

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 38

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

United States Coast Guard - date unknown

1) Aerial view

HISTORIC NAME: Tarpaulin Cove Light

TOWN: Gosnold (Naushon Island)

LOCATION: Center of south side of Naushon Island

COUNTY: Dukes CODE: 007

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 12th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

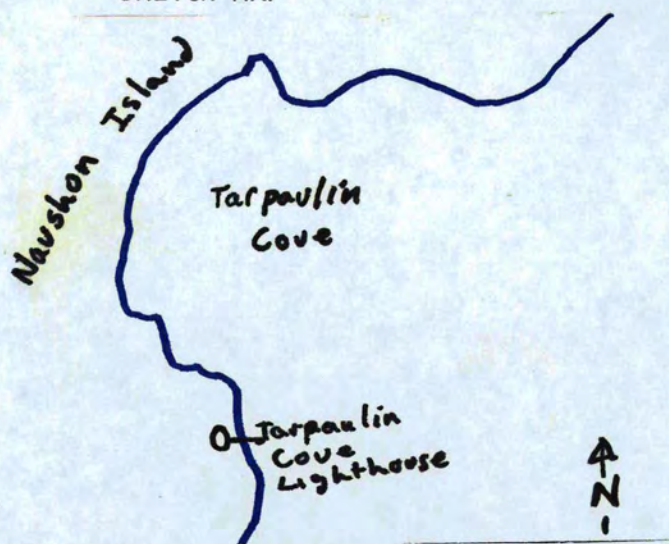
Dukes County Courthouse

(Book 20, p. 162-6; 1817)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

See attached engineering plan. The nomination is confined to the light.

SKETCH MAP



LAT./LONG.: 41°28'7"N 70°45'28"W

UTM COORDINATE: 19/352/800/459/600

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

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: originally 4.5A, now 0.1A

OWNER(S): First Coast Guard District

408 Atlantic Avenue

Boston, MA 02210

STATUS: Unmanned/Active

RECORDED BY: N. Salzman

ORGANIZATION: MHC

DATE: August 1, 1981

Tarpaulin Cove Light, Gosnold (Naushon Island)

SITE DESCRIPTION: The light stands on the west side of Tarpaulin Cove on the southwesterly shore of Naushon Island. This is the largest of the Elizabeth Islands, which are situated between Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound, several miles off the southeasterly coast of Massachusetts. The Light is situated on a rise 45-50 feet above a boulder and sand beach in a meadow covered with grass and low scrub growth. A marker on the site states "This cove was widely used in sailing days as a shelter during storm or while awaiting favorable winds. Pirates used it in the 17th century as a base to prey on shipping in the Sound . . . a small village was located here in early days."

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION: The only extant element is a 78' cylindrical white brick tower (1856) with entry house. Signs of the foundations of the Keeper's House can still be identified.

Lens Room - Octagonal lens room with intact ventilator ball and lightning rod; balcony rail post with knobs, nine balusters set within rails in each sections; ventilator slit has ornamental iron frame. Metal Staircase (sandblasted) with wooden banister rail. The wooden walls of the Lamp Room were removed and the brick repointed, Summer 1981.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY:

- 6/20/1816 - Land ceded from Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- 11/14/1817 - additional land purchased for \$216;
- 1817 - light first manned;
- 1856 - the white brick light tower, 38' high, 19' diameter, was constructed on a concrete foundation. The cost was \$10,000;
- 1890 - Keeper's Dwelling (2 story, wood frame, 25' X 26" with 11' X 16" wing; 1500 square feet; basement), was built for \$3000;
- 1891 - tower remodeled;
- 1938 - hurricane destroyed fog bell and it was discontinued;
- 1951 - tower cleaned, painted, and whitewashed;
- 1958 - candlepower reduced from 4500 to 700;
- 1/6/1962 - Keepers Dwelling and other buildings (?) had deteriorated to "state of collapse" and were demolished.
- 1967 - Fourth Order lens, cut glass, (Fresnel type) installed;
- 1981 - LIGHT CHARACTERISTICS: CG 181 flashing 12vDC, Lampchanger CG6P-12v=6P Lamp 12c-2.03A, 375 mm glass lens.

#### LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tarpaulin Cove Light possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Constructed in 1856, it is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century light and is one of the few historic structures on the island of Naushon. Overlooking a picturesque cove, it also possesses important scenic qualities. It meets criteria A and C of the NRHP on the state level as well as survey criteria 2a, 3a.

