

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 3 1979
DATE ENTERED FEB 28 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Boca Grande Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON Gasparilla Island Lighthouse

2 LOCATION

S of Boca Grande on

STREET & NUMBER Gasparilla Island

CITY, TOWN Boca Grande, Fla.

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 10

STATE Florida

CODE 12

COUNTY Lee

CODE 071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME County of Lee, Division of Parks and Recreation

STREET & NUMBER Lee County Courthouse, P. O. Box 398

CITY, TOWN Ft. Myers

VICINITY OF

STATE Fl. 33902

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Ft. Myers

STATE Fl.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The Boca Grande Lighthouse Reservation, located on 3.5 acres of land at the southern tip of Gasparilla Island, contains the Boca Grande Lighthouse, the assistant keeper's quarters, one corrugated metal building, two metal cisterns, one masonry paint locker, and a U. S. Coast Guard beacon. Resting on steel screw pilings with wooden braces, the square Boca Grande Lighthouse has weatherboard siding with cornerboards. Originally, two sets of stairs led to galleries on the east and south facades. Although the present plain balustrade was added later for safety reasons, the wood posts with brackets seem to be original. The main entrance is on the south facade and consists of two central four-panelled wood doors with transom sashes. A secondary entrance on the east gallery is accessible from the northern stairs and is also a four-panelled wood door with transom sash. The irregular fenestration originally had double hung sash; but at an unspecified time was changed to awning windows. The pyramid roof was originally wood shingle, but was changed to slate in 1899 and to composition shingles at some unknown later date. The octagonal metal and jalousie glass light enclosure rests on a low, square weatherboard tower with central jalousie windows on all sides.

Located seventy feet northeast of the Boca Grande Lighthouse is the assistant keeper's house. Presumably constructed in 1890 also, the assistant keeper's house is virtually identical to the lighthouse itself. The major differences are that this structure has a south central single four-panel wood door with transom sash; an incised gallery on the south, west, and north facades, and a partial gallery on the east facade; the fenestration is double-hung sash; and the fact that it has a vent at the apex of the pyramid roof instead of a light.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Navigation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES: +1890- BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boca Grande Lighthouse derives its primary significance from its opening of the Boca Grande Harbor for large phosphate shipments. The lighthouse was completed in September, 1890, and activated on December 31, 1890.¹ Presumably, the assistant keeper's quarters were constructed at the same time. The design reflects the fact that the light did not require as much elevation that is seen in other Florida lighthouses due to its serving as a harbor beacon as opposed to outer maritime traffic.

New phosphate discoveries in west central Florida and advanced mining techniques developed in the 1880's demanded a port capable of handling the increased volume of seagoing traffic. During the 1890's phosphate mined in the Peace River area was brought out to deep water in lighters and barges where it was transferred to ocean-going vessels.² This necessitated the building of the Boca Grande Lighthouse; a quay, known as the State Quarantine Dock; and the installation of a customs office to inspect the incoming vessels arriving to load the phosphate.³

Originally, a black lantern displaying a fixed white light interrupted by a red flash warned approaching vessels of the hazards of the Boca Grande pass. The focal plane of the 100,000 candle power light was forty-four feet above near sea level and could be seen at a distance of twenty-four miles.⁴

In 1909 the procedure for transporting the phosphate changed with the completion of the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad.⁵ The completion of the railroad necessitated the construction of the present phosphate docks in order to accommodate the larger shipments. The Boca Grande Lighthouse functioned until 1960 when the light was moved two miles to the north.⁶

See Continuation Sheet

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

¹U. S. Lighthouse Board, Records of the U. S. Coast Guard Lighthouse Clipping File of Gasparilla Island, Record Group 26, 1890-1892. Entry #694, National Archives.

²John Clark, Preserving the Heritage of Gasparilla Island (Washington, n.p.), 1978.

³Dave Carroll, Map of Boca Grande; Gasparilla Island History (Gasparilla Island, n.p.), 1977, p. 4.

⁴Records of the U. S. Coastguard Lighthouse, Clipping File of Gasparilla Island.

⁵Carroll, Map of Boca Grande, p. 4.

⁶Ibid.

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Blakely, Arch Frederic. The Florida Phosphate Industry: A History of the Development and Use of a Vital Mineral. Cambridge, Mass.: Wertheim Committee, Harvard University Press, 1973.

Carroll, Dave. Map of Boca Grande; Gasparilla Island History. n.p.: n.p., 1977.

Cipra, David L. Lighthouses and Lightships of the Northern Gulf of Mexico. n.p.: United States Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard, n.d.

Clark, John. Preserving the Heritage of Gasparilla Island. Washington, D.C.: The Conservation Foundation, 1978.

Holland, Francis Ross. America's Lighthouses. Brattleboro, Vermont: Stephen Green Press, 1972.

Office of the Lighthouse Board. Reservation of Lands on the Florida Coast. U. S. Treasury Department, December 31, 1879.

Poor's Manual of the Railroads of the United States. New York: American Banknote Co., 1910.

See Continuation Sheet

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Report of the Lighthouse Board, 1890, 681; 1391, 694. Record Group
26. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Navigation
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SPECIFIC DATES

1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 3

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	374620	2955540	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that part and parcel of land on the southern tip of Gasparilla Island which extends north to an imaginary line which traverses said island from east to west and parallels the eastern dyke surrounding and adjacent oil tank farm.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terence H. Nolan, Historic Sites Specialist

March 1, 1979

ORGANIZATION Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

FL 32301

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

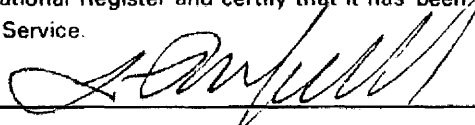
NATIONAL

STATE XX

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/14/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally G. Oldham

DATE

2/22/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Carl A. Dubic

DATE

2/28/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER