

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 42

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Leslie Fox - MHC - 7/19/81

1) Looking to East tower/oil house

Jack Clarke - CCPDC - 10/80

2) Same as above (8 X 10)

HISTORIC NAME: Wood End Light Lookout Station

TOWN: Provincetown

LOCATION: Southerly coast of the Cape "arm"

COUNTY: Barnstable CODE: 001

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 12th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Barnstable County Courthouse Registry of Deeds Book 88, page 306, Issac Small, Elisha Young & Asa S. Bowly to U.S.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination is confined to the 1873 light and the 1896 oil house.

LAT./LONG.: 42°01'.3"/70°11'.6"

UTM COORDINATE: 19/401/200/4652/500

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

SCALE: 1: 250,000

ACREAGE: less than one acre

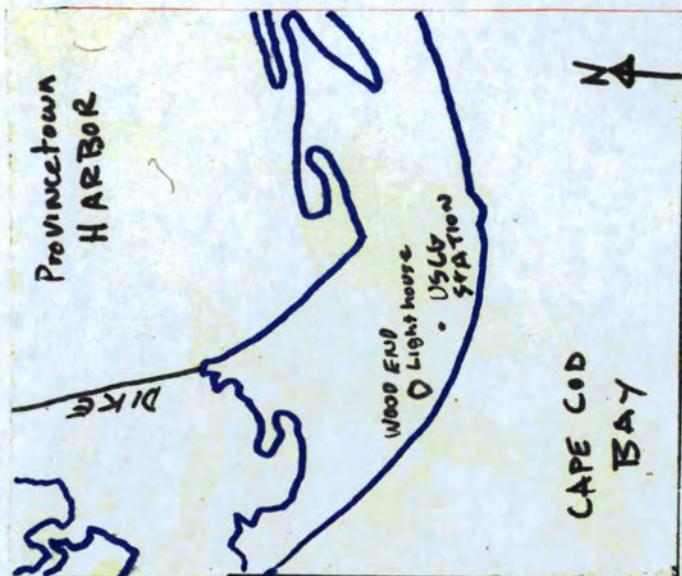
OWNER(S): United States Coast Guard

408 Atlantic Avenue

Boston, MA 02210

STATUS: Unmanned/Active aid

SKETCH MAP



RECORDED BY: Leslie Fox/Jack Clarke

ORGANIZATION: MHC Cape Cod Planning

DATE: August 1981

Wood End Light Lookout Station, Provincetown

SITE DESCRIPTION

The sister lighthouse of Long Point Light, the Wood End Light, Provincetown, is situated on the southerly coastline of the "arm" of Cape Cod that extends around to Provincetown Harbor. The surrounding area contains several acres of sand and dunes, with no other structures in sight. Wood End lies directly across the Harbor from Provincetown, about 1 1/2 miles away, and is bordered to the south by the ocean, to the east and west by the beach. Access can be made only by 4-wheel drive vehicle; access is restricted by the National Park Service. The nearest road ends at Herring Cove Beach about 3 1/2 miles to the southwest.

MAJOR ELEMENTS:

Once a manned complex, only the 1873 tower and 1896 oil house remain.

TOWER:

