

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 11 1980
DATE ENTERED	OCT 31 1980

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Point Vicente Light  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Coast Guard Radio Station, Long Beach

CITY, TOWN

Rancho Palos Verde

STATE

California

— VICINITY OF Point Vicente

06

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

27

CODE

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

Department of Transportation

STREET & NUMBER

Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District, Union Bank Building

CITY, TOWN

400 Oceangate, Long Beach

— VICINITY OF

California

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Commander, (flp), Eleventh Coast Guard District

Union Bank Building, 400 Oceangate

CITY, TOWN

Long Beach

STATE  
CA

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

28 August 1916

DATE

Eleventh Coast Guard District

XXXFEDERAL    —STATE    —COUNTY    —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Union Bank Building, 400 Oceangate

CITY, TOWN

Long Beach

STATE

CA 90822

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Point Vicente (enclosures (1) and (2)) is a complex of buildings and associated facilities situated upon 17.79 acres of land located on the Palos Verde Peninsula in Los Angeles County.

The area surrounding the district is bordered by Palos Verde Drive South on the northeast, the Pacific Ocean on both the west and southwest, and vacant land on the northern boundary soon to be developed into a park by the City of Rancho Palos Verde.

The terrain surrounding the district to be nominated on the ocean side consists of perpendicular cliffs. Within the district itself the terrain is primarily flat.

The complex contains several buildings including:

(a) The Lighthouse (enclosures (3), (4), and (5)) - Located near the cliffs at the extreme northwesterly end of the nominated area is a plain white, circular five-story, 68 foot high, reinforced concrete structure. The lighthouse is 13 feet in diameter at the point below the watchroom floor. The top is 15 feet 6 inches in diameter from rail to rail. There are five floors, the first three which have the same dimensions of 12 feet six inches in width, and 12 feet 10 1/2 inches in height. The fourth floor (watchroom) is 11 feet 4 inches in width and 9 feet 2 inches in height. The fifth floor, the light itself, is 9 feet 10 3/4 inches in width and 10 feet 2 inches in height. There are a total of 11 windows which are set into the building.

The light is encased in glass with steel framework holding the curved glass panel. The northern side of the glass is painted white. There is a steel door on the fifth floor leading outside to a walkway, and a steel chain encircling the walkway as an added safety measure. The lens of the light was made in Paris in 1914 and is a third order Fresnel lens. The glass is ground into prisms and weighs in the area of 1200 pounds. It was sent from Paris to Alaska in 1914 and subsequently sent to Point Vicente in 1925. There is a 1000 watt bulb inside the light which emits a beam with an intensity of 1.1 million candle power. This light is electrically driven.

Within one hundred feet of the lighthouse are situated three associated facilities.

(b) Radio Room - The structure adjacent to the lighthouse, identified in enclosures (3), (4), and (5) is the the 16 X 24 foot radio room. The floorplan consist of two rooms.

(c) Fog Signal House - The largest of the three buildings is the 34 X 33 foot fog signal house and can be identified by enclosures (5) and (6). The floorplan consist of one large room. It should be noted that the fog signal has since been moved from the building to the tip of the point, enclosure (2), and can be seen in front of the baffle wall.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING ( <i>lens</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY <i>fiction</i> )		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A classic lighthouse on the searoad to Los Angeles Harbor is Point Vicente Light, built in 1926. Situated on a cliff, 185 feet above the sea, Vicente serves both as a landfall light and a guide to the harbor with its 1.1 million candlepower beam and powerful foghorn.

As a lighthouse so gentle on the eyes, one would never think it to have been bothered by wraiths - but it was. The ghost story, did however, have a happy ending. Though ghosts continue to haunt most lighthouses until their demise, the one at Vicente didn't have a chance to gather its usual length of rattling chains and eerie noises. From the time the lighthouse was established, the keepers complained of a strange apparition of a woman in flowing gowns walking about the exterior by nightfall - reputedly searching for her lover who had been lost in a shipwreck many years earlier.

Most of the keepers had been willing to let the spirit be, until a younger assistant was assigned to the station. His inquiring mind motivated him to solve the mystery. A spoiler of sorts, he, after careful study and examination, came to the conclusion that the ghost was created by an unusual reflection of the light as it rotated. The structure of the lighthouse lens was such that it threw an arc in a reversed parenthesis causing the ghostly image to appear. The reflection when seen from a distance of 80 to 200 yards bore a remarkable resemblance to a lady in a long gown.

