

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

*Lighthouse #25*

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Monomoy Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON  
Old Monomoy Lighthouse

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER On Monomoy Island, in Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

CITY, TOWN	Chatham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VICINITY OF	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12	
STATE	Massachusetts	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		025	Barnstable	001

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

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

## 4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 5 Office

STREET & NUMBER  
One Gateway Center, Suite 700

CITY, TOWN Newton Corner STATE Massachusetts

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5, Realty

STREET & NUMBER  
One Gateway Center

CITY, TOWN Newton Corner, STATE Massachusetts

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
None to our knowledge

DATE  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Situated at the southern end of Monomoy Island, a coastal barrier beach island which extends approximately ten miles south from the 'elbow' of Cape Cod, the Monomoy Point Lighthouse includes a two-story keeper's house, a light tower of brick sheathed with cast iron sheets and an adjacent generator house. The island makes up most of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is an established National Wilderness Area, although the lighthouse is located on one of two parcels of land excluded from wilderness designation. Monomoy Island can only be reached by boat.

The Lighthouse sits near the original dune line, which is now a half-mile back from the ocean. On the east side of the light are sand dunes; to the west is a freshwater marsh ecosystem where such vegetation as grasses, false heather and typical freshwater plants grow and wildlife abounds.

About forty-four feet wide on the west side by thirty-seven feet across the front south face, the keeper's house was built in a practical Cape Cod style. Weathered gray shingling, white moulding and multiple-paned windows are found on all sides. The roof has been shingled within the last twenty years. A wooden platform surrounds the structure at a height of one foot above the sand and ends in a solid board fence. The brick foundation creates a basement which is in good condition; it incorporates a fruit/vegetable cellar and four small storage areas. "Originally an oven, called the "set-tub", was built into the bricks. ...Stairs lead up from the cellar to what was then the...'but'ry' (Maro Jones manuscript)." The first floor has five rooms, all with wooden floor boards and painted plaster walls. The small kitchen displays closets and shelves to the ceiling and a working water pump. The second floor, reached by a winding series of twelve wooden stairs, contains three rooms and a small alcove.

A slant-roofed walkway along the north face connects the first floor of the house with the light tower. Entry to the light was covered, allowing the keeper to get to the tower without emerging from shelter. The light tower is about thirty-five feet high; its outer supporting guy wires are gone and its exterior red paint is badly flaking. At one time, a carpenter's shop stood within two feet of the light's base (Maro Jones manuscript). A curved metal door is part of the light's base. A rectangular plaque and an eagle once decorated the door; only their outlines remain. Inside the light, a metal serpentine stairway in very good condition twines around a central metal pipe up to a small platform. A seven-stepped metal ladder connects with the circular platform of the cupola, where the light mechanism once rested. The iron cupola is open to the weather; fifteen open sections remain where windows once were. An iron fixture, once holding the light mechanism, is bolted to the center of the floor. Three hexagonal glass floor pieces allow light to filter down into the stairwell. A two-foot wide catwalk extends completely around the cupola.

The generator house is located near the north side of the house. The eleven-foot by thirteen-foot brick building, with brick floor and exterior wooden moulding, is in good condition. Its pitched roof is covered with slate shingles. A small wooden cupola, once positioned on the roof, is now stored inside.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

The keeper's house has been wired for electricity and has plumbing. Vandalism and harsh weather conditions have damaged the exposed tower and house. The tower is structurally sound but rusted and stripped of accouterments. Two abandoned modern camp houses on the property are to be removed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the next year. Active protection of the property is next to impossible at the present time. No employee is permanently stationed on Monomoy Refuge and the office of the refuge manager responsible for the property is three hours driving time from Chatham.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Original light—1823 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Original light—James Gill (?)  
 Present light—ca. 1871

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Monomoy Lighthouse played an imposing role in the navigational history of Cape Cod and the eastern coast. The lighthouse's location is significant because, as a former keeper's son wrote, "this was the beacon, guided by which sailors 'turned the corner' on their way to New York from Boston or farther north, passing thus from the most dangerous shoals of our eastern seaboard, into the calmer waters of Nantucket Sound." (Maro Jones manuscript) As the only historic, and major remaining, structure on Monomoy Island, it tells of the dangers faced by those navigating past the island's infamous shoals. Indians used to lead ships around Monomoy Point past Pollock Rip, Stonehouse and Little Round Shoals to safety. Champlain called it Cape Batturier in 1606 when he was forced ashore due to a broken rudder. Other Frenchmen named it Cape Malabar—"Cape of Evil Bars." The pilgrims, faced with the forbidding Pollock Rip Shoal, turned the Mayflower back to Provincetown (Mass. Audubon Society, p.15). Inspector Carpender noted in 1838 that "...this memorable light stands on ...a long, low beach that reaches right off into the very heart of the whole coasting navigation and requires to be lighted perhaps more conspicuously than any other port or point in the district..." (Willoughby, p.166).

The first fishing village on Monomoy was founded in 1711 when a tavern opened at Wreck Cove, north of the future light's location and near Inward Point. This harbor was used "...for vessels seeking to round the Cape..." (Smith, p.208). Survivors of journeys past Monomoy's shoals—and the Clintons of New York were one family which barely escaped them—often stopped to recuperate here.

Natural history has shaped human history on this wilderness area where the lighthouse is the only visible memory left of human habitation, ships downed and passengers drowned. Monomoy's shifting topography, forming shoals which led to the building of the light, may also have led to its decommissioning in 1923. Glacial debris, washed from the upper Cape to the island's eastern flank, has increased the distance between the structure and the Atlantic Ocean. Sailors must still be wary of treacherous shoals nearby, but modern navigational aids and improvement of the Chatham light caused Monomoy light to be abandoned.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOG. P. CAL REFERENCES**

See continuation sheet

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A	[D,R]	[41,7 1,4,2]	[4,6 0,1 0,2,1]	B	[D,R]	[41,7 0,2,8]	[4,6 0,1 1,3,4]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[D,R]	[41,7 0,9,9]	[4,6 0,1 2,0,6]	D	[D,R]	[41,7 2,1,3]	[4,6 0,1 0,9,3]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that tract or parcel of land, known as the Old Monomoy Lighthouse site, bounded by the following described lines: beginning at a stake 360 ft. from the high water mark, and running from thence, southwest, 20 rods to a stake; thence, northwest 32 rods to a stake; thence northeast 20 rods to a stake; thence southeast 32 rods to the first named stake; the same containing 4 acres, more or less. This is the property received from the Mass. Audubon Society on June 1977 and which is exempt from Nat'l Wilderness status.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christine E. Tougas, Outdoor Recreation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge 10/28/78

STREET & NUMBER

191 Sudbury Road

TELEPHONE

(617) 369-5518

CITY OR TOWN

Concord

STATE

Massachusetts

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Patricia R. Westowski*  
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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Jones, Maro Beath. Unpublished manuscript furnished by Mrs. Lucia B. Hills, 23 Ships Way, Bourne, MA 02532. Available at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge office in Concord, MA.

Massachusetts Audubon Society. Monomoy Wilderness (Cape Cod: Mass. Audubon Society, 1972).

National Archives. Reference report relating to the lighthouse at Monomoy Point; records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Record Group 26 including Site File, Massachusetts No. 47 and contracts. Available at National Archives, Washington, D.C.

National Park Service. Assorted file papers, Cape Cod National Seashore. Available at NPS office, Cape Cod National Seashore.

Smith, William C. A History of Chatham, Mass. (Chatham, MA: Chatham Historical Society, Inc., 1971 edition).

Snow, Edward Rowe. Famous Lighthouses of New England (Boston: Yankee Publishing Co., 1945).

Willoughby, Malcolm F. Lighthouses of New England (Boston T. T. Metcalf Co., 1929).

Property Monomoy Point Lighthouse

State Mass. Working Number 1.15.79.108

**TECHNICAL**  
Photos 12  
Maps 2

*USGS map missing  
7. R. sign; date  
level*

**CONTROL**  
*pl*  
1.18.79

*see return sheet* **HISTORIAN**  
*Orlino*  
2/5/79

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

*Reviewed by Sweet Wayout* **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*RETURN  
SEE TELEPHONE REPORT  
MICK DOUGAN  
2/5/79*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back 2.9.79 Entered \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_ Re-submit 6.4.79

INT:2106-74

Attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for completion of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS SUBMITTED.

Description: When was the keeper's house built?

1st

Statement of Significance:

Bibliography:

Geographical Data -- Acreage:

UTM Reference(s):

Verbal Boundary Description:

Certification:

Photographic Coverage:

Map Coverage: Please include a USGS map

Other: The signature of the Federal Representative and the date of the signing are needed.

Nomination returned per the phone request of Mr. Edgar Yaw.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Margaret Orelup

of the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Bill Wolowich  
Branch of Registration

Date: 2/7/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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JAN 15 1979

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Monomoy Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON  
Old Monomoy Lighthouse**2 LOCATION**

On Monomoy Island, in Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Barnstable

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
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			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 5 Office

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

One Gateway Center, Suite 700

CITY, TOWN

Newton Corner

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

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REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5, Realty

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One Gateway Center

CITY, TOWN

Newton Corner, MA

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE  
None to our knowledge

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
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## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Original light—1823 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Original light—James Gill (?)  
 Present light—ca. 1871

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Monomoy Lighthouse played an imposing role in the navigational history of Cape Cod and the eastern coast. The lighthouse's location is significant because, as a former keeper's son wrote, "this was the beacon, guided by which sailors 'turned the corner' on their way to New York from Boston or farther north, passing thus from the most dangerous shoals of our eastern seaboard, into the calmer waters of Nantucket Sound." (Maro Jones manuscript) As the only historic, and major remaining, structure on Monomoy Island, it tells of the dangers faced by those navigating past the island's infamous shoals. Indians used to lead ships around Monomoy Point past Pollock Rip, Stonehouse and Little Round Shoals to safety. Champlain called it Cape Batturier in 1606 when he was forced ashore due to a broken rudder. Other Frenchmen named it Cape Malabar—"Cape of Evil Bars." The pilgrims, faced with the forbidding Pollock Rip Shoal, turned the Mayflower back to Provincetown (Mass. Audubon Society, p.15). Inspector Carpender noted in 1838 that "...this memorable light stands on ...a long, low beach that reaches right off into the very heart of the whole coasting navigation and requires to be lighted perhaps more conspicuously than any other port or point in the district..." (Willoughby, p.166).

The first fishing village on Monomoy was founded in 1711 when a tavern opened at Wreck Cove, north of the future light's location and near Inward Point. This harbor was used "...for vessels seeking to round the Cape..." (Smith, p.208). Survivors of journeys past Monomoy's shoals--and the Clintons of New York were one family which barely escaped them--often stopped to recuperate here.

Natural history has shaped human history on this wilderness area where the lighthouse is the only visible memory left of human habitation, ships downed and passengers drowned. Monomoy's shifting topography, forming shoals which led to the building of the light, may also have led to its decommissioning in 1923. Glacial debris, washed from the upper Cape to the island's eastern flank, has increased the distance between the structure and the Atlantic Ocean. Sailors must still be wary of treacherous shoals nearby, but modern navigational aids and improvement of the Chatham light caused Monomoy light to be abandoned.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

19	080	200	190	100
A [D,R] [41,7 1,4,2] [4,6 0,1 0,2,1]	B [D,R] [41,7 0,2,8] [4,6 0,1 1,3,4]			
ZONE EASTING 140 NORTHING 020	ZONE EASTING 000 NORTHING 110			
C [D,R] [41,7 0,9,9] [4,6 0,1 2,0,6]	D [D,R] [4,1,7 2,1,3] [4,6 0,1 0,9,3]			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that tract or parcel of land, known as the Old Monomoy Lighthouse site, bounded by the following described lines: beginning at a stake 360 ft. from the high water mark, and running from thence, southwest, 20 rods to a stake; thence, northwest 32 rods to a stake; thence northeast 20 rods to a stake; thence southeast 32 rods to the first named stake; the same containing 4 acres, more or less. This is the property received from the Mass. Audubon Society on June 1977 and which is exempt from Nat'l Wilderness status.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine E. Tougas, Outdoor Recreation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge 10/28/78

STREET & NUMBER

191 Sudbury Road

TELEPHONE

(617) 369-5518

CITY OR TOWN

Concord

STATE

Massachusetts

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Patricia R. Westowski*

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

*See letter dated 5/24/79*

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Monomoy Point Lighthouse

State Mass. (Barnstable) Working Number 1.15.79. 108

2nd Control

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 12  
Maps 2

F. R. sign, date level

**CONTROL**  
pl  
6.7.79

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back 8.13.79  
Re-submit 9.19.79

Entered \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74

OF PROPERTY

MONOMY POINT LIGHTHOUSE

STATE

MASSACHUSETTS

attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for verification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

Description: PLEASE PROVIDE DATE OF CONSTRUCTION OF KEEPER'S HOUSE.

2nd

Statement of Significance:

Bibliography:

Geographical Data -- Acreage:

UTM Reference(s):

Verbal Boundary Description:

Certification:

Photographic Coverage:

Map Coverage:

Other: THE SIGNATURE OF THE FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE AND THE DATE OF SIGNING ARE NEEDED. THIS IS THE SECOND RETURN SHEET REQUESTING THIS INFORMATION.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to BARBARA MAC DOUGAL of the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401 (8-343-6401)

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Paula Skellington  
of Branch of Registration

Date: 8-13-79

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: PLEASE PROVIDE DATE OF CONSTRUCTION OF KEEPER'S HOUSE.

8 Statement of Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

9 Bibliography: \_\_\_\_\_

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM Reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_\_

12 Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographic Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

Map Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: THE SIGNATURE OF THE FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE AND THE DATE OF SIGNING ARE NEEDED. THIS IS THE SECOND RETURN SHEET REQUESTING THIS INFORMATION.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to PERUCE MAC DOUGAL

on the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401 (8-343-6401)

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Care Skull Acting  
Chief, Branch of Registration

Date: 8-13-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JAN 15 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 1 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Monomoy Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Old Monomoy Lighthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

On Monomoy Island, in Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Barnstable

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 5 Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

One Gateway Center, Suite 700

CITY, TOWN

Newton Corner

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5, Realty

STREET &amp; NUMBER

One Gateway Center

CITY, TOWN

Newton Corner, MA

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None to our knowledge

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Situated at the southern end of Monomoy Island, a coastal barrier beach island which extends approximately ten miles south from the 'elbow' of Cape Cod, the Monomoy Point Lighthouse includes a two-story keeper's house, a light tower of brick sheathed with cast iron sheets and an adjacent generator house. The island makes up most of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is an established National Wilderness Area, although the lighthouse is located on one of two parcels of land excluded from wilderness designation. Monomoy Island can only be reached by boat.

