

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 30b

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

see photos for Front Range Light

HISTORIC NAME: Newburyport Harbor
Rear Range Light

TOWN: Newburyport

LOCATION: Water St., near Merrimack River

COUNTY: Essex CODE: 009

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Essex County Registry of Deeds, Book 878,
p. 27 Robert Bayley et al to U.S.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination is confined to the rear light
itself. See attached assessor's map.

LAT./LONG.: 42°48'1"/70°53'2"

UTM COORDINATE: 19/352/200/4739/300

USGS QUADRANGLE: BOSTON, MA;NH;CT;RI;ME

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: less than one acre

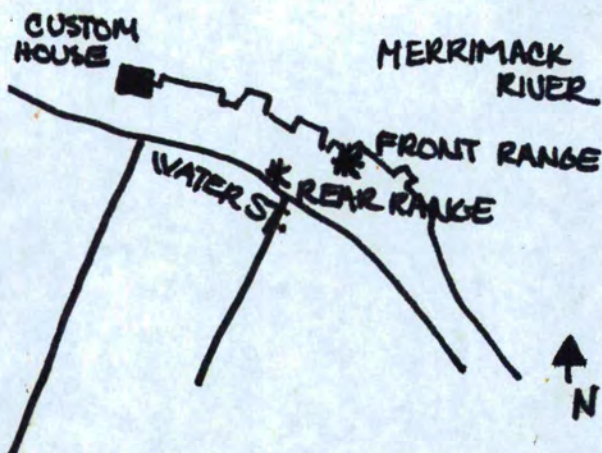
OWNER(S): Gordon Hall and Michael B. Moscow

33 Vernon Street

Nahant, MA

STATUS: Inactive/Unmanned

SKETCH MAP



RECORDED BY: L. Fox, N. Salzman

ORGANIZATION: MHC

DATE: June 1981

Site DESCRIPTION

The Newburyport Harbor Rear Range Light is located on the southeast side of a commercial wooden building standing on the northerly corner of Water Street, and adjacent to a dirt driveway that leads to Bayley's Wharf. Water Street is fairly heavily traveled, and winds directly past the Customs House into the busy commercial and National Register district of downtown Newburyport. To the north end of the Rear Range Light is the Merrimac River Coast Guard Station, the Front Range Light, and beyond that, Newburyport Harbor.

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION

Exterior: The 144 square foot, 53 foot high square tower was constructed in 1873 of brick, steel, and wood. The exposed brick walls of the tower were originally painted white only on the upper 1/3 of the north side--facing the river, with a thick white stripe running the length of the tower. A single 1/1 window with a wood frame, and stone sill is situated midway in the tower on the south side directly above the door.

Foundation: The foundation of the tower is made of beveled stone blocks, with some spalling evident.

Door: Two concrete steps lead up to a four panel painted wooden door that has a granite lintel above it.

Interior: Directly inside the square tower is a wooden floor (in disrepair) and an iron staircase which is probably not original. The stairs ascend around the outside walls so that at every sixth stair there is a small square landing.

Stairs: The uppermost flights are of wood and slightly unstable, but may be original. The railing is of molded hard wood.

Lens Room: The entire lens room is of iron, including the floor. Inserted into the floor are trapezoidal blocks of glass that permit light to filter down to the interior of the tower. The eight-sided lens room has four windows facing inland that are blocked by diagonal sheathing, while the four facing northeast toward Goose Rocks and Plum Island are open to the light. The original wood cupboard along one wall is intact: it consists of a single paneled door with plain molding with one shelf inside.

Balcony: A small iron half door leads to the square balcony, which is also of iron. The horizontal railing is of a simple design--three thin vertical posts on each of the four sides that have a single horizontal railing lying atop them.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1873: Robert Bayley sold this parcel of land to the U.S. Government to erect a range light.

1933: Candlepower was changed from 2000 to 690, and the illuminant changed from coal gas to 300 mm electric in candlestick. An underground cable for the Boston and Maine Railroad was laid between the two range lights.

