

There were at least 21 official resident keepers at New Point Comfort Light Station. The first keeper appointed by President Thomas Jefferson was the lighthouse's builder, Elzy Burroughs. Retaining ownership of the land bordering the station, Burroughs had built a home for himself and his family on the Point during the stations construction so it was convenient for him to keep the light until the keeper's dwelling was completed. In fact, he continued as keeper for the following decade. New Point Comfort is remarkable in that two keepers there were black. One was an unofficial assistant to Isaac Foster, described in 1852 as a negro woman, probably a slave; the other, a preacher, J. McHenry Farley, who served from 1871 to 1873. Citing the isolation of his post and the difficulty in obtaining supplies, Farley pleaded with the U. S. Light-House Board for an assistant, but no assistant was ever assigned to this station. {

[Clifford report](#)

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NEW POINT COMFORT LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS

1805-1814	Elzy Burroughs
1814-1815	Robert Lithburn
1815-1819	James B. H. Johnson
1819-1830	William Johnson
1830-1846	William R. Brownley
1846-1854	Isaac Foster
1854 (Revoked)	James B. White
1854-1861	Edward S. White
1861-1865	No Keeper
1865-1869	Joseph S. Allen
1869-1871	Sylvester H. Wolhiser
1871-1873	J. McHenry Farley
1873-1876	John D. Hudgins
1876-1879	Leonard Smithers
1879-1881	A. F. Hudgins
1881-1883	William F. Ripley
1883-1888	C. W. Forrest
1888-1899	Oliver R. Hudgins
1899-1901	James B. Hurst
1901-1906	Richard W. Marchant
1906-1915 or 1916	Wesley F. Ripley
1916 or 1917-1919	Edward A. Sibley
1919-1954	Henry L. Dow