

P410111356

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

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Los Angeles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 13 1972	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Point Fermin Lighthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
805 Paseo Del Mar

CITY OR TOWN:
San Pedro

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Los Angeles	CODE 037
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied by
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		park per-
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		sonnel

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
United States Government

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE:
California

CODE
11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
U.S. Coast Guard -- U.S. Government

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE:
California

CODE
11

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre +

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
U.S.G.S. San Pedro Quad. 7.5 Min.: C & G.S. Chart #5147 1:12000'

DATE OF SURVEY: 1964 & 5/22/71 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
11th Coast Guard District

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Long Beach

STATE:
California

CODE
06

STATE: California
COUNTY: Los Angeles
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original structure, combining light tower and residence for personnel was constructed in 1874.

In 1942 the lantern, railings, revolving lens and attendant mechanism were removed to accommodate a woodshed type of shelter superimposed on the tower.

A radar lookout station was maintained in this for the duration of the war. All electronic equipment has long since been removed but the shed remains.

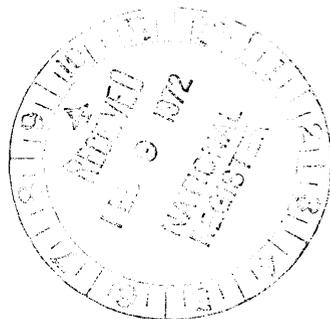
The overall structure is of balloon type construction, lower portion having 8" channel rustic siding; tower exterior a board and batten design. Overhangs are supported by bracket construction characteristic of Victorian (1880) period architecture. The roof is a combination mineral thick butt surfacing; decorative palasters located on second floor elevations appear original. Ladders and pipe mar the lines of the original structure, much of the original fence is obliterated by foliage.

The building, in fair condition, serves today as a residence for park personnel of the San Pedro Park and Recreation Department.

An audio beacon located at another location on Point Fermin serves as a protective device for vessels entering and departing from Los Angeles Harbor.

Proposals for its restoration calls for removal or dismantling of non original structural features, and their replacement with facsimile, and reinstallation of the original lens and its mechanism.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

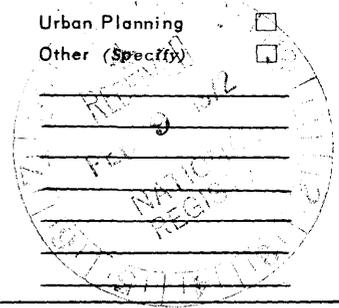
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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/Phi- losophy <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"/>	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Point Fermin Lighthouse was the first substantial aid to navigation established at San Pedro and what has subsequently become Los Angeles Harbor.

Of the several wooden lighthouses established in the 1870's between San Francisco and San Diego, this handsome structure remains as the sole example.

By 1871 sea traffic had increased to the point where guidance was needed by vessels entering Los Angeles Harbor. This brought about construction of the Light which was first operated on December 15, 1874. Off the precipitous cliffs upon which the lighthouse stands, some 35 ships have been lost, mostly due to dense fog. One of these, the British ship Respigadera struck a rock and sank within 20 minutes when it cut too close to the Point in 1888. Among other ships lost were the David C. Meyer and the Prentiss, both lumber schooners.

In 1925 the Light's oil lamps were replaced by a powerful electric light which reached 18 miles out to sea. This continued to function until 1942 when war was declared between the axis powers and the United States.

At that time the Coast Guard, for security purposes, turned the light off and painted the gleaming white building "wartime green". Its wartime service added further luster, however, by its conversion to a radar lookout station--first of its kind in the harbor area. As an added point of interest this activity was cloaked in secrecy, radar not having been proven thoroughly reliable when the facility was installed.

After the war the light remained off--maritime security having been enhanced and proven by radar sentry and signalling devices, as well as by Lightstations at Point Vincent and Los Angeles Harbor.

With construction of a more elaborate radar installation on the crown of the hill behind the old Point Fermin Lighthouse, the structure fell into disuse, finally becoming a feature of a San Pedro City Park, where from its vantage point, it affords a magnificent panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spalding, W. A.
History and Reminiscences, Los Angeles City and County, California,
 Vol. 1. J.R. Finnell & Sons Pub. Co., n.d., "Point Fermin," p. 326,
 417, 446, 455, 490 (R979.494, Vol. 1 (3v. ed)).

