

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____


SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001476 Date Listed: 05/29/90

Stratford Point Lighthouse Fairfield CT
Property Name County State

Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

05/29/90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Level of Significance

All properties included in the multiple property nomination Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut were considered to meet the criteria within a statewide context.

10. Geographical Data: Acreage

The acreage is <1.

This information has been confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

1476

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 24 1989**

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Stratford Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Stratford Point Lighthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Stratford

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

COUNTY

Fairfield

CODE

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

U.S. Coast Guard Third District, Governors Island

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New York

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

New York 10004

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. U.S. Coast Guard Third District, Legal Dept., Governors Island

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York 10004

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

see thematic form

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stratford Point Lighthouse (Light List #960), established in 1881, marks the mouth of the Housatonic River, standing twenty feet above high water level on the shore of Long Island Sound to the west of the river's mouth. Established in 1881, this cast-iron lighthouse in the shape of a truncated cone presently is painted white with a horizontal brown band marking the middle third of its shaft. In addition to the lighthouse, the site includes a wood framed keeper's dwelling, also constructed in 1881, and a brick power house, built in 1911 for the fog signal apparatus.

A concrete foundation laid on grade to a height of three feet serves as a footing for the lighttower. The tower measures twenty-one feet in outside diameter at the base, eighteen feet at the top, and rises thirty-five feet to the focal plane of the light. Five courses of curved cast-iron plates form the walls of the tower; bolts connect the plates through flanges cast at the inner edges. Although the lantern has been removed, the cast-iron lantern deck remains, with modern lighting apparatus occupying the traditional central position on that level. Replacing the original ornate cast-iron stanchions around the periphery of the lantern gallery are plain round metal posts, carrying two pipe rails.

The entrance of the tower faces north, sheltered by a functional, unembellished projecting door hood which frames the elliptical arch of the door opening and tapers to accommodate the slanted tower wall. The arch has been bricked-in to create a rectangular opening for a replacement door. Three segmentally-arched window openings are arranged in a helical pattern to light the winding stairway within the tower. Two-over-two light, double-hung wood sashes fill the cast-iron molded window surrounds; cast-iron consoles support peaked, cast-iron window hoods, each with a recessed panel under a molded cornice.

Inside, the cast-iron watchroom floor is supported on notches in the top of the brick lining wall and by an iron rail which spans the tower to support the center portion. Since no living quarters were required, the interior is open up to the watchroom floor. A winding cast-iron stair curves gracefully around the periphery of the space. Because there is no metal inner wall, except at the watchroom level, no central column and no intervening floors, the stairs dominate the interior. They are keyed into the brick lining wall, and have plain pipe ballusters and

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Stratford Point Lighthouse
Stratford, CT

Section number 7 Page Amendment

Description (continued):

In 1989, Stratford Point Lighthouse was re-photographed and examined in the field in order to bring the National Register documentation fully up to date. Following are the features or characteristics of the lighthouse that differ from its condition and appearance as described in the National Register Inventory/Nomination form prepared in 1985.

The keeper's dwelling is about 12 feet from the lighthouse, not 45 feet as described in the 1985 documentation.

The powerhouse no longer holds any historic aids-to-navigation equipment.

Stratford Point Lighthouse still retains the requisite degree of integrity for National Register eligibility.

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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES built 1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stratford Point Lighthouse, erected in 1881, is significant as the earliest example in Connecticut of the cone-shaped, pre-fabricated cast-iron lighthouse, one of the earliest such lighthouses in the nation. Its construction and architectural details include characteristics which represent the earliest phase of development. Later the type became more standardized and was utilized on land and water sites in many varied locations. The site represents the fourth oldest lighthouse station in Connecticut still under Coast Guard jurisdiction. Established in 1822 by the federal government to mark the mouth of the Housatonic River, the light station at Stratford Point has made a significant contribution to the history of the aids to navigation in Long Island Sound. In addition, Stratford Point is significant as the only light station in the nominated group with three principal components remaining intact: the lighttower, the keeper's dwelling, and the fog signal house.

Stratford Point has been the site of a lighthouse and keeper's dwelling since 1821. At that time Ezekiel Gilbert of Derby and Robert Fairchild of Stratford contracted to build a wood framed lighthouse on a stone foundation to match the one at New Haven. It was to be painted red or white, as was a small one and a half story wood framed keeper's house nearby.

