

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 16

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Leslie L. Fox - MHC - 1981

1. View of Complex from water
(south)

2. Double keeper's house from north

SKETCH MAP

HISTORIC NAME: Eastern Point Light StationTOWN: GloucesterLOCATION: On the western end of Eastern Point which forms the southern arm of Gloucester Harbor
COUNTY: Essex CODE: 006CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Essex County Courthouse(Book 253, p. 257)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

the nominated property occupies the tip of Eastern PointLAT./LONG.: LAT 42° 34' 48" N LONG 70° 39' 53" WUTM COORDINATE: 19/363/400/4715/000USGS QUADRANGLE: BOSTON, MA; NH; CT; RI; MESCALE: 1: 250,000ACREAGE: 1.0 acresOWNER(S): First Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Ave.
Boston, MA 02110STATUS: Unmanned/ActiveRECORDED BY: Nancy L. Salzman and
L. L. FoxORGANIZATION: MHCDATE: July 9, 1981

Eastern Point Light Station, Gloucester

SITE DESCRIPTION: Eastern Point Light Station, Gloucester, is located on a rocky promontory overlooking Dog Bar Reef at the eastern entrance of Gloucester Harbor (Eastern Point forms southern shoreline of the Harbor). Historically, the site was a landfall for the secondary entrance to Boston Harbor from the North. It is opposite and southwest of the cove from Eastern Point Yacht Club. Access is through a wealthy and exclusive neighborhood along a private road. In the vicinity are low lying marshes and small swimming coves. This was originally Niles Farm, the largest farm in Gloucester. Now controlled by the Eastern Point Association, the area is private, although access to the light is possible for tourists, school groups, etc.

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION: A complete set of buildings exists on the site, including the tower (1890), a Gothic Revival double keeper's dwelling (1879), a long covered walkway to the light, with an extension (added by 1912) beyond, (the extension is painted as a checkerboard day mark), a bell tower (189?), oil house (1894), foghorn (1951) and radio beacon (1931). Also on the site is a Shingle Style secondary (1908) keeper's dwelling. This site is remarkably integrated and well massed on the grounds.

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

TOWER:

- Exterior - Cylindrical brick structure 38' high, 57' above sea level. Gabled brick entry room, attached to covered wooden walkway (see below). Two windows, granite sill and lintel. At the top of the tower is a decorative band and alternating projecting headers, which form a dentil-like course that supports a full projecting belt course. From this belt course spring 12 cast iron curved, triangular open braces, each supporting a balcony post. This joint is capped on the underside by elaborate round double finial. The railing (described below) is decorative. The standard cast iron lens room has an octagonal iron roof with round ventilator ball and lightning rod. The original wide copper strap grounds the rod and remained connected in July 1981.
- Interior - Walls: sandblasted brick
Floors: brick
Windows: Two 2/2 wooden sash with granite sill and lintel on the exterior. Natural wood sill and trim restored inside.
Stairway: 40 steps up to lamp room. Circular, cast iron with elaborate Italianate curvilinear scrolls. Wooden treads.
Ladder: to lens room from lamp room, prefabricated cast iron. Triangular, molded side pieces. Joint at tread capped above with large spool with knob at top. 6 treads cast in typical diamond pattern. Painted black.
Lens Room: iron trap door, brass grab rail. Octagonal, cast iron panels in lower half. 8 windows in upper half. Curved scuttle door to balcony. 4 round vent openings with brass dial fittings.
Balcony: 12 sections with vertical post. Top railing, simple bar middle section: 2 horizontal railings with 9 vertical bars between. Posts have square base and are capped with round ball.

Keeper's Dwellings:

Double Dwelling - Unique massing of gables is a variation on typical Gothic Revival/Queen Anne Keeper's Dwellings. Some of the molded window hoods with tabs are still intact, on front elevation and door into walkway. Right gable has a triple window; below it is another triple window on level one. Porch on this side has been enclosed and extended but original decorative brackets remain. End elevation of right house also has intact window trim as does its original rear facade. A dormer has been added between this rear gable and the left elevation. This left elevation has a curious double gable in that the ridge height remains the same but two full gables meet halfway down because they are not spaced far enough apart for a full gable. At this joint, the upper 1/2 story of the second half of the unit abuts the first half. The entire facade on this side is missing its window hoods with tabs. An open porch has been added off the rear door.

Oil House - standard brick one story gable roof, painted white. A small storage room has been attached to the elevation facing the Light; a new storm door has been added to the Oil House.

Bell - removed to a new steel frame at entrance to property, formerly on roof of brick structure at end of walkway.

Garage - 1 1/2 story wooden frame shed roof structure next to assistant keeper's dwelling.

