UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Stratford Point Lighthouse

MULTIPLE NAME: Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 4/16/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001476

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

✓ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 5/29/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Significant early example of cone-shaped, prefabricated cast iron lighthouse. In addition the light station is the only one in the State which retains all 3 components of the lighthouse, the keeper's dwelling, and the fog signal house.

Initial return comments have been addressed.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 5-29-90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001476 Date Listed: 05/29/90

Stratford Point Lighthouse — Property Name
Fairfield — County
CT — State

Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Signature of the Keeper — 05/29/90 Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Level of Significance

All properties included in the multiple property nomination Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut were considered to meet the criteria within a statewide context.

10. Geographical Data: Acreage

The acreage is <1.

This information has been confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Stratford Point Lighthouse

MULTIPLE NAME: Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 8/24/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/08/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001476

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	Y	SLR DRAFT:	Y	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ✓ RETURN ___REJECT 10/6/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

see comments for whole nomination.

RECOM./CRITERIA return
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 10-6-89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone (202) 343-9540

Signed Bernard L. Fontana Date 10-6-89

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stratford Point Lighthouse (Light List #960), established in 1881, marks the mouth of the Housatonic River, standing twenty feet above high water level on the shore of Long Island Sound to the west of the river's mouth. Established in 1881, this cast-iron lighthouse in the shape of a truncated cone presently is painted white with a horizontal brown band marking the middle third of its shaft. In addition to the lighthouse, the site includes a wood framed keeper's dwelling, also constructed in 1881, and a brick power house, built in 1911 for the fog signal apparatus.

A concrete foundation laid on grade to a height of three feet serves as a footing for the lighttower. The tower measures twenty-one feet in outside diameter at the base, eighteen feet at the top, and rises thirty-five feet to the focal plane of the light. Five courses of curved cast-iron plates form the walls of the tower; bolts connect the plates through flanges cast at the inner edges. Although the lantern has been removed, the cast-iron lantern deck remains, with modern lighting apparatus occupying the traditional central position on that level. Replacing the original ornate cast-iron stanchions around the periphery of the lantern gallery are plain round metal posts, carrying two pipe rails.

The entrance of the tower faces north, sheltered by a functional, unembellished projecting door hood which frames the elliptical arch of the door opening and tapers to accommodate the slanted tower wall. The arch has been bricked-in to create a rectangular opening for a replacement door. Three segmentally-arched window openings are arranged in a helical pattern to light the winding stairway within the tower. Two-over-two light, double-hung wood sashes fill the cast-iron molded window surrounds; cast-iron consoles support peaked, cast-iron window hoods, each with a recessed panel under a molded cornice.

Inside, the cast-iron watchroom floor is supported on notches in the top of the brick lining wall and by an iron rail which spans the tower to support the center portion. Since no living quarters were required, the interior is open up to the watchroom floor. A winding cast-iron stair curves gracefully around the periphery of the space. Because there is no metal inner wall, except at the watchroom level, no central column and no intervening floors, the stairs dominate the interior. They are keyed into the brick lining wall, and have plain pipe ballusters and

See Continuation Sheet

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

1476

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 4 1989
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Stratford Point Lighthouse
AND/OR COMMON
Stratford Point Lighthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Stratford
__ VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE
Connecticut
CODE
COUNTY
Fairfield
CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
X STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENC
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	X TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
U.S. Coast Guard Third District, Governors Island
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
New York
—— VICINITY OF
STATE
New York 10004

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. U.S. Coast Guard Third District, Legal Dept., Governors Island
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
New York
STATE
New York 10004

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
see thematic form
DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES see location map

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A			
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see site plan

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
see thematic form			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Dorothy B. Templeton/Historian

ORGANIZATION
John Milner Associates, Inc.

DATE
October 22, 1985

STREET & NUMBER
309 North Matlack Street

TELEPHONE
(215) 436-9000

CITY OR TOWN
West Chester

STATE
PA 19380

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X NO ____ NONE ____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ____National ____State ____Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Beth A. Savage DATE 05-29-90

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

ATTEST: DATE

~~Keeper~~ OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 899-214

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITA	
__1700-1799	__ART	X ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES built 1881 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stratford Point Lighthouse, erected in 1881, is significant as the earliest example in Connecticut of the cone-shaped, pre-fabricated cast-iron lighthouse, one of the earliest such lighthouses in the nation. Its construction and architectural details include characteristics which represent the earliest phase of development. Later the type became more standarized and was utilized on land and water sites in many varied locations. The site represents the fourth oldest lighthouse station in Connecticut still under Coast Guard jurisdiction. Established in 1822 by the federal government to mark the mouth of the Housatonick River, the light station at Stratford Point has made a significant contribution to the history of the aids to navigation in Long Island Sound. In addition, Stratford Point is significant as the only light station in the nominated group with three principal components remaining intact: the lighttower, the keeper's dwelling, and the fog signal house.

Stratford Point has been the site of a lighthouse and keeper's dwelling since 1821. At that time Ezekiel Gilbert of Derby and Robert Fairchild of Stratford contracted to build a wood framed lighthouse on a stone foundation to match the one at New Haven. It was to be painted red or white, as was a small one and a half story wood framed keeper's house nearby.

