POMHAM ROCKS LIGHT STATION

Riverside Road
East Providence, Rhode Island

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

PUBLIC

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
City Clerks Office of East Providence, East Providence City Hall

60 Commercial Way
East Providence, Rhode Island

East Providence, Rhode Island P-EP-1
September 1976
Pomham Rocks Light Station consists of approximately ½ of an acre situated atop of promontory approximately 200 yards off the mainland of East Providence at the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay in what is called the Providence River.

Electricity and telephone services to the Island are provided by underwater cables running from the mainland. Sewage disposal is by septic tank.

The main dwelling is wood frame on a granite base 28 ft X 28 ft with a wooden light tower attached 34 ft high. Dwelling and tower were constructed in 1871.

Adjacent to the main dwelling and light tower is a wood/brick frame storage built in 1871 which was internally converted to a generator building in 1957.

On the opposite side of the main dwelling from the generator building is an active modular galvanized light tower which was erected in 1974.

At the lower end of the island is a 12 ft X 130 ft concrete seawall built in 1939 annexed by a timber on pile L shaped wharf.
### Areas of Significance

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**Specific Dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Built 1871**

**Statement of Significance**

Pomham Rocks was acquired by the US Government in 1871 and the dwelling, storage buildings, light towers and fog signal were installed shortly after. The Light Station was then established by the Treasury Department’s Lighthouse Board in the same year. The Light Station is situated on ½ of an acre, approximately 200 yards off the mainland of East Providence, at the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay, in the Providence River.

The light and keepers quarters are combined in a single masonry structure of handsome proportions and High Victorian design.

The Light Station is among one of the oldest stations situated on Narragansett Bay and has long served as both a functional and picturesque landmark for the East Providence community. For the past 107 years the station has guided ships in the main channel leading into Providence Harbor.

Electricity was first brought to the island 15 years ago. Until the spring of 1974, it served as a manned Light Station. In May, 1974 the Coast Guard constructed a new modular galvanized light tower adjacent to the original light station. With this new construction the original station was decommissioned and vacated by the Coast Guard.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

UTM REFERENCE

ZONE     EASTING     NORTHING
A: 1198308
B: 1198308
C: 1198308
D: 1198308

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The entire body of land known as Pornham Rocks being situated on the east side of the Providence River just north of Sabine Point, at a latitude of 41 degrees 46.6 minutes north and a longitude of 71 degrees 22.2 minutes west.

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

STATE     CODE     COUNTY     CODE

None

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Commander (fp)

ORGANIZATION

First Coast Guard District

STREET & NUMBER

150 Causeway St.

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES     NO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National ______ State ______ Local ______.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

1. NAME
   HISTORIC
   Pomham Rocks Light Station
   AND/OR COMMON
   (same)

2. LOCATION
   CITY, TOWN
   East Providence
   VICINITY OF
   COUNTY
   Providence
   STATE
   Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT
   DATE OF PHOTO
   November, 1975

   NEGATIVE FILED AT
   First Coast Guard District
   150 Causeway St. Boston, MA 02114

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
   North side of the island
   PHOTO NO. 1
NAME

Pomham Rocks Light Station

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
East Providence

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Providence

STATE
Rhode Island

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DATE OF PHOTO
November, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT
First Coast Guard District 150 Causeway St. Boston, MA 02114

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

West side of the island

PHOTO NO. 2
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS:
TYPE ALL ENTRIES   ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1. NAME
   HISTORIC
   Pomham Rocks Light Station
   AND/OR COMMON
   (same)

2. LOCATION
   CITY, TOWN
   East Providence
   VICINITY OF
   County
   Providence
   STATE
   Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT
   DATE OF PHOTO
   November, 1975

   NEGATIVE FILED AT
   First Coast Guard District 150 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
   South side of the island (doorways of the dwelling are on the south and southeast sides)
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSURE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1. NAME
HISTORIC
Pomham Rocks Light Station
AND/OR COMMON
(same)

2. LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
East Providence
VICINITY OF
Coastal
COUNTY
Providence
STATE
Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT

DATE OF PHOTO: November, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT
First Coast Guard District
150 Causeway St.
Boston, MA 02114

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Southeast side of the island

PHOTO NO. 4
**UNIVERS STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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**SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS**  
**TYPE ALL ENTRIES**  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

NAME
HISTORIC
Pomham Rocks Light Station
AND/OR COMMON
(same)

LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
East Providence
VICINITY OF
PROVIDENCE
COUNTY
STATE
Rhode Island

MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE
U.S.G.S. East Providence, MA, Rhode Island
SCALE
1 : 24000
DATE
1971

REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES