

POINT PINOS LIGHT STATION

Historical

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Point Pinos Light Station is located on Point Pinos on the south side of the entrance to Monterey Bay. The Congress on 28 Sept 1850 appropriated \$90,000 for beginning the erection of six light houses in California, one of which was at Point Pinos. On 31 August 1852, \$120,000 more was appropriated for the completion of the six lighthouses. August 4, 1854 marked the last appropriation of \$59,000 for the completion of these lighthouses. Due to legal difficulties about ownership of the land at Point Pinos additional appropriations of \$6,000 and \$2,000 were made on 3 March 1879 and 6 June 1900 respectively to purchase the land and an additional strip of land for right of way to the Light Station from the sea.

The light was first exhibited in 1855. The lamp was of the "cornelius lard-lamp" pattern. In 1883 the lard oil lamp was replaced by mineral oil lamps.

On April 18, 1906, the light tower was damaged extensively by the same earthquake that leveled San Francisco. So badly strained and cracked was the tower that it had to be torn down and rebuilt with reinforced concrete. On July 30, 1906 \$18,700 was appropriated for this purpose. The lantern and lens were removed from the top of the tower and the original brick walls were removed for about 5 feet below the lantern floor during the fiscal year 1907. The tower was rebuilt of reinforced concrete of the same thickness and design.

During 1910 it was decided that the light at Point Pinos was not efficient and \$35,000 was appropriated to install a flashing light and fog signal and to build quarters for two extra light keepers.

In the 1950 Light List the Point Pinos Light house at position $36^{\circ} 28' N$ $121^{\circ} 50' W$ is described as a white tower on dwelling built in 1855 and rebuilt in 1907. It is 43 feet above ground and 89 feet above water, the 29,000 candlepower 3rd order electric light being visible for 15 miles, occulting white every 30 seconds; lighting for 20 seconds and eclipsed for 10 sec. An air diaphragm horn for signal completes the equipment.

At the present Point Pinos light is listed as an occulting white light with a period of 30 seconds, 20 seconds lighted. It is visible for 15 miles with an intensity of 40,000 candelal. Complementing the aids to navigation equipment is a Marker Radiobeacon and a diaphragm fog horn which blasts every 30 seconds in a group of 2 blasts.

Station quarters include one 6-room unit built in 1959; one 6-room unit built in 1939 and one 5-room unit built in 1854. Other buildings at the station include the fog signal building, power building, paint locker and a garage which is the property of the City of Pacific Grove but utilized by the Coast Guard.

Point Pinos Light Station is ideally situated insofar as the availability of Government post exchange and commissary stores and medical care are concerned. Men and their dependents have available to them facilities at the Army Base Fort Ord; Naval Air Station, Monterey; and the Naval Post Graduate School at Monterey. Dependent children at the station are transported 1 1/2 miles by station vehicle to the nearest school.

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