

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 11

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Leslie Fox - MHC - 1981

1. tower with oil house,

garage, Double Keeper's House
Jack Clarke - Cape Cod Planning &
Economic Devel. Comm. - 1980

2. tower & double keeper's house

HISTORIC NAME: Chatham Light Station

TOWN: Chatham

LOCATION: Main Street

COUNTY: Barnstable CODE: 001

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Barnstable County Courthouse

Book 63, p. 30

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Please refer to the attached assessor's
map.

SKETCH MAP



LAT./LONG.: LAT 40 33'N LONG 69 59'W

UTM COORDINATE: 19/420/300/4613/100

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

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: 2 acres

OWNER(S): First Coast Guard District

408 Atlantic Ave.
Boston, MA 02110

STATUS: Manned/Active

RECORDED BY: N. L. Salzman/J. Clarke

ORGANIZATION: MHC/Cape Cod Planning

DATE: July 22, 1981

Chatham Light Station, Chatham

SITE DESCRIPTION: Chatham Light Station is located on the west side of Chatham Harbor on a bluff overlooking the harbor inlet and Nauset Beach sand bar. It is the "elbow" of Cape Cod which divides Nantucket Sound from the open sea. It warns shipping of Monomoy Point and the Pollacks Rip Shoals.

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION: 1877 cast iron tower 100 feet to the west of the concrete foundation to its "twin" (removed to Nauset Beach, #27); 1877 double keeper's house with additions; 1877 oil house; 1930s shingle storage house and 1937 Federal Revival garage. Although these latter two elements serve the complex they do not contribute to the major period of significance, which is the late 19th century.

- EXTERIOR: the 48' tower consists of 5 "rings" of 1" thick cast iron plates, 5' wide and 7'5" high with overlapping flanges. Three typical Italianate 2/2 segmental arch windows spiral around the tower at levels 2,3,4. Their cast iron surrounds are surmounted by a hood with gable pediment which projects from the window frame. This projection is supported by a molded bracket which flares upward is painted dark agree. At level 5 are three evenly spaced portholes which bisect the flange joint.
- Foundation- cement, twelve sided, 18' diameter.
- Entry - 63" X 76" wooden shingled room with asphalt shingled gable roof. Located on west side (originally on east).
- Balcony - the balcony is supported by 12 brackets.
- Railing - the railing, which replaces an earlier Italianate form (see the remain pendants) is simple with square posts and flat vertical rails. The new aluminum roof does not have the usual ventilator ball but does retain the lightning rod.
- INTERIOR: The door to the entry house is at the side rather than front and is of modern six panel construction. The floor of the entry is wooden and walls are sheathed in vertical tongue and groove. The tower floor is the original red brick color. Brick walls in a basketweave pattern, originally whitewashed, are now painted. The iron staircase, painted red, consists of heavy round tubing for handrail, with slimmer posts, one to a step. There are 41 steps with trapezoidal treads measuring 30" in width and 9" at the ends. This spiral staircase is attached to the brick interior wall.
- Windows - Three windows circle the tower; these contain 24" X 45" sash, set with architrave moldings that extend the windows to 30" X 49". As the tower walls decrease in thickness, the depth of the sills decreases from L2: 8 1/2" to L3: 4 1/2" to L4: 3 1/2".
- Lamp Room - The landing floor is composed of twelve iron segments with a radius of 73". Two portholes with octagonal frames are set into a 4" thick wall, along the stairwell. The portholes are sealed and have round wooden frames. Four floor segments are removed to admit the stairs, which are framed by an inner curving wall. The radius here is 49", allowing 24" for the stair. At the end of this inner wall is set a cupboard for supplies. Trapezoidal in shape, it measures 36" wide at the back and 7" and 15" at the sides. The original four panel door is in place.
- Ladder - The ladder leading up to the lens room is steep and curves slightly. It has seven treads, 21" wide and 4" and 9" at the ends, painted grey. A simple single iron rail is affixed to the wall on the left. At the top, a grab bar is attached to the right hand side of the lens room.

Lens Room - The lens room is ten sided and has glazed lower panels, rather than cast iron. The back panels have been blacked out to shield landward neighbors from the light. The lower panes begin 12" from the floor. The original upper panes of glass remain and measure 45" X 51" (which are of clear plexiglass).

