

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 7

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

See NHL File, Nantucket Historic District,
Listed 11/13/66

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Leslie Fox - MHC - Aug. 1981

1. Brant Point Light;
tower; walkway (1901)
2. Inactive tower and attached
keeper's house (1856-57)

HISTORIC NAME: Brant Point Light Station

TOWN: Nantucket, MA

LOCATION: Brant Point

COUNTY: Nantucket CODE: 019

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
County Registry of Deeds Nantucket

ceded to U.S. Government - 1795

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination is confined to the
Coast Guard station at Brant Point

SKETCH MAP



LAT./LONG.: 41 17'23"/70 5'26"

UTM COORDINATE: 19/408/500/4571/200

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

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: 3.2

OWNER(S): U.S. Coast Guard

First Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

STATUS: Unmanned/Active

RECORDED BY: Leslie Fox

ORGANIZATION: MHC

DATE: August 1981

SITE DESCRIPTION

Brant Point Light is located on the very end of a spit of sand which forms the west side of the entrance to Nantucket Harbor. It is situated on 1.7 acres of a small sandy beach at the end of a residential street. The Brant Point Light Station can be found about 1/4 mile from the lighthouse, on this same road, overlooking the harbor. Between the Station and the Light are two or three one-family shingled houses. For navigators, Brant Point Light is a necessity both as a daymark and as a night aid, and is the first structure seen when approaching the island.

Major Elements Description

This nomination form is concerned mainly with the active 1901 tower, although several other structures comprise the Brant Point complex. These other components include: a dismantled and abandoned light tower and attached keeper's dwelling (1856-57), two wood frame range lights (1908), a boathouse (1936), a lifesaving station (1934; moved to this site from Coskoda c. 1950), an equipment building (1938; moved to this site from Maddaket c. 1950), and an oil house/storage shed (early 19th century?). Minor components are a drill pole, aerial antenna and gasoline facilities. The 1901 tower, the 1856-57 dismantled tower and attached keeper's house, and the oil house are considered contributing components of this nomination. The range lights are important to navigational history, but the present structures are not significant. The lifesaving station and boathouse possess some historical merit but do not directly relate to the theme of this nomination.

TOWER:

- Exterior: A long elevated, wooden, uncovered walkway runs over the sandy beach to the white, shingled, 26' cylindrical tower. The shingles project out at the bottom of the tower, but are flush with the wall at the top.
- Door: Access is made through a 6-panel wooden door, which measures 2'6" x 6'4".
- Windows: Two 1/1 full sized windows with wooden frames are located in the tower on the side facing inland. One is on the ground floor and the other is directly above the first, just under the lens room. A third window, also 1/1 although smaller in size, overlooks the harbor on the other side of the tower on the ground floor.
- Wall: The exterior wall is 16" thick on the ground floor.
- Interior: The small entryway is 52" wide and 48" long. A simple wooden door leads into the tower itself.
- Floor: The floor is composed of sheathed wood, which is painted. It measures 10'4" in diameter. A wooden cupboard, 35" x 7' x 7' x 60", stands in one corner.
- Stairs: Opposite the cupboard are the wooden stairs. They run flush against the wall and are solid, of a simple design. A very simple block railing runs up the staircase. Each step measures 34" long x 6" at the narrow end, 10" in the middle, and 13" at the wide end. Twelve stairs run up to a wooden landing. The wooden window frame on this level is 26 1/2" x 42", and is 1/1 double hung. All the walls in the tower are painted plaster, with the exception of the lens room.
- Lens Room: An 8-step wooden ladder leads up to the lens room through a wooden trap door. The walls are vertically sheathed wood. The lens room is 10-sided and has 5 bronze air vents located within the walls. These vents are circular, and are housed within a square piece of metal.
- Lens: The original Fresnel lens has been modernized, but remains predominantly in its original condition. It has very small bronze fittings.
- Vent: The original smoke vent is intact, situated just above the lens.

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION page 2

Windows: - The wall from the floor to the windows and around the half door leading onto the balcony. A huge grab bar is located near the half door.

Balcony: The iron balcony is 26" wide. The railing, probably original, is a simple one, consisting of two bars of iron running 36" between each post. The iron posts are 39" high, topped by an iron ball.

