

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received MAY 11 1981

date entered JUN 11 1981

1. Name

historic Point Allerton Lifesaving Station

and/or common Old Point Allerton Coast Guard Station

2. Location

street & number Nantasket Avenue at Spring Street

not for publication

city, town Hull

vicinity of

congressional district 12th

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Plymouth

code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: VACANT

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Hull

street & number Municipal Building

city, town Hull

vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

street & number Russell Street

city, town Plymouth

state Massachusetts 03361

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Point Allerton Life Saving Station is situated in its original location on Stony Beach at the entrance to Boston Harbor and at the foot of Telegraph Hill in Hull. It occupies a 7500 square foot lot on the south side of Nantasket Avenue; the property also includes another 3040 square feet of waterfront acreage across the Avenue. Neighboring properties include homes that have been or still are occupied by surfmen who served at the Station. At the top of Telegraph Hill is the Fort Revere National Register district which includes a Revolutionary War fort, telegraph signal stations, and the World War I era Fort Revere. The Station and Fort Revere look out toward Boston Light (NR), the oldest lighthouse in the country..

The Station is a 1½ story Queen Anne style structure with a latter two story rear ell attached to its southeast corner. The walls are sheathed with clapboards while the roof is covered with cedar shingles. It rests on a modern poured concrete foundation and all windows are currently boarded up. Fenestration throughout is irregular in size and placement. A small one story outbuilding with a gable roof stands directly behind the ell.

The original portion of the station, constructed in 1889, is rectangular in plan and consists of two sections. The eastern section which contains kitchen, living and dining quarters, is enclosed by a pitched roof and faces gable end to the street. A center chimney rises through its ridge and two hip roof dormer pierce the eastern slope of its roof. The main entry is located west of center. The western section, which originally functioned as a boat room, is enclosed by a hip roof whose front slope is pierced by a latter oversized dormer.

This fairly simple mass was complicated by a series of later additions, the most prominent of which is the rear ell, built to house the station chief. It is enclosed by a jerkin head gable roof with hip roof dormers on its eastern and western slopes. A chimney rises through the roof ridge and an entry is located on its north elevation. Other additions include shed roof porches attached to the north elevations of both the original structure and ell, a small one story pitched roof office at northeast corner of the original station and fire escapes on its rear elevation.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) MARITIME

Specific dates 1889 **Builder/Architect** U.S. Corps of Engineers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Point Allerton Life Saving Station possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It is significant both for the central role it has played in Massachusetts maritime history and for its associations with Captain Joshua James, its first keeper and the most decorated life saver in United States history. The Station therefore meets criteria A and B of the National Register of Historic Places.

The United States decided to establish a Life Saving Service station at Point Allerton after Joshua James and his crew rescued 29 persons from four vessels wrecked in the shipping entrance to Boston Harbor during the great storm of November, 1888. He was the holder of the gold life saving medal of the U.S. Treasury Department and the gold, silver, and bronze medals of the Massachusetts Humane Society. Appointed Keeper at the age of 62, Capt. James received the only waiver of the Keeper's age requirements given by the U.S. Congress. Between 1890 and his death in 1902, Capt. James and his crews rescued people from eighty-six shipwrecks which occurred within the jurisdiction of the Point Allerton Station. There were 556 persons on board these vessels. Only 16 of these lost their lives, and they were all lost in the terrible storm of November, 1898, under circumstances which placed them beyond human aid and which precluded even an attempt to assist them.

The Station is also significant as a link between the earliest days of U.S. Lifesaving and current U.S. Lifesaving activity. At the time it was built, the Point Allerton Life Saving Station replaced the existing small station that had been established by the Massachusetts Humane Society prior to 1874. The new station was located not far from the first lifeboat station built by the Society in 1807, near the Hull-Cohasset line. The Massachusetts Humane Society, established in 1785, was the third oldest life saving society in the world.

After Joshua James' death, the Station continued in service as one of the most active on the East Coast. It was replaced in the late 1960's by the nearby new Point Allerton Coast Guard Station which carries on its humanitarian traditions as one of the busiest Coast Guard Stations in the country.

Although no longer in use, the Old Point Allerton Station is significant as one of the oldest remaining lifesaving stations in the state. In Massachusetts, there were 32 lifesaving stations of which only eleven remain. The Point Allerton Station was built according to an architectural plan that was being used at that time. There are only two stations left that are older than Point Allerton, both of which have been converted to homes. Two of the remaining stations have been restored and opened to the public, one by the National Park Service and one as a hostel. Of the others, two are still owned by the Coast Guard, three are private homes, and one is a restaurant-lounge.

