

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Leslie Fox - MHC - 7/1981

1) Tower and house from parking lot  
(facing east)

2) Tower and house (facing west)  
Jack Clarke - CCPDC-1980

3) Tower & House (facing east)

HISTORIC NAME: Nauset Beach Light

TOWN: Eastham

LOCATION: At the end of the road to Nauset Beach.

COUNTY: Barnstable CODE: 001

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 12th

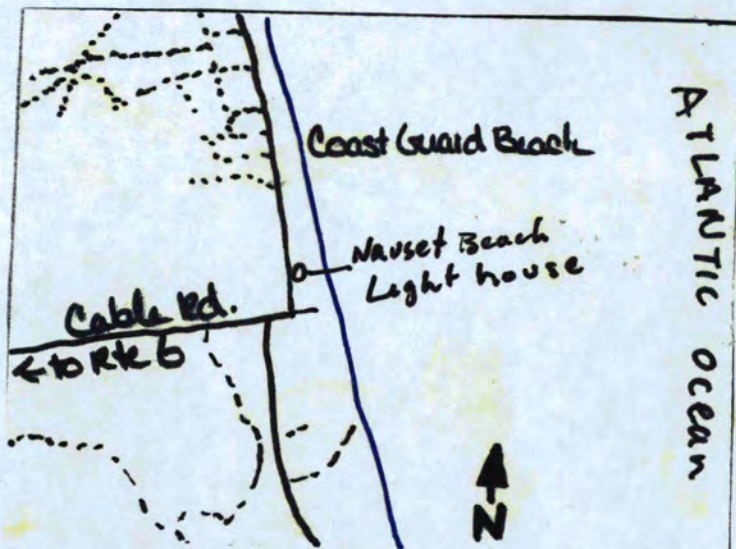
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Barnstable County Courthouse Book 973,  
p. 385

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Please refer to the attached assessor's map.

SKETCH MAP



LAT./LONG.: 41°55'59"N 69°53'48"W

UTM COORDINATE: 19/421/000/4633/800

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

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: 1 acre

OWNER(S): tower: U.S. Coast Guard  
First Coast Guard District  
408 Atlantic Ave, Boston 02210

remainder: Ms. Miriam Rowell  
Nauset Light Road, Eastham

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unmanned/Active

RECORDED BY: N.L. Salzman/J. Clarke

ORGANIZATION: MHC/Cape Cod Planning

DATE: July 22, 1981

## THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Nauset Beach Light is located 66' above water level on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean at Eastham on Cape Cod. The triple light worked in concert with the twin light at Chatham (#11) and single light at Highland (# 20), Truro. There is a history of erosion of the bluffs so that this tower is the third structure to mark the site. Below is Coast Guard Beach and parking lot.

Major Elements Description

An 1877 cylindrical cast iron tower (moved to the site in 1923 from Chatham), an 1892 brick oil house with cupola and an 1875 wood frame Keeper's House, altered, 1923 garage attached.

Exterior:

Measurements identical with its twin at Chatham where it stood until it was moved in 1923. Colored as daymark, L1-3, white L4-5 red. Lightning strap sided, concrete

Door - iron, segmental arch

Windows - 3; 2/2 sash windows, one at each level, Italianate hood supported on consoles, 4 portholes at L4-5; two open, two sealed

Lens Rooms - 10 sides, standard ventilator ball surmounting cast iron roof and supporting lighting rod

Balcony - simple: square metal post, 3 tubular rails

Interior:

Door - wooden, four panel, typical 1870's. Separated from outside iron door by wooden arch.

Arch - 15" deep and 5" frame. 32, 2/4" wide and frame, 10"

Floor - cement

Windows - segmental, 2/2 sash, Interior 36" wide, 45" high (standard). Lowest: set 6 1/2" into wall, 8 1/2" sill, 4" wooden frame. Middle: Set 5 1/2" into wall, 3" sill, 4" wooden frame. Top: set 5 1/2 into wall, 3" sill, 4" wooden frame.