Hager, A. M.
San Pedro Harbor Highlights
 La Siesta Press, 1968, "Point Fermin Park", p. 36 (C979.493)

Gudde, Erwin G.
California Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary
 University of California Press, 1949, "Fermin", p. 115 (C929.4)

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33° 42' 19.5"N	118° 17' 34" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 11/30020
 373004
 02

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 William L. Olesen, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Point Fermin Lighthouse Committee DATE: July 11, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 369 Santa Cruz Street

CITY OR TOWN: San Pedro STATE: California 90731 CODE: 06

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

[Handwritten Signature]

Title

STATE LIAISON OFFICER

Date

1/27/72

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

[Handwritten Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

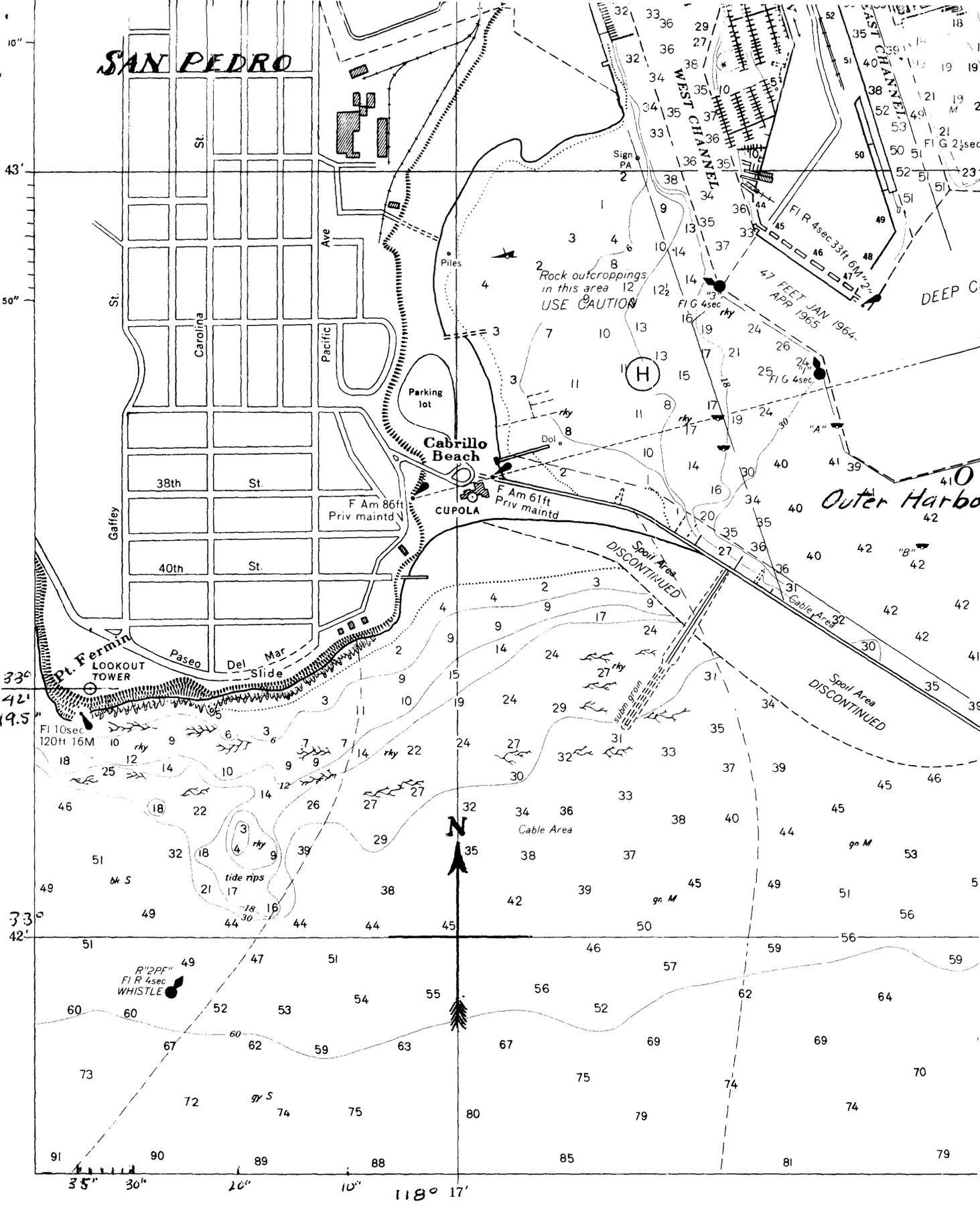
6/15/72

ATTEST:

[Handwritten Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

SAN PEDRO



17th Ed. May 22/71

Title: Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors - Scale 1:12,000

5147-C. & G.S.

PRICE \$1.50