The young keeper was gratified with his findings but the older attendants refused to let such a simple explanation lay the wraith to rest. Even today, some claim that the ghostly lady still haunts the lighthouse, despite its automated status.

The local historical society has declared Point Vicente a historical landmark as reflecting a unique architectural quality manifested during the early twenties.

Manning of the U. S. Coast Guard Radio Station at Point Vicente was officially closed with a decommissioning ceremony on 1 May 1980. The station has had primary responsibility for monitoring radio distress frequencies and relaying assistance calls to the Rescue Coordination Center in Long Beach.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*See phone report of 10/29/80*

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 17.79

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	1	3	6	9	2	1	0	3	7	3	4	7	6	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

B 

1	1	2	6	9	1	6	0	3	7	3	4	3	6	0
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*See phone report of 10/29/80*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

*Walter Evans*  
WALTER EVANS

13 April 1977

ORGANIZATION

Commander (flp), Eleventh Coast Guard

DATE

FTS 984-9338

STREET & NUMBER

Union Bank Bldg. 400 Oceangate

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Long Beach,

STATE

CA. 90822

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

SEP 22 1977

*Walter Evans*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

*EO 11593 Federal Representative*

DATE

11/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Patrick Andrews*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/31/80

DATE

10/29/80

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(d) Paint/Oil House - The paint/oil house is a 14 X 26 foot structure and may be identified by enclosure (4). The floorplan consist of two rooms which are now utilized for storage.

All three buildings were built in 1924, however, unlike the Power and Fog Light Houses, which are frame stucco, the smaller paint/oil house is constructed of reinforced concrete. All three buildings have Spanish red tile, peaked roofs and pane glass windows.

(e) Keeper's House (enclosures (7) and (10)) - Located in the center of the complex, the keeper's house is one of three homes built in 1924 situated in a semi-circular pattern. It is a plain white, wood frame, stucco, square 52 X 41 1/2 foot, two-story structure with a peak-shaped, Spanish red tile roof. The ground floor consists of a den, living room, dining room, and bathroom. The second floor contains three bedrooms and a bathroom.

(f) First and Second Assistants's Houses (enclosures (8), (9), and (11)) - Also built in 1924, these houses are the other two structures located in the semi-circle in the center of the complex. They are both identical plain white, wood frame, stucco, rectangular 29 X 68 foot one-story structures with peak-shaped, Spanish red tile roofs. The floorplan of each house consists of three bedrooms, full bath, living room, dining room, and kitchen.

All three houses contain full basements.

(g) Two Garages - Two, three car garages are located on the station, enclosure (12). One is located on the station fifty feet behind the Keeper's House, the other at the southeast end of the transit barracks. Built in 1924, both are approximately 18 X 40 foot, single story, wood frame stucco, with Spanish red tile roof. The three stalls are unpartitioned and a small tool room is located inside each.

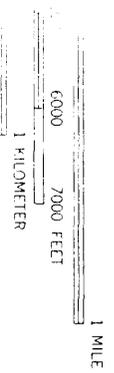
The newly constructed operations and transit barracks, enclosures (13), (14), and (15), built in 1966 and located along the northeastern border of the complex, are not meant to be considered. However, in accordance with directions, the following information is submitted.

(h) Operations Building - The operations building consists of two maintenance rooms, six administrative offices, one bathroom, and one large 48 X 25 foot radio room. It is a single-story, block constructed structure.

(i) Transit Barracks - The transist barracks is a single-story, flat-roofed, block structure. Its floorplan consists of a large recreation room, two bathrooms, laundry room, gang shower, three storage rooms, mechanical room, a large galley with accompanying dry storage room, and eighteen 12 X 12 two man rooms.