STATION BUILDING: The barracks, a two-story wooden frame building with full basement and brick and cement foundation, was constructed at Coskata Lifeboat Station after fire destroyed the original building in 1934. When Coskata Lifeboat Station was abandoned, the structure was transferred to Brant Point on a barge in the fall of 1950. It is a white-painted, shingled building. The ground floor is used for administrative offices, mess deck, recreation room and galley. The second floor is used for barracks purposes only. The crew's head is on this floor. The basement is used for a laundry room, dry stores storage, drill room, flag storage, for the storage of nonflammable paints and houses the unit's heating plant. Another room, offset from the rest of the basement, is used for the emergency generating plant.

EQUIPMENT BUILDING: The equipment building was formerly for the equipment building at Maddaket Lifeboat Station at the west end of Nantucket Island. It was floated to Brant Point in 1934. It is a wood frame, shingle-roofed building of two stories. The lower floor consists of four large stalls for the unit's vehicles, a shop room and heater. It has four large overhead doors on the east side and one small door on the south side. The upper level is used for storage spaces and a recreation room.

KEEPER'S HOUSE AND TOWER (1856) The keeper's house, which is assigned to the Officer-in-Charge, is a two story brick structure, with shingled roof and cement foundation. The basement is used for storage purposes and a heating plant. In the base of an abandoned lighthouse on the front (north) side of the building is the switch which operates the East Jetty Fog Horn.

BOATHOUSE: The boathouse is a wooden, shingle-roofed structure on pilings. It consists of two floors. The main floor is for the inclement weather storage of the unit's small boats and is the storage locker for spare parts. There is also one battery charger and a hoisting engine. Line, shackles, blocks, tackles, etc. are stowed on the second floor.

Chronological History

- 1746 - The Town of Sherborn (later changed to Nantucket), voted to build a lighthouse on Brant Point.
- 1758 - The first light burned, another was built.
- 1774 - The second light was blown down in a storm, so a third wooden lighthouse was erected (both the first and second lights were built at a cost to the town, not the Commonwealth). The keeper at Brant Point collected six shillings from each vessel to help the costs of maintenance, beginning August 1, 1774.
- 1783 - The third light burned. The Town of Sherborn built another, and continued to collect a fee from vessels using the harbor. (Boston Light also collected a fee). The last light, according to the Coast Guard records, was actually little more than a beacon.
- 1786 - This "beacon" was replaced by another.
- 1788 - The second "beacon" was blown down in a story. A lighthouse was built again by the town.
- 1795 - Sherborn changed its name to Nantucket. On June 23, the Grant of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts stated that "The United States derives its title to the Light House situate on Brant Point at the entrance of the Harbor of Nantucket, together with the land and tenements..." The lighthouse that was ceded to the U.S. was, in fact, the sixth lighthouse at Brant Point.
- 1825 - The sixth lighthouse was condemned. The seventh light was built onto the keeper's dwelling.
- 1839 - A piece of land was sold to the U.S. as a possible site for "Harbor Lights". It consisted of 42 acres, and probably includes the land on which the Light Station now stands.
- 1854 - Congress appropriated \$15,000 for rebuilding the lighthouse at Brant Point. The towers was described as follows: "The foundation of the tower is of concrete 2 feet thick and 18 feet in diameter. The base is of hammered granite laid in a course 2 feet thick to a height of 12 feet. The interior of the base forms a cystem, where water may be caught for household purposes. The lamp is of cast iron with 12 lights of plate glass. The lantern was a catadioptric apparatus of the fourth order, commonly known as the Fresnel Light". This was one of the first lighthouses in the U.S. to have a Fresnel lens installed.
- 1856 - The tower (present dismantled one) and attached keeper's house were built.

Chronological History

- 1900 - It was necessary to move the light because of changes made to the channel. A fixed red beacon light was erected 600' from the tower due to the shifting channel and the need to warn navigators of this change.

- 1901 - The present tower was built. It was the tenth light (including beacons) and was situated at the extremity of Brant Point.

- 1908 - The two wooden towers were built. To navigators, when lined up, the towers represented the center of the existing 300' wide dredged channel, on the entrance into the harbor. While these range light guided mariners into the harbor, the 1901 light continued to mark the point itself.

