

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Atlantic</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.1.34.0005</b>	DATE <b>1/25/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Absecon Lighthouse**

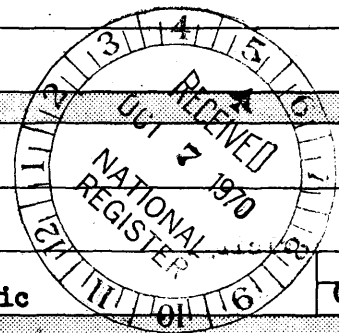
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Vermont and Pacific Avenues**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Atlantic City**

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Atlantic** CODE: **001**



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <b>State-owned Historic Site</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 1390, John Fitch Way Plaza**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Atlantic County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Mays Landing** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #186.1**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1961**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Historic Sites Section    Department Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1420**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

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7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The Absecon Lighthouse was built in 1856 by the United States Government at the northern end of Absecon Island, now Atlantic City. It was built of iron and brick and towers 171 feet above the ground. It is circular measuring 27 feet in diameter at the base and 13' 7½" at the lens chamber. An iron spiral staircase extends from the base to the lens chamber. Iron frames with large, rectangular glass panes support a 12 sided pyramid roof. A catwalk at a storage level just below the lens provided the lightkeeper with a view of the inlet.</p> <p>The light was installed in the lighthouse in 1857. It was fired by mineral oil and intensified by a "Fresnel lens of the first order". It was replaced in 1910 by an incandescent oil vapor lamp and in 1925 by electricity.</p> <p>The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1933. Originally there was a keepers house, an assistant keepers house and an oil house on the property. These are shown in early photographs, but were greatly re-modeled and torn down before the property was deeded to the State.</p> <p>The lighthouse which was built near the inlet in an area where there were few houses is now one mile from the same inlet in a totally built-up area.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



# 8. Statement of Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1856 - (1933 decommissioned)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br>nautical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  | _____   |

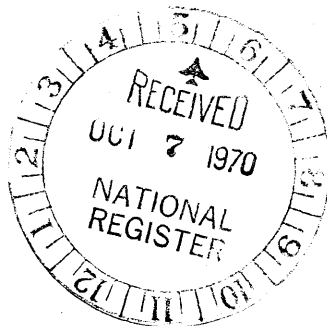
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Absecon Lighthouse is significant for navigational history and for its architecture. The building was erected in 1856 under the direction of Lt. George Meade, later commander of Union forces at Gettysburg. It served mariners along the coast from 1857 until 1933. It was erected as one of several lighthouses extending from Sandy Hook to Cape May. Its beacon, visible for 20 miles, provided a measure of safety to ships engaged in coastal trade and to yachtsmen searching for the inlet.

Prior to being built several ships and well over a thousand people perished along the shoal area of Brigantine Beach and Atlantic City.

The building, described in the preceding physical appearance has Historic American Building's Survey status for the lighthouse structures. The keeper's dwelling was demolished before drawings were made of that structure.

Today there is a small museum in a new building erected at the base. It is opened to the public during Atlantic City's tourist season, May through September.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boucher, Jack E. "Historic Absecon Lighthouse" Atlantic County Historical Society, Somers Point, New Jersey 1964

Boucher, Jack E., Abseami Yesteryear, Atlantic County Historical Society, 1963

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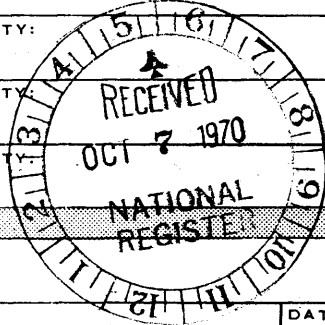
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 21 57	74 24 54	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles Wilson, Jr., Archeologist**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection** DATE: **July, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 1420**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Richard G. Sullivan*

Title: **Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection**

Date: **September 11, 1970**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ernest A. Connolly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JAN 25 1971

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

*Richard G. Sullivan*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **Nov 13, 1980**