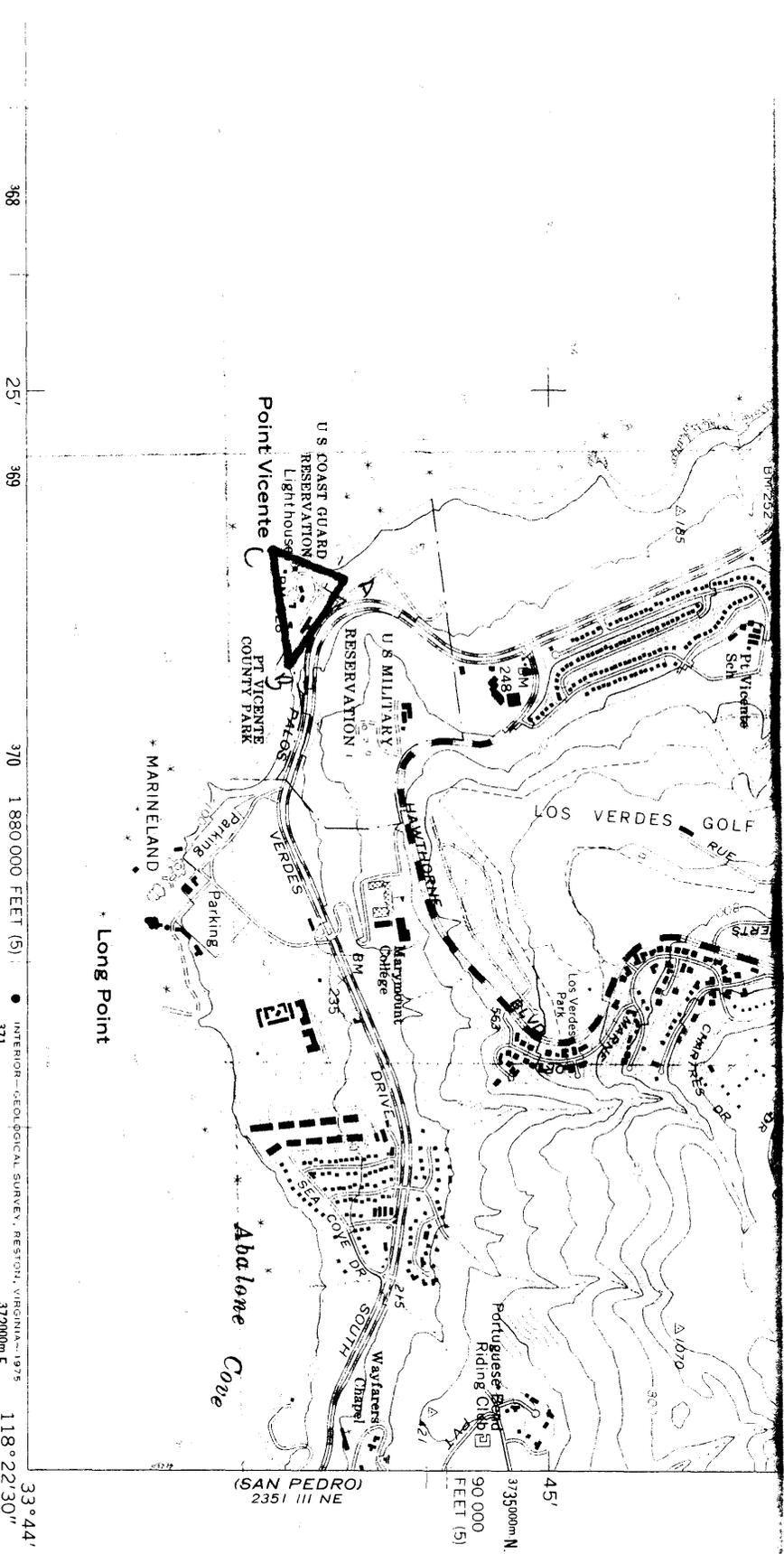
FOY STANDARDS  
 25. OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TURNS  
 1929  
 LOWER LOW WATER  
 HIGH WATER



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

UTM	11-3734	760	410	A
UTM	11-369	240	450	
	3734	260	45	
	369	460	8	
	3734	450	1	BS
	369	420	3	4S



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty  
 Medium duty  
 Unimproved dirt  
 State Route

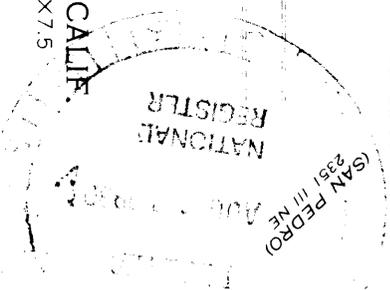
REDONDO BEACH, CALIF.

N3344—W11822.5/8.5 X 7.5

1963

PHOTO-REVISED 1972

AMS 2551 IV SW—SERIES V895



33° 44'

372000m E

118° 22' 30"

(SAN PEDRO)  
 2351 III NE

3735000m N  
 90 000  
 FEET (5)

368

25'

369

370

371

371

372000m E

118° 22' 30"

33° 44'