10/6/78

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you in regards about the Pomham Lighthouse. Let me introduce myself to you, my name is Stephen Allen, I'm 29 years old, and I've been caretaker at the lighthouse since 1976.

The history of how I became caretaker of the Pomham Rocks lighthouse started back in April 1974, when Ken Roberts, an old friend read an article in the Providence Journal, that said the lighthouse would be automated and abandoned on June 1st. On May 1st he wrote to Commander Rourke at the Coast Guard in Boston, stating his concern for the light, in view of the

dalism to other grand-
ned lighthouses in the
past, and inquiring if a
caretaker could be allowed to
live there to protect it.
Commander Boyce contacted
the Rhode Island Historical
Society, which my parents
are also members, and with
them as sponsors my sister,
Susan, her husband, and
two children took over on
June 1st, and were present
at the decommissioning
ceremony.*
A year and a half later
they purchased a home on
shore, and I with my two
dogs took over as caretaker.
I've done some work in
the house, like painting the
kitchen, and one bedroom,
and caulking some of the
windows, —

* carried out by Captain Gaucher
from Cape Cod

sulding the tower to stop
ome of the leaks. I've
done some repair work to
the surface, which has
been a constant battle to
keep running.
Deliveries of water and
fuel were cancelled as of
November 25th. I carried
30 gallons of water from
shore daily, and also used
rain and snow, as a
supplement to the water
collection system, which was
in dire need of repairs.
Living in the lighthouse
has been an experience,
like in the winter of '76,
when the only access to shore
and to the island was by
boat. It was due to the
thickness of the ice, which
at times exceeded 27 inches,
and lasted for approximately
fifty days.

In my opinion I think that a caretaker is more of a asset than a liability because once the lighthouse is abandoned vandalism will destroy it. I enjoy being the caretaker at Pomham Rock, and hope to continue doing so in the future.

If you have any questions you can contact me at this address:

210 Terrace Ave
Riverside, RI 02915

Home phone 43-433-4127
at place of work- 433-3010

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Allen