The Lighthouse sits near the original dune line, which is now a half-mile back from the ocean. On the east side of the light are sand dunes; to the west is a freshwater marsh ecosystem where such vegetation as grasses, false heather and typical freshwater plants grow and wildlife abounds.

About forty-four feet wide on the west side by thirty-seven feet across the front south face, the keeper's house was built in a practical Cape Cod style. Weathered gray shingling, white moulding and multiple-paned windows are found on all sides. The roof has been shingled within the last twenty years. A wooden platform surrounds the structure at a height of one foot above the sand and ends in a solid board fence. The brick foundation creates a basement which is in good condition; it incorporates a fruit/vegetable cellar and four small storage areas. "Originally an oven, called the "set-tub", was built into the bricks. ...Stairs lead up from the cellar to what was then the...'but'ry' (Maro Jones manuscript)." The first floor has five rooms, all with wooden floor boards and painted plaster walls. The small kitchen displays closets and shelves to the ceiling and a working water pump. The second floor, reached by a winding series of twelve wooden stairs, contains three rooms and a small alcove.

A slant-roofed walkway along the north face connects the first floor of the house with the light tower. Entry to the light was covered, allowing the keeper to get to the tower without emerging from shelter. The light tower is about thirty-five feet high; its outer supporting guy wires are gone and its exterior red paint is badly flaking. At one time, a carpenter's shop stood within two feet of the light's base (Maro Jones manuscript). A curved metal door is part of the light's base. A rectangular plaque and an eagle once decorated the door; only their outlines remain. Inside the light, a metal serpentine stairway in very good condition twines around a central metal pipe up to a small platform. A seven-stepped metal ladder connects with the circular platform of the cupola, where the light mechanism once rested. The iron cupola is open to the weather; fifteen open sections remain where windows once were. An iron fixture, once holding the light mechanism, is bolted to the center of the floor. Three hexagonal glass floor pieces allow light to filter down into the stairwell. A two-foot wide catwalk extends completely around the cupola.

The generator house is located near the north side of the house. The eleven-foot by thirteen-foot brick building, with brick floor and exterior wooden moulding, is in good condition. Its pitched roof is covered with slate shingles. A small wooden cupola, once positioned on the roof, is now stored inside.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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JAN 15 1979

NOV 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

The keeper's house has been wired for electricity and has plumbing. Vandalism and harsh weather conditions have damaged the exposed tower and house. The tower is structurally sound but rusted and stripped of accouterments. Two abandoned modern camp houses on the property are to be removed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the next year. Active protection of the property is next to impossible at the present time. No employee is permanently stationed on Monomoy Refuge and the office of the refuge manager responsible for the property is three hours driving time from Chatham.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Original light—1823 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Original light—James Gill (?)  
 Present light—ca. 1871

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Monomoy Lighthouse played an imposing role in the navigational history of Cape Cod and the eastern coast. The lighthouse's location is significant because, as a former keeper's son wrote, "this was the beacon, guided by which sailors 'turned the corner' on their way to New York from Boston or farther north, passing thus from the most dangerous shoals of our eastern seaboard, into the calmer waters of Nantucket Sound." (Maro Jones manuscript) As the only historic, and major remaining, structure on Monomoy Island, it tells of the dangers faced by those navigating past the island's infamous shoals. Indians used to lead ships around Monomoy Point past Pollock Rip, Stonehouse and Little Round Shoals to safety. Champlain called it Cape Batturier in 1606 when he was forced ashore due to a broken rudder. Other Frenchmen named it Cape Malabar—"Cape of Evil Bars." The pilgrims, faced with the forbidding Pollock Rip Shoal, turned the Mayflower back to Provincetown (Mass. Audubon Society, p.15). Inspector Carpender noted in 1838 that "...this memorable light stands on ...a long, low beach that reaches right off into the very heart of the whole coasting navigation and requires to be lighted perhaps more conspicuously than any other port or point in the district..." (Willoughby, p.166).

The first fishing village on Monomoy was founded in 1711 when a tavern opened at Wreck Cove, north of the future light's location and near Inward Point. This harbor was used "...for vessels seeking to round the Cape..." (Smith, p.208). Survivors of journeys past Monomoy's shoals--and the Clintons of New York were one family which barely escaped them--often stopped to recuperate here.

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# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

19	080	200	190	100			
A	D,R	41,71,4,2	4,60,1,0,2,1	B	D,R	41,70,2,8	4,60,1,1,3,4
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	D,R	41,70,9,9	4,60,1,2,0,6	D	D,R	41,72,1,3	4,60,1,0,9,3
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that tract or parcel of land, known as the Old Monomoy Lighthouse site, bounded by the following described lines: beginning at a stake 360 ft. from the high water mark, and running from thence, southwest, 20 rods to a stake; thence, northwest 32 rods to a stake; thence northeast 20 rods to a stake; thence southeast 32 rods to the first named stake; the same containing 4 acres, more or less. This is the property received from the Mass. Audubon Society on June 1977 and which is exempt from Nat'l Wilderness status.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine E. Tougas, Outdoor Recreation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge 10/28/78

STREET & NUMBER

191 Sudbury Road

TELEPHONE

(617) 369-5518

CITY OR TOWN

Concord

STATE

Massachusetts

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Patricia R. Westowski*

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

*Robert E. Johnson*

TITLE

*Acting Asso. Dir.*

DATE

*9/10/79*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol Shuel*

DATE

*11-1-79*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Ann M. Dwyer*

DATE

*11/1/79*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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JAN 15 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 1 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

There is some confusion as to when the tower was rebuilt (versus refitted) and what the date of the remaining structure is. Records suggest that the original Monomoy light was the fifth light established on Cape Cod ("Clark, Lighting the Lower Cape"). James B. Gill began construction on a light in 1823, the same year that the Federal Government was granted jurisdiction of the four-acre site. Its first flame, rated at 23,000 candlepower, appeared in 1828. In 1838 it consisted of a single series of eight lamps mounted on the keeper's dwelling with thirteen-inch reflectors operating twenty-five feet above the sea (Willoughby, p.167). Upon inspection in 1842, I.W.P. Lewis recorded it as being in "ruined condition" (Snow, p.349). According to a contract now in the National Archives, a cast iron lighthouse was built by Cyrus Alger in 1849. The 1857 List of Lighthouses states that the light was refitted in 1849. Another contract dated 1849 with Pelham Bonney calls for the erection of the keeper's house at the station. Edward Rowe Snow records that "the tower was rebuilt in 1855 and again in the 1870's" (Snow, pp.349-350). Edison P. Lohr, National Park Service Historian on Cape Cod, described Monomoy Light as dating to 1855 (National Park Service miscellaneous papers). Malcolm F. Willoughby notes that "the lighthouse apparatus was changed to a fourth-order Fresnel lens..." in 1855 (Willoughby, p. 167). The List of Lighthouses of 1857 further describes the structure: "41/3/3/33-69 59/19 on the light, #73. The tower is thirty-feet; thirty-three feet above sea level, with a fourteen-inch reflector and eight lamps. The tower has a black dome." In the 1870's, after further remodeling, "the light was fixed white shown forty-seven feet above the water and visible twelve miles; a red sector indicated the position of the whistling and gas and bell buoys at the northern entrance to Pollock Rip Slue" (Willoughby, p.167). The Government Light List for 1922 portrays a "...red tower, with a covered way leading from the keeper's dwelling. The tower was 40 feet high and had a fixed white light with a red sector which was visible from 255 degrees to 267 degrees..."

