

July 18, 1977

H. J. Reckitt, Commander  
U.S. Coast Guard  
District Planning Officer  
12th Coast Guard District  
630 Sansome Street  
San Francisco, CA 94126

Dear Commander Reckitt:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comments for the proposed refurbishment and restoration of the Point Pinos Lighthouse in the City of Pacific Grove, Monterey County.

As staff to the State Historic Preservation Officer, I am pleased to acknowledge that the Museum of Natural History and the City of Pacific Grove have consented to adaptively use the existing lighthouse as a museum facility. The Point Pinos Lighthouse is a historically and architecturally significant structure which has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

An archeological field reconnaissance has been conducted of the site location. Archeological clearance is hereby granted provided that a qualified archeologist is consulted immediately if artifacts are discovered during construction.

I have further concurred with the Coast Guard's determination that the proposed activities constitute an effect on the lighthouse. The following phases of the project may proceed without having an adverse effect:

1. Replacement of downstairs windows on seaward and south sides of the building provided that aluminium window frames are not used.
2. Removal of interior paint on woodwork and restore to an early color.
3. Removal of asphalt tile in parlor.
4. Removal of hot water heater from basement.
5. Removal of existing lawn and walks.
6. Installation of sprinkler system and new lawn planting.
7. Installation of fence similar to that of the 1870 period.
8. Removal of circular road that surrounds the structure.

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9. Construction of additional parking spaces near the Coast Guard cottages.
10. Removal of all ice plant from the grounds.

Proposals to sandblast the exterior surface of the building to expose native stone may have an adverse effect on a potential National Register property.

The Office of Historic Preservation has received a copy of a letter from Mr. James Short, Vice President for Preservation and Research, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, suggesting that "Sandblasting is not likely to damage the kind of granite facing" of the lighthouse. My staff, however, recommends that the Museum of Natural History initiate a comprehensive testing program to evaluate the effects of sandblasting on granite surfaces. The Office of Historic Preservation has traditionally discouraged the use of sandblasting when alternative techniques for removing foreign substance or cleaning exterior surface are available. By separate letter, the Office of Historic Preservation is sending information on the guidelines and techniques of rehabilitating old buildings to the Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove.

Please do not hesitate to contact Eugene Itogawa at (916) 322-8701, should you require further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
Dr. Knox Mellon

Dr. Knox Mellon  
Historic Preservation Coordinator

M-1/424

KM:EI

cc : Mr. Vernal Yadon, Director  
Museum of Natural History  
165 Forest Avenue  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Mr. Louis S. Wall  
Advisory Council on Historic  
Preservation  
P.O. Box 25085  
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