

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0676594

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
**POMHAM ROCKS LIGHT STATION**

AND/OR COMMON  
(Same)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**Riverside Road** NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
**East Providence** VICINITY OF 1 Hon. Fernand J. StGermain

STATE  
**Rhode Island** CODE 44

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
**Providence** CODE 007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*  
**Commandant (G-FLP)**

STREET & NUMBER  
**US Coast Guard**

CITY, TOWN  
**Washington, DC** VICINITY OF DC 20590

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
**City Clerks Office of East Providence, East Providence City Hall**

STREET & NUMBER  
**60 Commercial Way**

CITY, TOWN  
**East Providence** STATE Rhode Island

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
**East Providence, Rhode Island P-EP-1**

DATE  
**September 1976** FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
**Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission**

CITY, TOWN  
**Providence** STATE Rhode Island

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pomham Rocks Light Station consists of approximately ½ of an acre situated atop of promontory approximately 200 yards off the mainland of East Providence at the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay in what is called the Providence River.

Electricity and telephone services to the Island are provided by underwater cables running from the mainland. Sewage disposal is by septic tank.

The main dwelling is wood frame on a granite base 28 ft X 28 ft with a wooden light tower attached 34 ft high. Dwelling and tower were constructed in 1871.

Adjacent to the main dwelling and light tower is a wood/brick frame storage built in 1871 which was internally converted to a generator building in 1957.

On the opposite side of the main dwelling from the generator building is an active modular galvanized light tower which was erected in 1974.

At the lower end of the island is a 12 ft X 130 ft concrete seawall built in 1939 annexed by a timber on pile L shaped wharf.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Navigation		

SPECIFIC DATES **Built 1871**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pomham Rocks was acquired by the US Government in 1871 and the dwelling, storage buildings, light towers and fog signal were installed shortly after. The Light Station was then established by the Treasury Department's Lighthouse Board in the same year. The Light Station is situated on 1/2 of an acre, approximately 200 yards off the mainland of East Providence, at the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay, in the Providence River.

The light and keepers quarters are combined in a single masonry structure of handsome proportions and High Victorian design.

The Light Station is among one of the oldest stations situated on Narragansett Bay and has long served as both a functional and picturesque landmark for the East Providence community. For the past 107 years the station has guided ships in the main channel leading into Providence Harbor.

Electricity was first brought to the island 15 years ago. Until the spring of 1974, it served as a manned Light Station. In May, 1974 the Coast Guard constructed a new modular galvanized light tower adjacent to the original light station. With this new construction the original station was decommissioned and vacated by the Coast Guard.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 9	3 1 0 1 3 1 0 1 0 1 0	4 6 1 2 7 1 6 1 2 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The entire body of land known as Pomham Rocks being situated on the east side of the Providence River just north of Sabine Point, at a latitude of 41 degrees 46.6 minutes north and a longitude of 71 degrees 22.2 minutes west

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Commander (flp)

ORGANIZATION

First Coast Guard District

STREET & NUMBER

150 Causeway St.

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

DATE

TELEPHONE

223-6903

STATE

Massachusetts

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

2/19/79

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National  State  Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE E. O. 11593 DOT REPRESENTATIVE, OSI

DATE JUNE 13, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bill Leovich

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

July 2, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Mr. Max Dwyer (for)

DATE

7/2/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 42

Item number 7

Page 43

NAME: Pomham Rocks Light Station

LOCATION: Providence River (access via Riverside Road)

OWNER: Commandant (G-FLP)  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Washington, D.C. 20590

*Other Name: East Providence MPA*  
DESCRIPTION:

Pomham Rocks Light Station occupies a small island in the Providence River about 1000 feet off the East Providence coast. The main building, erected in 1871, is a one-and-one-half-story, mansard-roofed, 28-by-28-foot, wood-frame keeper's house on a granite foundation. A wooden light tower rises two more stories at the center of the west side of the house. To the east of the house is a small, gable-roofed, brick and wood-frame storage building, also erected in 1871 and converted in 1957 into a generator building. West of the house is a modular, galvanized-metal light tower constructed in 1974. Near the eastern end of the island, a timber-on-pile, L-shaped wharf is connected to a 12-foot-by-130-foot concrete sea wall built in 1939.

The light tower west of the house has been operating since its construction in 1974. At that time the original beacon was deactivated and the dwelling was vacated by the Coast Guard. The property is now maintained by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

DATES: 1871

SIGNIFICANCE:

Pomham Rocks Light Station is one of the oldest stations on Narragansett Bay and has served as a functional and picturesque landmark for over one hundred years. Pomham Rock was acquired by the U.S. Government in 1871 and the station was established and built the same year by the Lighthouse Board of the U.S. Treasury Department. It was one of a series constructed to guide marine traffic in and out of Providence Harbor. It conformed to a standard design widely used by the Treasury Department at the time and is today a well preserved example of its type: the combined keeper's dwelling with light tower.

ACREAGE: less than one acre

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The northwesterly island in a group of two islands known as Pomham Rocks, situated in the Providence River approximately 1000 feet from the East Providence shore.

UTM: 19 303000 462762

(See Continuation Sheet #43).

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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Continuation sheet 43

Item number 7

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LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: *Previously listed in the National Register*

(See Continuation Sheet #44).