

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and sub-categories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Liston Range Front Lighthouse

other names/site number CRS # N03901

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 1600 Belts Road not for publication city or town Bay View Beach vicinity
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19709

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

December 2, 2003
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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Liston Range Front Lighthouse
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State

=====

Agency Certification

In my opinion, the Liston Range Front Lighthouse meets/ does not meet
the National Register Criteria.



9-9-03

Thomas P. Gordon
County Executive
New Castle County, Delaware

Date

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined eligible for the _____ National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined not eligible for the _____ National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain):

Patience Andrews
Signature of Keeper

1/14/2004
Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation	Sub: Lighthouse
Transportation	Fuel Storage/Privy
Defense	Arms Storage
Defense	Fortification
Domestic	Keeper's Dwelling
Domestic	Garage
Agriculture/Subsistence	Animal Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic	Sub: Keeper's Dwelling
Domestic	Garage
Domestic	Storage/Privy

=====

7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	Poured Concrete
roof	Standing Seam Metal
walls	Frame
other	Fuel Storage Building: white glazed brick walls

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation
Architecture
Military

Period of Significance
1907-1952

Significant Dates
1908- date of construction
1932- date of the electrification of the light
1941- fortifications placed after Pearl Harbor
1952- light moved from the lighthouse to the skeleton tower

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Major C. A. F. Flagler, Designer
Warner and Blair of Claymont, Delaware, builders

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC /Philadelphia, PA
- Local government
- University: University of Delaware, Special Collections: Keepers Day Books.
- Other: Collection of William H. Duncan, M.D.

Name of repository:

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 4.77 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>18</u>	<u>451918</u>	<u>4401298</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

The Liston Range Front Lighthouse property is bounded on the east by the Delaware River and on the north, west and south by adjacent property lines. A small section of ground, less than 1 acre, along the Delaware River was excluded from this nomination. It contains the current electrified light tower built in the late 1950s that is maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Boundary Justification

This boundary represents the tax parcel in private ownership and associated with the Liston Range Front Lighthouse. The mid 1950s steel electrified tower, still in use as an aid to navigation along the Delaware River, has been excluded from the boundary because it post-dates the period of significance of the property and is under separate ownership.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Editor, Robin Bodo, Historian; Primary Author, William H. Duncan, M.D.
organization Delaware State Historic Preservation Office; Property Owner
date May, 2003; October, 2002
street & number 21 The Green, Suite A; 509 Falkirk Road, Woodbrook Subdivision
city or town Dover; Wilmington state Delaware zip code 19901; 19803-2445

=====
Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name William H. Duncan, M.D.
street & number 509 Falkirk Road, Woodbrook telephone 302-656-0689
city or town Wilmington state Delaware zip code 19803-2445

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Liston Range Front Lighthouse
name of property
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county and State

Physical Description

Located at the southern edge of the New Castle County, Delaware seasonal community of Bayview Beach, the Liston Range Front Lighthouse is placed at the edge of a prominent bend in the Delaware River. The two-story Colonial Revival style frame dwelling is surmounted by a two story frame tower that housed the light needed to aid navigation along the Liston Range in the Delaware River. Different from the majority of lighthouses in Delaware, the residential function dominates the appearance of the building, rather than its lighthouse function. The square, frame, light tower protrudes two stories above the central ridgeline and bears no distinguishing daymarks.

Of the four elevations of the building, the east and west are virtually identical in detail, as are the north and south elevations. Colonial Revival in design and detail, the main block of the building is two stories tall, three bays wide, constructed of frame with weatherboard siding and simple corner boards, and is virtually square in shape, 36'long x 33'wide. The windows are 1/1 double hung sash wood windows and retain their shutters and hardware, and are placed in regular arrangement across the building. Door and window surrounds are simply detailed. The building has a hipped roof and the image of a traditional central dormer of the Foursquare variety of the Colonial Revival style. This stylistic representation of the standard design feature is oversized, placed at the roof ridge, and incorporated into the tower. This square space is weatherboard sided and lit by a single group of three windows placed in a simple surround. This detail occurs on both the east and west elevations. The light tower raises an additional story above the house. Smaller in scale than the enlarged dormer below, the light tower is simply detailed and capped by a pyramidal roof. The widow's walk, a walkway around the fourth story tower, is open to the elements. The balustrade displays a simple turned picket baluster design interrupted by square newel posts that re-emphasize the spacing of the tower on the third story platform. The tower is flanked by brick chimneys on the north and south sides. Constructed of hemlock timbers, the building was constructed to withstand harsh weather conditions and fire. Fire breaks, also of hemlock were placed between each floor. These are especially visible in the basement and attic.