Lens Room - lower half cast iron with 41" scuttle door to balcony. Upper half contains 10 panels: 1 iron, 2 frosted, 7 lexan; 26 1/2" x 36" standard size panes. Vent: interior = round opening with periscope housing exterior - standard narrow, framed rectangular slot.

Balcony - 50" wide. Railing formerly single rail, Italianate post. New rail is a tubular iron rail on simple post.

LIGHT CHARACTERISTICS: Original lens now at Salt Pond Visitor Center, National Seashore Park, Eastham, 4th Ord'r Fresnel, 20,000 candlepower, 23 miles visibility by pendulum weight on a cable with 6 hour cycle. Kerosene ignited the incandescent oil vapor light.

6/4/1981 - 2 quartz diode bulbs set in DCB 224 lantern. 6rpm, alt. red and white flashes/5 sec. 190mm lens Cat II, 181 fixed, .1.16A lamp. 19 mi. range.

Keeper's House: built in 1875, it was located between the two southernmost brick lighthouses. Typical Gothic Revival, 1 1/2 story wood frame house, L shaped, cross gable plan. An 1875 photo shows prominent vergeboards. All windows are of triple configuration with narrow sidelights. All had molded hoods with tabs. An 1892 photo shows the vergeboard still intact, tab moldings gone and windows on L2 now single without side lights. Level two window to south replaced by pair of sash windows. Covered walkway with window on ocean side connected to house at enclosed west porch, and to new shingled tower. East porch, with chamfered posts intact.

1923 - walkway removed, house moved back, new brick cellar.

1957 - purchased by Howells. Walls and doors altered. Some original cabinets remain, as do original staircase and curved staircase wall. Exterior shingles (1962), asphalt red roof (1977) added, garage enlarged.

Oil House: 1892. 11' x 9'4". Brick with slate roof and wooden trim.  
Unusual 3 light transom above modern door. Cupola intact.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1838 - 3 brick lighthouses plus keepers house purchased for \$150 from Sally and Benjamin H.A. Collins, erected for \$7050.01

1875 - two frame keeper's houses and oil house erected

1892 - 3 wooden lighthouses replace brick tower lost to erosion; middle tower attached to keeper's house by walkway.

1911 - two wooden towers removed. The remaining tower, The Beacon, fitted with characteristics triple light.

1923 - third tower, The Beacon, removed along with walkway. Northernmost Chatham Light removed to a site east of wooden light but south of Keeper's Dwelling. Moved in seven sections. Bricks for dwelling cellar brought up by barge. Garage built.

5/14/1957 - property purchased by Mr./Mrs. Lucien Howell. Vergeboard no longer extant on house. Garage extended, addition to west along the side of the walkway entrance. Interior changes to house include walls, windows, and some doorways.

1962 - grey wooden shingles applied to walls of house.

1977 - red asphalt shingles put on roof of house.

1981 - tower cleaned and repainted. Railing replaced with simple post and tubular railings.

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nauset Beach Light possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship as well as significant associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. The 1877 cast iron tower was moved to Eastham from Chatham in 1923, replacing three earlier wooden towers. Surrounded by a period oil house and keeper's house, it provides a good example of a late nineteenth century station on an earlier site. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the state level as well as survey criteria 2a, 2c, 4a.

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 2 of 4

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR  
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Minot's Ledge Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

2. Nauset Beach Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

3. Ned Point Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

4. Newburyport Harbor Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

5. Newburyport Harbor Front Range Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

6. Nobska Point Light Station

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

7. Race Point Light Station

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

8. Sankaty Head Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

9. Scituate Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

10. Straightsmouth Island Light

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 6/15/87

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Nauset Beach Light (Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)  
Barnstable County  
MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

Entered in the  
~~National Register~~

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
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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"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

Eastham #28  
Nauset Beach Light

Photo #1 of 3



LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

4

Eastham #28  
Nauset Beach Light

Photo #2 of 3



#5

Nauset Light house

Nauset Light Rd.

No. Eastham, MA

10/80

Jack Clarke

Eastham #28  
Nauset Beach Light  
Photo # 3 of 3

CAPE COD PLANNING  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
1st DISTRICT COURT HOUSE  
BARNSTABLE, MASS. 02630

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000282