

2/28/03

Nancy: Please share with Docents  
and report to Museum  
staff. Thanks  
Pue

To: Stephen F. Bailey  
Director  
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

From: ~~Jerry~~ Jerry McCaffery  
Chairman of Docents  
Research Report  
The Flagpole at Point Pinos

Pue ✓

Ron -

Steve SFB

Date: February 28, 2003

1. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1894, Emily Fish writes in the Point Pinos Log, "Raised the flag and the staff." This flagpole may be seen on pages 17 and 63 of my book, **Lighthouse: Point Pinos**. The ball at the top of the flagpole can clearly be seen. It is placed approximately where the flag is currently placed.

2. Allen Luce's log for Mar. 28, 1881 says, Comdr. C. J. McDougall...was drowned with two others.... The sad accident occurred while attempting to make a landing through the breakers at Cape Mendocino Light Station for the purpose of inspection. It is hereby ordered that the flag at this station be set at half-mast for ...24 hours out of respect to the memory of our late inspector." This is the first mention of the flag at the lighthouse. (See **Lighthouse: Point Pinos**, p. 17) In the photo on page 11 of **Lighthouse**, what appears to be a flaw in the upper left corner of the picture is Luce's flagpole. This picture is reproduced behind the docent desk at the lighthouse. On the wall next to the teaset in the reception room is a slightly earlier picture of the lighthouse with the man out on the balcony and a horse and carriage tied to the fence. In this picture the long tall flagpole with the ball on top is clearly visible. This is the first picture of the flagpole and is after 1881 since the entrance to the cellar is enclosed and is probably three or so years earlier than the one with the man inside the tower, judging from the shrub at the back fence which does not appear in the earlier picture. This would make this photo about 1889 or so.

3. On Feb. 23, 1912, Emily's log says, Wind Gale, NW. Clear. About 9 p.m. the flagpole broke at the ground and fell without damage...flagstaff was raised Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1894, standing 18 years less one day. The 1894 pole was a single mast with a ball on top: see picture A on appendix 1 and would have been a shorter replica of Luce's flagpole.

4. There is no mention of when the new flagpole was erected, but we know from photographs it was put in the same spot and had an eagle on top of it. See the photo on page 65 (after 1912 but before 1916) of **Lighthouse** and see the early 1930's photo attached to this report. (See picture B, Appendix 1.

5. Sometime before January 1950 the eagle flagpole was replaced with a pole with a flat disk on top of it. This seems to have been standard Coast Guard issue; it also appears on the cover of the book **California Light Stations circa 1950** by John Twohy and George Mattson. Their visit to Point Pinos was in January, 1950. (See appendix 2) The photo is from the Twohy-Mattson book.

