

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE:           | California  |
| COUNTY:          | San Diego   |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY DATE       | JUN 27 1974 |

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Old Point Loma Lighthouse (B-1)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Cabrillo National Monument

End of Catalina Blvd. (Cabrillo Memorial Drive)

CITY OR TOWN:

San Diego

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

40th

STATE:

California

CODE

06

COUNTY:

San Diego

CODE

073

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)                                                                                                                                        | OWNERSHIP                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                     | STATUS                                                                                                                                           | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object                                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object                                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br>_____<br>_____                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments<br>_____<br>_____                                                                            |

## 4. AGENCY

|                                        |                       |        |            |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------|
| National Park Service                  |                       | STATE: | California |
| REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) | STREET AND NUMBER:    | Box    |            |
| Western Regional Office                | 450 Golden Gate Ave., | 36063  |            |
| CITY OR TOWN:                          | STATE:                | CODE   |            |
| San Francisco                          | California            | 06     |            |

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

|                                                       |                      |                      |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------|
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:                   |                      | STATE:               | CODE |
| Site file, Old Point Loma Lighthouse, Record Group 26 |                      | California           | 06   |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                                    |                      | STATE:               | CODE |
| National Archives                                     |                      | District of Columbia | 001  |
| CITY OR TOWN:                                         | STATE:               | CODE                 |      |
| Washington                                            | District of Columbia | 001                  |      |

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                    |                      |      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------|
| TITLE OF SURVEY:                   |                                                                                                                                                    | STATE:               | CODE |
| Historic American Buildings Survey |                                                                                                                                                    | District of Columbia | 001  |
| DATE OF SURVEY:                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal<br><input type="checkbox"/> State<br><input type="checkbox"/> County<br><input type="checkbox"/> Local | STATE:               | CODE |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:     |                                                                                                                                                    | District of Columbia | 001  |
| Library of Congress                |                                                                                                                                                    | STATE:               | CODE |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                 |                                                                                                                                                    | District of Columbia | 001  |
| CITY OR TOWN:                      | STATE:                                                                                                                                             | CODE                 |      |
| Washington                         | District of Columbia                                                                                                                               | 001                  |      |

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| STATE:        | California    |
| COUNTY:       | San Francisco |
| ENTRY NUMBER: | JUN 27 1974   |
| DATE:         |               |

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Preservation recommended

As originally designed and built in 1854, the Old Point Loma Lighthouse is a Cape Cod structure 20 feet wide and 30 feet long with a cellar, two upper floors and a small attic. A wooden leanto with kitchen facilities (a slightly later addition) is located in the rear. The tower portion is situated in the middle of the building, 10 feet in diameter, with a spiral staircase 33 feet from the base to the top. The walls of the residence portion of the Lighthouse are 20 feet high. Bricks were used in the tower construction and sandstone was used for the dwelling. Tiles for the basement were obtained from the ruins of nearby old Spanish Fort Guajarras. The upper portion of the tower consisted of a metal frame lantern which housed the illuminating lens. A third order Fresnel lens was installed in November of 1855 and some repairs to brickwork were made.

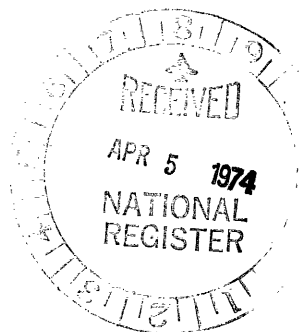
Because of its exposed position and the bad weathering of the sandstone walls, periodic changes were made, including plastering the walls with cement in 1879 and painting them white in 1887. Vegetation surrounding the building was meager. After it was abandoned in 1891, it was vandalized. In 1913 it was scheduled to be obliterated and replaced by a statue of the explorer Cabrillo. In 1915 and 1931 repairs were made and by 1935, extensive renovation had been completed. During World War II, it was temporarily converted to a signal tower and, later, was again repaired by the National Park Service.

Today, it is a whitewashed structure very much like it was when in use. Interior rooms, though altered somewhat, have been restored to approximately 1887 appearance.

Boundary: structure alone

Class VI land: less than one acre

Cost: \$30,000 restoration  
4,000 drawings  
15,000 study



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| STATE<br>California |             |
| COUNTY<br>San Diego |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY    |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER        | DATE        |
|                     | JUN 27 1974 |

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (cont.)

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings (Travel and Communication),  
1963; Federal; Division of History, Washington Office, National  
Park Service, U . S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.,  
20240.

National Park Service Inventory of Historic Structures; Federal; Division  
of Historic Architecture, Washington Office, National Park Service,  
U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.



# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" 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) constructed 1854, in use 1855, abandoned 1891

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1st order

The Old Point Loma Lighthouse was begun in 1854 when a contractor's crew from the eastern United States came to San Diego to build the port's first lighthouse. From 1855 to 1891, this 19th Century lighthouse at the end of the long, high Point Loma peninsula guided ships along the coast of California and into San Diego harbor. But the real significance of this Cape Cod structure is not just that of a lighthouse faithfully performing its task but in its creation and use. The lighthouse was one of the first eight lighthouses built on the Pacific Coast of the United States. Since all eight were built by one firm under one contract, the old building stands today as a symbol of the nation's first successful effort to obtain navigational aids for the newly acquired west coast. It used a Fresnel lens for illumination.

Today, the Old Point Loma Lighthouse is a landmark symbol of the City of San Diego and one of the most prominent features of Cabrillo National Monument. The view from the Lighthouse has been rated one of the three great harbor views in the world, taking in a vast panorama of sea, islands, coast, harbor, land and mountains.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, F. Ross, Jr., The Old Point Loma Lighthouse. Cabrillo  
Historical Association, 1968.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |           | O<br>R  | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |           |         |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| CORNER                                                                           | LATITUDE |         | LONGITUDE |         | LATITUDE                                                                                                |         | LONGITUDE |         |         |
|                                                                                  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds   | Degrees | Minutes                                                                                                 | Seconds | Degrees   | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW                                                                               | °        | '       | "         | °       | '                                                                                                       | "       | 32°       | 40'     | 18.941" |
| NE                                                                               | °        | '       | "         | °       | '                                                                                                       | "       | 117°      | 14'     | 24.309" |
| SE                                                                               | °        | '       | "         | °       | '                                                                                                       | "       |           |         |         |
| SW                                                                               | °        | '       | "         | °       | '                                                                                                       | "       |           |         |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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 |

117M  
11/477470  
3614760

CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mary R. Bradford, Staff Park Ranger-Historian DATE: 4/1/73

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Cabrillo National Monument

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 6175 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: San Diego STATE: California CODE: 06

## 12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ None

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

Hyle McDowell 7-9-74  
Federal Representative Signature Date  
Act. Reg. Dir.  
Title

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/27/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-26-74