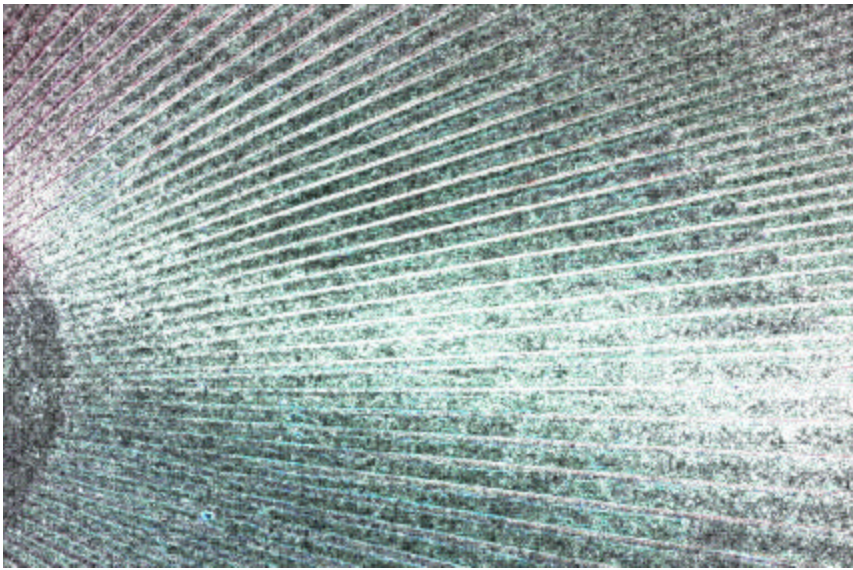


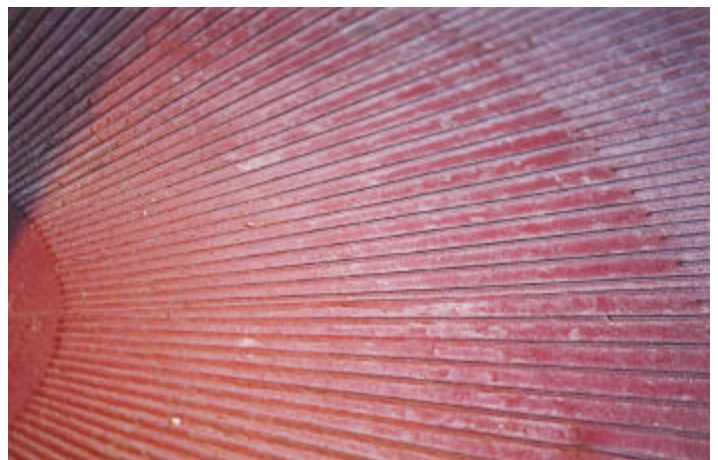
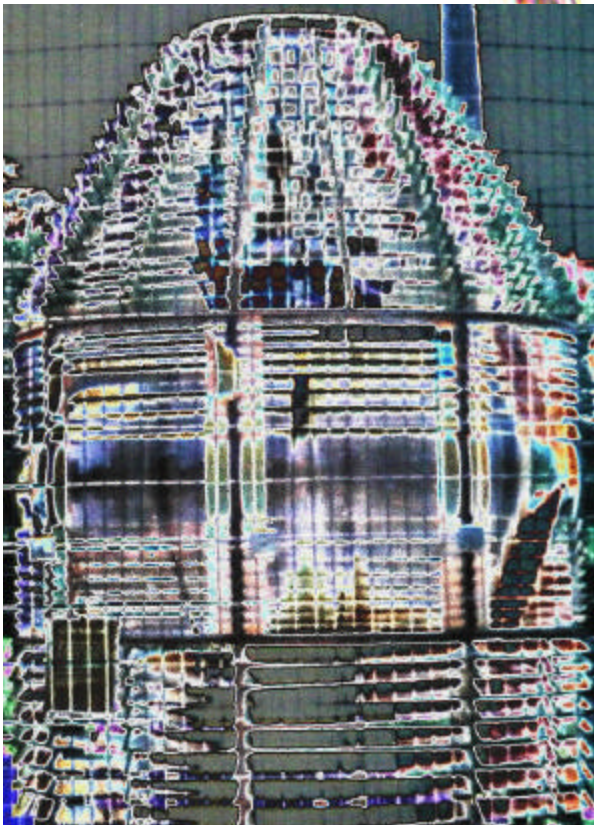
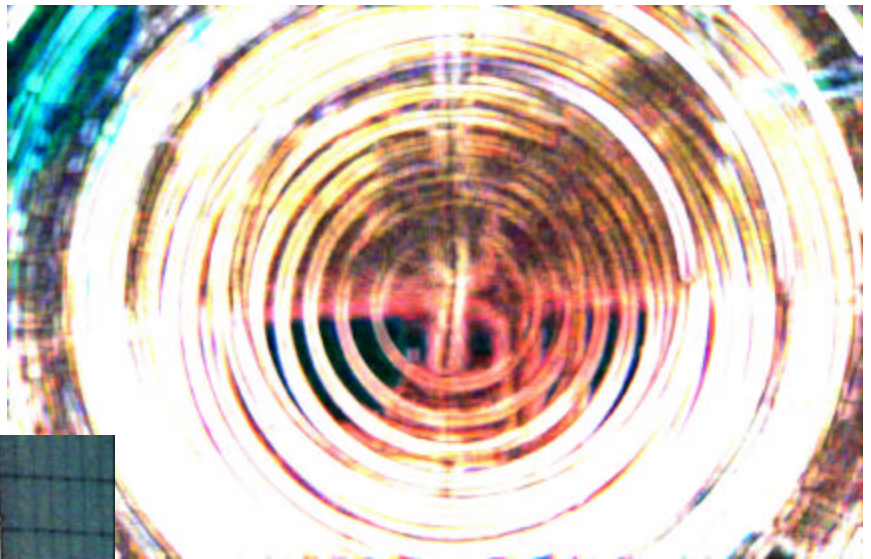
beachtrek 2005







