



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
801 19TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58-HH

August 13, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Yadon:

I was most pleased to learn by a copy of Dr. John Hussey's letter to you of August 1 that something is being done to interpret the Point Pinos lighthouse.

From Dr. Hussey's letter, I gather that what you need primarily at present is some idea of source material on the lighthouse. The main source of information on lighthouses is the National Archives, for here are the records, letters, journals, reports, etc. that concern this country's aids to navigation. Because of a fire in the Commerce Department in the 1920's many lighthouse records were destroyed or badly damaged; consequently, it is impossible to say what exists without actually going into the records and seeing what is there. For some lighthouses there is a copious quantity of information, for others the information is skimpy.

The first material one should examine in the lighthouse records in the Archives is the Site File and the Clipping File for the individual lighthouse in which one is interested. The information in these files is not extensive, but it is basic. It can be xeroxed easily and at a small cost. Sometimes drawings exist and these can be photostated.

If you have not already written to the National Archives, let me suggest that you hold off. I will be happy to trot over to the Archives and see what information can be readily had on the Point Pinos lighthouse. Also, I can arrange to have material copied. Please let me know if you would like for me to look for the Point Pinos records in the Archives for you. Under any circumstances, do not expect a great deal of material; there usually isn't much for individual lighthouses.

There is a photostat of a construction drawing at Cabrillo National Monument of a typical early west coast lighthouse. The drawing is dated 1854 and is labelled "Point Pinos, Point Loma, Santa Barbara." I used a copy of this photostat as an illustration for the Historic Structures Report I did in 1964 on the Point Loma lighthouse. A copy of this report is in Dr. Hussey's office. If you are in San Francisco, I suggest you take a look at it. If you want a copy of the drawing, write Cabrillo National Monument and get one from their print.

For general background information on lighthouses, I recommend George R. Putnam, Lighthouses and Lightships of the United States (1917) and A. B. Johnson, The Modern Lighthouse Service (c1892). There are, of course, other books and articles on lighthouses, but I don't know how deep you want to go. Please let me know so that I may be better guided in advising you on source material.

I hope this information will be useful to you. Again, I am happy something is being done with the Point Pinos light. I am most interested in your endeavor in that direction; so, if there is anything I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. Ross Holland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

F. Ross Holland
Research Historian