As noted above, the keeper's house was erected in 1849.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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JAN 15 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 1 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 3

Clark, Captain Admont G., "Lighting the Lower Cape." Cape Cod Compass, 1970.

Jones, Maro Beath. Unpublished manuscript furnished by Mrs. Lucia B. Hills, 23 Ships Way, Bourne, MA 02532. Available at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge office in Concord, MA.

Massachusetts Audubon Society. Monomoy Wilderness (Cape Cod: Mass. Audubon Society, 1972).

National Archives. Reference report relating to the lighthouse at Monomoy Point; records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Record Group 26 including Site File, Massachusetts No. 47 and contracts. Available at National Archives, Washington, D.C.

National Park Service. Assorted file papers, Cape Cod National Seashore. Available at NPS office, Cape Cod National Seashore.

Smith, William C. A History of Chatham, Mass. (Chatham, MA: Chatham Historical Society, Inc., 1971 edition).

Snow, Edward Rowe. Famous Lighthouses of New England (Boston: Yankee Publishing Co., 1945).

Willoughby, Malcolm F. Lighthouses of New England (Boston T. T. Metcalf Co., 1929).

Property Monomoy Point lighthouse

3rd Central

State MA (Barnstable) Working Number 1.15.79.108

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 8

Maps 1

*Lighthouse played a significant role in the navigational history of Cape Cod. Only remaining structure on Monomoy Island to recall its history.*

**HISTORIAN**

*Accept  
Lighthouse  
11-1-79*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*ACCEPT  
Mac Dowell  
11/1/79*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered NOV 1 - 1979

Federal Register Entry 12-4-79

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

~~#13~~ #10/12





Monomoy Point Lighthouse  
Barnstable County, Massachusetts  
(North face)

~~2/12~~  
20/12





Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

(west side)

DOE-11-1-79

#~~378~~

3 of 12





Monomoy Point lighthouse  
Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Generator House P.O.E 11-1-79

~~4/12~~

4/12





Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

airial view of the lighthouse and generator HSE

50/12

DOE-11-1-79





Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

View looking toward the Atlantic Ocean

DOE - 11-1-79 # 69/12





Monomoy Point Lighthouse  
Barnstable County, Massachusetts

DOE-11-1-79 #70812





77

Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

DOE-11-1-79

# 8 of 12





Monomoy Point Lighthouse  
Barnstable County, Massachusetts

POE-11-1-79

# 99/12



PRINT  
MADE  
BY  
KODAK  
K  
SEP 78



Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Doc-11-1-79 - # 10412





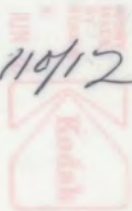
Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Barnstable County, Mass.