In 1881, this shingled wood framed lighttower was replaced with the present cast-iron structure, formed of curved cast-iron plates, flanged for bolting into courses. The Lighthouse Board approved this design for Stratford Point in 1880, a week after it approved a shorter version of the same design for the Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. front light. Long Island Head Lighthouse was approved the same day. Six others of the same design were approved in July and August, 1880. Present documentation suggests that Stratford Point is the earliest extant lighthouse of this design.

Construction was supervised by General Duane of the Engineering Corps. The five courses of cast-iron plates were bolted together through flanges on the inside, the lower rim of each course overlapping the one below in a semi-circular cast ridge. The seams of the top course were covered by brackets, supporting a deck upon which the lantern rested.

Deeply molded cast-iron window surrounds, projecting pedimented hoods and recessed panels, and simple projections at the top and sides of the

See Continuation Sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES see location map

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see site plan

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

STATE	<u>see thematic form</u>	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dorothy B. Templeton/Historian

ORGANIZATION

John Milner Associates, Inc.

DATE

October 22, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

309 North Matlack Street

TELEPHONE

(215) 436-9000

CITY OR TOWN

West Chester

STATE

PA 19380

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature]
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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 05-29-90

ATTEST:

DATE

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Stratford Point Lighthouse

CONTINUATION SHEET

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doorway all identify Stratford Point Lighthouse as an example of the first phase in cast-iron lighthouse construction. This phase dated from 1880 to the mid 1890s.

In the same year as the cast-iron lighthouse construction, the original keeper's dwelling was replaced with the present gable roofed frame structure. Historic photographs of the structure show labels and scroll-work porch brackets and bargeboards, suggesting a belated Gothic Revival impulse. Some of this original wood trim remains on the northwest corner porch.

A fog signal was established at Stratford Point in 1858. At the time the cast-iron lighttower was built in 1881, a new fog-bell tower also was constructed, located about 20 feet southwest of the lighttower. The new machinery was housed in a shed below the bell. In 1910, a compressed-air siren was ordered to replace the fog-bell, and a brick powerhouse for the first class sirens was erected to the west of the lighttower, using a design also employed by the Third District at Montauk Point Light Station, New York. This powerhouse remains standing. In 1931, fog signal engines by G. E. and Ingersoll Rand were in use, operating a typhon whistle.

The complex history of lighting apparatus at Stratford Point began in 1821 with the introduction of eight lamps used as a fixed light. Within a year Winslow Lewis, an inventor who had sold the U.S. government the rights to his improved Argon type lamps and silvered parabolic reflectors, visited Stratford Point and installed a new mechanism. This device consisted of a revolving frame holding ten new lamps, ten new sixteen inch reflectors, and two new spare lamps. A clock mechanism for lighthouses, patented by the renowned clockmaker Simon Willard, was fitted in the lantern, as well. The Lewis lamps were replaced with a fifth order Fresnel light in the decade before the Civil War. In 1867, the two range lenses with iron frames were described as providing flashes which were too brief and too infrequent. An 1881 inspection report identifies a third order flashing light as the apparatus in place at that date. It consisted of a constant "level" lamp and two revolving range lenses, made by L. Sautter and Co. and secured back to back. The Henry Lepaute clockwork required winding every four hours. In 1932, the inspector reported a fourth order electric incandescent light in place at Stratford Point, revolving in a trough of mercury and giving a light of 290,000 candle power.

