



COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

Sandy Hook is a spit at the north end of the New Jersey coastline. It was built by the northward longshore drift of sand along the Jersey Coast, and historical maps of the area show it constantly changing over time. For instance, Sandy Hook Lighthouse was built in 1764 on the northern end of the spit; but it is now one and half miles south from the current location of the tip. Storms sometime breach the narrow spit, turning it into a temporary island.

Sandy Hook continues to change constantly in response to processes which remove and deposit sand. In addition to these major changes to the landscape, seasonal alterations can be observed. Changes in weather and water currents throughout the year create a cyclical variation in the shape and composition of the beach and dunes, often making the shoreline steeper in the winter months and shallower in the summer.