The radial design of the stair tread, the sun-circles of the lens, and the prismatic pyramid of the old Fresnell lens, housed now in the Oyster Museum.





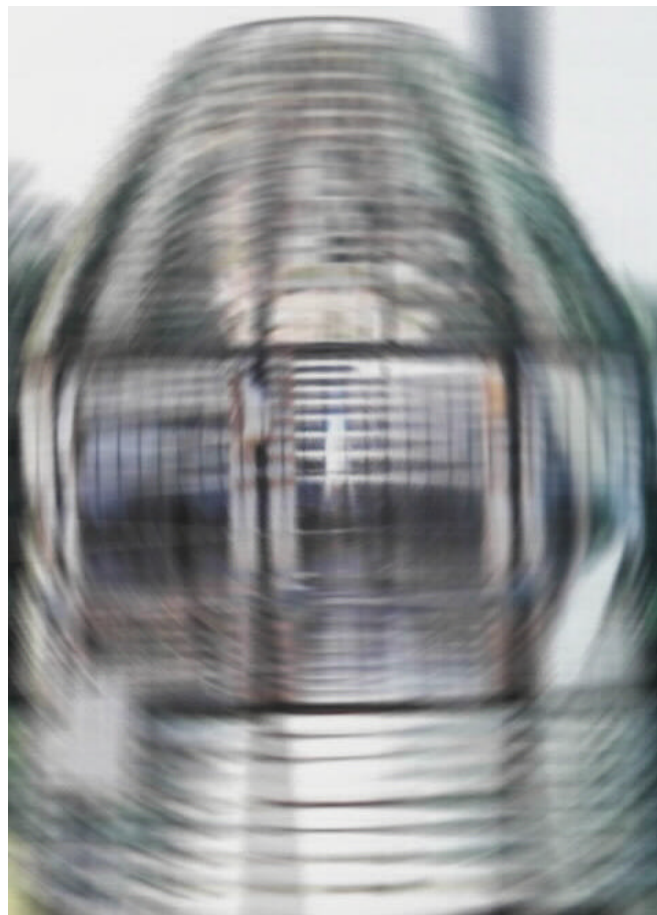
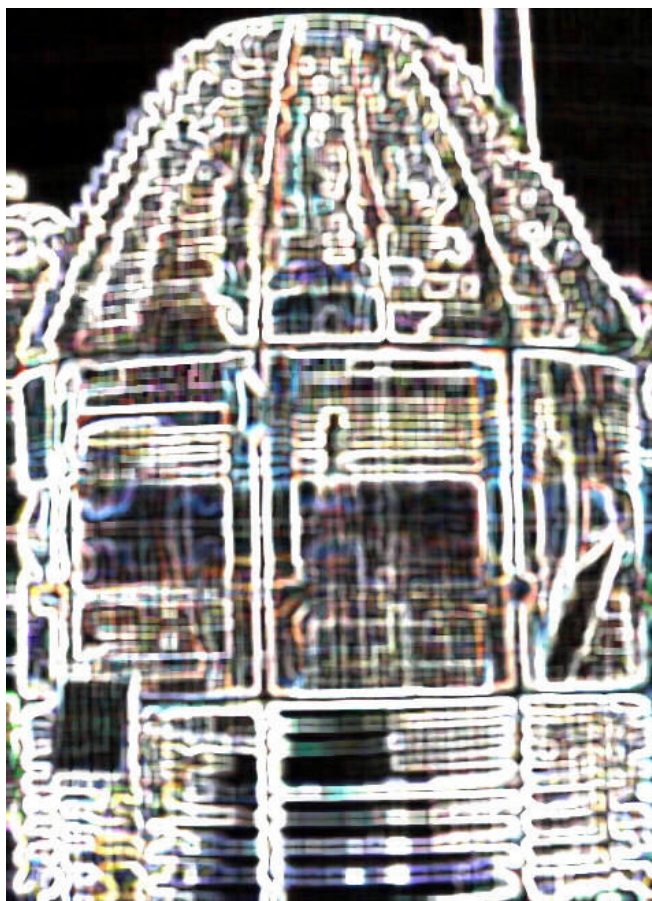
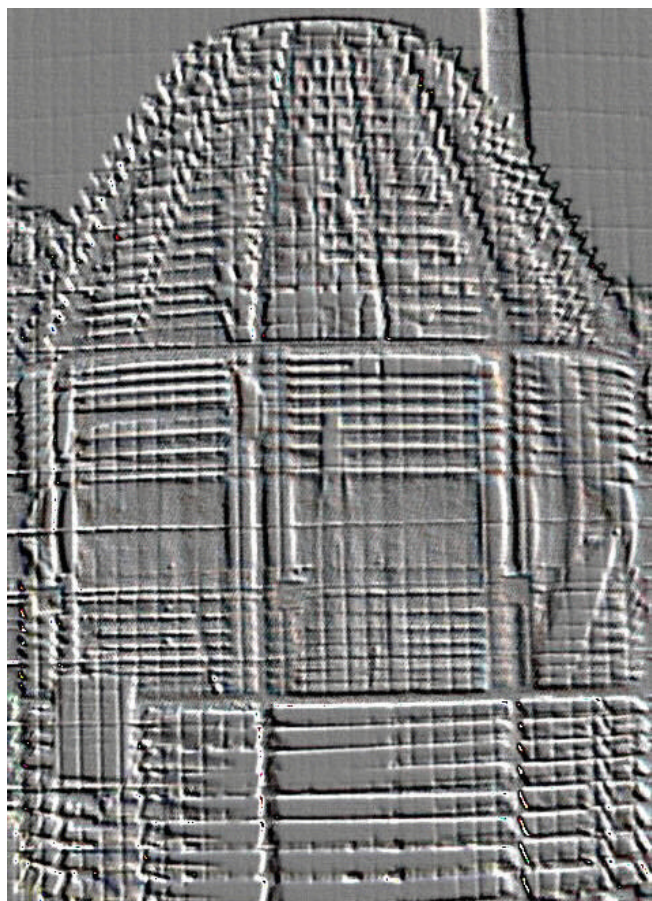