9. Major Bibliographical References

U.S. Life Saving Service Annual Reports, 1888, 1889, and 1890.

Sumner I. Kimball, Joshua James, Beacon Press, Boston, 1909.

"Joshua James, Celebrated Lifesaver of Hull, Mass.", U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, 1960.

Richard Bonnissar, Interview, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property .24 acres (10,540 s.f.)

Quadrangle name Hull

Quadrangle scale 1":25,000'

UMT References

A

1	9	3	4	3	3	8	0	4	6	8	5	2	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

Community Development

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director, with Judeth Wiers, Senior Planner, Office of

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February, 1981.

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 5/1/81

For HCRS use only

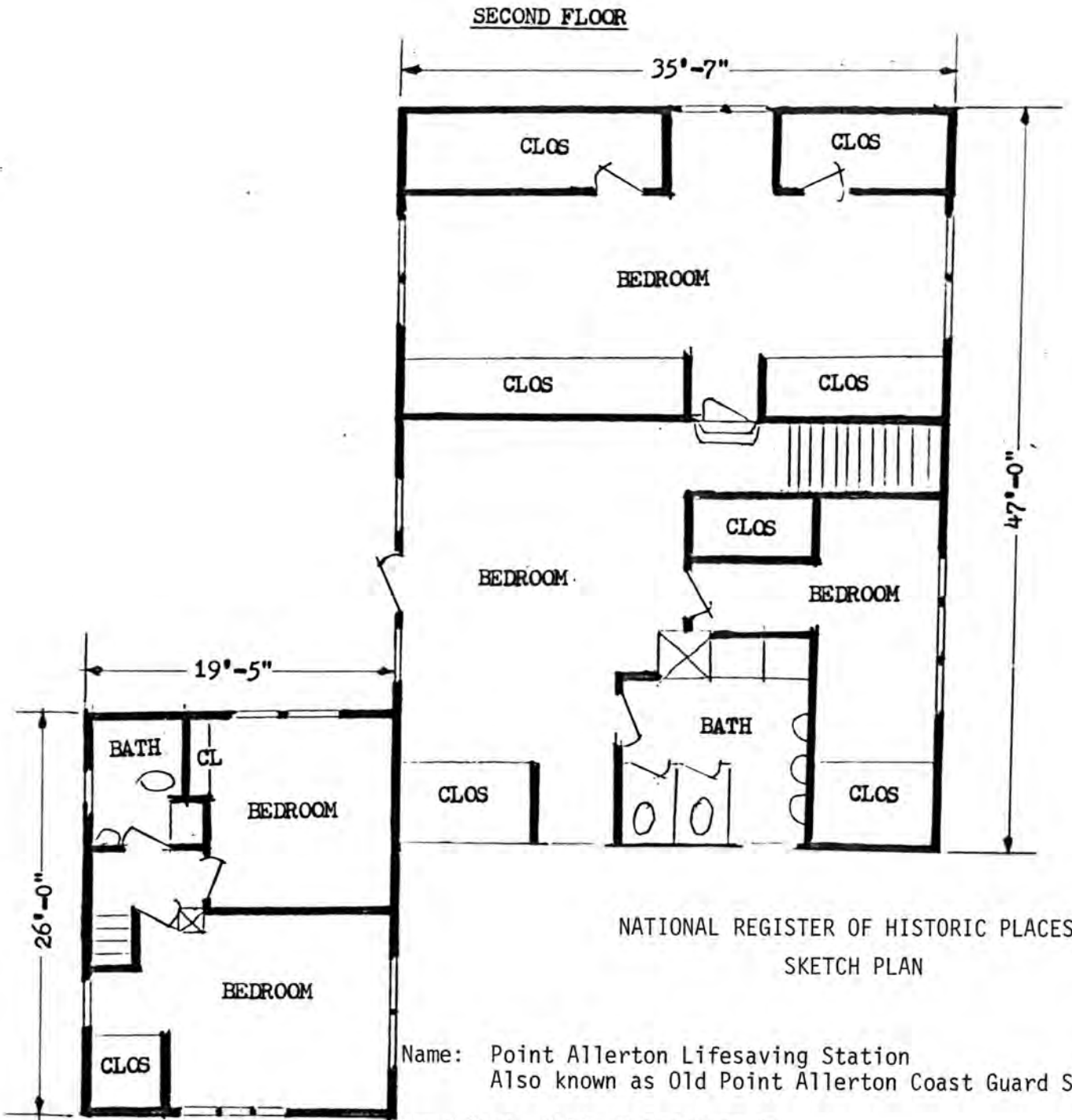
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register date 6.11.81

