

POINT PINOS LIGHT HOUSE.

Is situated on an eminence and point of land forming the extreme western shore of the bay of Monterey, and distant from the town about three miles. The building is a dark gray stone structure, one and one half stories high, built in the strongest and most substantial manner. Rising from the center or ridge of the roof is a brick tower painted white, on which is firmly placed the iron lantern and illuminating apparatus, the exterior of which is painted red. This light station was erected by order of the Hon. Thomas Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury, in the year 1853. The light was first exhibited to mariners on January 20th, 1855, and Mr. Charles Layton was the first keeper appointed to take charge of it. The light is classed as a third order Fresnel, with catadioptric lenses, of immense and powerful magnifying capacity. The light, in ordinary fair and clear weather, should be discernable from a vessel's deck sixteen and one half nautical miles. The height of center of focal plane above high water on sea level is 91 feet. The arc illuminated is four-fifths of the entire horizon, or 288 degrees. The description of the light, as given to mariners in their charts, is a third order, fixed white, Fresnel light.

The following persons have been principal keepers of the light: Chas. Layton, Charlotte Layton, Geo. C. Harris, Frank Porter, Andrew Wasson, and Capt. Allen L. Luce, the present attentive and courteous incumbent, who has held the position from October 1st, 1871.

The drive to the Light House is pleasant and pretty, and well shaded. The road passes the grounds of the M. E. Encampment. The view from the tower well repays the visitor for his pains. Capt. Luce and his family are always pleased to welcome visitors and to show them every attention.

SOURCE: Handbook of Monterey, 1875, owned by Emma B. Lambert. A complete Guide Book for tourists, campers, visitors. pp 54, 55.