- 1931 - The seawall was built.

- 1936 - The boathouse (1 1/2 story wood frame, 30 1/2' x 58') and the launchway were built.

- 1950 - A 1934 Station Dwelling was moved from Coskada and a 1938 Equipment Building was moved from Maddaket.

- 1959 - A bell tower located at the site was removed. The candlepower was increased from 900 to 1400.

- 1975 - Brant Point was nominated as a National Landmark as an element of the Nantucket NHL District.

- 1981 - The tower has 13,000 candlepower and is visible for 10 miles.

- 1982 - MHC approved moving of the 1936 boathouse to another site of Nantucket's waterfront.

- 1983 - The Brant Point Station Complex which includes the 1856 abandoned light tower and attached brick keepers dwelling was totally renovated in 1983. The Coast Guard plans to convert the abandoned light tower for use as a communications and watchstanders room. This conversion is an adaption on the lanternhouse theme.

Level of Significance

The Brant Point Light Station possesses integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Although none of its 18th century components survive, it continues to mark an important navigational point within the Nantucket National Landmark District. It meet criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places as well as survey criteria 2a, 4b and 5a.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Brant Point Light Station (Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)
Nantucket County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/28/82

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 6/15/87

Action: ☐ ACCEPT

☒ RETURN 6-15-87

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: USCG - DOT

- ☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

X 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

X Verbal boundary description and justification

Please provide scale for sketch map or define the extent of the "Coast Guard Station" boundaries.

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 *[Signature]* Date 6-15-87 Phone: _____

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 7

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80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

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MAY 4 1987

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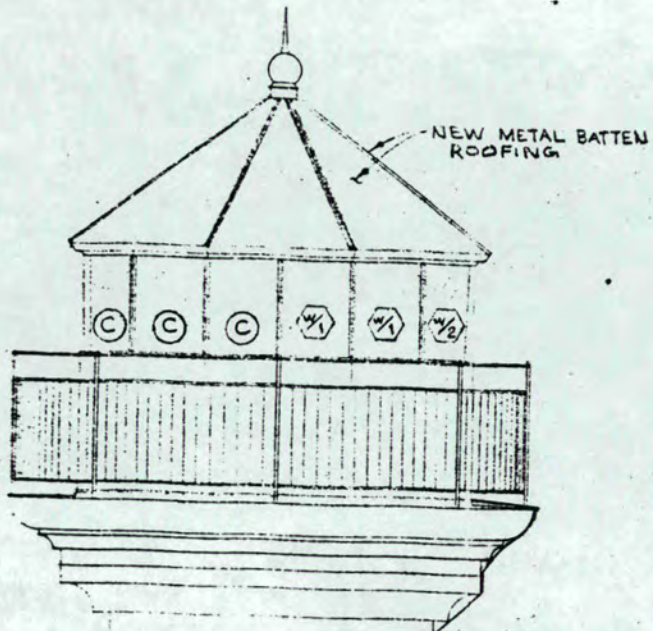
Level of Significance

The Brant Point Light Station possesses integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Although none of its 18th century components survive, it continues to mark an important navigational point within the Nantucket National Landmark District. It meet criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places as well as survey criteria 2a, 4b and 5a.

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

#7

AIR COND.



ALUMINUM
CORNER
COLUMN (TYP)

HANDRAIL
& POSTS (TYP)