The east (waterfront) and west elevations are primary, displaying the front and rear entries and the full width front porches. The porches have Tuscan columns supporting the hipped roof structures and simple entablatures. The entry is placed in the central bay, which is defined by a projecting pedimented entry to the porch supported by its own pair of Tuscan columns. The turned picket balusters span between the columns. The north and south elevations have two windows per floor arranged in regular fashion. The bays closest to the water on these elevations contain projecting windows on the first floor. Rectangular in shape, these decorative features are supported by oversized wooden brackets.

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The interior retains a high degree of integrity in finish and detail. It is arranged with four rooms and a hall on each of the two primary living floors. The central staircase, made of white oak, has a decorative square newel post and turned balusters along each leg. The staircase continues up the central core of the building, terminating at the light tower. The woodwork on the walls throughout the building is chestnut except for the oak fire place surrounds. Fireplaces occur in the living room and in the parlor and both retain decorative original tile work. Wood flooring is exposed throughout the house and is red [heart] pine wood. The dining room retains an original built-in china cabinet. The kitchen retains original cabinetry. The second floor originally consisted of four equal-sized bedrooms that open off the central hallway. The bathroom was placed at the top of the stairs in 1935 and was created from the footprint of a third of one of the bedrooms. A large attic space wraps around the entire third story of the house.

One fine detail remaining in the house is a chase that goes from the light tower to the basement. It stands in front of the chimney and housed the mechanism that operated the four-second shutters on front of the light's lens. The mechanism worked like a grandfather clock with chains, weights and ratchets that ran from the cupola to the basement. The weights were set from the basement every 24 hours.

Three outbuildings that reflect the residential/lighthouse use are within the nominated boundary. The single story frame garage building is two long bays wide and surmounted by a hipped roof with half hipped dormers, echoing the Colonial Revival style of the lighthouse. The oil storage building is constructed of masonry faced in white glazed bricks. This hipped-roof T-shaped, building has one entrance door in the center of the north elevation and a rear extension that contains an outhouse. These two buildings date from the construction of the lighthouse in 1908-09. The third outbuilding building is located in a wire fence enclosure at the northern end of the property. The single story, frame shed roofed building was constructed to shelter fowl, either chicken or turkeys. The precise age of the structure is unknown but appears to date from the second quarter of the 20th century. A concrete sea wall provides a hard edge to the property with concrete steps that lead down to the water. This seawall supports the filled area that created the solid base for the lighthouse.

Two structures relating to the military history of the property are located within the nominated boundary. Located to the south of the façade and placed toward the river, a hexagonal, cast-in-place concrete gun emplacement survives. Surrounded by an integrally poured low concrete wall, the base retains its gun mounting hardware. A concrete powder magazine also remains. This undistinguished concrete building is located to the south of the gun emplacement and is obscured by marsh grasses.

The Liston Range Front Lighthouse is placed on a 4.77 acre lot with a curving drive passes by a small pond and leads to the complex of buildings. The lot is generally landscaped in a mid-20th century

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residential style with specimen trees and shrubs placed on the lot. The filled area is surrounded at the margins with marsh grasses. Views from the light tower include long vistas along the Delaware River. The nuclear power plant at Salem, New Jersey, is directly across the river from this location.

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Statement of Significance

Located at 1600 Belts Road, at the southern end of the main road in the seasonal community of Bayview Beach in New Castle County, Delaware, the Liston Range Front Light is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in the areas of transportation and architecture. The Liston Range Front Lighthouse is significant as an aid to navigation in the Delaware River corridor, and as an architecturally significant example of a variety of lighthouse design that is predominately domestic in appearance with the light as an integral part of the structure. The property is significant at the national level for its association with the national context of aids to navigation.