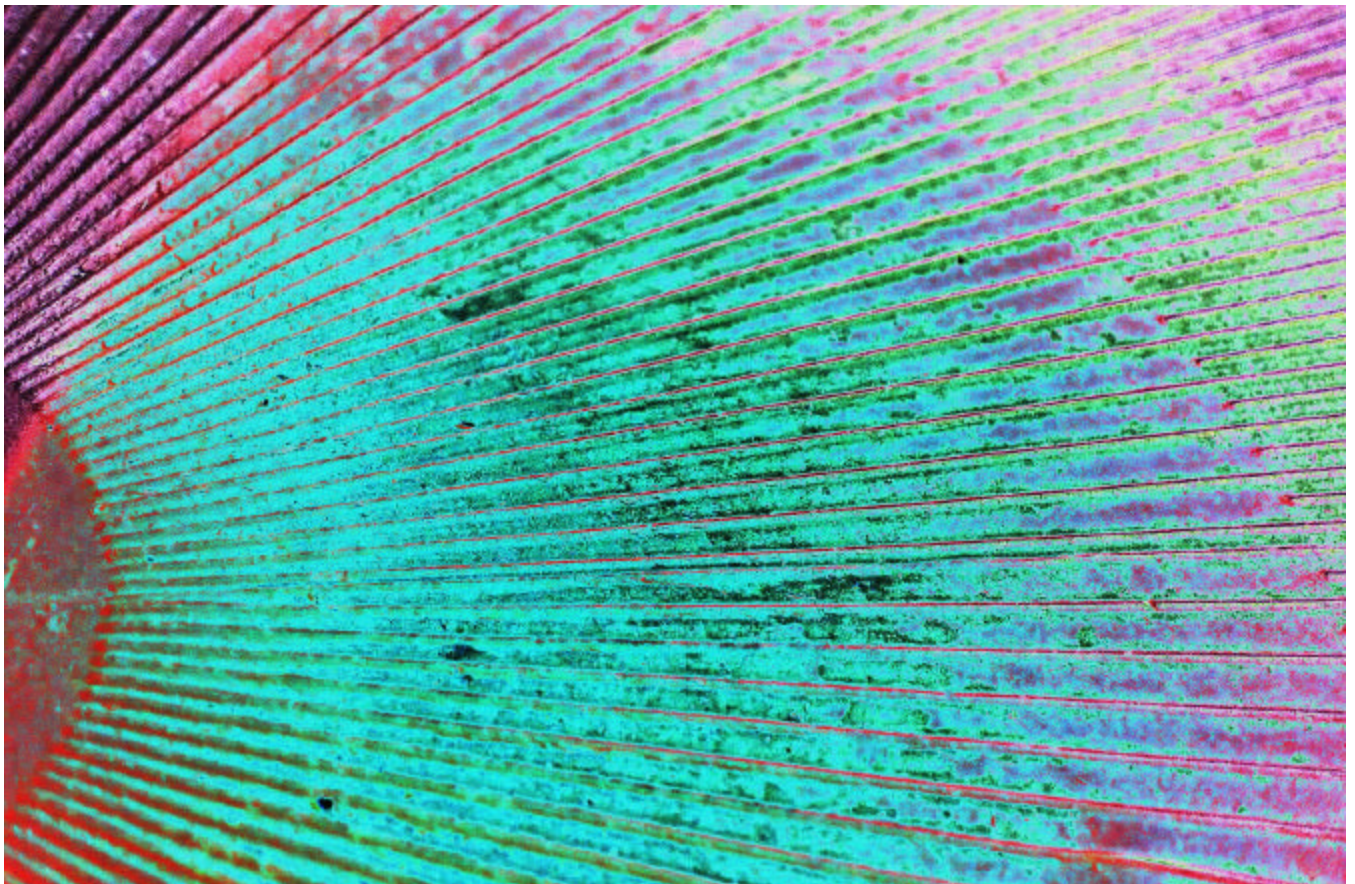