NEW SMOKEPROOF
ACCESS HATCH

NEW RAILING

NEW COUNTER
TOP

PLAN

LIGHTNING PROTECTION
CONNECT TO GROUND

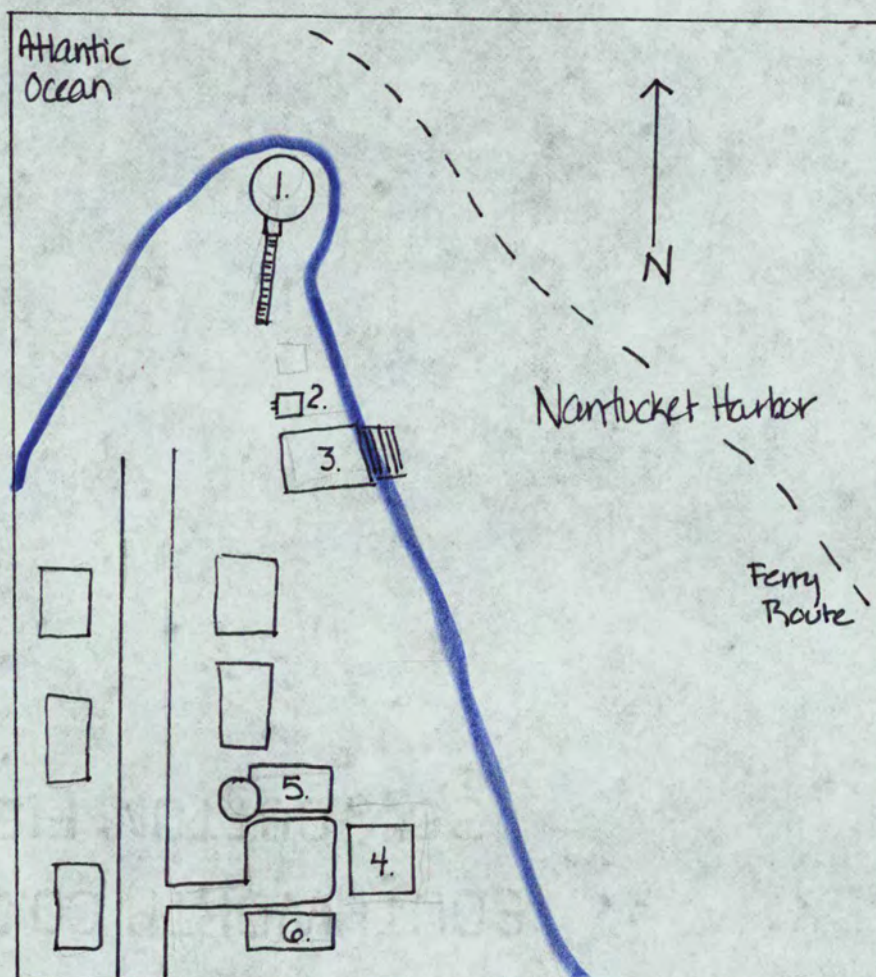
R & REPAIR
WORK AS NEEDED

AT EXTERIOR

PAINT
FOUNDATION

MAY 4 1987

BRANT POINT
LIGHT C. 1856



Brant Point Light and Station

1. Tower and walkway
2. Oil house
3. Boathouse
4. Life Station
5. Old Keeper's Dwelling
with attached (dismantled) tower
6. Garage

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 4 1987
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 374

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Hospital Point Light Station *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 9/28/87
Attest
22. Graves Light Station *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 9/28/87
Attest
23. Annisquam Harbor Light Station *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 6/15/87
Attest
24. The Beacon *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 6/15/87
Attest
25. Bird Island Light *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 9/28/87
Attest
26. Borden Flats Light Station *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 6/15/87
Attest
27. Boston Light Station *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 6/15/87
Attest
28. Brant Point Light Station *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 9/28/87
Attest
29. Butler Flats Light Station *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 6/15/87
Attest
30. Cape Poge (Pogue) Light *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *for* Delores Byers 9/28/87
Attest

WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Brant Point Light Station
(Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)
Nantucket County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/28/82
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 10/30/87
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-28-87
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: USCG

Entered in the
National Register

- ☒ 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ 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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Lighthouse of Mu., TR

Brant Pt. inactive
tower

12.