Downstair Bedrooms

DOE - 11-1-79

# 710/12





Monomoy Point Lighthouse

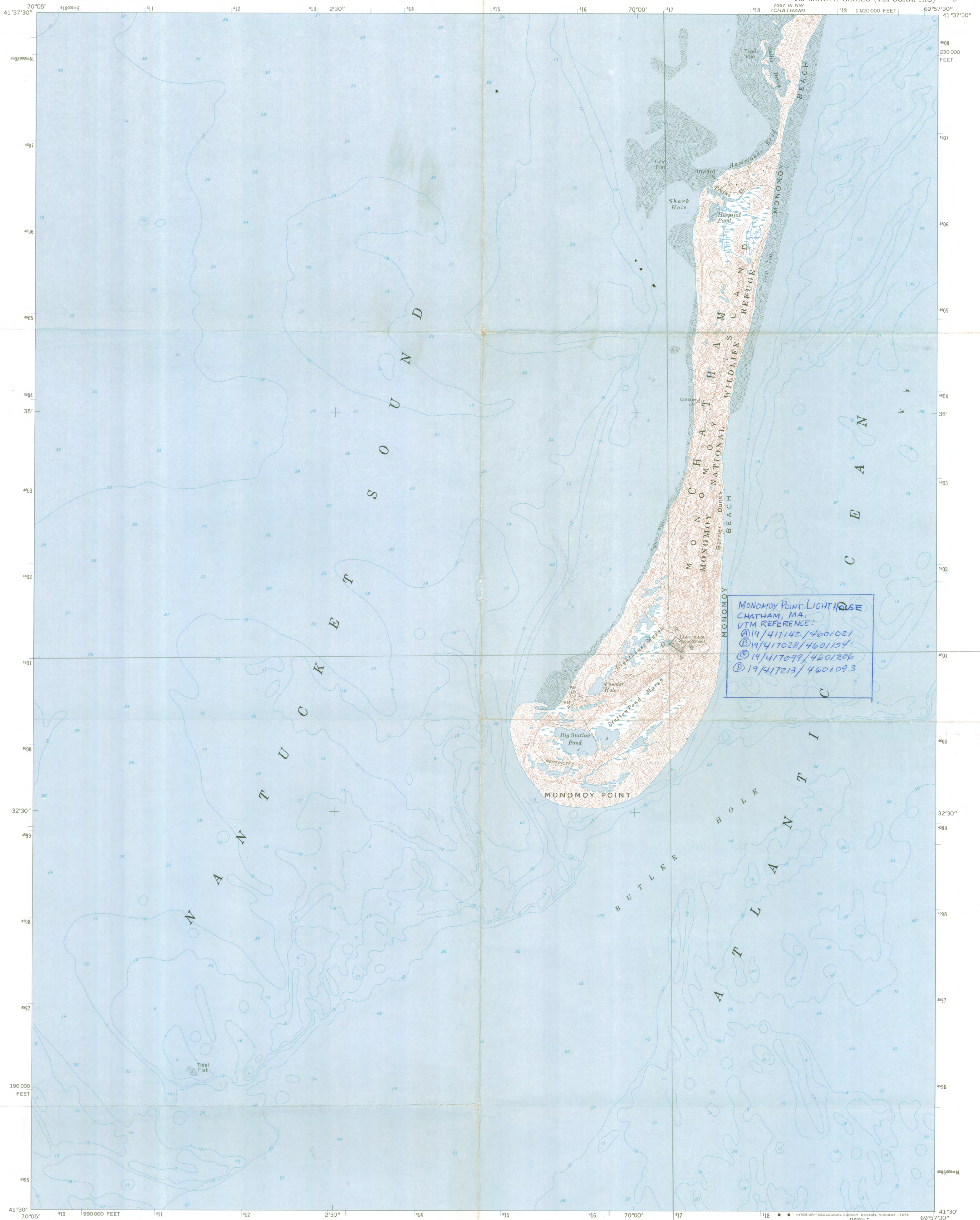
Barnstable County, Massachusetts

DOE - 11-1-79

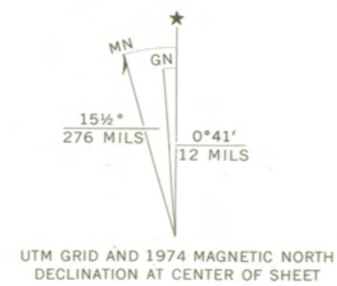
# 128/12



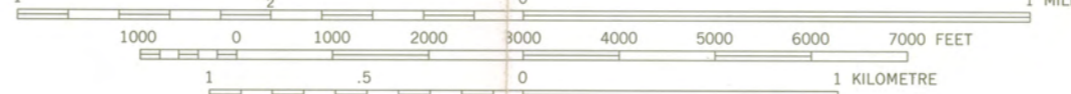
MADE  
BY  
KODAK  
K  
JUN 78



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by planetable surveys 1964. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1974  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS  
250 (1973), 257 (1972) and 270 (1971).  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 3.7 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Trails

MONOMOY POINT, MASS. JUN 4 1979  
N4130—W6957.5/7.5

1974  
AMS 6967 II SE—SERIES V814



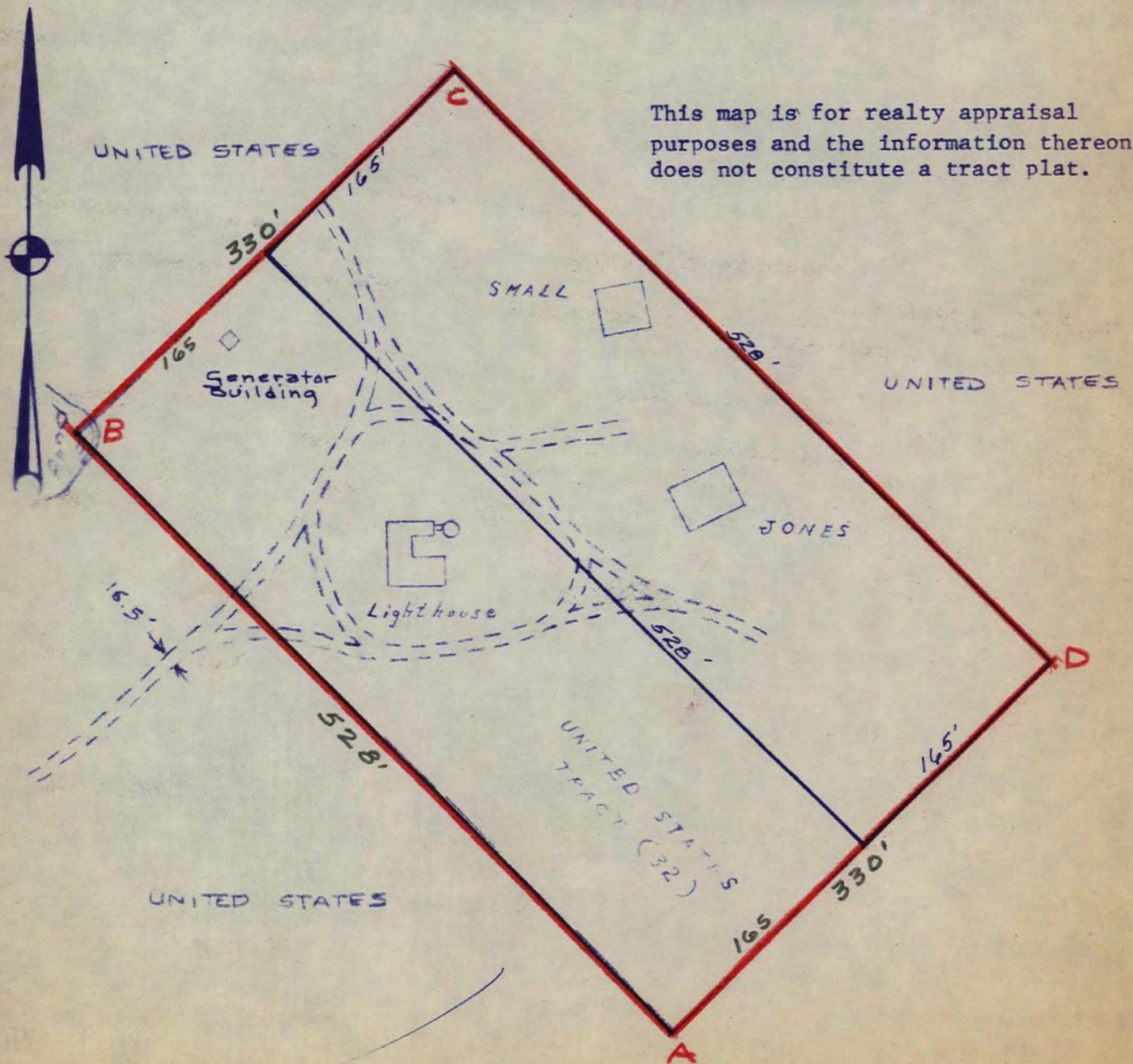
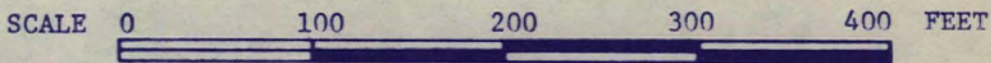
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HOWLAND B. JONES, JR., ET AL., TRACT

(33)