LIGHT CHARACTERISTICS

1969 parabolic type, 40" diameter, 28 miles visibility. 2 flashing white/10 seconds (continuing the tradition of the twin lights).

Keeper's Dwelling - photo of 1877 house shows 1 1/2 story, wood shingle double house with fieldstone foundation.

Roof - long gable with projecting, 1 1/2 story central pavilion, flanked by small wall dormers on either side. gable ends and dormers have jerkinhead treatment and are ornamented with sawn, scroll vergeboards.

Windows - First story contains five bays. Outer bays contain 6/6 sash windows; center bay is a triple window with central 6/6 and narrow side lights which are one panel wide. In the gable is the same triple window but with lower side lights. All windows have Gothic Revival molded labels; all gables have vergeboard trim. An unusual window set in a small jerkinhead wall dormer flanks the triple window.

Doors - four panel doors are found in bays two and four.

Oil House - (1877), white brick with slate roof and cupola.

Garage - (1937), white clapboard with red asphalt shingle roof; ventilator cupola centered on ridge, 2 bays X 4 bays. On the west side, a later 3-bay addition integrated into the hip roof and containing a chimney.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chatham Light Station possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Constructed in 1877, the tower is a well maintained example of the period's cast iron lights and is important as the "in situ" half of a pair of twin lights (other moved to Nauset 1923, #27). The station is also important in for its retention of a double keeper's house (altered). It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the state level, as well as survey criteria 1a, 2a, and 2c.

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

Melores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

32. Clark's Point Light

Substantive Review

Keeper

See on external sheet

Attest

33. Tarpaulin Cove Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

34. Three Sisters of Nauset (Twin Lights)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

35. West Chop Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

36. Wing's Neck Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

37. Wood End Light Lookout Station

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

38. Newburyport Harbor Rear Range Light

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

39. Ten Pound Island Light

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melores Byers 8/4/88

Attest

40.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Chatham Light Station (Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)
Barnstable County
MASSACHUSETTS

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

Entered in the
National Register

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

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

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: _____



LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

CHATHAM LIGHT STATION

CHATHAM #11

PHOTO #1 OF 2



#8. Chatham Light house

Shore Road

Chatham, MA

10/80

Jack Clarke

CAPE COD PLANNING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
1st DISTRICT COURT HOUSE
BARNSTABLE, MASS. 02630

CHATHAM LIGHT STATION
CHATHAM #1

PHOTO #2 of 2

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



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32(2280)

Commander T. W. Jones
Commanding Officer
Civil Engineering Unit Providence
United States Coast Guard
300 Metro Center Blvd.
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

MAR 28 2003

Dear Commander Jones:

I am writing concerning the Chatham Light Station and the Old Village Historic District, in Chatham, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The Chatham Light Station was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 15, 1987, and the Old Village Historic District (which includes the Chatham Light Station) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 17, 2001.

In your letter of December 4, 2002, to the National Register, you stated that a property owned by the United States Coast Guard is located within the boundary of the Old Village Historic District, and that the Massachusetts Historical Commission failed to notify the Coast Guard's Historic Preservation Officer of the nomination prior to its consideration by the State Historic Preservation Review Board, as required by National Register regulations 36 CFR 60.6. In addition, you objected to the classification of the 1930s garage located at Chatham Light Station as contributing to the historic district. On December 6, 2002, we forwarded a copy of your letter to the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer requesting she provide an explanation of the procedures followed in the nomination of the Old Village Historic District. We have received the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer's response in a letter dated January 27, 2003, and an additional letter from you dated March 5, 2003.

The Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer has informed the National Register that her office intended to notify the Coast Guard's Historic Preservation Officer of the nomination prior to its consideration by the State Historic Preservation Review Board, as required by National Register regulations 36 CFR 60.6, but that as a result of a clerical error, the notice was inadvertently sent to the wrong Federal agency. Because the Chatham Light Station (which includes the garage within its National Register boundary) was already listed in the National Register prior to its inclusion in the Old Village Historic District, the failure of the State to notify the Coast Guard prior to the nomination's consideration by the State Historic Preservation Review Board does not constitute a prejudicial procedural error in the nomination process under National Register regulations 36 CFR 60.15, and thus the Old Village Historic District remains listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

You have raised the separate issue of whether the 1930s garage should be considered contributing to the significance of the Chatham Light Station or the Old Village Historic District. We have reviewed the documentation included with your letter of March 5, 2003, and have determined that due to the cumulative effect of substantial alterations over time, the garage has suffered a loss of historic integrity, and thus it does not contribute to the historic or architectural significance of either the Chatham Light Station or the Old Village Historic District. These alterations included the replacement of original windows with modern windows, the reduction in size of the window openings, the replacement of the original personnel door with a modern door, the replacement of five of the original garage doors with modern doors and the infilling of the sixth garage door, the replacement of the original roof cladding

with modern shingles, the replacement of the original wooden siding with modern siding, and the installation of a modern cupola to the roof.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if we may provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Register, History and Education

cc: Ms. Cara Metz, SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Honorable William D. Delahunt
House of Representatives
146 Main Street
Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601
Attn: Laurie Burnett

W. Patrick Layne
Chief, Office of Civil Engineering
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW
COMDT (G-SEC)
Washington, D.C. 20593-0001

Mr. Donald Aikman, Chairman
The Chatham Historical Commission
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

Ms. Carol Pacun
Director and Past President
Old Village Association
Post Office Box 188
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 31, 2003

Commander Thomas Jones
USCG
300 Metro Center Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02886

RE: Chatham Light Station, Chatham, MA; MHC# RC.5442

Dear Commander Jones:

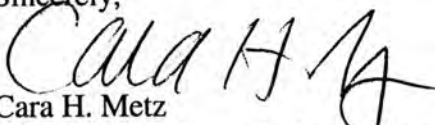
Thank you for your recent letter concerning the proposed demolition of the garage building at Chatham Light Station, which was received at this office on February 19, 2003.

Thank you for your commitment to mitigate the project's effect through the design of the proposed new garage, which is compatible with the character and setting of the Chatham Light Station, and through the installation of an interpretive historical sign, as described in your letter.

Enclosed please find a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which memorializes the results of our consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800). Once you have signed the MOA, please send our office a copy of it for our files.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed MOA, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Cara H. Metz
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

xc: Don Klima, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (w/enclosure)
Carol Shull, Keeper of the Register, NPS (w/o enclosure)

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc



April 24, 2003

Cara Metz, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Cara:

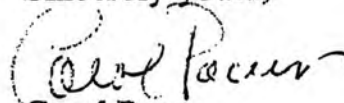
It was nice talking with you last week concerning the proposed new garage and landscaping at the Coast Guard Station. We are grateful to you for offering to facilitate a meeting between representatives from the Chatham Historical Commission, the Old Village Association, and the closest neighbors with Commander Jones or his representatives. I assume you or someone from MHC would also like to attend. As I said over the phone, we are willing to meet at any location that would be convenient for you and the Coast Guard personnel.

As I will be away for two weeks starting May 27, I would appreciate if the meeting could be scheduled upon my return. We would also appreciate having a copy of the latest version of the plans in advance of the meeting. The Old Village Association will be responsible for getting copies out to those who plan to attend.

Finally, we are extremely pleased with respect to Carol Shull's opinion concerning the viability of the Old Village National Register District. The Old Village Association looks forward to having an open dialogue with Coast Guard representatives. We are hopeful that such a discussion will lead to a satisfactory result which will both satisfy Coast Guard needs and be in keeping with this beautiful historic site.

Thanks again. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Carol Pacun

NRD Chairman, OVA

CC/

Representative William Delahunt, U.S. Congress
Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
Donald Aikman, Chatham Historical Commission
John Newton
Ann Smith



April 24, 2003

BY FAX (202-371-2229)
Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Ms. Shull:

For your information only, I am enclosing a letter from the Old Village Association in Chatham, MA concerning the final plans for the changes to the Coast Guard Station, which is part of our National Register District. We appreciate your decision concerning the inclusion of the site in our District. We are all hopeful that the planned meeting will result in an appropriate replacement building and landscaping which will both meet Coast Guard needs and address the concerns of the neighbors, the Chatham Historical Commission and the Association.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,