Covered Walkway - open frame stud and rafter construction. Slopes up several feet toward light. Two windows in each section. Exterior white clapboarding (vinyl), gable roof. Extends beyond light to terminate in brick one story building with flat roof, painted with 4 sections, alternating red and white as daymark.

LIGHT CHARACTERISTICS:

1832 - fixed, non-revolving light. 10 lamps with 12" reflectors; range: 11 miles

1848 - new tower, fixed lantern

1861 - rotating white beacon replaced whale oil lamps

1886 - report lists 4th order Fresnel light. Focal plane 60' high

11/1979 - quartz diode bulb, two bullseye lenses. CC8-TH lamp, rotating optic 6rpm. Lampchanger 120v-2PL.

Breakwater Light - horn one blast/10 seconds.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY:

- 1829 - Land acquired for \$300. Two mile right of way around cove to site also acquired from S. & G. Burnham.
- 1832 - Stone masonry tower, 30.5' diameter erected. First keeper was Samuel Monson.
- 1848 - Original tower torn down. New tower 34' high. Fixed lantern.
- 1879 - Dwelling built.
- 1886 - Report with measured drawings. Shows: oil house (10" X 20"), covered walkway (4'10" X 103').
- 1890 - Lighthouse rebuilt on same circular 1832 masonry foundation (38' high, brick, painted white). Plank walkway (covered): 4'10" X 17'6".
- 1908 - Assistant Keeper's house built (wood shingle, gambrel roof, alterations).
- 1910 - Stone breakwater built out from point over Dog Reefs. Very slippery and hazardous for keeper.
- 1932 - Radio beacon tower (iron skeleton), antenna, retaining wall built.
- 1947 - one story wooden frame building, 12'4" X 26'4", built. The assistant keeper's house sold.
- 1951 - fog signal installed.
- 1969 - bell discontinued.
- 1978 - U.S.C.G. requested and was granted use of vinyl siding by MHC. Original window frames and cornices to remain the same. Metal bell tower erected.
- 1981 - Three seaward sides of brick building at end of covered walkway painted in 4 rectangles of alternating red and white to serve as daymark.
- 1986 - automated and unmanned; dwelling used for Coast Guard housing.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Eastern Point Light Station, Gloucester, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as important associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Dating from the late nineteenth century, Eastern Point is the largest intact station in Massachusetts, preserving a period tower, keeper's house, walkway, oil house, and bell tower. The American artist Winslow Homer (1838-1901) lived in this lighthouse in 1880. Homer was at this time a mature artist and his works depicting the scenery and everyday life of this maritime community are among his most famous. The station meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the state level, as well survey criteria 2c, 3a, 3b, 4d, 1b, 2a.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Eastern Point Light Station (Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS



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

Working No. 4/28/82
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 6/18/87
Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 6-15-87
☐ 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

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ 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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

☒ Verbal boundary description and justification.

Please provide specific boundaries of light station or scale for sketch map.

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 *AT Byers* Date *6/16/87* Phone: _____

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 16

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Point which forms the southern arm of
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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

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Essex County Courthouse

(Book 253, p. 257)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

the nominated property occupies the tip of

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MAY 4 1987

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LIGHT CHARACTERISTICS:

