



## MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Date: 10 June 1997  
To: People involved with Point Pinos Lighthouse  
From: Steve Bailey, Museum Director *Steve*  
Re: Decisions on Lighthouse development

I have deliberated on the discussions at last Monday's committee meeting in the Point Pinos Lighthouse. The following are my decisions regarding how the Lighthouse should be developed over the near future. They are subject to refinement and perhaps to experiment.

### Mode of Entry, Greeting Area, and Sales

At least for now, the front entrance porch will remain the visitors' entrance and the Central Room (Dining Room) will remain the greeting area. Sales will be returned to this room but will be scaled back to a more limited selection of merchandise. I do reserve the option to try an experiment at some future time in which the rear entrance becomes the visitors' entrance and the "kitchen" becomes a greeting and interpretation area. If this experiment is conducted it would only be done after certain of the improvements have been made, including improvements to the rear entryway and the basement. The following plans allow for development with or without such a possible experiment.

### Bathroom

Restore the bathroom to the Emily Fish period as proposed by the Questers and under their lead and guidance, coordinating with Paul Finnegan as needed. Install the pull-chain toilet already acquired by the Questers. Minimize modern amenities, but allow for discrete use of toilet paper.

The bathroom will be for use only by docents and staff, or in emergencies.

### Front Entrance Porch

This will remain the visitors' entrance for the foreseeable future and until such time that I may decide to try the experiment with the rear entrance as the visitors' entrance. The Traffic Zone flooring is considered temporary, with its replacement with an authentic wood floor being an intermediate-level priority in time. In the meantime, fix or replace worn out door materials, etc. Install the automatic counter to eliminate the need to hand-count visitors. The electrical wiring will be funded by the Museum Improvement Fund.

I welcome suggestions from the Questers and others about how to enhance the front entrance porch.

### Central Room (Dining Room)

Questers develop the east end of the room as Emily Fish's dining table etc. (detailed proposal coming from Shirley Eljenholm). There will be no sales items on this side of the room.

Acquire a small, presumably upright, period case suitable for display of limited sales merchandise. Gift Shop Manager Esther Trosow will select this case in consultation with the Questers regarding compatibility with the Questers' furnishings in that room. This sale case should remain moveable, to allow for possible experimental transfer to the "kitchen". Place this sales case against the south wall, about where the upright exhibit display case is. Move the exhibit case off exhibit for artifact conservation, then on to the "kitchen" until further notice.

Retain a small docent greeting station in the southwest corner of the room. Use the sea chest to house interpretive artifacts. The sea chest, docent station, and sales case should remain moveable.

We will keep much of this room's floor space open for group use and to ease traffic flow.

### "Kitchen"

Add interpretation of the Point Pinos Lighthouse's history. This should cover its entire history, not just the Emily Fish period. Most of the lighthouse is being restored to the Emily Fish period, so there is a particular need to use this room to interpret the rest of its history so that it is not lost or overshadowed too completely. Interpretive exhibits in this room will be important regardless of how we have the visitors enter the building, so they should be "permanent" and professionally-produced. However, they should be made and installed such that they can be moved within the room as it is developed further. An exhibit professional such as Frank Perry should be contracted to work with us in developing these exhibits. Depending on the funding source (Museum Improvement Fund or Museum Association), the exhibit professional will be selected either through a published Request For Proposals or not. I will appoint an exhibit committee to assist the exhibit professional.

Because of the need for overall historical interpretation, the "kitchen" will not be developed into a full kitchen. However, limited kitchen items can be included within it. These include the large stove currently being stored. The later-period sink and cabinets will not be returned. Instead, if the Questers choose to help obtain an earlier-period sink (without massive cabinetry) we could accommodate that.

The Traffic Zone floor should be replaced by a fine wood floor. This is not an immediate priority, but will be incorporated into the further development of this room.

If and when the visitor entrance is changed experimentally, this room will be tried as a greeting area. The room would be rearranged to accommodate the docent greeting station (with a full view of the experimental rear entrance), the small sales case, the history exhibits, plus the stove and sink if installed at that time. Prior to such eventuality the primary purpose of this room will be for interpretation of the lighthouse's entire history.

### Rear Entry Area

Improve this area's appearance and safety. (suggestions?) This must be accomplished prior to any experimental use as a visitor entrance.

This might be the best place in which to expose some bare granite of the lighthouse walls.

### Basement

Using procedures similar to those for the comprehensive history exhibits, an exhibit professional should be contracted to work with us in developing the basement into an exhibit area. The number of topics covered would depend largely on whether and when we obtain the remainder of the basement. Topics could include construction of the building, aids to navigation, shipwrecks, and/or other topics that we have placed there in recent times.

As part of this exhibit project, improve the lighting, preferably with fixtures more compatible with the historical period(s) that we seek to interpret. Replace or cover the plywood floor.

### (Coast Guard Room)

(Development of this upstairs room will continue under the existing plan, under the direction of Kent Seavey and Paul Finnegan.)

### Sales

Docents experienced with Lighthouse sales will forward to Gift Shop Manager Esther Trosow their suggestions regarding which sales items to retain as we reduce the size of the sales display. I have asked Esther to consult with me if she has major disagreements with the docent suggestions, but I intend for Esther to make the final decisions. Suggestions should go to Esther as soon as possible because it takes time to order stock. As Gift Shop Manager, Esther will set up the sales case.

### Emily Fish Brochure

We will continue to offer this item to the public and would continue to do so even if we were to discontinue sales altogether. Presumably it will still be sold, although there are other options for distribution including subsidy.

I realize that not everyone will agree with these decisions, but that was impossible no matter what I decided. I expect that these plans will allow us all to work together in the same direction. Thank you for your input, which was all very useful. Using these plans as the foundation, additional input is always welcome.