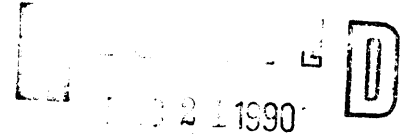


7157

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Point Arena Light Station _____

Other Name/Site Number: _____

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: Lighthouse Road _____

Not for Publication: ___

City/Town: Point Arena _____

Vicinity: X

State: CA County: Mendocino _____

Code: 045

Zip Code: 95468

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public--Federal _____

Category of Property: District _____

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
___ 3	___ 1 buildings
___	___ sites
___ 1	___ structures
___	___ objects
___ 4	___ 1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

Architectural and Historic Resources of Point Arena, California

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Robert H. Curran
Signature of Certifying official 11/29/90
Date

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Stade R. Craig
Signature of commenting or other official 7/24/90
Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Shelene Byrne 7/16/91
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Transportation	Sub: Water Related
Current : Transportation	Sub: Water Related
Recreation and Culture	Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: Light Station

Other Description:

Materials: foundation concrete__ roof asphalt__
walls concrete__ other
wood: weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _X_ See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) :

Areas of Significance: Transportation
Engineering

Period(s) of Significance: 1870-1940

Significant Dates : 1870 1908

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Concrete Chimney Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas of significance noted above. _X_ See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

 previously listed in the National Register

 previously determined eligible by the National Register

 designated a National Historic Landmark

 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office

 Other state agency

 Federal agency

 Local government

 University

 Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 6 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 10 435875 4311850 B -- -- --

C -- -- -- D -- -- --

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary is shown on enclosed scale map.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The boundaries encompass the historic resources and their immediate setting. The southeastern boundary is drawn to exclude a number of buildings of modern construction.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Donald S. Napoli and Maryln Lortie, State Historians _____

Organization: State Office of Historic Pres. Date: 2/20/90 _____

Street & Number: P. O. Box 942896 _____ Telephone: (916) 445-8006 _____

City or Town: Sacramento _____ State CA ZIP: 94296-0001 _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Point Arena Light Station Page # 1

=====
The Point Arena Light Station encompasses approximately six acres at the very tip of Point Arena. The point rises sixty feet above the Pacific Ocean, which surrounds the point on three sides. The district's southeast boundary marks the historic dividing line between the working and residential areas of the station.

The district has four contributing structures. Nearest the point is the wood framed and sided fog signal station. Further inland is the reinforced concrete lighthouse. Inland still further are two small stucco-sided auxiliary buildings, which are paired on either side of the entrance road. The district's only non-contributor is a small restroom building just beyond the auxiliary structure on the southwest. The district, and all the contributors within it, are in good condition and retain a high degree of architectural integrity.

1. Lighthouse - Contributing Structure. This cylindrical lighthouse is constructed of reinforced concrete. At its apex a cupola with a conical roof rests on circular platform. Beneath the platform a narrow band encircles the top of the shaft, which is pierced by window openings but is undecorated. The base has a sloping roof that extends from the shaft and openings for windows and door.

2. Fog Signal Station - Contributing Building. This building has one main section and several smaller extensions. The main section has a front-facing gable roof of medium pitch. Five rafter ends protrude below the roof overhang and are supported by plain brackets. The facade has three small-paned windows, one in the gable and one on each side of the entry. Siding is horizontal wood board. On the south, east, and west sides of the building are gable-roofed extensions. Each has multi-paned windows and horizontal wood siding. The one in front (south) is the largest and contains the main entrance to the building.

Above the door in the gable is a six-paned window. Another window is in the east wall. The extension on the east has windows on both sides; the one on the west has a bank of windows below the gable as well. The front door is not original.

3 and 4. Auxiliary Buildings - Two Contributing Buildings. Paired near the southeast boundary of the district on either side of the entrance road are two storage sheds. Both are rectangular in plan, constructed of reinforced concrete, and sided in stucco; both have flat roofs with overhanging eaves. The design is not identical, however. The one to the north is shorter, and narrower; unlike its companion, it is windowless.

