

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 17

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Victoria DiStefano, Martha's Vineyard
Commission, May 1980.

1. Tower facing north (8 x 10)

HISTORIC NAME: Edgartown Harbor Light

TOWN: Edgartown

LOCATION: off North Water Street on west side
of inner end of harbor.

COUNTY: Dukes CODE: 007

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Dukes Country Courthouse; Book 224, p. 310
original deed transfer. (1828)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Please refer to the attached site plan.

SKETCH MAP



LAT./LONG.: N/A

UTM COORDINATE: 19/374/100/4583/200

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

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: 0.3 acres

OWNER(S): United States Coast Guard
First Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Ave.
Boston, MA 02210

STATUS: Unmanned/Active

RECORDED BY: N. L. Salzman

ORGANIZATION: MHC

DATE: August 26, 1981

Edgartown Harbor Light, Edgartown

SITE DESCRIPTION: The Edgartown Harbor Light is located on the western side of Edgartown inner harbor opposite Chappaquidick Island. The harbor has long been an active yachting center. Originally the light was on a granite block foundation off the beach and reached by a wooden walkway. Because of frequent damage by storms, this was replaced by a stone breakwater. Today the area has been filled in by shifting sand and is covered by sand and grass.

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION:

The site includes only an 1875 cast iron cylindrical tower which is painted white and seated on a masonry base.

Foundation - Granite blocks with fill. Surmounting this is an octagonal poured concrete base which is 3'7" high and 9'6" along each side. Four concrete steps lead to the base.

Tower - This rises 45" above water level and consists of four "rings" of cast iron plates; three windows with Italianate surrounds at Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 and four portholes at Level 4; twelve open brackets with Italianate pendants support the balcony.

Lens Room - ten sided with cast iron lower base; roof surmounted by intact ventilator ball on molded base and lightning rod with unusual three forks.

Door - 32" X 77" cast iron; reveal slopes to accommodate changing diameter of tower; outer iron surround widens from 1 1/2" at base to 12" at top while inner casing decreases from 10" to 4" at top. The top of the door recess is 7 1/2" with a 1" cast iron exterior frame and a 4" inner casing.

Window - Italianate outer surround 4 3/4" wide with pediment and side consoles; segmentally arched with 2/2 sash.

Light Characteristics

daylight control, flasher CG181-12vDC; Lampchanger FL1167-12v500w138; Lantern 300mm AGA glass lens; horn 1120s, electronic SA20 two tone diaphone.

Interior - Not surveyed.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 7/30/1828 - Land acquired from Seth Vincent for \$80. Combination dwelling and light constructed on a platform at the entrance to Edgartown Harbor. Congress allocated \$4400 for the job. The structure consisted of 2 1/2 story wood frame dwelling, three bays by one bay. Lantern containing light on octagonal base was located at center gable ridge, and surmounted by a standard ten sided cast iron lens room.
- 1830 - platform on which light was built is extended to shore for \$2500.
- 1847 - Stone breakwater replaces wooden walkway for \$4700.
- 18?? - house remodeled; new roofing, two iron smoke stacks raised; wooden tower and entry to side of house; diamond shaped gable window replaced by small 2/2 rectangular sash; large three sided bay fills right side of house and contains 6/6 sash.
- 1939 - house/lantern replaced by the 1875 cast iron cylindrical light floated by barge from Ipswich in Essex County, Massachusetts.
- 1970 - Lot of 11,773 sq. ft. adjacent to light sold to the town of Edgartown for \$23,000.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Edgartown Harbor Light possesses integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship, as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Constructed in 1875, it is a well preserved example of the cast iron lights which typify that period. Although it was moved from Ipswich to Edgartown in 1939 and has therefore lost integrity of location, it still retains some associations with its original site (Ipswich) and also continues to mark a site (Edgartown) which has been characterized by a beacon since 1828. (The move itself also has some importance in that it was done to appease the opposition of local residents to the replacement of a traditional light with a modern skeleton steel tower.) Edgartown Harbor Light meets criteria A and C and exception b of the National Register of Historic Places on the state level as well as survey criteria 2a, 3a, 4b, 4a.

Site considerations:

Although not within the bounds of the Edgartown Historic District (NR, 1983), the light has a strong associative relationship with the visual and historic character of this 19th century whaling community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MAY 4 1987

Section number Page 174

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover Substantive Review

Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

< 50 1. Cleveland LEDGE Light Station
Substantive Review

Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

2. Highland Light Station (Cape Cod Light)
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

3. Gay Head Light
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

4. Edgartown Harbor Light
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

5. Derby Wharf Light Station
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

6. East Chop Light
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

7. Eastern Point Light Station
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 9/28/87

Attest

8. Long Island Head Light
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

9. Long Point Light Station
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 9/28/87

Attest

10. Marblehead Light
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

[Handwritten signature] 6/15/87

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Edgartown Harbor Light (Lighthouses of Massachusetts TR)
Dukes County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 428/27
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 6/18/87
Action: ACCEPT 6-15-87
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: USCG

~~Submitted for Review~~
Entered in the
National Register

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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 _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____





Lighthouses of MA, TR
#17

The Harbor Light
North Water Street
Edgartown, Massachusetts

May 1, 1980

Photographer: V.L. DiStefano
negative filed at M.V. Commission
Organization: Martha's Vineyard
Commission

Edgartown Harbor Light

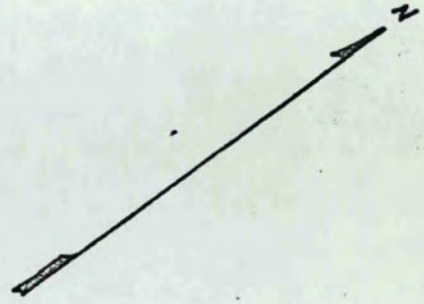
EDGARTOWN
HARBOR

SALT POND

BARRIER

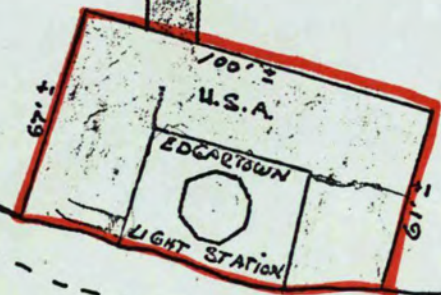
BEACH

WOOD TRISTEE WALK WAY TOWN OF EDGARTOWN



LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

#17 EDGARTOWN LIGHT
STATION; EDGARTOWN, MA



SCALE 1" = 60'

M.H.W.

M.L.W.

OWNED BY TOWN OF EDG. ✓
OWNED BY U.S.A. - Decided
BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000282