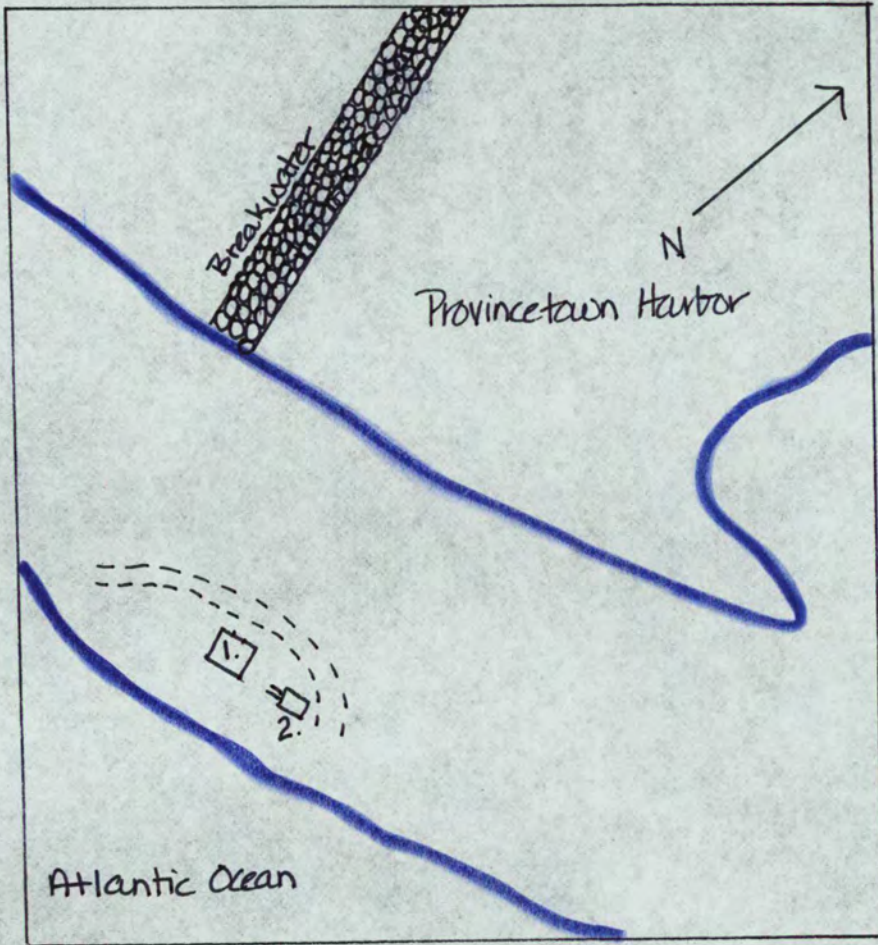
- Exterior: Identical to its sister tower at Long Point, the 14'4" square 38' high brick tower has a focal point 45' above sea level. The exterior has been painted white, and the cement foundation has sunken into the sand.
- Foundation: The foundation is 173" in circumference.
- Door: The 37" iron door has an eight course high brick sill that slants inward to the door. A simple rectangular stone block lies across the top of the door, which faces north.
- Windows: Windows are located on the east and west sides of the tower. A full window with a stone sill and pediment, and a square half window located just under the balcony are located on the east side. Two full windows, one directly above the other, are located on the west side. All are presently boarded up, and the lowest window on the west side has been affixed with iron bars.
- Lens Room: The ten sided lens room has no blacked out window panes - all permit the light to be visible.
- Balcony: The balcony has a simple iron railing, probably not original.
- Roof: A typical iron segmented roof with ventilation ball and lighting rod sits atop the lens room. The lightning rod is grounded on the south side (solid brick side facing the ocean) by a strap that runs down into the sand.
- Lens: In June 1981, the lens was recorded as an external daylight control, with a 12 VDC flasher, a 12 Volt 6 pl lampchanger, a 12 volt 3.05A lamp 4.8 RPM Rotating Optic, a 1RPM Rotating Optic battery, with a power cable.
- Interior: The interior was not accessible at the time, but according to the Provincetown Coast Guard, the interior is identical to the one at Long Point Light (#23). See that file for details.
- Oil House: The standard brick oil house is situated a short distance from the tower, on its east side. It has a slate roof and its walls have been painted white. It has wooden eaves typical of many other oil houses throughout Massachusetts, and a steel door (modern) with a small wooden louvered ventilator above it.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 1864 - the land was acquired by the U.S. Government. A white pyramidal tower was erected.
- 1872 - Wood signal building (16' X 16') was built.
- 1873 - The present 38' tower was erected, described as "brick with a steel roof." A 10 volt lamp/lens with brass fittings was installed.
- 1875 - More than fifty ships were wrecked along this shore.
1945
- 1896 - The Keeper's dwelling was built (3720 sq. ft.) at a cost of \$29,000. Also built: Storage shed (1 1/2 story 990 Sq. ft.) for \$5,000: Oil House (7' X 11") for \$1,500. The dwelling was described as having 6 rooms, was 1 1/2 stories tall and was of wood-frame construction.
- 1911 - The stone breakwater across Provincetown Harbor was built. At a low tide, access is provided from the town to Wood End Light.
- 1938 - A concrete generator shed (8' X 10") was built.
- 1960 - The Oil House was converted to a generator shed. (As it remains today). The lens in the tower was converted from a 4th Order Fresnel to a modern light.
- 1961 - Dwelling and storage shed were razed. The light was fully automated and the station was unmanned. The present electric pole line was installed.
- 1979- The tower was considered for conversion to a solar power by the Coast Guard. Four acres, including the station and life saving station at Herring Cove Beach, were given to the U.S. Navy. Only six of the original ten acres were retained.
- 1981 - Converted to solar power.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE/RELATIONS TO NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA:

Wood End Light possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Constructed in 1873, the square brick tower remains an active and necessary aid to navigation and along with Long Point Light (#23) is the only extant example of a pair of lights still in operation. Thus it meets criteria A and C of the NRHP on the state level as well as survey criteria 1a, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5b.



Wood End Light

1. Tower
2. Oil house

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

Alores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

32. Clark's Point Light

Substantive Review

Keeper

See attached sheet

Attest

33. Tarpaulin Cove Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Alores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

34. Three Sisters of Nauset (Twin Lights)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Alores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

35. West Chop Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Alores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

36. Wing's Neck Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Alores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

37. Wood End Light Lookout Station

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Alores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

38. Newburyport Harbor Rear Range Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Alores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

39. Ten Pound Island Light

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Alores Byers 8/4/88

Attest

40.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

~~Substantive Review~~

Wood End Light Lookout Station
Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)
Barnstable County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/28/87
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 6/18/87
Action: ACCEPT 6-15-87
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: USCG - DOT

- 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

- excellent deteriorated
- good ruins
- fair unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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





EAST SIDE

Wood End Lt.
looking @

WOOD END LIGHT LOOKOUT STATION
PROVINCETOWN, MA. #42

PHOTO #1 OF 2

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
1912



WOOD END LOOKOUT STATION
PROVINCETOWN, MA. #43

PHOTO #2 OF 2

WOOD END LIGHT

WOOD END

PROVINCETOWN, MA

10/80

JACK CLARKE

CAPE COD PLANNING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
1st DISTRICT COURT HOUSE
BARNSTABLE, MASS. 02630

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000282