

# **THE CHICAMACOMICO LIFE-SAVING STATION HISTORIC SITE COMPLEX**

**~ Listed on the National Register of Historic Places ~**

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The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site is a seven-acre, eight-building museum complex, extending from NC Highway 12 to the Atlantic Ocean. It is located in the village of Rodanthe — Hatteras Island's northern-most village. It is considered one of most complete remaining U.S. Life-Saving Service complexes in the nation.

*It is pronounced "chick-a-ma-COM-i-co".*

The U.S. Life-Saving Service was a national organization dotting America's coastlines with the sole purpose of "rescuing those whose lives were in peril from the sea." These men were the original "storm warriors" and "rescue heroes." In 1915 the U.S. Life-Saving Service merged with the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service to form today's U.S. Coast Guard. Thus Chicamacomico was an active USLSS station from 1874 to 1915, and then continued as an active USCG station from 1915 to 1954 when it was decommissioned.



Of the 285 U.S.L.S.S. stations built from 1848 to 1914 along most of America's coastline, the Chicamacomico complex contains **two** complete stations as well as a number of outbuildings. Chicamacomico

was the first operational station in North Carolina and is located on the eastern-most point in North Carolina. Today the site is open to the public and contains artifacts, displays, photographs, and many other unique items. The Site is conveniently located on NC Highway 12 at Mile Post 39 ½. Visitors going to the popular Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and to Ocracoke just to the south will literally pass the driveway to the Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site. It is *well worth* the stop, for there is absolutely nothing else like it on the Outer Banks.

## ***The site consists of eight buildings:***

**The 1874 Station, the 1892 sound-side Boat House, the 1896 Cook House, the 1911 Station, the 1911 Stable, the 1911 Cook House, the 1936 Tractor Shed & the 1907 Midgett House.** In addition, the site also contains three wooden water cisterns (1874 era) and one concrete "beehive" cistern (1911 era).

**Programs** are offered during the summer months. **Group Tours** are available with advance notice.



**The Beach Apparatus Drill reenactment** can be seen during the summer months and is performed by active-duty U.S. Coast Guard personnel. Today Chicamacomico is only one of two places in the United States that performs the historic Beach Apparatus Drill reenactment.  
*The best show on the beach!*





*Above:* Chicamacomico was the scene on one of the last breeches buoy rescues in North Carolina ("Omar Babun", 1954).

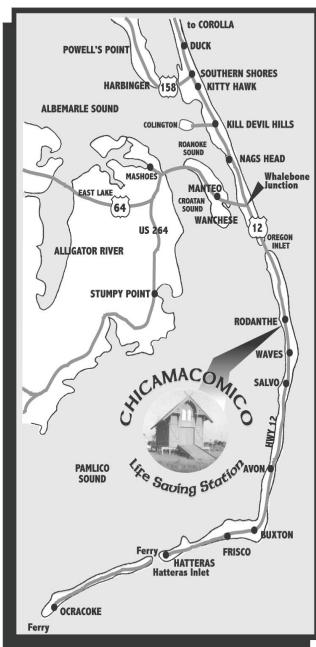
*Left:* 1911 Station restored



*Above:* Chicamacomico was the scene of the most highly awarded maritime rescue in American history ("S.S. Mirlo", Aug. 16, 1918) and has on display Surfboat No. 1046—the *actual* boat used in that stunning and dramatic rescue.



*Middle left:* 1911 Cookhouse  
*Left:* 1907 Midgett House



## Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site Museum Complex

23645 NC Highway 12 (on Hatteras Island—Mile Post 39.5)

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GPS:

35 35 737N  
75 27 981W

Open mid-April to November. Admission is charged.



One of the many sites on the Historic Albemarle Tour, NC's oldest self-guided Heritage Trail