The commercial development of the Delaware River relates directly to the establishment of the series of range lights from the entrance of the Delaware Bay to north of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As vessels pass the Ship John Shoal Lighthouse in the Delaware Bay making their way north to the Delaware River, the first of the guiding range lights seen are the strong white lights of the Liston Range. This lighthouse provides the front navigational range light for what is said to be the longest strait line navigational range in the world, over 17.5 nautical miles. Range lights function in pairs, an intermittent light on shore and a constant light several miles inland. For extensive ranges such as the Liston Range there is also a stationary light on a platform in the water. The navigator on the vessel lines up such pairs, one above the other, the ship is safely and securely in the channel. If the vessel steers off the range, the lights disappear.

The United States Lighthouse Service created a series of navigational range lights in Delaware and New Jersey known as "Liston's Tree, Delaware Bay." The first lighthouse in the area was the Port Penn Front Range Light Station (known locally as the St. Augustine Lighthouse) and it was erected in 1875. The Port Penn light was operational from April 2, 1871 until October 24, 1904. During the 27 years this light was in operation there were only two Keepers, Henry C. Walter and George W. Duncan. Keeper Duncan served this light from October 1, 1885 until its closure at which time he became responsible for the Liston Range Front Light.

In 1904 changes were made in the shipping channels of the Delaware Bay and River and an extensive jetty was completed in the River with the necessary range lights readjusted. The United States Government acquired this Liston Range property in 1903 from Sarah R. Burbridge. The property is roughly five acres and included an access right of way and a vertical easement of thirty feet. The transaction occurred on June 18, 1903 for the sum of \$1,350.

At this same time the Port Penn Front Range Light Station was decommissioned and the Liston Range established first by a temporary light as a "lantern post carrying a triangular slatted daymark and a galvanized-iron headlight lantern" (alleged to have been a Baldwin locomotive headlight). Keeper Duncan maintained his residence at the Port Penn Light and commuted daily to maintain the temporary Liston Front. It is noteworthy that Keeper Duncan and his wife Ann Jane had eleven children, six boys and five girls. On his one day off Keeper Duncan would only permit his girls to maintain the light, much to the delight of his sons.

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On October 7, 1907, the Light House Service Board accepted the low bid of \$11,645 by Messrs. Warner and Blair of Claymont, Delaware (purported to have been ship builders). The light was first shown from the lantern room of the Liston Range Front Lighthouse on December 28, 1908 and this configuration and method of lighting continued by kerosene lamp until 1932, when the house and navigational aid were electrified. About 1935 indoor plumbing and central heating were installed. Most of the bathroom tile and fixtures remain original to this period construction.

A fourth-order Fresnel lens was installed in 1916. The combination of lens and prisms create a highly reflective light that concentrated the wick light into a beam. The order refers to the focal length of the lens, the distance from the center of the light to the inner surface of the lens. In this light the focal length was 9.8 inches. Though not the original, a fourth-order lens is currently installed in the lantern room. The original light was designed with a period of "occultation." The light shone for two seconds and was darkened for one second by a shutter controlled clockwork mechanism that was weight driven. The light was electrified in 1932.

The house and the outbuildings, an oil house and barn, were built to very detailed and rigid specifications written by Fourth Lighthouse Engineer, Major C. A. F. Flagler in a 48 page booklet, "Specifications and Contract for a Light-House, Oil House, Barn, Etc., at Liston's Range Front Light-Station, Delaware." Construction began in 1907. Keeper Duncan never lived in the Liston Lighthouse. In January 1909 he was transferred to the New Castle Rear Range Light Station where he served until his retirement in 1918.

The first keeper to live in the house was Edward W. Long. Other known keepers were J. E. Lauer, William J. Salmons and possibly others. The listed salary for these keepers was \$ 500 per annum. The last keeper was Harry Spencer, Sr. Keeper Spencer was transferred to the house in 1927 from his position as Assistant Keeper at the Liston Range Rear Light. He served in this position until his death in the early 1940s at which time his wife received an appointment as a "Lamp Lighter" in which she served for two or three years until the house was closed in 1950 and subsequently the permanent electrified light was placed on a steel tower in front of the house.