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 attached 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

Tarpulin Cove Light (Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)  
Dukes County  
MASSACHUSETTS

~~Substantive Review~~

Entered in the  
National Register

Working No. 4/28/82  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 6/18/87  
Action:  ACCEPT 6-15-87  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: USCG

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

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 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                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |   |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection





ATTACHMENT #3

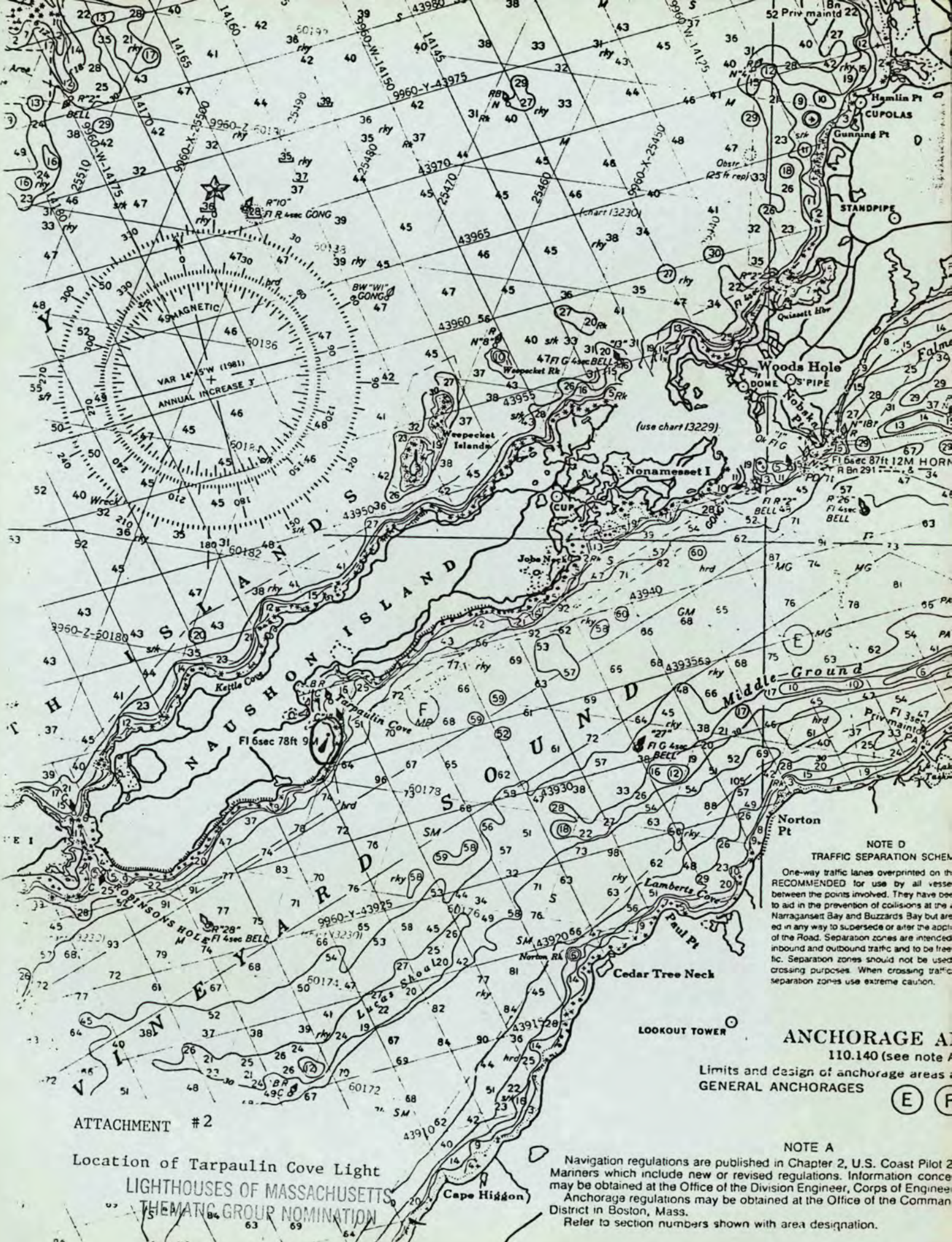
Tarpaulin Cove Light

TARPAULINI COVE LIGHT  
GOSNOLD, MA. #39

PHOTO #1 OF 1

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

Please credit  
U. S. COAST GUARD PHOTO  
First Coast Guard District  
Boston, Mass.



ATTACHMENT #2  
 Location of Tarpaulin Cove Light  
 LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

