

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <i>Massachusetts</i>
COUNTY: <i>Barnstable</i>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <i>AUG 18 1975</i>

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Harbor Coast Guard Station No. 43-89 (Cape Cod NS)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Harbor U.S. Life Saving Station--(U.S.C.G. Station)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Beach

CITY OR TOWN:
off Chatham VICINITY

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Twelfth

STATE: *Massachusetts* CODE: *25* COUNTY: *Barnstable* CODE: *001*

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied * <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) * <i>Former owner has a 5-year occupancy rts.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. AGENCY

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
North Atlantic Region

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston, Massachusetts

STREET AND NUMBER:
150 Causeway Street

STATE:
Massachusetts CODE: *25*

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Courthouse, Barnstable, Massachusetts

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Barnstable

STATE:
Massachusetts CODE: *001*

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Certificates of Appraisals

DATE OF SURVEY: *1963 & 1973* Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Hq. Files, Cape Cod National Seashore

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Wellfleet (South)

STATE:
Massachusetts CODE: *25*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: *Massachusetts*

COUNTY: *Barnstable*

ENTRY NUMBER: *AUG 18 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Harbor Life Saving--U.S.C.G. station was built about 1897. Following the gradual replacement of the simple rectangular, pitched-roof structures of 1872, the Life Saving Service built several stations in the style of Chatham's Old Harbor. Truncated or jerkin-head gable is a change in appearance from the simple pitched roof of the older stations. Their appearance was further changed by adding to the roof, an off-center tower which no doubt added to living space a more elevated view of the sea. All these stations were, of course, shingled in the Cape tradition. Some alterations have been made externally since the building was sold to a private party in 1947. (it has been owned by three different parties since that date, and is now Federal property).

Internally, the structure has not been altered to a great degree though extensive repairs would have to be made if the building were to be used interpretively.

There are two small out-buildings, originally storage sheds, on the site--these are now used as dwellings.

Very rapid encroachment by the sea makes some sort of preservation action vital. If the station is not moved very soon, the ocean will claim it as it has several other such stations in recent years.

Significance: 2nd Order

Longitude and Latitude: See Section 10

Acreage: 2 acres

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$25,000

Possible relocation: \$35,000

Photograph enclosed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From Monomoy to Provincetown, some forty miles, there remains only the Old Harbor U.S. Life Saving--U.S.C.G. station as the oldest of these buildings remaining on the shores of Cape Cod National Seashore.

Today, with the modern Coast Guard and its maritime, seaplane and electronic equipment, this old station is a rare reminder of the days of Sail, the days when shipwrecks were commonplace. (Over 2000 shipwrecks have occurred on this 40-mile, inhospitable beach). Heroism of the highest order was made manifest by the acts of the small crews who manned the surfboats and set up the elaborate breeches buoy equipment, to save lives in unbelievably terrible weather.

In the first five years of operation, this station's crews rescued 21 persons by surfboat and removed 13 people by breeches buoy. Old Harbor Station was abandoned February 10, 1947, and sold as surplus.

In retrospect, the old Life Saving Service (which became the Coast Guard in 1915) was the single most important activity on Cape Cod for seventy years--add another 75 years of sea rescue work by the Massachusetts Humane Society, from 1795, and we have over a century and a half of heroism which should not be forgotten. In World War I and II, beach patrols, using these stations, were a vital part of Coast defences.

Although Old Harbor station was built at the turn of the century, when new methods were introduced, its historical value, as representative of a vital part of the Cape's past, is obvious. Soon, no Coast Guard buildings will remain.

Nauset Beach, on which the station is located, is subject to very rapid natural erosion. Any moving of the building to a new location on this fragile sandspit will be only a temporary solution to the problem of preserving the structure. While moving it to the mainland would be a more permanent solution, costs would be high and its historical integrity and interest would be reduced.