An unexpected use of this site occurred during World War II. On December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, a Section of Battery C, 261st Coast Artillery, Harbor Defense, arrived at the site with towed 90mm harbor defense guns and set them up in the front yard. This unit was a Delaware National Guard Battery from Sussex County. By May 1942, two permanent concrete emplacements for two 3" Barbette Mounted harbor defense guns had been completed with a 400 round magazine on the property and a Coincidence Range Finder Tower. (The emplacements and magazine still exist.) At the same time the Army leased the Clubhouse of the International Order of Odd Fellows, located south of the lighthouse property, as a headquarters, mess hall and day room. The troops lived in pyramidal tents west of the Clubhouse. The military site was abandoned in December 1942 and the dismantled guns sent to Fort Saulsbury, Delaware.

Government responsibility for the administration of lighthouses changed twice during the active service of the Liston Range Front Lighthouse. Initially the structure was built under the auspices of The Lighthouse Service that had been established as part of the Treasury Department in 1852. This service was moved in 1890 to the

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supervision of the Department of Commerce and subsequently in 1939 became the responsibility of the United States Coast Guard where it remains today.

The house continued as the Front Range light until 1952 at which time a white skeleton tower atop a white tank house was constructed 40' in front of the dwelling and the light moved to this tower. In 1953 the house and most of the property was declared in excess to the government's needs and it was put up for sale. The property was bought sight unseen by Mrs. Kathleen Skelton Herbert. She bought it after having noticed an advertisement in a conservation bulletin. She felt this would be the ideal location for her passion, bird watching. The flora to be currently found on the property supports her passion as trees, shrubs and plants are those that would attract birds.

Upon Mrs. Herbert's death the property was inherited by her niece Mrs. Eleanor Hardin and her husband, retired Army Colonel Ernest L. Hardin. In 1998 Mrs. Hardin sold the property to Dr. and Mrs. William H. Duncan. It was Dr. Duncan's grandfather, George Washington Duncan the former keeper of the Port Penn Front who had become the first keeper of the Liston Range Front Light when the Port Penn Front was decommissioned in 1904.

This utilization of the ubiquitous Colonial Revival-American Four Square house as a lighthouse is unique in Delaware. Most of the keeper's houses and lighthouses of the period in Delaware were three bedrooms and of many different designs.

From its beginning the Liston Range Front has provided safe passage and security for commerce and recreational boating on the Delaware Bay and River and in spite of technology such as Global Positioning systems it will continue in this role well into the future. Its restoration, study and preservation contribute significantly to the understanding of the national administration of aids to navigation.