5. Restrooms - Non-Contributing Building. The small new restroom building, directly north of Building 3, has a gable roof and shingle siding. Although it is of too recent origin to contribute to the district, it makes an inconspicuous non-contributor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Point Arena Light Station Page # 1

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 The Point Arena Light Station represents an important aspect of the economic development of the Point Arena area. The district provides tangible evidence of the intervention of the federal government to enhance the safety of ships sailing the Mendocino Coast and in particular ships entering and leaving Arena Cove. As discussed in the historic context statement "Economic Development of Point Arena, 1859-1940," coastal traffic increased substantially during the 1860s. More goods and settlers came to the area and more products (especially lumber) were shipped out. Heavy storms and thick fogs often made trips along the coast treacherous, and an increasing number of ships foundered or ran aground near Point Arena. Navigational aids of the sort already available elsewhere on the coast became a necessity. The oldest building in the district, the fog signal station (1870), represents the initial response of the U. S. Lighthouse Service to the need for navigational aid. The lighthouse and auxiliary buildings (1908), built after the devastating earthquake of 1906, indicate the service's continuing commitment to helping local maritime commerce. Strikingly sited between the Pacific Ocean on the west and rolling farmland on the east, the district retains the character and appearance of eighty years ago. It thus meets the registration requirements set forth in the multiple property nomination "Historic Resources of Point Arena" for properties associated with Point Arena's economic development.

The district, because of the lighthouse, is also significant for its association with an important advance in engineering. When the original brick lighthouse collapsed in the earthquake of 1906, the U. S. Lighthouse Service, seeking a sturdier structure, decided to use reinforced concrete in the replacement. This material, already popular throughout the country, had never been employed on a California lighthouse. Thus when the Point Arena lighthouse began operation in 1908, it became the first lighthouse of reinforced concrete in the state. The new structure, built by a San Francisco chimney maker, rose 115 feet from its massive buttressing base to its lantern room on top. The circular stairway was not new (it came from the 1870 structure), but the placement of the flashing Fresnel lens in a vat of mercury was innovative. The structure has withstood all earthquakes since 1908, and the light, furnished first by oil lamps and then by electricity, has continued to provide service for over 80 years.

The Point Arena Light Station derives significance under criterion A through its association with the economic development of Point Arena, specifically in its role in aiding passage into and out of Arena Cove. It also derives significance under criterion C because the lighthouse was the first in the state to use an important construction method, reinforced concrete.

Although the lighthouse continues to function today, the period of significance has been arbitrarily ended at 1940 since exceptional significance has not been demonstrated.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

Point Arena Light Station Page # 1

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Major Bibliographical References