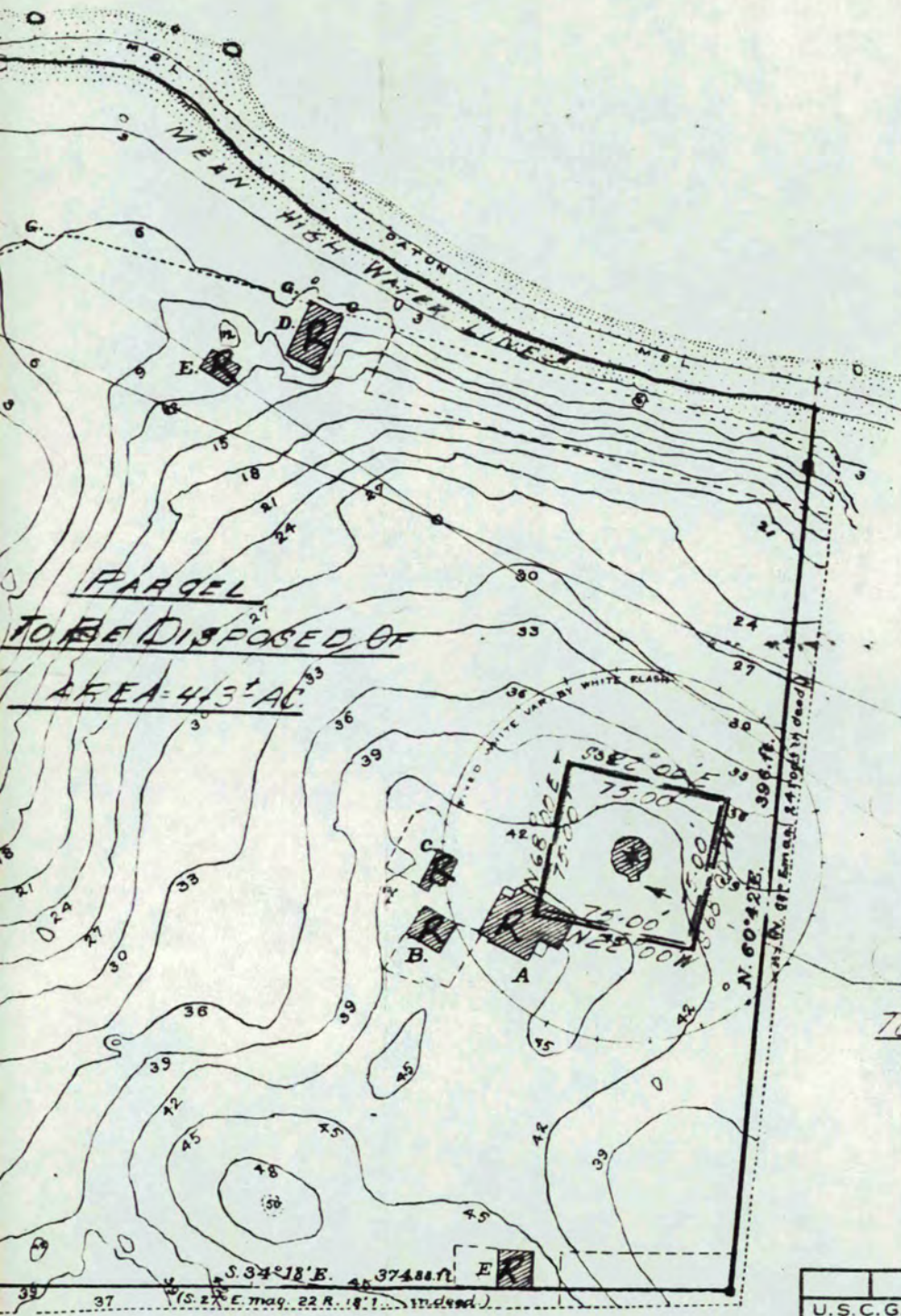
NOTE D  
 TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

One-way traffic lanes overprinted on the RECOMMENDED for use by all vessels between the points involved. They have been placed to aid in the prevention of collisions at the Narraugansett Bay and Buzzards Bay but are not intended in any way to supersede or alter the application of the Rules of the Road. Separation zones are intended for inbound and outbound traffic and to be free of crossing traffic. Separation zones should not be used for crossing purposes. When crossing traffic separation zones use extreme caution.

ANCHORAGE AREA  
 110.140 (see note A)  
 Limits and design of anchorage areas and GENERAL ANCHORAGES

NOTE A  
 Navigation regulations are published in Chapter 2, U.S. Coast Pilot 2, Manners which include new or revised regulations. Information concerning regulations may be obtained at the Office of the Division Engineer, Corps of Engineers, District in Boston, Mass.  
 Refer to section numbers shown with area designation.

VINEYARD SOUND



PARCEL TO BE DISPOSED OF  
AREA - 443 AC.

PARCEL TO BE RETAINED  
AREA - 5625 S.F.

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

— EXPLANATIONS. —

U.S.C.G. FIRST DISTRICT BOSTON MA	
CIVIL ENGINEERING	
DE. DR. TR. C'K'D.	TARFAULIN COVE LIGHT VAUGHAN ISLAND, VINEYARD SOUND MASS.
CH. SECT.	PROPERTY SUBDIVISION
SCALE	APPROVED
	DATE 6-10-75
U.S.C.G. CH. OF BR.	
ENG. DIT	C.G. DRAWING NO.
6594	
CG-3404-C 12-52	

... Declination in 1817 was estimated in 1888, by comparison of authorities,  
 ... 18' : the declination at time of survey was determined by observation

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000282