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Section Photographs Page 1

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Photo Label Details

Liston Range Front Lighthouse

1600 Belts Road

Bay View Beach, New Castle County, Delaware

Photographer: Dr. William Duncan

Date: 2002-2003

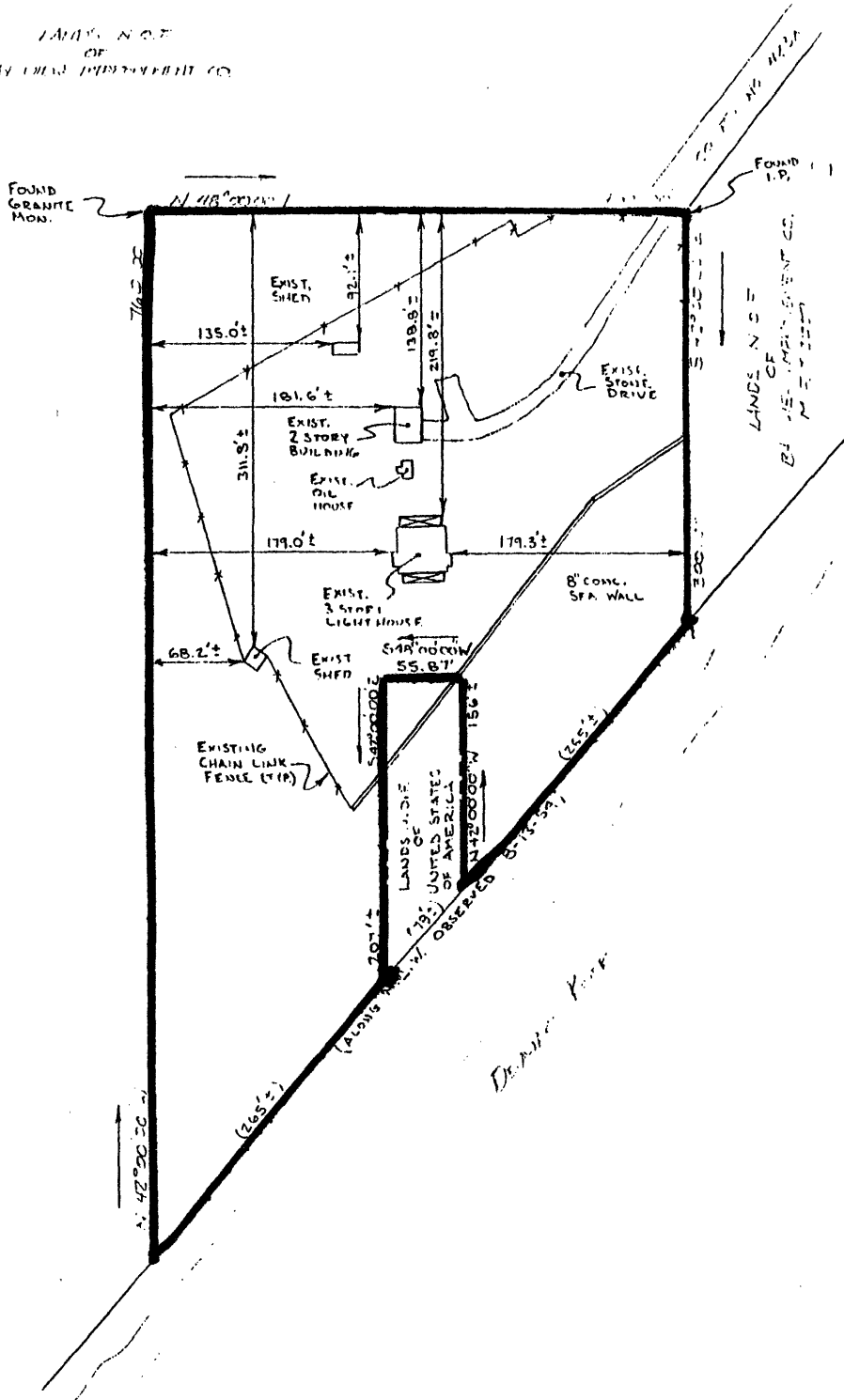
Negative: Dr. William Duncan, 509 Falkirk Road, Woodbrook; Wilmington, DE 19803

1. Aerial view of property, Façade of Lighthouse and Outbuildings, facing southwest
2. Overview of property, facing southeast
3. Liston Range Front Lighthouse, Rear and North elevations; Facing southwest
4. Interior, Rear Parlor Fireplace
5. Interior, Front Parlor Fireplace
6. Interior, Front Parlor Pocket Doors
7. Interior, Dining Room Built-in China Closet and Swinging Door into Kitchen
8. Interior, Built-in Kitchen Cabinets
9. Interior, Staircase
10. Interior, Second Floor Hall and Stair to Third Floor
11. Interior, Typical Second Floor Bedroom
12. Flammable Storage Building Showing Privy Rear Extension, Facing West
13. Poured Concrete Gun Emplacement
14. Ammunition Magazine, north and façade elevations, facing south

This plan makes no statement as to the suitability of constructing any improvements below existing grade. A qualified specialist should be consulted to determine the Seasonal High Water Table Elevation and/or other pertinent data before construction.



LAND'S NOTE
OF
EAST OIL AND IMPROVEMENT CO.



D. Baksh, Jr.

THIS PLAN IS NOT TO BE USED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY PROPERTY LINES, CONSTRUCTION OF FENCES, PLACEMENT OF TREES OR SHRUBS, OR TO OBTAIN BUILDING PERMITS OF ANY KIND, AS THIS IS NOT A SURVEY BUT A MORTGAGEE'S INSPECTION PREPARED FOR THE USE OF THE APPROPRIATE LENDING INSTITUTION AND OR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY.

I HEREBY STATE THAT I HAVE INSPECTED THIS PROPERTY AND THAT ALL VISIBLE IMPROVEMENTS ARE SHOWN AND THAT THE DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE TRUE BASED ON THE INFORMATION NOTED HEREON.

Clifton L. Baksh, Jr., PLS #429