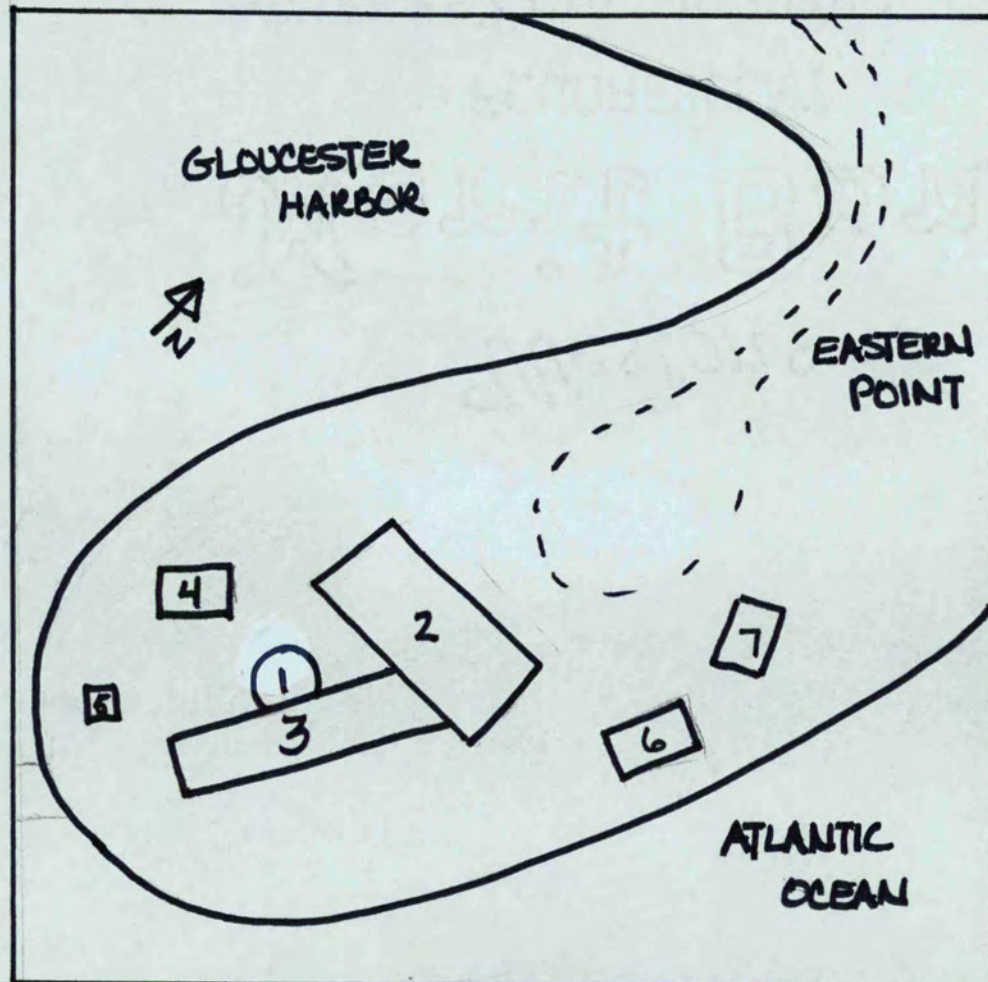
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LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION



EASTERN POINT LIGHT STATION

1. TOWER
2. KEEPER'S HOUSE
3. WALKWAY
4. OILHOUSE
5. RADIO BEACON
6. SHED
7. HOUSE

MAY 4 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MAY 4 1987

Section number 1 Page 174Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover Substantive Review

Keeper

< 50

1. Cleveland LEDGE Light Station

Keeper

Substantive Review

Attest

2. Highland Light Station (Cape Cod Light)

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

3. Gay Head Light

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

4. Edgartown Harbor Light

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

5. Derby Wharf Light Station

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

6. East Chop Light

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

7. Eastern Point Light Station

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

8. Long Island Head Light

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

9. Long Point Light Station

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

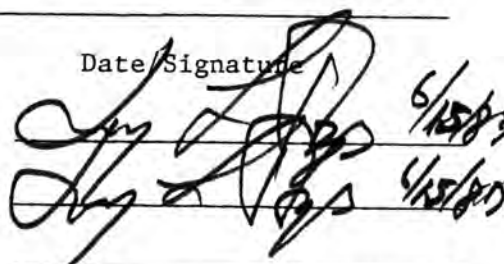
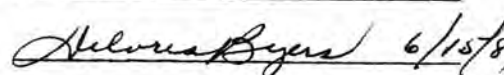
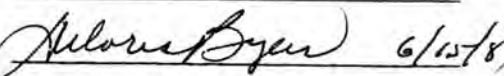
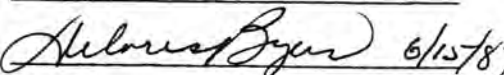
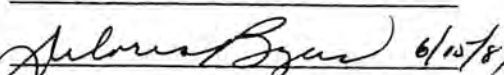
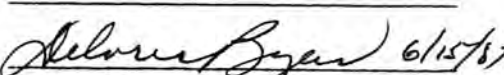
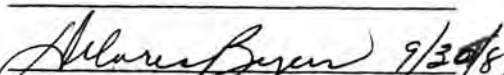
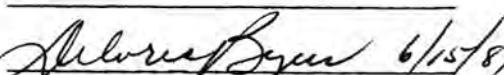
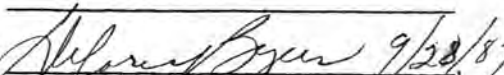
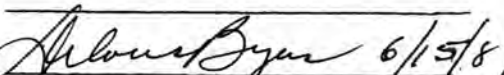
Attest

10. Marblehead Light

Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

 6/15/87 6/15/87 6/15/87 6/15/87 6/15/87 6/15/87 9/30/87 6/15/87 9/22/87 6/15/87

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEETEastern Point Light Station (Lighthouses
of Massachusetts TR)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTSWorking No. 428/82
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 10/30/87
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-30-87
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: USCG

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

Entered in ~~the~~
National RegisterSubstantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheetNomination 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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ 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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadangle 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



