UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDER
3RD COAST GUARD DISTRICT
80 LAFAYETTE ST.
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

dpi
23 March 1955
A12

Mr. Edward Scofield
Stamford Historical Society
713 Bedford Street
Stamford, Conn.

Dear Mr. Scofield:

In answer to your letter of 4 March 1955, the following information is available in this command.

The Stamford Harbor Light Station site was acquired by cession from Connecticut in 1881. It is located on the southwest extremity of Harbor Ledge in Stamford Harbor, Connecticut, Latitude 40° 0' 49" N, Longitude 73° 32' 35" W. The light station itself is a cylindrical iron structure lined with brick, built on a steel caisson, having six floors including basement. The light is sixty feet above mean sea level.

Until June 19, 1953, Stamford Harbor Light was an attended thirteen-mile range light with fog signal. The authorized complement was three men, with annual cost of operation approximately $14,500. On the above date the light became unattended, and changed its characteristic to a flashing white light every 2.5 seconds; flash 0.5 seconds, eclipse 2.0 seconds, of 140 candle power. The fog signal was discontinued, and Mr. Willard J. Ryle was appointed lamplighter.

Discontinuance of the light station as an aid to navigation and the improvement of Stamford Harbor West Breakwater Light and fog signal for operation by control cable from shore, was the result of careful study and deliberation of a Coast Guard Board of Survey by direction of the President of the United States. It was determined that funds applicable for the provision and operation of aids to navigation in the Stamford Harbor area could be more economically utilized in the improvements that have been made, than for repair, protection and preservation of the old tower. Furthermore, the improvements would offer more adequate service to the mariner. The new West Breakwater Light has far greater candle power, and a vastly improved fog signal.

dpi
A12

On June 16, 1953, The New York Times wrote an article relating some of the interesting history of Stamford Harbor Light. The enclosed photostatic copies of the cession and title record may be of interest to you.

By copy of this letter, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. is requested to forward to you, information on Stamford Harbor Light Station regarding: construction, methods of erection, with costs and time comsumed in the work, names of the keepers and terms of service of each; also any other pertinent information available.

Very truly yours,

James D. Doyle

JAMES D. DOYLE
Lieutenant Commander, USCG
Public Information Officer
Third Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

Encl: (1) Two-page cession (photostatic copy)
(2) Title Record (" ")

Copy to:
COMDT (CPI)