse Board decided to build a modern aid-to-navigation capable of providing a brighter beacon visible up to 25 miles away on a clear night.

7. Things Unseen

Sidewalks that end into the grass, crumbling bricks – all are clues to a time when other buildings stood in the lighthouse courtyard. A kerosine storage house and a tool shed stood at the ends of the walkways that now end into the grass. A well was located on the north side of the lighthouse.

Clues like the sidewalks and the remnants of the well provide hints about the light station's previous structures. Other features of the courtyard have changed too. Can you find where the two outhouses used to be?

8. Military Heritage

The earliest Spanish settlers in St. Augustine recognized the need for a watchtower on Anastasia Island to serve as a lookout for hostile ships. Francis Drake, the British privateer, included a tower on his 1586 map. The watchtowers evolved into the first Spanish lighthouse and then into the tower we have today.

The U.S. Lighthouse Service became a part of the U.S. Coast Guard, in 1939, continuing to provide navigational aid and maritime security. They used the lighthouse tower as a lookout post for enemy ships and aircraft during World War II, when the presence of German submarines forced the keepers to dim the light.

9. Work of the Keeper

Try your hand at carrying the oil bucket. Now imagine carrying the bucket to the top of the tower. Whether it was carrying oil or kerosene up 219 steps, polishing the lens, or winding the clockwork mechanism that kept the lens rotating, a lighthouse keeper's job was never finished.

Surprise inspections kept the keepers in a constant state of readiness. Their livelihoods, and the lives of sailors off shore, depended on keeping the lighthouse running and maintained in excellent shape.

10. Restoration

The lighthouse keepers completed routine maintenance to ensure the light would burn continuously through the night. However, their work included more than just keeping the light burning.

In this room, you will find tools and materials the keepers used to maintain the entire light station. See if you can find the large panes of glass the keepers would use to repair the lantern and protect the lens.

11. Clockworks

Rotating the first order Fresnel lens required a clockwork mechanism with weights running down the center of the tower to the weight well at the bottom. A cable connected to gears at the top of the tower would attach the weight to the turning mechanism.

As the weight descended slowly, it would turn the gears, which would rotate the lens around the light source. As you ascend the

tower, note where the cable for the weight ran down the center of the tower.

12. The Ocean

The St. Augustine coastline is always shifting and eroding, creating new islands, and threatening structures built too close to the shore. The current lighthouse replaced a Spanish wood and coquina lighthouse that fell into the ocean in 1880 due to beach erosion.

The same tides that destroyed the first tower make having a lighthouse so necessary. For as long as ships have been entering and exiting St. Augustine harbor, they have been running aground on the unpredictable shoals. Lighthouses help boats navigate the treacherous waters off the coast.

13. The British Period

The Treaty of Paris in 1763 ended the Seven Years' War and awarded the Spanish colony of *La Florida* to Great Britain. The British added Florida to its original 13 colonies and began importing troops and colonists in an effort to populate their new colony. Florida spent just over 20 years as the 14th British colony, until the American Revolution forced them to give the colony back to Spain.

14. The View From the Top

You just climbed the St. Augustine Lighthouse! Enjoy the view! Sights from the top of the lighthouse include the Castillo de San Marcos, Flagler College, Vilano Beach, and the Bridge of Lions. Ask the staff member on site if you have any trouble locating your favorite St. Augustine landmark.

Be sure to take a look into the lens room where the lighthouse's original 1st order Fresnel lens is still rotating, ready to magnify the 1000-watt lightbulb into a signal visible from 25 miles away.

5. The Keepers' House

The building in front of you is the Keepers' House built in 1876. Because working the lighthouse at night was a full time job, keepers lived on site. The Head Keeper and Assistant Keeper lived in this Victorian duplex with their families and the 2nd Assistant Keeper lived in a room upstairs.

The two smaller buildings on either side of the house are the kitchens. Before indoor air conditioning and safe cooking techniques, kitchens were detached from house to protect it against the heat and fire.

6. Restoration Story

Look at the pictures in this hallway. Do you recognize the building you are standing in? By 1955, the lighthouse was automated and there was no need for keepers to live in this house. The keepers' house was unoccupied when an early morning fire broke out in 1970.

After years of neglect and the threat of demolition, the Junior Service League of St. Augustine signed a 99-year lease for the house in 1980 and restored the Keepers' House as a historic house museum.

7. The Cistern

A system of pipes and drains carried fresh rainwater from the roof to the cisterns, where the family could store and use the water as needed. Indoor plumbing was not available during construction and builders took measures to provide fresh water to the keepers and their families. The angled brick supports on either side of the cisterns are there to hold the walls up against the weight of 6000 gallons of water.

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18. Active Archaeology

The artifacts in this room, recovered from the 1764 wreck of the sloop *Industry*, tell the story of the British settlement of Florida. The Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) here at the lighthouse excavated the *Industry* site in the 1990s.

Industry was bringing supplies to the new British colony when it ran aground on the sand bars off St. Augustine. It brought tools and supplies the colonists would need, including construction materials like axe heads and cooking items like cauldrons.

19. Forces of Nature

Located on the Atlantic Coast, the St. Augustine Light Station and those who lived here, weathered hurricanes and even the occasional earthquake. Hurricane Dora in 1964 actually created a new piece of land between the lighthouse and the ocean. We know about these events because keepers recorded them in their logs.

Despite the natural disasters and the beach erosion that claimed the original Spanish tower, the current lighthouse is standing strong.

20. St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum

Thank you for visiting the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum. As we continue to serve people as a non-profit museum, know that you are doing your part to keep the story alive. Your admission dollars, purchases in the gift shop, and contributions allow us to continue the work we do today. Every dollar you spend contributes to the preservation and presentation of our rich history.

Perhaps most importantly, it funds the museum's ongoing work educating children and searching under the waves for clues to our undiscovered past. Thank you for coming and we hope to see you again – soon.