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Stratford Point Lighthouse

CONTINUATION SHEET

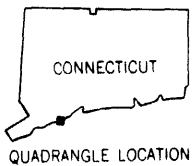
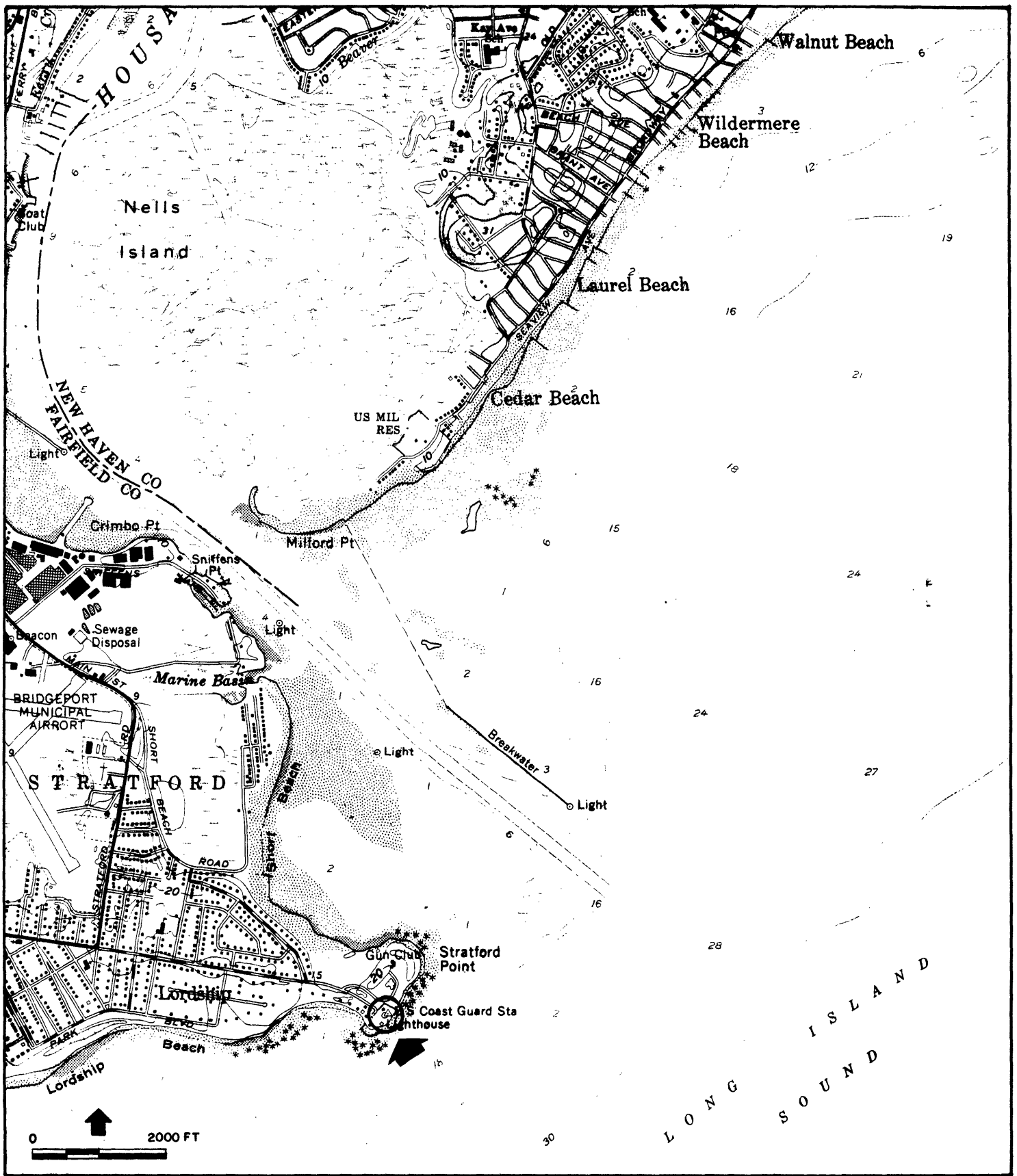
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Descriptive List of Light Stations, "Stratford Point,"
1887, National Archives Record Group 26.

Inspection Report, 1881, "Stratford Point", Third Coast Guard
District Legal Department, Property File.

Lighthouse Board, Civil Engineering Drawings, Reel 5A:
"Stratford Point," United States Coast Guard Academy Library.

