Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

	DATA	SHEET
FOR NPS USE		
RECEIVED	AN 21 1976	-
DATE ENTERE	, JUN	161976

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

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state Maryland		CODE 24	COUNTY St. Mary's	1205-03
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	XPUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
X STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESID
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT			AGOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The complex as constructed in 1836 consisted of the Lighthouse structure, the Keeper's Quarters and an outhouse. The two (2) major structures remain; however, the original outhouse has long since passed into oblivion. Presumably, the specifications for the structures were developed by staff personnel of the Treasury Department.

The Lighthouse is a conical structure of brick painted white, 30 feet high. The focal plane of the light was 34 feet above the base. A cupola constructed of metal with rectangular glass panes surmounts the brick tower. Access to the cupola is gained by means of a circular wood stairway which occupies the entire core of the structure. Interesting early iron hardware remains on the heavy entrance door. Though the lens has been removed, the appearance of the structure is essentially as constructed in 1836.

The Keeper's Quarters is a brick constructed building, $34' \times 20'$, with a $15' \times 11'$ ell of stuccoed frame construction. Two stories **ov**er a full basement, the Keeper's Quarters has undergone radical interior alterations which have obliterated original conditions. Extensive architectural and documentary research would be required to determine its original appearance. The exterior is presently painted white with a red standing seam metal roof. A one-story porch extends across the northwest (entrance) facade.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION SCIENCE	
1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799	AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART	ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING	LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC	SCULPTURE - _X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER	
X _1800-1899 1900-	X.COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		

SPECIFIC DATES 1836/1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Donohoo

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Constructed in 1836, Piney Point was the first lighthouse built on the Potomac River. John Donohoo, constructor of several lighthouses in the Chesapeake Bay area, erected this structure at a cost of about \$5,000. The property on which the lighthouse was constructed was acquired in fee simple from Henry Suter and Charlotte Suter, his wife, by warranty deed dated 24 December 1835 for \$300.

Piney Point Light continued as a manned station under the lighthouse service until the incorporation of that service into the Coast Guard in 1939. The Coast Guard discontinued the light in 1964. The Coast Guard retains the Piney Point site as a station. The Keeper's residence is maintained as a facility for housing personnel. The lighthouse presently serves no particular purpose.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert de Gast, <u>The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake</u> The John Hopkins University Press: 1973

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