



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



WESTERN REGION

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102
June 24, 1966

Mr. Vernal L. Yadon
Curator
Museum of Natural History
Forest and Central Avenues
Pacific Grove, California

Dear Mr. Yadon:

Thank you for your heartening letter of June 14 concerning the desire of the City of Pacific Grove to preserve the Point Pinos Lighthouse and Reservation as a historical museum and as open space to protect the native flora.

As the Federal agency primarily concerned with evaluating and preserving the nation's heritage of historic sites, the National Park Service is indeed interested in the cooperative enterprise of the Coast Guard and the City to protect the Point Pinos Light Station. As far as we can determine, the building is the oldest surviving lighthouse structure on the West Coast of the United States. It has a number of historical and literary associations, such as those with Robert Louis Stevenson. In our opinion, it merits preservation for its high value in illustrating and commemorating important phases of regional, State, and local history.

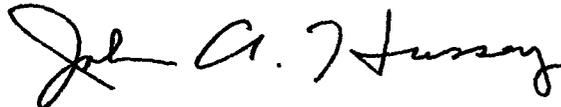
From conversation with officers of the United States Coast Guard here in San Francisco, we learn that there is no intention to declare the reservation in excess to the needs of that agency, and therefore the National Park Service will not be formally involved with the property as would be the case if it were being disposed of through the Federal Surplus Property procedures. However, this Service will be glad to assist the City, to the extent that funds and personnel permit, in preserving and exhibiting the structure.

The National Park Service administers the Point Loma Lighthouse at Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego, and has gathered a good deal of historical and architectural data about that structure. Since the Point Pinos and Point Loma stations were built at about

the same time and under the same contract, much of our information might be applicable to your project. We shall be glad to make our material available should you wish it.

During 1964 the Book Club of California's annual Keepsakes Series consisted of nine reproductions of drawings of early West Coast lighthouses. In the hope that it might be of interest to you, I enclose a copy of the leaflet on Point Pinos. The text is the property of the Club, but I am sure there would be little difficulty in obtaining permission to quote from it if credit is given.

Sincerely yours,



John A. Hussey
Regional Historian

Enclosures

cc:

Dr. Pearl Chase