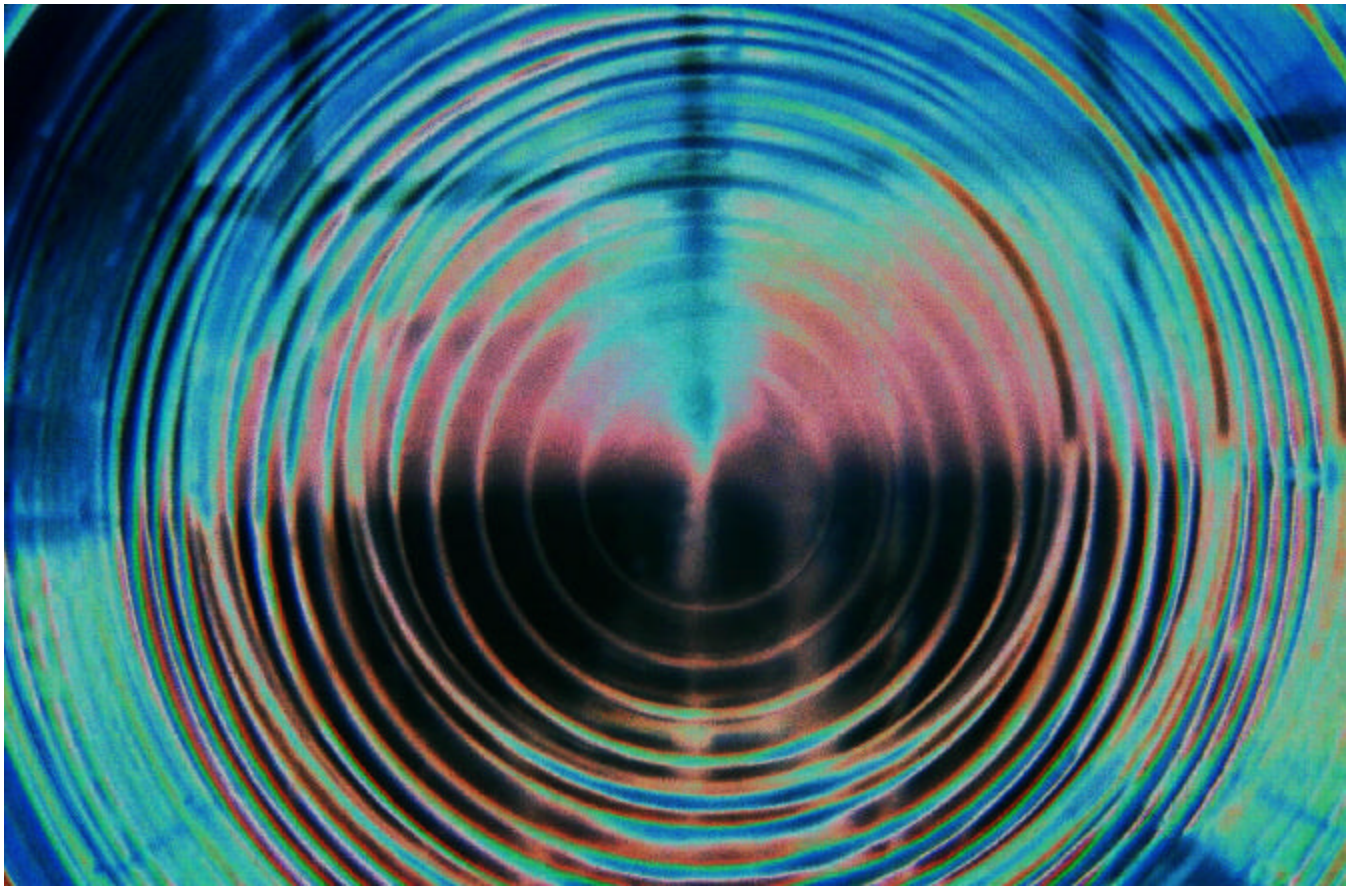


