

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 41

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Jack Clarke - CCPDC - 12/80

1) tower, walkway & keeper's house

HISTORIC NAME: Wing's Neck Light

TOWN: Bourne (Pocasset section)

LOCATION: At the end of Wing's Neck (RD) on the east side of Buzzard's Bay at entrance to Cape Cod Canal
COUNTY: Barnstable CODE: 001

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 12th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

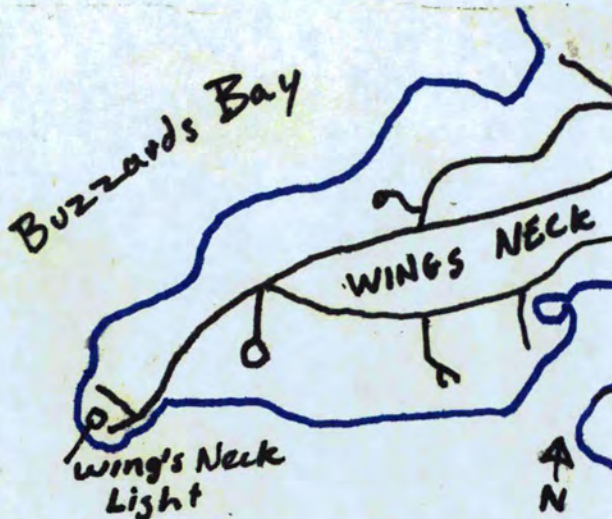
Barnstable County Courthouse

Barnstable, Massachusetts

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

please refer to the attached assessor's map

SKETCH MAP



LAT./LONG.: 41°40'48"N/70°89'41"W

UTM COORDINATE: 19/361/800/4615/600

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

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: 3.6 acres

OWNER(S): Irene and Frank Flanagan

Box 575

Pocasset, MA 02559

STATUS: _____

Unmanned/Inactive

RECORDED BY: N. Salzman/J. Clarke

ORGANIZATION: MHC/CCPEDC

DATE: July 24, 1981

MAY 4 1987

Wing's Neck Light, Bourne

SITE DESCRIPTION

Wing's Neck Light, Bourne, is located at the end of Wing's Neck (on Wing's Neck Road) which is a peninsula lying north of Pocasset Harbor (Bourne) and south of Hog Island Channel into Cape Cod Canal. It was originally a swampy area, accessible at low tide and infested with mosquitoes. Commerce flowed past this site from the port of Wareham and the Pocasset iron foundry; the lighthouse guarded the eastern entrance for Sandwich Harbor and the Monument River. The site later became important as an approach to the Cape Cod Canal which opened in 1914. The land is protected by a breakwater and is treeless.

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION: An 1889 wooden octagonal tower and 1889 keeper's dwelling, later joined by a gable roof covered walkway stand on the site. Nearby are an 1849 stone Oil House and an 1870s Keeper's House that were floated to the site from Ned Point (#29), Mattapoisett.

Tower:

Exterior: three story wood frame, octagonal tower sheathed in white shingles. Surmounted by standard cast iron lens room with balcony. Intact ventilator ball and lightning rod; copper strap grounds rod at base of tower. Fieldstone foundation.

Interior:

Entry - through a covered walkway from the Keeper's House.

Walls - plaster, painted white.

Floor - wooden.

Stair - natural wood treads, painted risers.

Railing - natural wood. Finely turned balusters 2 per step.

Landing near top is unusual in that it contains a fine brass-framed slot through which the chains of the lamp's clockwork passed. The staircase is unique and in perfect condition.

Lens Room - typical, cast iron lower half with windows above.

Walls - paneled in natural, vertical tongue/groove panelling.

Vent - rare copper fitting in round housing, shaped like a can with a wide strap handle. As it is pulled out from the wall, large round holes in the sides of the can admit air.

Walkway - Exterior white shingles with grey roof on post foundation. One window on NW side. Interior - open gable ceiling with cross bracing; wood floor.

Keeper's
Dwelling-

Exterior

Center chimney, cross gable, 1 1/2 story wood frame; white shingles and grey roof; no vergeboards remain.

Front (west) elevation has enclosed porch, stair window halfway up under eave, modern 1/1 windows at L1 and L2.

Side (north) has new addition at L1, intact window in gable L2.

Rear (east, now front) facade has been altered; enclosed porch on left, modern window replaces original double window.

