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6611E

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Commerce

MARCH 1, 1934

George R Putnam, Commissioner
Bureau of Lighthouses
Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

The late Cyrus H. K. Curtis, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was a native of the State of Maine, and for many years he and his family spent their summers in Camden, Maine. Mrs. Mary Louise Bok, his daughter, has suggested that the name of Negro Island, off Camden, should be changed to Curtis Island, and that the light there maintained by your Department should be changed to Curtis Island Light, in memory and in honor of her father.

It seems to me that such action would be approved generally by the people of our State and that it would be a graceful and a deserved tribute to one of Maine's outstanding sons. I should very much like to hear from you whether there is any substantial reason why this should not be done.

I am

Very sincerely yours,

(SGD) WALLACE H WHITE, JR.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.,
March 3, 1934

To 1st Superintendent for comment and return; is there any reas
for objection on part of the Lighthouse Service?

For the Commissioner:

H. D. KING
Deputy Commissioner of Lighthouses.

GRP/C

Form 80
DEPT. OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE
GPS:CP
Enclosure

664E

RECOMMENDATION AS TO AIDS TO NAVIGATION

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES First DISTRICT.

Portland, Maine, May 9, 1934.

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following recommendation is submitted for the consideration of the Bureau:

1. Name of aid: Negro Island Light Station
2. Locality: Camden Harbor, Maine.
3. Proposed action: Change name to "Curtis Island Light Station".
4. Necessity: To concur in the vote of the residents of Camden, Maine, to change the name of island and lighthouse in honor of Cyrus H K Curtis, newspaper publisher and native of Maine, whose lifetime benefactions to this town, his home, and the State were many.
5. Total estimated cost: ---
6. Appropriation: ---
7. Payment: To be made from funds allotted.
8. Maintenance estimated, annual cost: ---
9. Authority is also requested to purchase the material needed, and not now on hand, at an estimated cost of $ --- , in accordance with law and regulations, and to do the work by contract --- bond, $ --- ; hired labor and depot force, $ --- ; crew of vessels, $ --- . This method of performance being considered the cheapest and most advantageous to the service.

(If it is proposed to do the work partly or wholly by hired labor rather than by contract, give reasons therefor under Item 10.)

10. Description, location, and other information:

See Bureau endorsement of May 4, 1934, on copy of letter from United States Geographical Board.

Form 74 is herewith.

G. B.
BRUSH
Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

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Washington, May 14,1934

Returned to the Superintendent of Lighthouses, approved as recommended, except as noted. You will proceed with the work and report its status, until completed, as required by regulations or instructions.

For the Commissioner:

H. D. KING
Deputy *Commissioner.*

4055

GFL:CP

May 15, 1934

Keeper, Negro Island Light Station, Maine.

The name of your station has been changed to Curtis Island Light Station, in honor of the late Cyrus H. K. Curtis, native of Maine and summer resident of Camden, whose benefactions to Camden and the State of Maine were many. This action follows the vote of the citizens of Camden, and the action of the United States Geographic Board of May 2, 1934, in changing the name of Negro Island to Curtis Island.

Make an entry in the station journal to cover this change and from now on use the name of "Curtis Island Light Station" in all records, reports and correspondence.

GB.
BRUSH
Superintendent

COPY - CP

664E

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Justices' Chambers
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Lewis L. Fawcett
Justice

June 15, 1934.

Dear Commissioner Putnam:

Many thanks go to you for your esteemed favor of the eighteenth ultimo and for the additional copy of Notice to Mariners No. 19.

If agreeable to the regulations and rules of your Department, Mrs. Edward Bok, daughter of the late Cyrus H. K. Curtis, and her family, would deeply appreciate being granted the privilege of placing a bronze tablet somewhere in the walls of the Curtis Island Lighthouse, with the following inscription thereon.

Curtis Island
and
Curtis Island Light Station

So Named May 2, 1934

At the Request of the People of Camden

In Memory of

Cyrus Hermann Kotzschmar Curtis

To Perpetuate the Love and Esteem

In Which He is Held by the Citizens

Of His Native State.

The Tablet would be 14" x 18" or 16" x 20", or such other dimensions as meets with your approval and placed at such place as you may designate. If this permission be granted, might Mrs. Bok be allowed to plant a sprig of ivy beneath the Tablet? It occurs to me that if the Tablet and ivy were to be placed on the shaft of the Lighthouse around on one side toward the door of the keeper's house, there could not possibly be any detraction from the light or interference with the visibility. Thus, it seems to me, it would not impair the perfect white surface of the light for any purpose. The enclosed rough sketch may serve to illustrate my idea regarding same.

Thanking you in advance for your further kindness herein, and earnestly hoping for your approval of this application, I am

Gratefully and respectfully yours,
(SGD) L L FAWCETT

(OVER)