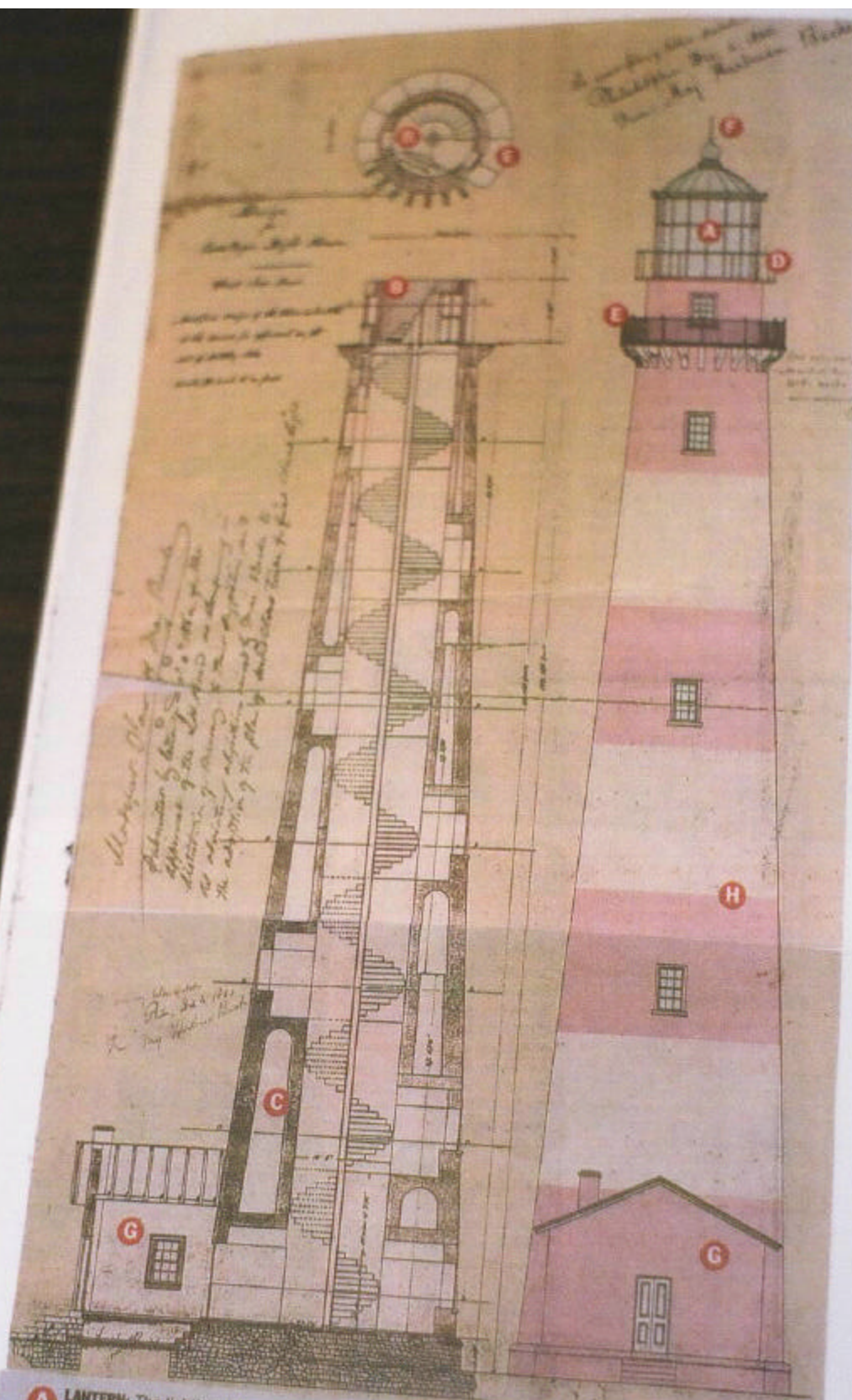












A LANTERN: The lighthouse's most important floor is its topmost, a glass-enclosed room housing the lamps and lenses. Assateague's 16-sided lantern has housed two styles of light over the years.

Fresnel lens: Used in Europe for decades before it gained acceptance in the United States.

B WATCH ROOM: This circular space is the lighthouse's second floor.

A LANTERN: The lighthouse's most important floor is its topmost, a glass-enclosed room housing the lamps and lenses. Assateague's 16-sided lantern has housed two styles of light over the years.

Fresnel lens: Used in Europe for decades before it gained acceptance in the United States, this French invention uses prisms to refract light into a concentrated beam. Still at work in many American lights, the Fresnel (pronounced Fraynel) was first paired with oil lamps, later with electric bulbs. The largest weigh more than 6 tons and measure more than 6 feet across.



DCB searchlight: Since 1961, rotating searchlights have produced Assateague's signature two flashes every five seconds. Illuminated by 1,000-watt bulbs, the DCB-36 Rotating Airport Beacons produce 1.8 million candlepower, can be seen 22 miles at sea, and require little maintenance.



B WATCH ROOM: This circular space is the lighthouse's "office," from which the keeper kept an eye on the lamp.

C VOIDS AND RADIAL WALLS: Like many brick lighthouses, Assateague is double-walled, with a conical tower enclosing the cylinder through which the staircase spirals. The void between them becomes slimmer — and window recesses become shallower — as one climbs toward the top.

D GALLERY: This narrow catwalk enabled keepers to wash and repair the lantern's glass.

E BALCONY: Wider than the gallery, this outdoor platform is reached via a ship's hatch from the watch room.

F BALL VENT: This feature of most 19th-century American lighthouses was aimed at freeing the lantern of oil lamp smoke.

G VESTIBULE: The entrance to the tower once housed oil and gear.

H DAYMARK: The light's trademark paint scheme makes it recognizable to sailors by day.