JULY 1981

Eastern Point Light Station
Gloucester #16

Light Station of No. 16

Photo #1 of 2

JULY 1981

Prestige

by Berkey

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION



JULY 1981

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

Eastern Point Light Station
Gloucester #16
Light Station of Mass. TR
Photo #2 of 2

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

JULY 1981

Prestige Prints

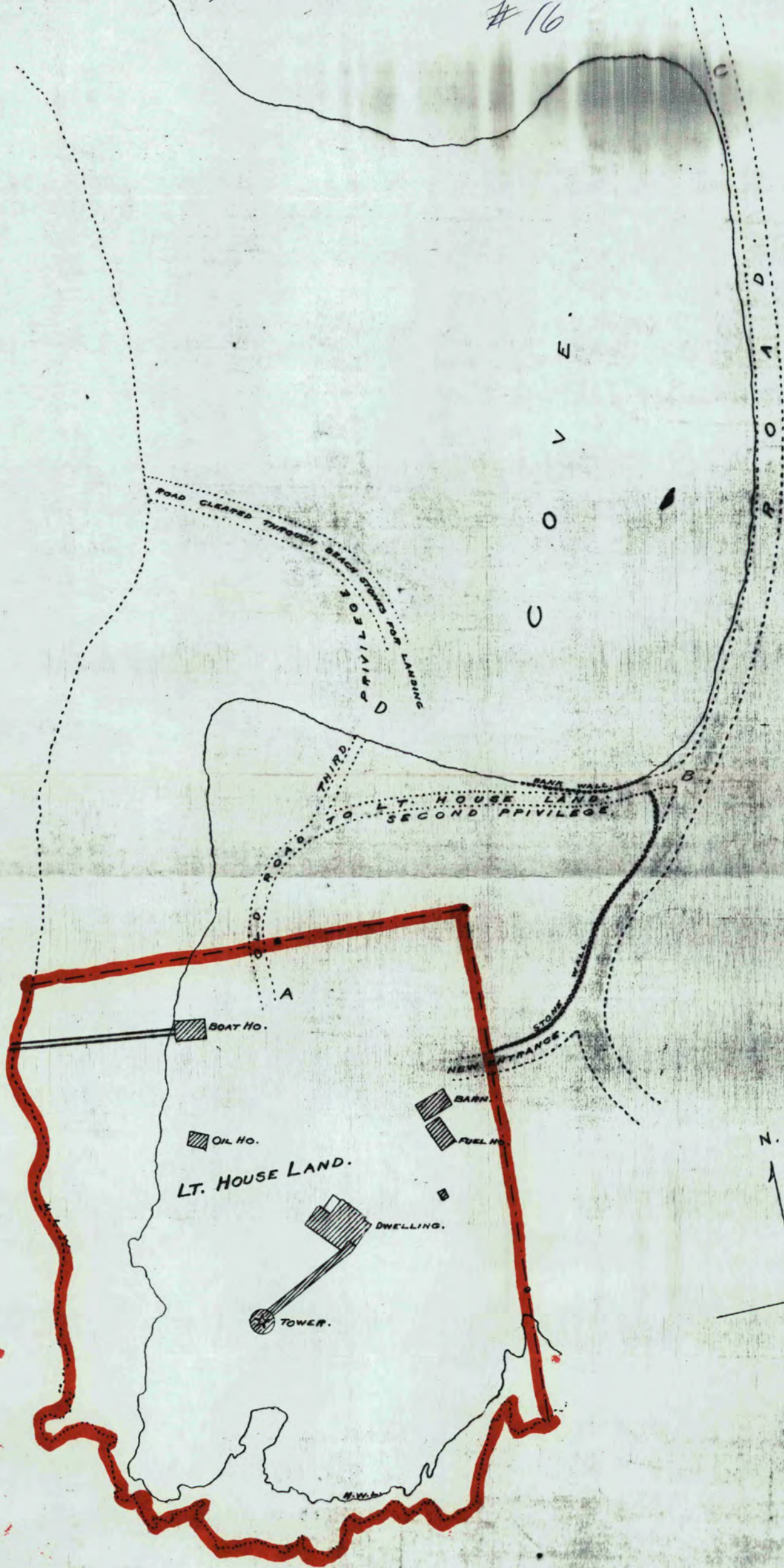
by Berkey

EASTERN PT. LT. STATION,
GLOUCESTER, MASS.

Nº 1130

#16

NPS
copy



USCG-OWNED BOUNDARIES

Scale 1" = 50'

NOTE: ALL PLOTTING OUTSIDE OF
LIGHT-HOUSE BOUNDARY LINES IS
APPROXIMATE.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000282