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Carpenter, Aurelius and Percy Milberry. Mendocino and Lake Counties. Los
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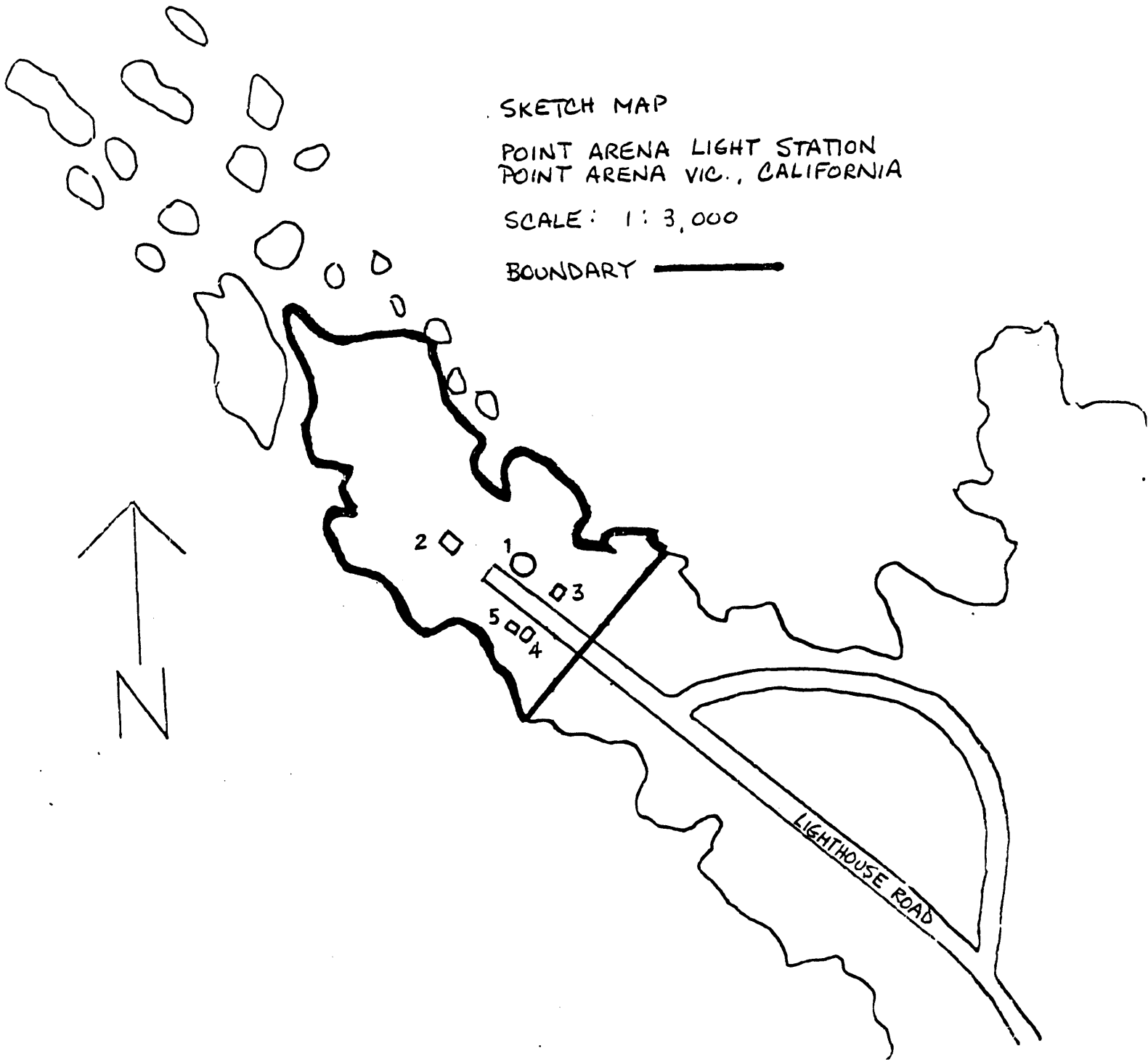
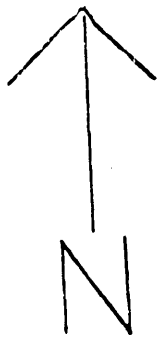
Point Arena Light Station
Mendocino County, California

SKETCH MAP

POINT ARENA LIGHT STATION
POINT ARENA VIC., CALIFORNIA


SCALE: 1:3,000

BOUNDARY 

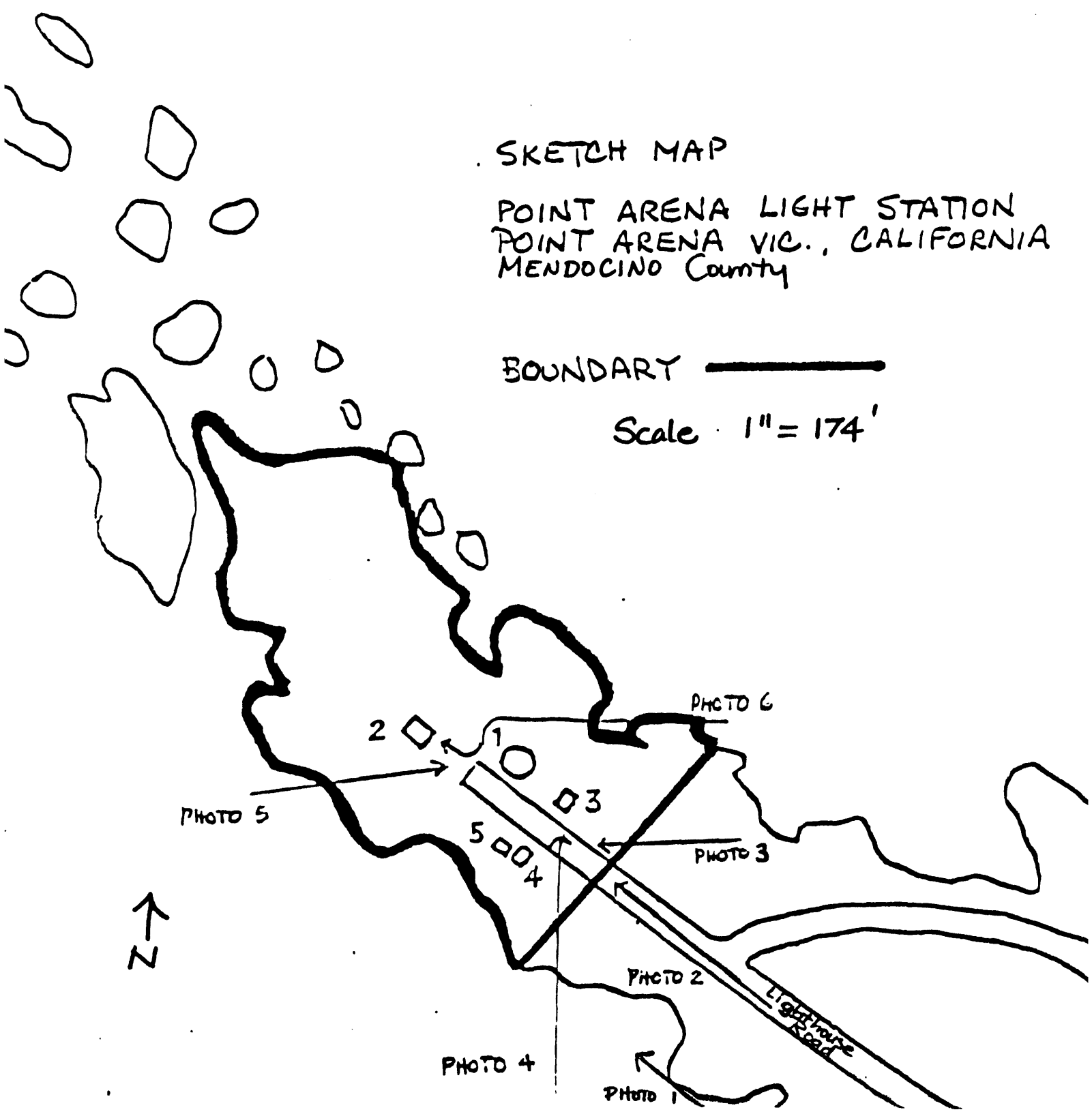


SKETCH MAP

POINT ARENA LIGHT STATION
POINT ARENA VIC., CALIFORNIA
MENDOCINO County

BOUNDARY 

Scale 1" = 174'



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Photo Log -- Point Arena Light Station
Point Arena, Mendocino County, California

All photos except for historic photo taken March, 1990.
Photographers: Don Napoli and Maryln Bourne Lortie
Negative Location: California Office of Historic Preservation
Sacramento, CA

- Photo 1: Looking north, all resources shown.
- Photo 2: Looking northwest, all resources shown.
- Photo 3: Historic photo, 1906, after earthquake that destroyed lighthouse tower. Looking northwest.
- Photo 4: Fog Signal Station, looking northwest.
- Photo 5: Lighthouse, looking southwest.