$\frac{40}{21}$  ACRES

TOWN OF CHATHAM  
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

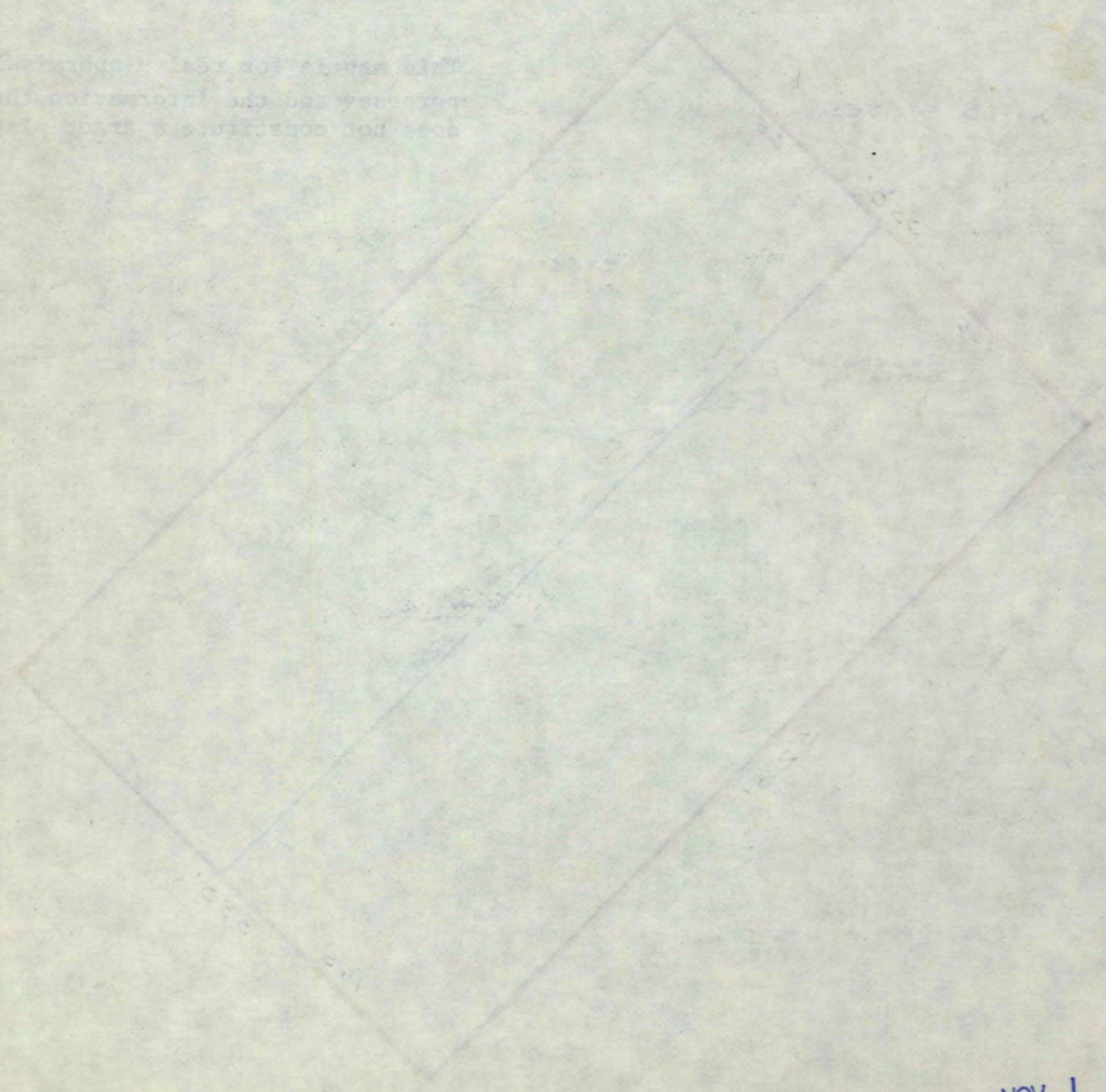


This map is for realty appraisal purposes and the information thereon does not constitute a tract plat.

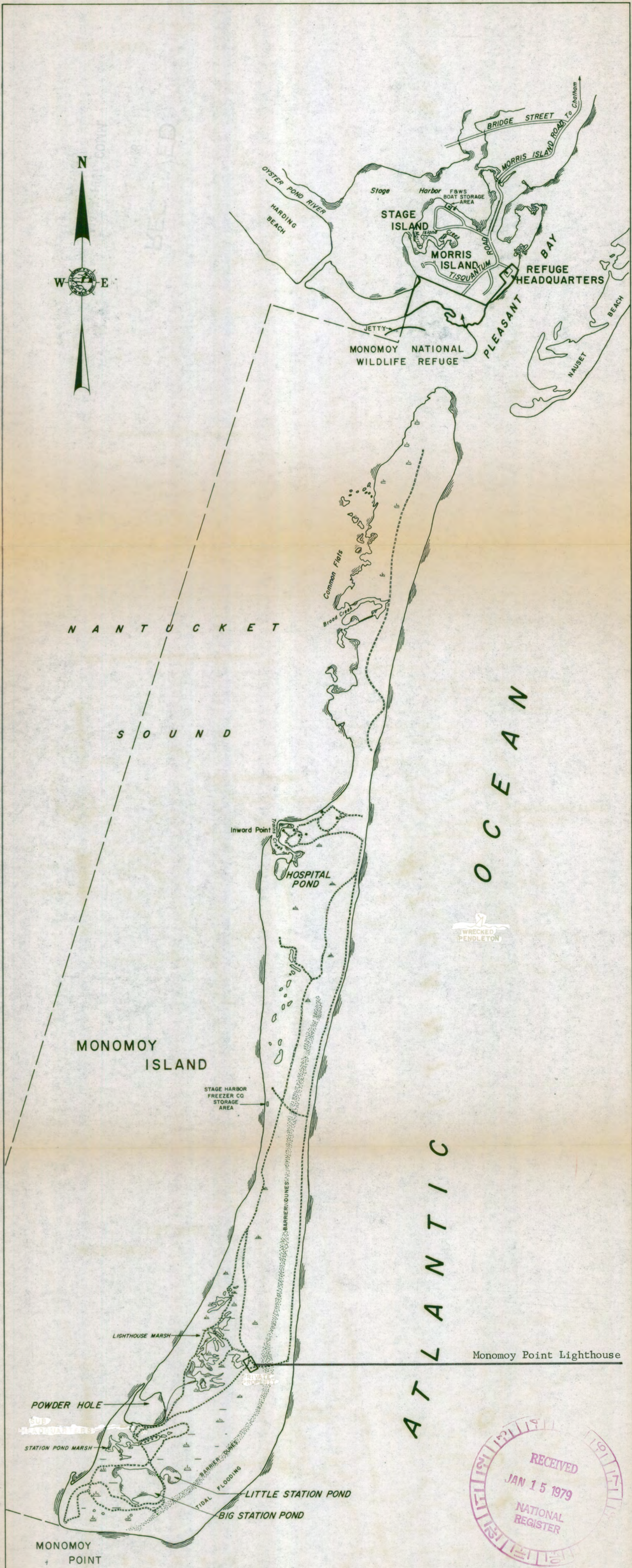
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

SECTION 16 T. 12 N. R. 10 E. S. 34  
COUNTY OF SHERIDAN, WYOMING

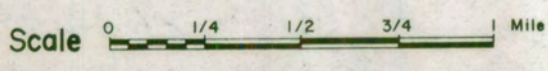
This map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a legal document.



NOV 1 1979



Monomoy Point Lighthouse



REVISIONS				JUNE 28, 1968 J.C.R.		68/02/15 J.C.R.	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE							
SUBMITTED:		MONOMOY					
REGIONAL ENGR.		NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE					
REVIEWED:		BARNSTABLE COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS					
RECOMMENDED:		OPERATING MAP					
REGIONAL DIRECTOR		SURVEYED		DESIGNED		DRAWN E.F.C.	
W.O. APPROVAL DATE		DATE		DATE		CHECKED	
		May 20, 1963				5R-MASS-391-401	





ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

# United States Department of the Interior

RECEIVED FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 4 1979

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

6.4.

MAY 24 1979

Memorandum

To: Director, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Attention: Keeper of the National Register  
Acting Associate

From: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Subject: Nomination of Monomoy Point Lighthouse to the National Register

We have reviewed the attached nomination and recommend that the site be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Attachment



ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 10 1979

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Director - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

ATTENTION: Keeper of National Register

FROM: ~~Acting Associate~~  
Director - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SUBJECT: Resubmission of Monomoy Point Lighthouse Nomination.