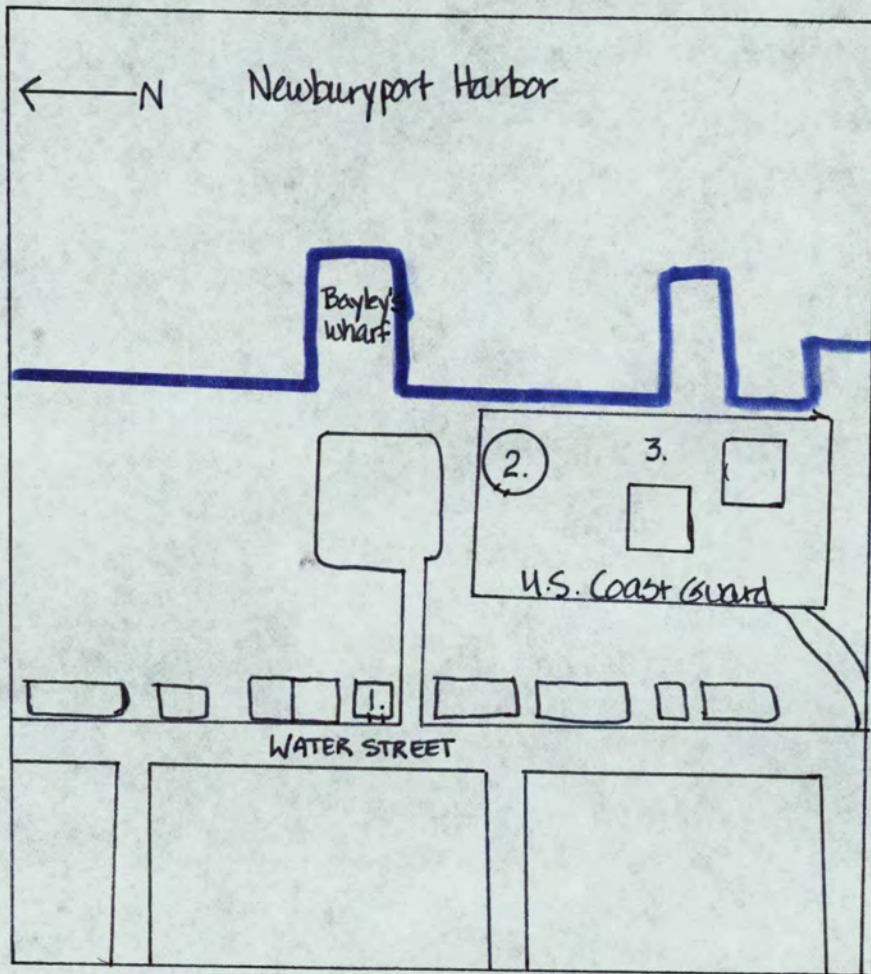
1949: The face and structure were painted white; the door sill was repaired. Reported in good condition.

1961: The light was discontinued.

1964: The brick tower was sold to Biagio-Gene DeMaggio, owner also of the Range Lights Marina located on Bayley's Wharf.

Level of Significance/Relation to National Register Criteria

The Newburyport Harbor Range Lights possess integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship as well as significant associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Constructed in 1873, they are significant as one of only three sets of range lights in Massachusetts and as part of an important historic waterfront. Although the front light has been moved and altered somewhat, this pair (front and rear range lights) remains as the best example of a range light in Massachusetts. The lights meet criteria A & C of the NRHP on the state level as well as survey criteria 1a, 4b.



Newburyport Harbor Rear Range Light

1. Rear Range
2. Front Range
3. Merrimac Coast Guard Station

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 4 1987

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Chatham Light Station

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

32. Clark's Point Light

Substantive Review

addition

Keeper See additional sheet

Attest

33. Tarpaulin Cove Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

34. Three Sisters of Nauset (Twin Lights)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

35. West Chop Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

36. Wing's Neck Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

37. Wood End Light Lookout Station

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

38. Newburyport Harbor Rear Range Light

Entered in the
National Register

7/1/87

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

39. Ten Pound Island Light

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Delores Byers 8/1/88

Attest

40.

Keeper

Attest

87000887

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Newburyport Harbor Rear Range Light
(Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY - 4 1987
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 6/4/87 - 6/18/87
Action: ACCEPT 6-15-87
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: USCG-DOT

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Newburyport Harbor
Range Lights #31

Lighthouses of MA, TR

Photo # 30F3

Rear Range Lt.
Newburyport

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000282