AUG 1981

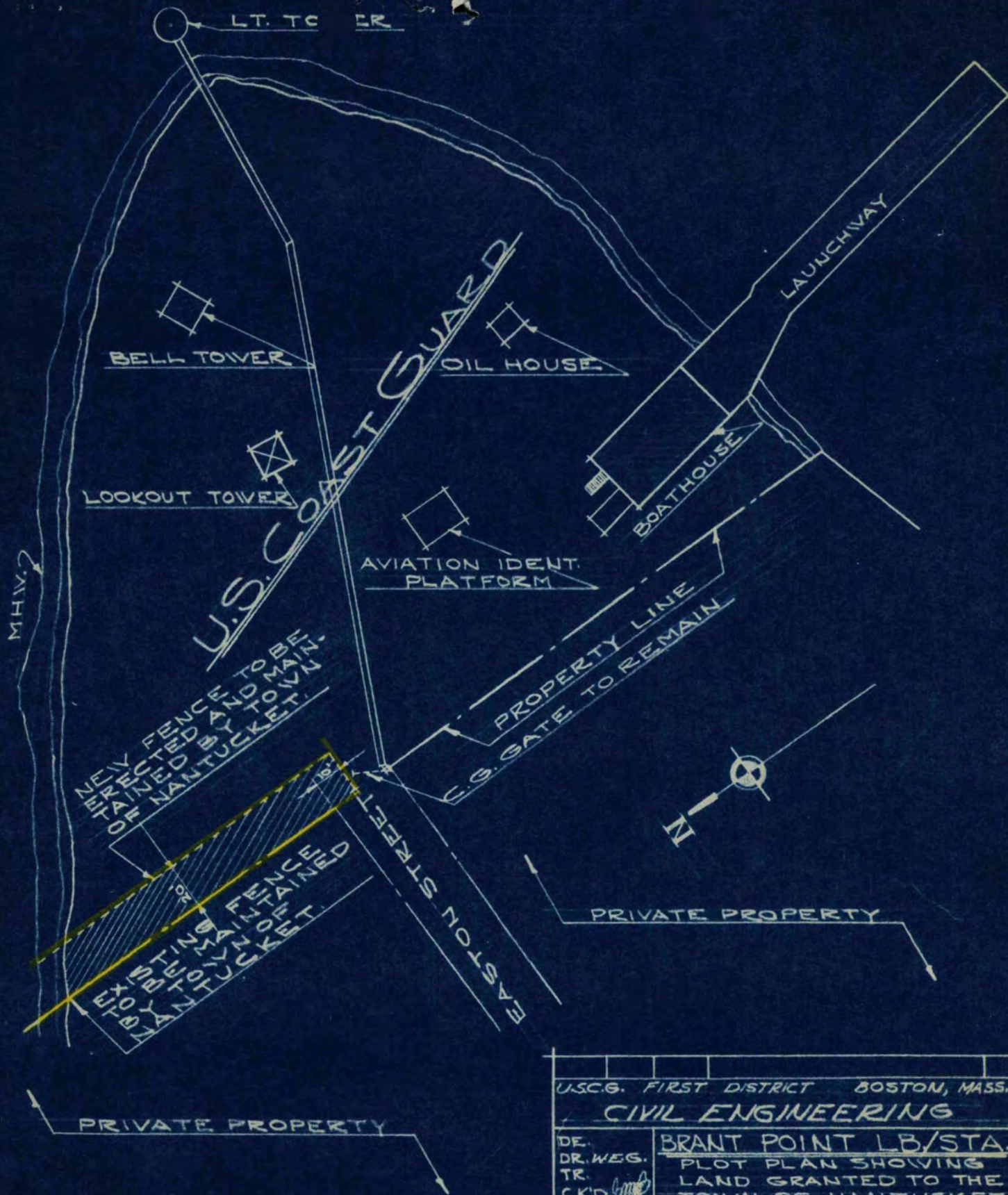


Light horses of Ma, R

Brant Pt. Light

2.

AUG 1981



U.S.C.G. FIRST DISTRICT BOSTON, MASS.	
CIVIL ENGINEERING	
DE. DR. WEG. TR. CK'D. <i>[Signature]</i>	BRANT POINT LB/STA. PLOT PLAN SHOWING LAND GRANTED TO THE TOWN OF NANTUCKET UNDER REVOCABLE PERMIT.
CH. SECT. <i>[Signature]</i>	APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> DATE 1-6-53
SCALE 1"=60'-0"	U.S.C.G. CH. OF DIV.
C.G. DRAWING NO.	
5041	

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION



U.S.C.G. FIRST DISTRICT BOSTON, MASS.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

DE.
DR. WEG.
TR.
CKD. *W. Weg*
W. Weg
CH. SECT.