Attached is the signed nomination form for the Monomoy Point Lighthouse. The date you requested has been added. The present keeper's house is the same one referred to under item 8 as having been constructed in 1849.

*Robert H. Simpson*



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MASSACHUSETTS

STATE

NOV 1 1979

Date Entered

Name

Location

Monomoy Point Lighthouse

Chatham vicinity  
Barnstable County

Downtown Lawrence Historic District

Lawrence  
Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Gerry E. Studts  
Honorable James M. Shannon  
Mr. David F. Hales,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
Mr. James W. Pulliam, Jr.  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr 11/5/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 25

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

See National Register File  
Listed 11/1/79

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

HISTORIC NAME: Monomoy Point Light

TOWN: Chatham

LOCATION: Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

COUNTY: Barnstable CODE: 001

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10<sup>th</sup>

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

see NR nomination

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

SKETCH MAP

LAT./LONG.: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM COORDINATE: 19/417/600/4603/600

USGS QUADRANGLE: Prov. RI., Mass., Conn.

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER(S): USEW

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED BY: Anne Tait/NR nomination

ORGANIZATION: MHC

DATE: 1979/1986

### Monomoy Point Light, Chatham

Situated at the southern end of Monomoy Island, a coastal barrier beach island which extends approximately ten miles south from the 'elbow' of Cape Cod, the Monomoy Point Lighthouse, Chatham, includes a two-story Keeper's House, a light tower of brick sheathed with cast iron sheets and an adjacent generator house. The island makes up most of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is an established National Wilderness Area, although the lighthouse is located on one of two parcels of land excluded from wilderness designation. Monomoy Island can only be reached by boat.

The Lighthouse sits near the original dune line, which is now a half-mile back from the ocean. On the east side of the light are sand dunes; to the west is a freshwater marsh ecosystem where such vegetation as grasses, false heather and typical freshwater plants grow and wildlife abounds.

About forty-four feet wide on the west side by thirty-seven feet across the front south face, the Keeper's House was built in a practical Cape Cod style. Weathered gray shingling, white moulding and multiple-paned windows are found on all sides. The roof has been shingled within the last twenty years. A wooden platform surrounds the structure at a height of one foot above the sand and ends in a solid board fence. The brick foundation creates a basement which is in good condition; it incorporates a fruit/vegetable cellar and four small storage areas. "Originally an oven, called the "set-tub", was built into the bricks. ...Stairs lead up from the cellar to what was then the... 'but'ry' (Maro Jones manuscript)". The first floor has five rooms, all with wooden floor boards and painted plaster walls. The small kitchen displays closets and shelves to the ceiling and a working water pump. The second floor, reached by a winding series of twelve wooden stairs, contains three rooms and a small alcove.

A slant-roofed walkway along the north face connects the first floor of the house with the light tower. Entry to the light was covered, allowing the keeper to get to the tower without emerging from shelter. The light tower is about thirty-five feet high; its outer supporting shop stood within two feet of the light's base (Maro Jones manuscript). A curved metal door; is part of the light's base. A rectangular plaque and an eagle once decorated the door; only their outlines remain. Inside the light, a metal serpentine stairway in very good condition twines around a central metal pipe up to a small platform. A seven-stepped metal ladder connects with the circular platform of the cupola, where the light mechanism once rested. The iron cupola is open to the weather; fifteen open sections remain where windows once were. An iron fixture, once holding the light mechanism, is bolted to the center of the floor. Three hexagonal glass floor pieces allow light to filter down into the stairwell. A two-foot wide catwalk extends completely around the cupola.

The generator house is located near the north side of the house. The eleven-foot by thirteen-foot brick building, with brick floor and exterior wooden moulding, is in good condition. Its pitched roof is covered with slate shingles. A small wooden cupola, once positioned on the roof, is now stored inside.

the keeper's house has been wired for electricity and has plumbing. Vandalism and harsh weather conditions have damaged the exposed tower and house. The tower is structurally sound but rusted and stripped of accouterments. Two abandoned modern camp houses on the property are to be removed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the next year. Active protection of the property is next to impossible at the present time. No employee is permanently stationed on Monomoy Refuge and the office of the refuge manager responsible for the property is three hours driving time from Chatham.

#### SIGNIFICANCE

Old Monomoy Lighthouse played an imposing role in the navigational history of Cape Cod and the eastern coast. The lighthouse's location is significant because, as a former keeper's son wrote, "this was the beacon, guided by which sailors 'turned the corner' on their way to New York from Boston or farther north, passing thus from the most dangerous shoals of our eastern seaboard, into the calmer waters of Nantucket Sound." (Maro Jones manuscript) As the only historic, and major remaining structure on Monomoy Island, it tells of the dangers faced by those navigating past the island's infamous shoals. Indians used to lead ships around Monomoy Point past Pollock Rip, Stonehouse and Little Round Shoals to safety. Champlain called it Cape Batturier in 1606 when he was forced ashore due to a broken rudder. Other Frenchmen named it Cape Malabar--"Cape of Evil Bars." The pilgrims, faced with the forbidding Pollock Rip Shoal, turned the Mayflower back to Provincetown (Mass. Audobon Society, p. 15). Inspector Carpenter noted in 1838 that "...this memorable light stands on ...a long, low beach that reaches right off into the very heart of th whole coasting navigation and requires to be lighted perhaps more conspicuously than any other port or point in the district..." (Willoughby, p.. 166).

The first fishing village on Monomoy was founded in 1711 when a tavern opened a Wreck Cove, north of the future light's location and near Inward Point. This harbor was used "...for vessels seeking to round the Cape..." (Smith, p. 208). Survivors of journeys past Monomoy's shoals--and the Clintons of New York were one family which barely escaped them--often stoped to recuperate here.

Natural history has shaped human history on the wilderness area where the lighthouse is the only visible memory left of human habitation, whips downed and passengers drowned. Monomoy's shifting topography, forming shoals which led to the building of the light, may also have led to its decommissioning in 1923. Glacial debris, washed from the upper Cape to the island's eastern flank, has increased the distance between the structure and the Atlantic Ocean. Sailors must still be wary of treacherous shoals nearby, but modern navigational aids and improvement of the Chatham light caused Monomoy light to be abandoned.