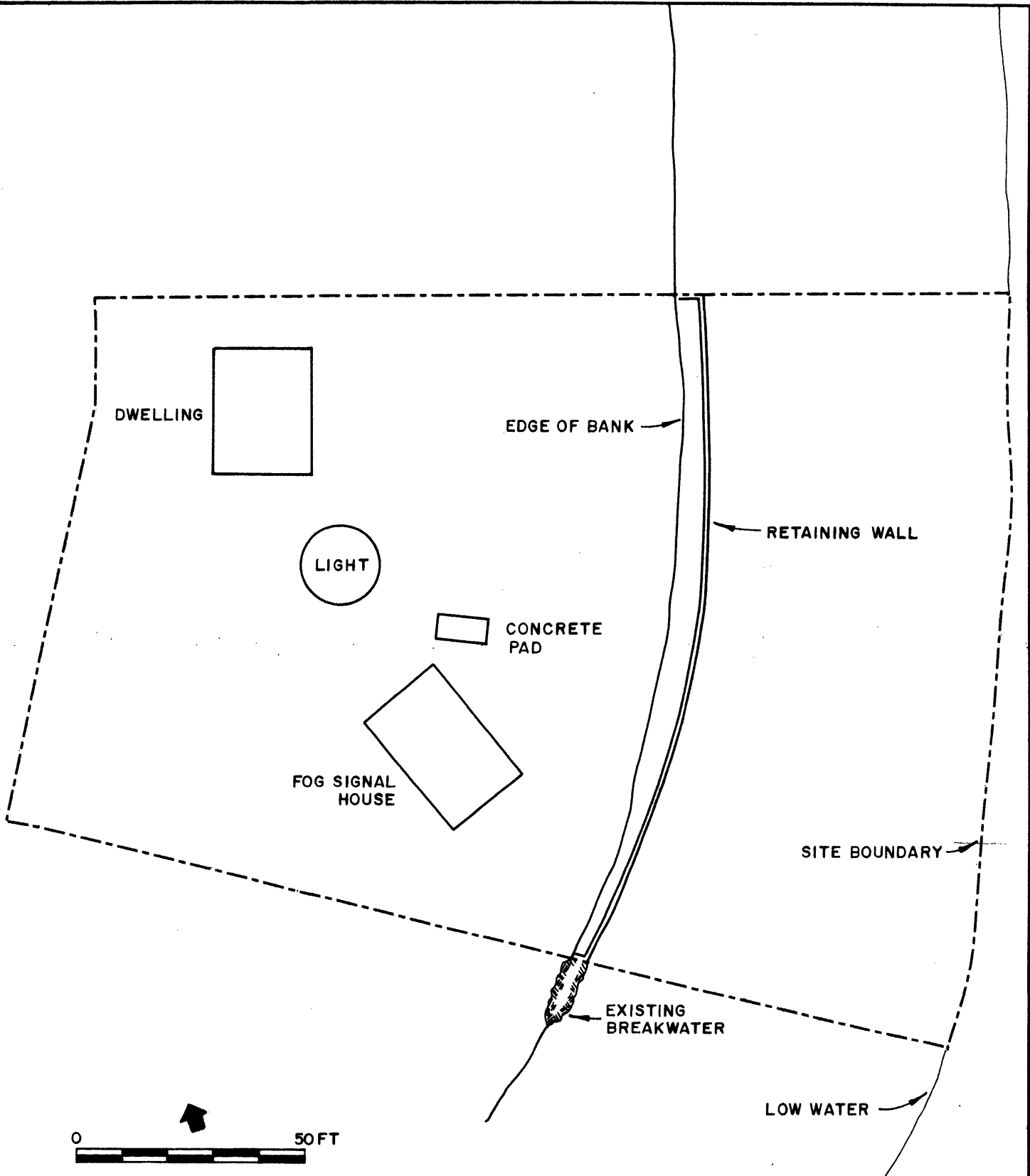
U.S. Lighthouse Board, Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board,
1867-81, 1883, 1888-90, 1895-96, 1899, 1910.



STRATFORD POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Milford, Connecticut Quadrangle, 1960
1:24000

UTM References:
18.659120.4557150



SITE PLAN

STRATFORD POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Fairfield County, Connecticut

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs
Section number _____ Page _____ Amendment _____

Stratford Point Lighthouse
Stratford, CT

All photographs:

1. STRATFORD POINT LIGHTHOUSE
2. Stratford, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. March 1989
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission,
Hartford, CT

Left to right: Keeper's dwelling, lighthouse, powerhouse, camera
facing southeast.

Photograph 1 of 8

Lighthouse, camera facing southeast

Photograph 2 of 8

Lighthouse, typical window treatment, camera facing east

Photograph 3 of 8

Lighthouse, overhanging lantern gallery and brackets viewed from
below, camera facing east

Photograph 4 of 8

Lighthouse, first-floor interior

Photograph 5 of 8

Lighthouse, peripheral corridor at watchdeck level, showing
beaded-board paneling and porthole window

Photograph 6 of 8

Powerhouse, camera facing northwest

Photograph 7 of 8

Keeper's dwelling, detail of porch at northwest corner, camera
facing southeast

Photograph 8 of 8