



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Station Brazos, Texas

Later named Station Port Isabel; renamed Station South Padre Island in 1998.

USLSS Station #6, Eighth District
Coast Guard Station #222

Location:	North end of Brazos Island, entrance to Brazos Santiago; 26-04' 00"N x 97-08' 00"W
Date of Conveyance	1879
Station Built:	1881 (?)
Fate:	Sold to Brownsville Navigation District in 1958

Remarks:

Station South Padre Island has had a life-saving presence along the Gulf of Mexico for the last 83 years. The original station, named Brazos Santiago, was established in 1881.

A lifesaving station was established on Boca Chica beach in 1918 and was named Station Brazos. A hurricane destroyed the station in 1919 and it was rebuilt by 1923 at a new location on the southern end of South Padre Island to a building that was used for 50 years.

The current station was constructed in 1974, which houses the main office spaces and duty crew berthing. Though the old building is still standing, it is now used as an annex for the University of Texas-Brownsville/Texas Southmost College. In 1998, Station Port Isabel was renamed to Station South Padre Island reflecting the island name and the actual geographic location of the station.

Keepers:

Charles L. Cardiff was appointed keeper on 30 December 1881 and was discharged on 5 September 1882.

Thomas W. Norman was appointed keeper on 5 September 1882 and transferred to Station San Luis on 24 November 1888.

Fenwick W. Thomas was appointed keeper on 1 December 1888 and declined the appointment on 29 December 1889.

John Flynn was appointed keeper on 1 February 1889 and resigned for physical reasons on 15 July 1904.

John Hangland was appointed keeper on 31 August 1904 and transferred to Station San Luis on 22 January 1906.

Wallace L. Reed was appointed keeper on 15 January 1906 and was still serving in 1929.

Photographs:



Original caption: "FRONT VIEW OF THE FINEST COAST GUARD STATION IN THE WORLD IF RIGID INSPECTION AND FIRST QUALITY OF MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP COUNT FOR ANYTHING [;] THE FINEST COAST GUARD STATION IN THE WORLD [;] 1923 [;] CONTRACT 92.24%COMPLETE."; Photo by J. C. Ocker, taken 4 July 1923; no photo number.



Original caption: "VIEW LOOKING FROM THE WEST 75.18% COMPLETED."; Photo by J. C. Ocker, taken 4 July 1923; no photo number.



Original caption: "Brazos Jan 1937 Looking N.E."; photographer unknown; no photo number.



STATION SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (FOR RELEASE)

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (Feb 7)--Co-located with the Coast Guard Cutter Amberjack, an 87-foot coastal patrol boat, at Station South Padre Island is the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team South Padre Island. USCG photo by PA2 James Dillard; dated 7 February 2001.



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SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (Feb 7)--Co-located with the Coast Guard Cutter Amberjack, an 87-foot coastal patrol boat, at Station South Padre Island is the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team South Padre Island. USCG photo by PA2 James Dillard; dated 7 February 2001.

Sources:

Station History File, CG Historian's Office

Dennis L. Noble & Michael S. Raynes. "Register of the Stations and Keepers of the U.S. Life-Saving Service." Unpublished manuscript, compiled circa 1977, CG Historian's Office collection.

Ralph Shanks, Wick York & Lisa Woo Shanks. *The U.S. Life-Saving Service: Heroes, Rescues and Architecture of the Early Coast Guard*. Petaluma, CA: Costañó Books, 1996.

U.S. Treasury Department: Coast Guard. *Register of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers and Cadets and Ships and Stations of the United States Coast Guard, July 1, 1941*. Washington, DC: USGPO, 1941.