There is some confusion as t when the tower was rebuilt (versus refitted) and what the date of the remaining structure is. Records suggest that the original Monomoy light was the fifth light established on Cape Cod ("Clark, Lighting the Lower Cape"). James B. Gill began construction on a light in 1823, the same year that the Federal Government was granted jurisdiction of the four-acre site. It first flame, rated at 23,000 candlepower, appeared in 1828. In 1838 it consisted of a single series of eight lamps mounted on the

keeper's dwelling with thirteen-inch reflectors operating twenty-five feet above the sea (Willoughby, p. 167). Upon inspection in 1842, I.W.P. Lewis recorded it as being in "ruined condition" (Snow, p. 349). According to a contract now in the National Archives, a cast iron lighthouse was built by Cyrus Alger in 1849. The 1857 List of Lighthouses states that the light was refitted in 1849. Another contract dated 1849 with Pelham Bonney calls for the erection of the keeper's house at the station. Edward Rowe Snow records that "the tower was rebuilt in 1855 and again in the 1870s" (Snow, pp. 349-350). Edison P. Lohr, National Park Service Historian on Cape Cod, described Monomoy Light as dating to 1855 (National Park Service miscellaneous papers). Malcolm F. Willoughby notes that "the lighthouse apparatus was changed to a fourth-order Fresnel lens..." in 1855 (Willoughby, p. 167). The List of Lighthouses of 1857 further describes the structure: "41/3/3/33-6959/19 on the light, #73. The tower is thirty-feet; thirty-three feet above sea level, with a fourteen-inch reflector and eight lamps. The tower has a black dome." In the 1870s, after further remodeling, "the light was fixed white shown forty-seven feet above the water and visible twelve miles; a red sector indicated the position of the whistling and gas and bell buoys at the northern entrance to a "...red tower, with a covered way leading from the keeper's dwelling. The tower was 40 feet high and has fixed white light with a red sector which was visible from 255 degrees to 267 degrees..."

#### Verbal Boundary Description

All that tract or parcel of land, known as the Old Monomoy Lighthouse site, bounded by the following described lines: beginning at a stake 360 ft. from the high water mark, and running from thence, southwest, 20 rods to a stake; thence, northwest 32 rods to a stake; thence northeast 20 rods to a stake; thence southeast 32 rods to the first named stake; the same containing 4 acres, more or less. This is the property received from the Mass. Audobon Society on June 1977 and which is exempt from National Wilderness status.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clark, Captain Admont G. "Lighting the Lower Cape." Cape Cod Compass, 1970.

Jones, Maro Beath. Unpublished manuscript furnished by Mrs. Lucia B. Hills, 23 Ships way, Bourne, MA 02532. Available at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge office in Concord, MA.

Massachusetts Audobon Society. Monomoy Wilderness (Cape Cod: Mass. Audobon Society, 1972).

National Archives. Reference report relating to the lighthouse at Monomoy Point; records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Record Group 26 including Site File, Massachusetts No. 47 and contracts. Available at National Archives, Washington, DC.

National Park Service. Assorted file papers, Cape Cod National Seashore. Available at NPS office, Cape Cod National Seashore.

Smith, William C. A History of Chatham, MA. (Chatham, MA: Chatham Historical Society, Inc., 1971 edition).

Snow, Edward Rowe. Famous Lighthouses of New England (Boston: Yankee Publishing Co., 1945).

Willoughby, Malcolm F. Lighthouses of New England (Boston T. T. Metcalf Co., 1929).

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: **Monomoy Point Lighthouse**      ② OTHER NAMES: **Old Monomoy Lighthouse**      NOV 31 1979      ④ county code: **1**

⑤ LOCATION street & number **Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge**      city / town **Chatham**      vicinity of **Chatham**      state **MA**      county **Barnstable**      ⑥ NPS REGION: **NE**

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name) **U.S. Fish and Wildlife**      ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL      ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO      ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT **12**      ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO      ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO      ⑮ ACREAGE \_\_\_\_\_  LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  deteriorated  altered  original site  excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  fair  unexcavated  excavated

⑰ features: INTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-5  NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES - Restricted  YES - Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown      ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO      ⑳ SAVED?  YES  NO      ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  ENGINEERING - 11  LANDSCAPE ARCH. - 15  POLITICS / GOVT. - 21  RECREATION - 28  ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2  COMMERCE - 6  ENTERTAINMENT - 26  LAW - 16  RELIGION - 22  SETTLEMENT - 29  ARCHEOLOGY - historic - 1  COMMUNICATIONS - 7  EXPLORATION - 12  LITERATURE - 17  SCIENCE - 23  URBAN PLANNING - 31  AGRICULTURE - 3  CONSERVATION - 8  HEALTH - 27  MILITARY - 18  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN - 24  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_  ARCHITECTURE - 4  ECONOMICS - 9  INDUSTRY - 13  MUSIC - 19  SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30  TRANSPORTATION - 25  ART - 5  EDUCATION - 10  INVENTION - 14  PHILOSOPHY - 20

㉓ CLAIMS: explain 'first'  'oldest'  'only'

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENTLY: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉕ dates of initial construction: major alterations: \_\_\_\_\_ historic events: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

㉗ architectural style(s): \_\_\_\_\_      ㉘ architect: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉙ master builder: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉚ engineer: \_\_\_\_\_

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉜ interior decorator: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉝ artist: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉞ artisan: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉟ builder / contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

㊱ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: \_\_\_\_\_ EVENTS: \_\_\_\_\_ INSTITUTIONAL: \_\_\_\_\_

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP



PAUL GUZZI

Secretary of the Commonwealth

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Office of the Secretary

### Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

(617) 727-8470

December 20, 1978

United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 5, Realty  
One Gateway Center  
Newton Corner, Massachusetts



*nom.*

Dear Sirs:

I have reviewed the nomination form for the Monomoy Point Lighthouse in Chatham and feel that it meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The nineteenth century structure has played a significant role in the navigational history of Cape Cod and should be preserved as the only extant reminder of Monomoy Island's past. In accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 60.15 I am returning the form to you so that you may forward it to the Secretary of the Interior.

- ARW
- BLHP
- MB
- MONO
- N&I
- RE
- AP
- RM
- SM
- LP
- Route
- File
- Toss

Sincerely,

*Patricia L. Weslowski*

Patricia L. Weslowski  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission



PLW/CJ/ts  
enclosure

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 29 1978  
GREAT MEADOWS REFUGE

SS	_____
AD	_____
RA	_____
AP	_____
RM	_____
SM	_____
LP	_____
Return To	_____
File	_____



# TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Monomoy Lighthouse, MA

To/FROM: Edgar Allen Yaw

DATE: 2/2/79

ADDRESS: Natl Wildlife Refuge

PHONE: FTS 829-9222

STAFF MEMBER: OREGUS

DIVISION: 215/79

REPORT:

Please return nomination for  
signature in #12.

Regional Director  
1 Gateway Center  
Suite 200  
Newton Corner, MA 02158

Monomoy Pt. Lighthouse, Castleson,  
Barnstable, MA

Monomoy Point Lighthouse  
1-30-79

# CHATHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chatham, Massachusetts 02633



February 9, 1979

National Register of Historic Places  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear National Register:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5 Office, has nominated the Monomoy Point Lighthouse to the National Register of Historic Places. The Chatham Historical Commission supports this nomination.

The Monomoy Point Lighthouse played a significant role in the history of navigation on Cape Cod! It overlooks some of the most dangerous shoals on the east coast of the United States. Monomoy and its lighthouse have played an important part, also, in the local history of Chatham. For many years there was a fishing village on Monomoy with its own school that was considered a part of the town. There are townspeople today who either lived in that fishing village or served in the Coast Guard at the Monomoy Point Lighthouse. For the people of Chatham the lighthouse is not a forgotten or discarded piece of history.

We hope that the Old Monomoy Point Lighthouse will be listed on the National register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

*Mary R. James*

Mary R. James (Mrs.)  
Secretary

MRJ/

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FEB 16 1979

DATE REC'D

2-22-79

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_