There is a possibility that local groups might be interested in participating in efforts to preserve this old structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Life Savers of Cape Cod by J.W. Dalton (1908)
Reports of the Life Saving Service (1897-1915).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		41 41 52	69 55 47	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Edison Pike Lohr, park Historian</u>	DATE: <u>7/24/73</u>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u>Cape Cod National Seashore</u>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	PHONE: <u>349-3785</u>
CITY OR TOWN: <u>South Wellfleet</u>	STATE <u>Massachusetts 02663</u>
	CODE <u>25</u>

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

Elizabeth R. Amador
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State

[Signature] MAR 31 1975
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Title

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

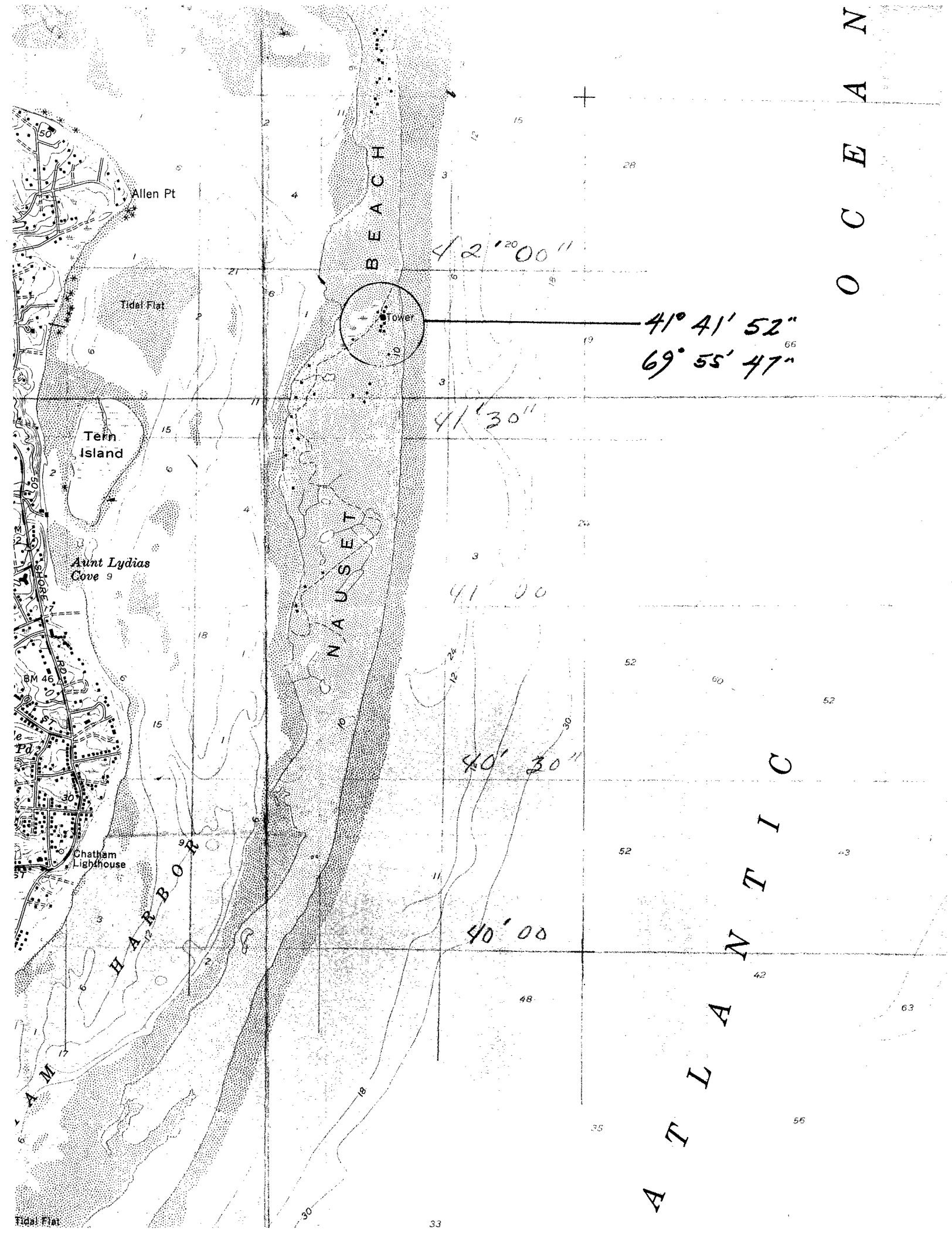
Date 8/18/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.15.75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Allen Pt

Tidal Flat

Tern Island

Aunt Lydias Cove

BEACH

NAUSET

AMHARBOR

Chatham Lighthouse

$41^{\circ} 41' 52''$
 $69^{\circ} 55' 47''$

$42^{\circ} 20' 00''$

$41^{\circ} 30''$

$41^{\circ} 00''$

$40^{\circ} 30''$

$40^{\circ} 00''$

O C E A N

A T L A N T I C

Tidal Flat