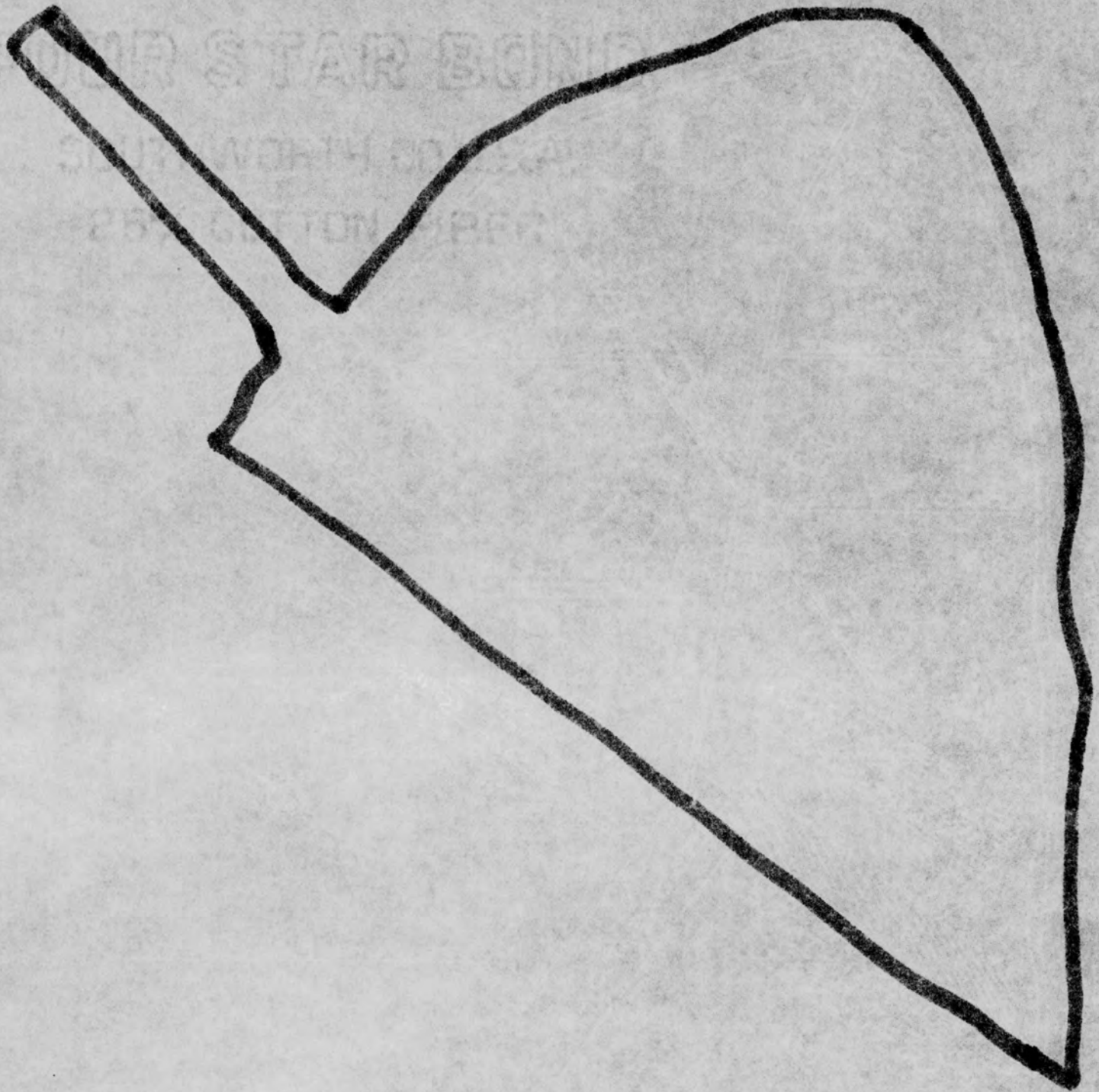
BRANT POINT LB/STA.
PLOT PLAN SHOWING
LAND GRANTED TO THE
TOWN OF NANTUCKET
UNDER REVOCABLE
PERMIT.

SCALE
1" = 60'-0"

APPROVED *W. Weg* DATE 7-6-33
U.S.C.G. CH. OF DIV.

C. G. DRAWING NO.

5041



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000282