NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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
STATE: California
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 40th

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One):
□ District □ Building □ Object
□ Site □ Structure □ Public
□ Building Site Object
□ Public Private Both
Public Acquisition:
□ In Process □ Being Considered
□ Occupied □ Unoccupied
□ Preservation work in progress
□ Restricted □ Unrestricted

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
□ Yes: □ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
□ Agricultural □ Commercial □ Educational
□ Entertainment □ Government □ Industrial
□ Military □ Museum □ Private Residence
□ Religious □ Scientific □ Transportation
□ Other (Specify)
□ Comments

4. AGENCY
National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Western Regional Office
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco
STATE: California

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 450 Golden Gate Ave., 36063

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Site file, Old Point Loma Lighthouse, Record Group 26
STREET AND NUMBER:
National Archives
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: District of Columbia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY:
□ Federal □ State □ County □ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: District of Columbia
CODE

(see continuation sheet)
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 lean-to 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 Guijarros. 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
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (cont.)


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.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mary R. Bradford, Staff Park Ranger-Historian 4/1/73

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Cabrillo National Monument

STREET AND NUMBER:

P.O. Box 6175

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

State Liaison Officer Signature Date

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/27/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/27/74
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Old Point Loma Lighthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Cabrillo National Monument
End of Catalina Blvd. (Cabrillo Memorial Drive)

CITY OR TOWN: San Diego

STATE: California

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service

DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Cabrillo National Monument, P.O. Box 6175, San Diego, CA.

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Rear view of Old Point Loma Lighthouse, showing lantern area and leanto in the back of the dwelling.
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AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Cabrillo National Monument
End of Catalina Blvd. (Cabrillo Memorial Drive)
CITY OR TOWN: San Diego
STATE: California
CODE: 06
COUNTY: San Diego

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service
DATE OF PHOTO: (within the last few years-recent)
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Cabrillo National Monument, P.O. Box 6175, San Diego

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Angle view of Old Point Loma Lighthouse, showing front and north wall. Facing southeast.
Latitude 32° 40' 18.941"
Longitude 117° 14' 24.300"