



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WESTERN REGION
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36063
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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(WR)OI

August 1, 1968

Mr. Vernal L. Yadon
Curator
Museum of Natural History
Forest and Central Avenues
Pacific Grove, California 93950

Dear Mr. Yadon:

It was a pleasure to receive your letter of July 21 informing us that the Museum of Natural History is now conducting tours of the Point Pinos Lighthouse in Monterey. We can appreciate your concern over the resulting problems, since we have encountered similar situations during our interpretation of the Old Point Loma Lighthouse at Cabrillo National Monument.

We do permit visitor access to the light and gallery but can do so only because the present lens is smaller than the one originally installed, thus allowing persons to move around quite freely inside the lantern. We hope to return the original lens (or one of the same order) to the lantern within a year or two, after which the tower probably will be closed to visitors due to the likelihood of congestion. We do not contemplate exterior access, since we desire to preserve the original appearance of the structure.

We had planned to restore the lighthouse inside and out to its appearance about 1886 (a period covering which we have fairly definite data), but a lack of funds will delay this construction project for a few years. Meanwhile, we will refurnish on a temporary basis. When this work is completed in a few weeks, we may be able to supply you with photographs should you wish to have them.

Unfortunately, we do not have any copies of logbooks or plans relating to the Point Pinos Lighthouse. During the research which was performed as the basis of our proposed restoration, Mr. F. Ross Holland, former Park Historian at Cabrillo, compiled a detailed history of the origin of the first West Coast lighthouses, of which Point Pinos was one. Unfortunately, we have no copies we can lend you, although we would be glad to have you use the file copy in our office. A brief, undocumented version is to be found in the enclosed booklet, The Old Point Loma Lighthouse, by Mr. Holland.

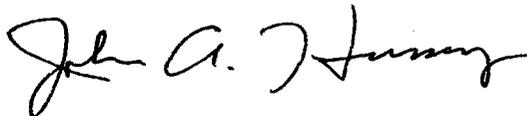
We are sending a copy of your letter to Mr. Holland, who is now in Washington, to see if he can send you any specific information on the Point Pinos Lighthouse. We would suggest, however, that you write directly to the National Archives for a list of such Point Pinos logs, plans, and other documents (or microfilms of them) which may be available. We are sure the Archives will provide such information and tell you how you may order copies.

If this does not provide satisfactory results, Mr. Holland might have time to make a modest additional search, since his work occasionally involves the use of old lighthouse records.

We wish you every success in your project, and if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

And we definitely would like to hear of your progress.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Hussey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John A. Hussey
Regional Historian

Enclosure