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
SKETCH PLAN

Name: Point Allerton Lifesaving Station
Also known as Old Point Allerton Coast Guard Station

Location: Hull, Massachusetts

Map Reference: Source: Judeth Wiers
Scale: 1" = 10'
Date: 1980

SCALE: 1" = 10'

MAY 11 1981

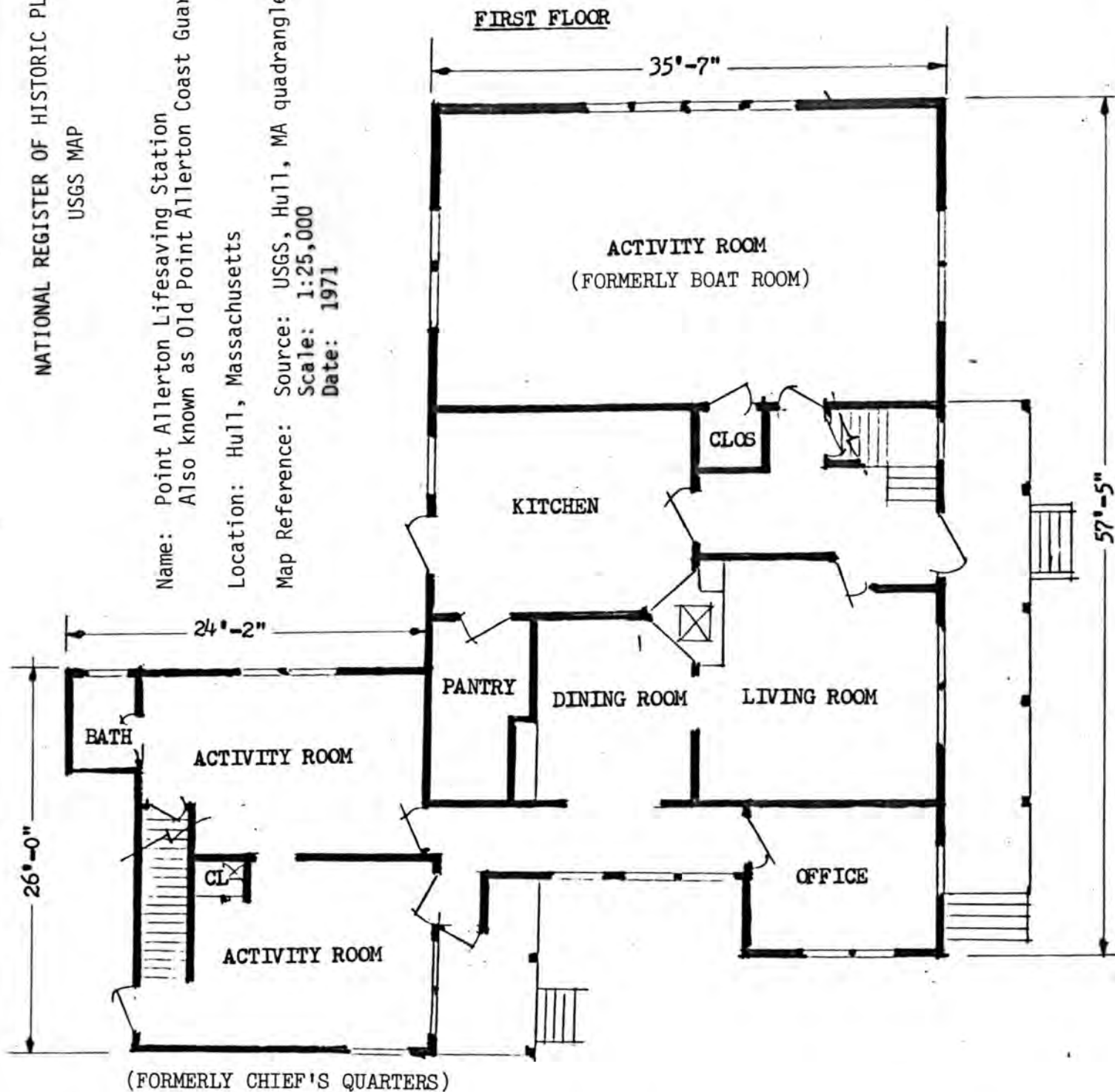
JUN 11 1981

Name: Point Allerton Lifesaving Station
Also known as Old Point Allerton Coast Guard Station

Location: Hull, Massachusetts

Map Reference: Source: USGS, Hull, MA quadrangle
Scale: 1:25,000
Date: 1971

EXISTING LIFE SAVING STATION



Chief's quarters, office, and front porch added between 1902 and 1945.