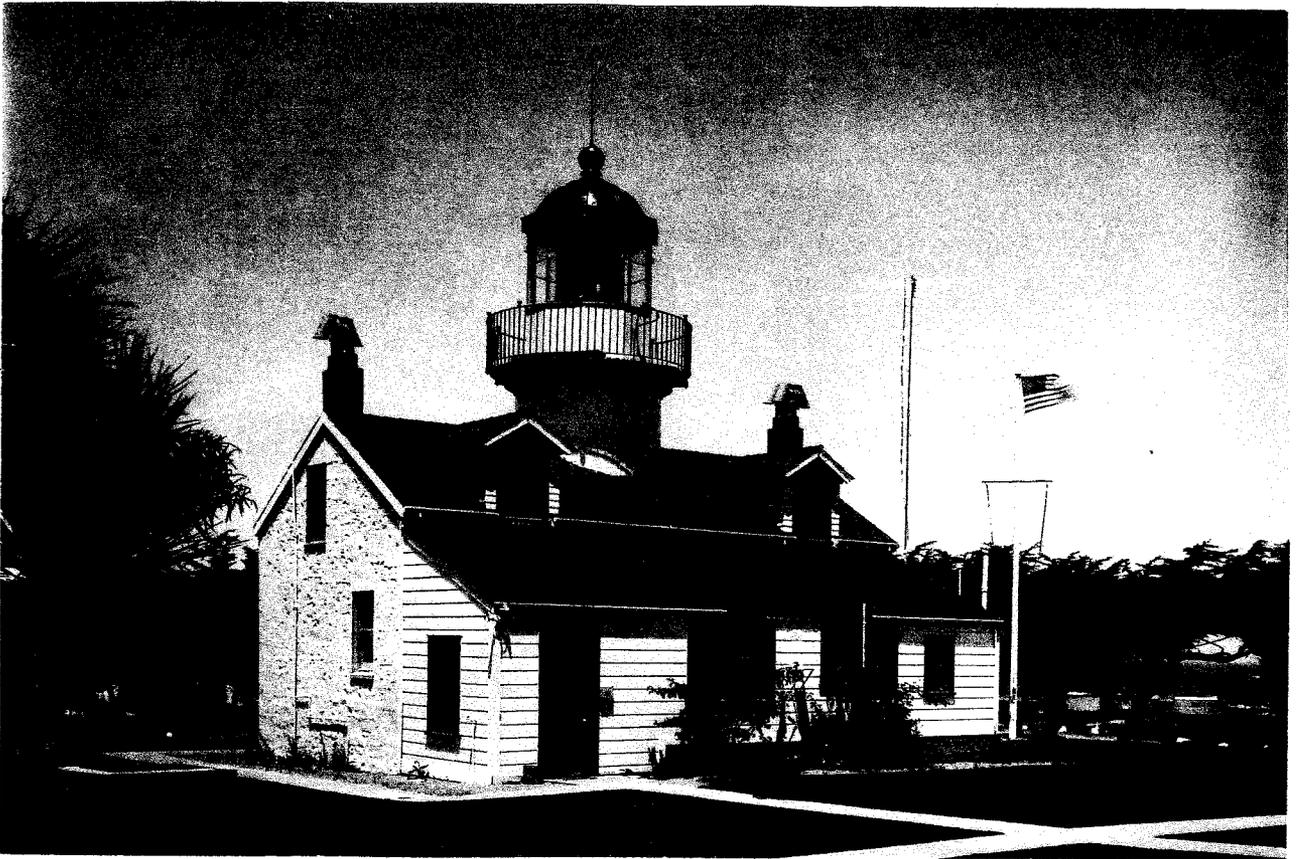
6. This flat-topped pole was still in use in 1962 as can be see from the photo from Pat Hathaway's collection, dated April 26, 1962. (Hathaway number 99-66-04). (See appendix 3)

7. Sometime between April 1962 and July 15, 1966 the Coast Guard changed the flagpole to the mast and crossbar design shown in Hathaway picture number 74-21-13. This photo was taken by

Adrian D'Angelo on July 15, 1966. It has remained in this configuration to this day. (See picture C, Appendix 1.)

I have researched Pat Hathaway's Collection and the Archives of the Pacific Grove Library as well as my own files. Staff docent Nancy McDowell and docent Tori Thatcher who helped organize the lighthouse history notebooks also helped in this project. As a result, we know what the flagpole looked like from the 1880's to the present date and we have a record of a flag being at Point Pinos in 1881.

In terms of replacing the flagpole it would seem to me that a single pole would be most authentic to the period the lighthouse represents ( 1880-1945). This single pole could be topped by a ball, as it was for most of Emily's years, or with an eagle which Emily ordered, as it was for most of the rest of the period. In my book I call the eagle both 'gilded' and ' golden' but I can not now find from where I got that reference.



C



A



B

California Views Historical Photo Collection  
469 Pacific Street  
Monterey, CA 93940-2002  
831.373.3811

Appen 217 1



Appendix 3

© Pat Hathaway  
San Jose News Historical Photo Collection  
469 Pacific Street  
San Jose, CA 95107-2707