

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
New Jersey

COUNTY:
Cape May

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

NOV 12 1973

H/3
 Z 118
 N 4309110
 E 503450

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Cape May Lighthouse

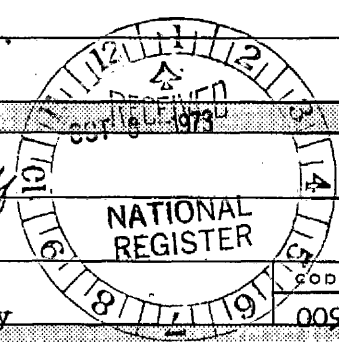
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
on Cape May Point W of Cape May off Sunset Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Cape May Point NJ

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Cape May CODE: 009



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Government

STREET AND NUMBER:
United States Coast Guard

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cape May Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cape May Court House STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Inventory of Historic Sites 601.2

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites Section

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

STATE: New Jersey

COUNTY: Cape May

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ENTRY NUMBER: 12

DATE: NOV 12 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

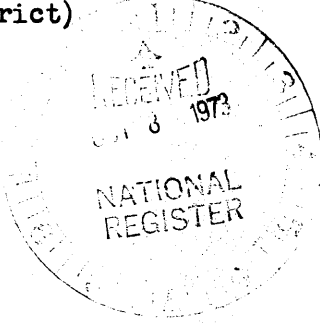
The Cape May Lighthouse is situated at the Southern point of New Jersey directly across from the Henlopen Light in Delaware. It is one hundred and seventy five feet high and can be seen for over nineteen miles. The lighthouse is solid white except for the bright red brick lantern.

The lighthouse light gives a four second, two million candle power flash every thirty seconds from a height of one hundred sixty five feet above sea level. The original lens has been removed.

The spiral staircase extends the height of the structure.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Hon. Harrison A. Williams
 Hon. Clifford P. Case
 Hon. Charles W. Sandman
 (2nd District)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It has been said that the English built a lighthouse here in 1744 at the same time as the one that was built on Cape Henlopen. There is not sufficient evidence to actually confirm this, though.

After the Revolutionary War, Congress authorized a commission to purchase a site on Cape May for a lighthouse. By a deed dated September 23, 1785, Thomas Hand 2nd conveyed a tract of land on a high bluff to the Board of Wardens of the Port of Philadelphia. A letter of November 12, 1785 confirms this conveyance. No records confirm whether a lighthouse was actually built on this land which has long since been covered by the Ocean.

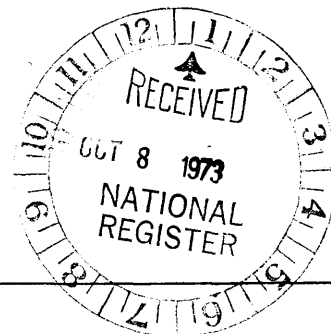
In 1821, Congress again approved an appropriation for building a lighthouse on Cape May. The structure was completed in October of 1823. This lighthouse was seventy five feet high. It had a stone foundation and the walls were twenty five feet in diameter and six feet thick at the base. It tapered to two and one half feet at the top.

By 1847 this lighthouse had to be moved as the sea had encroached to such an extent that the tower was surrounded by water and the foundation was threatened. The site of this lighthouse is now one hundred yards out from the present shore line.

This 1823 lighthouse was rebuilt on a high bluff called Great Island about one-third a mile from its present position. The existing lighthouse was erected at Cape May Point in 1859. The 1847 lighthouse was torn down. All that remains is a remnant of the base.

The 1859 lighthouse is situated on land that was part of "The Cape May Plantation" of John Stites, mariner, who purchased it from the West Jersey Society. He conveyed it to his older son John, from whom the government purchased it in 1822.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, Francis Ross America's Lighthouses; Their Illustrated History Since 1716, S. Green Press, 1972.

Richardson, E. M. We Keep a Light, Reyerson, 1945.

Snow, Edward Rowe Famous Lighthouses of America, Dodd, Mead, New York, 1955.

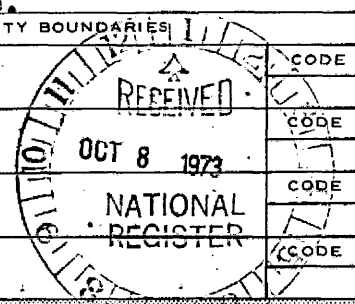
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38	55	58
NE	° ' "	° ' "			75	57
SE	° ' "	° ' "			74	39
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kathleen J. Diller Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Section DATE: March 8, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Richard J. Sullivan
Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Date: June 15, 1973

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

Eugene A. Connelly
Associate Director, Professional Service
Date: NOV 12 1973

ATTEST:
Wm. Shantz
Keeper of The National Register
Date: 11-8-73