SCALE: 1" = 10'

MAY 11 1981

JUN 11 1981

DUE 6/10/81 - 6/25/81
dnr-3

Name Point Allerton Lifesaving Station
State, County MA Plymouth Fed Nom or Request-Agency _____
Working Number 5.11.81.154 Federal Register Date 2-2-82

Nomination
 Determination of Eligibility
 On Nomination Form

Bldg(s)
 Site
 Object
 Structure
 District

Within:
 Multiple Resource Area
 Thematic Group

Maps 1/1
Photos 2

Nomination prepared by:
 State Staff
 Local
 Other

Entered in the
Action: National Register
 ACCEPT 6.11.81
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

Check if Appropriate:
 State Request for Review
 Keeper's Decision to Review
 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date _____

See Attached _____



Point Allerton Lifesaving Station STATION
Hull, Mass.

MAY 11 1981

Judeth Weirs 1980

Hull Lifesaving Museum

JUN 11 1981

AND

PORTERS

Photo #1 of 2

Main building from northeast

Plymouth County



Point Allerton Lifesaving Station *LIFESAVING STATION*
Hull, Mass.

MAY 11 1981

Judeth Wiers 1980 *JUN 11 1981* *FROM NORTHEAST*
Hull Lifesaving Museum

Photo #2 of 2
Outbuilding from northeast

Plymouth County



JUN 11 1981

Point Allerton Life-saving Station
Hull, Mass.

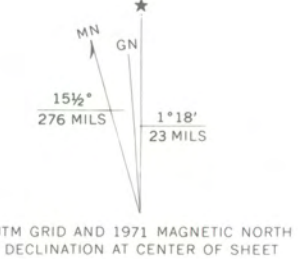
UM REFERENCES:
19/343380/4685250

CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4267
13000	4000
12000	3700
11000	3413
10000	3048
9000	2743
8000	2438
7000	2134
6000	1829
5000	1524
4000	1219
3000	914
2000	609
1000	305
500	152
200	61
100	30
50	15
0	0

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and US&GS
Topography by planetable surveys 1936 and 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 246 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.3 FEET

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route



HULL, MASS.
N4215—W7052.5/7.5
1971

AMS 8668 IV SW—SERIES V814

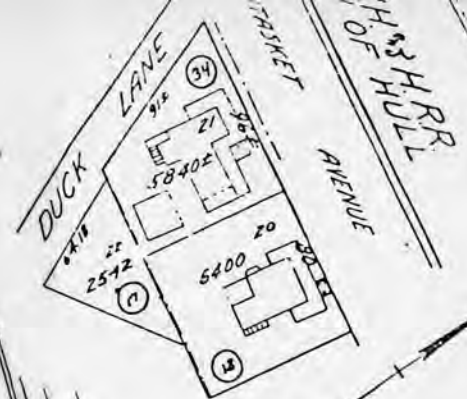
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Name: Point Allerton Lifesaving Station
Also known as Old Point Allerton Coast Guard Station

Location: Hull, Massachusetts

MAY 11 1981

Map Reference: Source: Hull Assessor's Maps JUN 11 1981
Scale: 1" = 100'
Date: 1936 and periodic updates



MAY 11 1981



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

May 4, 1981

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Acting Keeper
Registration Branch
Heritage, Conservation & Recreation
Service
DOI, W434
Washington D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms for publicly owned buildings:

- Barnstable-Barnstable County Courthouse (state)
- Fall River-B.M.C. Durfee High School (local)
- Hull-Point Allerton Lifesaving Station (state)
- Lynn-Old Post Office (local)
- Weymouth-Fogg Library (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Candace Jenkins
Registration Director



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

JUN 11 1981

Date Entered

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Durfee, B. M. C., High School	Fall River Bristol County
Fogg Library	Weymouth Norfolk County
Barnstable County Courthouse	Barnstable Barnstable County
Point Allerton Lifesaving Station	Hull Plymouth County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul E. Tsongas

**Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler
Honorable Garry E. Studts**

Northeast Region, HCRS

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

NR

Eady/bjr/6/15/81

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.