

CAMP POINT PINOS, NEAR MONTEREY.

Upper California, Jan. 28, 1851

DEAR SIR: This report accompanies a tracing of the plane table map of *Point Pinos*, including the extreme end of the point and the vicinity towards Point Cypress on one side, and Monterey on the other, on a scale . It gives the ground in the region of the most suitable position for a light-house, showing its character, elevation, &c. (See sketch J, No. 4.)

Point Pinos is a pine-covered rock-bound projection of land, extending in a N. W. direction from Monterey to the distance of about three miles, rising gradually from the water's edge, and from its position affording complete shelter from S. E. winds to vessels at anchor off the town. The whole shore of the point, from near Monterey to Point Cypress, is very rocky, and, except in the calmest weather, there is a heavy surf from the swell of the ocean, rendering a landing in the boats exceedingly dangerous, if not impossible.

I have marked upon the tracing three positions, (A, B, C,) in each of which a light-house may be placed, each having its advantages.

(A) As shown in the tracing, is in the pines; its advantages over the other two being its elevation; but in order to be seen to the seaward, and by vessels leaving the harbor, it will require a great deal of clearing. The ground is sandy and pretty firm.

(B) This position is in the small sand hills; the site commands a fine view to seaward, and requires little if any clearing. Judging from the nature of the point, it is to be presumed that beneath the land there is a rocky substratum for a foundation, although it may be at a considerable depth.

(C) Is the level surface of the rocks covered with wild shrubs. Its foundation is good, but it is cut off from the main shore at high tide, the distance being 103 metres, (112.6 yards.) The islet is about 80 square metres (95 square yards) in area, and about ten feet above high water mark. The main objections it, as a site for a light-house, consist in its small size, its isolation from the main land at high tide, and an uncertainty as to how long it will stand the force of the sea.

It is exposed to the violence of all seaward winds, and many of the rocks in the vicinity have been undermined and fallen. It is also possible that, in severe gales, the sea washes over it.

The distance at which the light from the lantern of the light-house forty feet in height, would be visible if placed on (A) would be 13 miles, (B) 11 miles, (C) 9 miles.

The sector of visibility of the light from seaward would be 110° from the south round through the west to north.

The line (X) shows the general run of the shore towards Monterey, and (Y) towards Point Cypress.

I have before spoken of the difficulty of landing on the point, but the town is only about three miles distant, and there is a good road running to the end of the point.

Fine spring water can be obtained in the neighborhood, and the land

is sufficiently rich for the purposes of cultivation almost any where on the western side of the point.

There is a quarry of course limestone near the town, but whether suitable for building purposes or not I am not informed.

If it is proposed to erect a fog signal here, (and the fog is very frequent and thick in the winter,) there are many places on the rocks equally suitable for the purpose, as may be seen by a reference to the map. I have inserted the true and magnetic meridian; the former by Assistant Davidson, and the latter obtained approximately by the compass attached to my plane table.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. M. HARRISON,

Sub. Ass't U. S. Coast Survey.

Professor A. D. BACHE,

Sup't U. S. Coast Survey, Washington, D. C.