Side (south) includes small extension of porch flush with wall and containing a small wide, modern window. This window from is repeated in the other two windows L1, L2 gable contains an original window plus a small one added on the left.

Interior - Stair Hall retains original curved wall, newel post and balusters, railing; window and door openings retained; cast iron stove and soapstone sink documented.

Oil House - typical plan and wooden trim, slate roof, random ashlar with "keystone" lintel arrangement over door; small louvred windows in front and rear gables; vertical wooden door with strap hinges.

Second
Keeper's

House - moved to site from Ned Point, Mattapoisett (# 28).

Boathouse - vertical wooden siding, converted to dwelling.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY:

- 2/14/1849 - State of Massachusetts cedes land to U.S. Government.
- 1849 - 2.04 acres bought for \$80 (USCG records).
- 3/14/1849 - 9.75 acres bought for \$250 (Bourne Archives).
- 8/14/1849 - stone dwelling surmounted by white, wooden, hexagonal white wooden lighthouse completed for \$3500 by John Vina. 38' above ground, 50' above sea level. Light fixed white, 14 mile range.
- 1878 - lighthouse destroyed by a fire in the roof lantern, "apparently stone dwelling continued to serve as a lighthouse until 1899 when 'it was necessary to rebuild the lighthouse'"
- 1889 - Keeper's Dwelling and tower constructed: wood frame (Bourne Archives) "framed pyramidal tower built for lantern set apart from building." Old photo shows such a structure between the water and the present tower and walkway/house complex. The tower was quite steep, with 3 windows and a shallow sloping hipped roof with ventilator ball. It bore a strong resemblance to the Front Range Light (# 30) at Newburyport. The tower was hexagonal and was surmounted by a cast iron lantern.
- 1912 - Coastal Pilot records hexagonal tower and 1000# fog bell, which was mechanically struck once every 10 seconds.
- 1914 - Cape Cod Canal opens. Oil Lamp changed to vaporlight.
- 1943-45 - steel skeleton tower erected. Now holds radar equipment.
- 1947 - property sold to Frank and Irene Flanagan.
- 4/28/1952 - Frank Flanagan deeded additional land
- 12/13/1963 - some land transferred to Department of Army as part of Cape Cod Canal operations.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wings Neck 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 1889, it is the only intact wooden tower attached by a covered walkway to a period keeper's house. The site, which also includes a stone oil house (1849) and a second keeper's house (1870s) possesses considerable scenic importance and retains several unique features. It meets criteria A and C of the NRHP on the state level as well as survey criteria 1a, 1d, 2c, 3a.

1889 - Lighthouse destroyed by a fire in the roof lantern, "apparently stop drifting continued to serve as a lighthouse until 1899 when it was necessary to rebuild the lighthouse"

1890 - Keeper's Dwelling and tower constructed; wood frame (Bourne Archives) "framed pyramidal tower built for lantern set apart from building". Old photo shows such a structure between the tower and the present tower and hallway house complex. The tower was quite steep, with 3 windows and a spiral stairing hinged roof with ventilator ball. It bore a strong resemblance to the front Range Light (L 50) at Newburyport. The tower was hexagonal and was surrounded by a cast iron lantern.

1905 - Coastal Pilot records hexagonal tower and 1000 lb bell, which was mechanically struck once every 10 seconds.

1912 - Cape Cod Canal opens. 677 lamp changed to vapor light.

1927-41 - steel skeleton tower erected. New high radar equipment.

1951 - property sold to Frank and Irene Flanagan.

1952-53 - Frank Flanagan beaded abutment land

1963 - some land transferred to Department of Army as part of Cape Cod Canal operations.

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 6/15/8

Attest _____

32. Clark's Point Light

Substantive Revised

Keeper see on internal report

Attest _____

33. Tarpaulin Cove Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Alores Byers 6/15/8

Attest _____

34. Three Sisters of Nauset (Twin Lights)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Alores Byers 6/15/8

Attest _____

35. West Chop Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Alores Byers 6/15/8

Attest _____

36. Wing's Neck Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Alores Byers 6/15/8

Attest _____

37. Wood End Light Lookout Station

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Alores Byers 6/15/8

Attest _____

38. Newburyport Harbor Rear Range Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Alores Byers 6/15/8

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

Wing's Neck Light (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		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: _____



WING'S NECK LIGHT
BOURNE, MA. #42

PHOTO #1 OF 1

Wing's Neck Light

Bourne, MA

12/80

Jack Clarke

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

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