

PH0054585

DATA SHEET

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Anne Arundel
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 20 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Thomas Point Shoals Light Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~Kent Island~~ Chesapeake Bay

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE:
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY:
Anne Arundel

CODE
003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Coast Guard Station</u>

4. AGENCY

Department of Transportation

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District

STREET AND NUMBER:
431 Crawford Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portsmouth,

STATE:
Virginia

CODE
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Same as #4

STREET AND NUMBER:
Legal Department

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

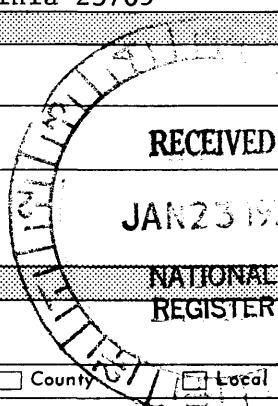
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thomas Point Shoals Light, standing at the confluence of the ~~South~~^{South} River and Chesapeake Bay, is a hexagonal white wood frame house (18' on each side) supported on a steel framework of nine screw piles. These piles are so called because each is tipped with two blades arranged screw fashion.

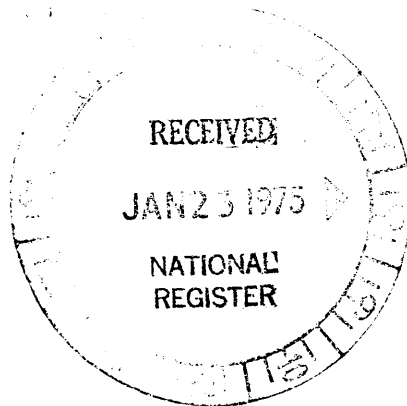
The 1½ story house, with light tower and living quarters, is covered with moulded wood siding and a metal roof. The roof is topped with six large dormer windows and a steel octagonal cupola containing the light. The cupola panes are rectangular.

The lighthouse stands in seven feet of water between two areas of stone rip-rap. The height of the focal plane is 43 feet above mean low water. At its base is a steel snow-plowblade for deflecting the ice coming from the north or upper Chesapeake Bay.

The light source is now from a 250 watt electric bulb receiving primary power from an underwater cable. The original light source was probably a Kerosine lamp. The original fourth order fixed glass lens is intact. The brass frame is embossed with the name of the French manufacturer. The light characteristic is flashing white $\frac{1}{6}$ sec. (1.0-5.0) with red sectors (011° to 051½° and 096½° to 202°). The rated intensity is 6000 candlepower and the range, 11.9 miles (white).

The fog signal, audible for two miles, is one two second blast every 15 seconds at a frequency of 300 Hz.

The lighthouse remains as built in 1875 with only minor and superficial alterations.



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B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

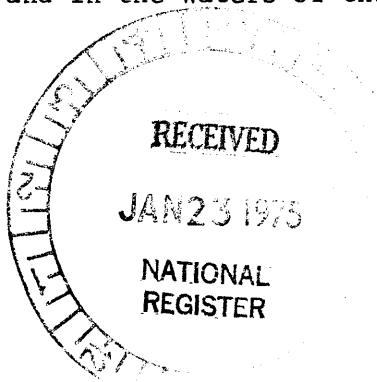
Designed by staff professionals of the U.S. Lighthouse Service, Thomas Point Lighthouse is the last of the manned screwpile, off-shore lights on the Chesapeake Bay. The principle of the screwpile design was first introduced in England in 1838 and later used in the United States in 1854. This method of anchoring a lighthouse was simple, effective, inexpensive and most appropriate for the sandy and muddy bottom of the Chesapeake Bay.

Constructed in 1875 the structure remains virtually intact. The splat baluster railings, the shaped dormer rafter projections and the steel octagonal cupola (bearing the inscription "Atlantic Steam Engine Works, Brooklyn, New York, 1875") are architectural features of interest.

Robert de Gast in The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake gives a date as early as 1825 for the establishment of a light at Thomas Point. The location was a narrow neck of land at the mouth of the South River which is now under water. Charts of the area show a lighthouse on the site as early as 1846. The present structure has stood on the shoal since commissioned on 20 November 1875.

The Thomas Point Lighthouse was built on five acres conveyed by the State of Maryland on 28 October 1874. The conveyance of a Use and Occupancy Deed from Governor James Black Groome was authorized by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly of 6 April 1874 which read: "An Act to provide for the relinquishment to the United States in certain cases of title to and jurisdiction over lands for sites of lighthouses, beacons and other aids to navigation, and for the protection of beacons, buoys and floating guides on the Coast and in the Waters of this State."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

De Gast, Robert, Lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay (John Hopkins University Press).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		38° 53' 55.861"	76° 26' 10.417"	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		North	West	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: FIVE

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

18/37544
4306320

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. M. WHITTINGTON, Realty Specialist

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District

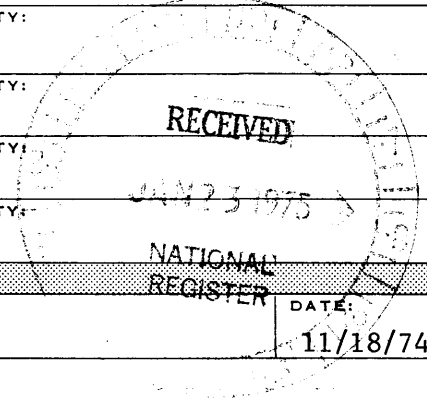
STREET AND NUMBER: 431 Crawford Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth

STATE: Virginia 23705

PHONE: 804 393-9304

DATE: 11/18/74



12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Arthur C. Townsend
State Liaison Officer Signature

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

Robert A. Green 1/20/75
Federal Representative Signature Date

DOT Federal Representative
Title

Community Office Specialist

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

R. R. W. [Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/20/75

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-19-75