In 1881, this shingled wood framed lighttower was replaced with the present cast-iron structure, formed of curved cast-iron plates, flanged for bolting into courses. The Lighthouse Board approved this design for Stratford Point in 1880, a week after it approved a shorter version of the same design for the Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. front light. Long Island Head Lighthouse was approved the same day. Six others of the same design were approved in July and August, 1880. Present documentation suggests that Stratford Point is the earliest extant lighthouse of this design.

Construction was supervised by General Duane of the Engineering Corps. The five courses of cast-iron plates were bolted together through flanges on the inside, the lower rim of each course overlapping the one below in a semi-circular cast ridge. The seams of the top course were covered by brackets, suppporting a deck upon which the lantern rested.

Deeply molded cast-iron window surrounds, projecting pedimented hoods and recessed panels, and simple projections at the top and sides of the

See Continuation Sheet

checkered patterned treads. Storage space is provided by niches built into the brick lining wall on either side of the entrance. Additional storage space is provided in the watchroom. A six panel door connects the watchroom with the stairway to the lower level. Vertical beaded board tongue and groove sheathing covers the watchroom walls and ceiling, where a wood boss with turned moldings finishes the center. The watchroom, presently air conditioned, contains apparatus for measuring air pollution. A curved metal wall supports a ship's ladder which leads to the lantern.

The present lighting apparatus, manufactured by Carlisle and Finch, Cincinnati, Ohio, consists of two sealed beacon lights with double reflectors. It is mounted on a stand at the center of the lantern deck. Weather instruments and a small Fresnel-type modern lens are mounted elsewhere on this deck. The original lighting apparatus was a third order Fresnel lens with a constant level lamp by L. Sauter and Co., rotated by a Henry Lepaute clockwork mechanism. It emitted a flashing white light. In 1932, the apparatus was a fourth order lens, rotating in a mercury trough.

The keeper's dwelling, located forty-five feet north of the tower, is a wood framed building with cross gabled roof. In plan it measures thirty by thirty-one feet. The house was described in an 1887 inspection report as having brick nogging between the studs. When built the dwelling contained eight rooms, including three bedrooms, one dining room, one kitchen, one sitting room, and one pantry. Carpenter Gothic details, shown in historic photographs, included labels over windows and doors and scroll cut bargeboards. All that remains of the original detailing are the labels on the northwest corner porch and the porch posts.

The brick powerhouse, measuring twenty feet wide and thirty feet long, was built from a design used at Montauk Point, N.Y., and elsewhere. Its well-considered symmetrical elevations, transomed windows and wide doors, imposing cupola (now removed), carved roof brackets, and brick dentil trim distinguish a building intended to house important machinery. Originally unpainted, the brick is now painted white. The cupola has been replaced with a metal mesh enclosure. Most of the openings have been bricked up. The building presently is used to house an important collection of aids to navigation equipment.

doorway all identify Stratford Point Lighthouse as an example of the first phase in cast-iron lighthouse construction. This phase dated from 1880 to the mid 1890s.

In the same year as the cast-iron lighthouse construction, the original keeper's dwelling was replaced with the present gable roofed frame structure. Historic photographs of the structure show labels and scroll-work porch brackets and bargeboards, suggesting a belated Gothic Revival impulse. Some of this original wood trim remains on the northwest corner porch.

A fog signal was established at Stratford Point in 1858. At the time the cast-iron lighttower was built in 1881, a new fog-bell tower also was constructed, located about 20 feet southwest of the lighttower. The new machinery was housed in a shed below the bell. In 1910, a compressed-air siren was ordered to replace the fog-bell, and a brick powerhouse for the first class sirens was erected to the west of the lighttower, using a design also employed by the Third District at Montauk Point Light Station, New York. This powerhouse remains standing. In 1931, fog signal engines by G. E. and Ingersoll Rand were in use, operating a typhon whistle.

The complex history of lighting apparatus at Stratford Point began in 1821 with the introduction of eight lamps used as a fixed light. Within a year Winslow Lewis, an inventor who had sold the U.S. government the rights to his improved Argon type lamps and silvered parabolic reflectors, visited Stratford Point and installed a new mechanism. This device consisted of a revolving frame holding ten new lamps, ten new sixteen inch reflectors, and two new spare lamps. A clock mechanism for lighthouses, patented by the renowned clockmaker Simon Willard, was fitted in the lantern, as well. The Lewis lamps were replaced with a fifth order Fresnel light in the decade before the Civil War. In 1867, the two range lenses with iron frames were described as providing flashes which were too brief and too infrequent. An 1881 inspection report identifies a third order flashing light as the apparatus in place at that date. It consisted of a constant "level" lamp and two revolving range lenses, made by L. Sautter and Co. and secured back to back. The Henry Lepaute clockwork required winding every four hours. In 1932, the inspector reported a fourth order electric incandescent light in place at Stratford Point, revolving in a trough of mercury and giving a light of 290,000 candle power.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Stratford Point Lighthouse

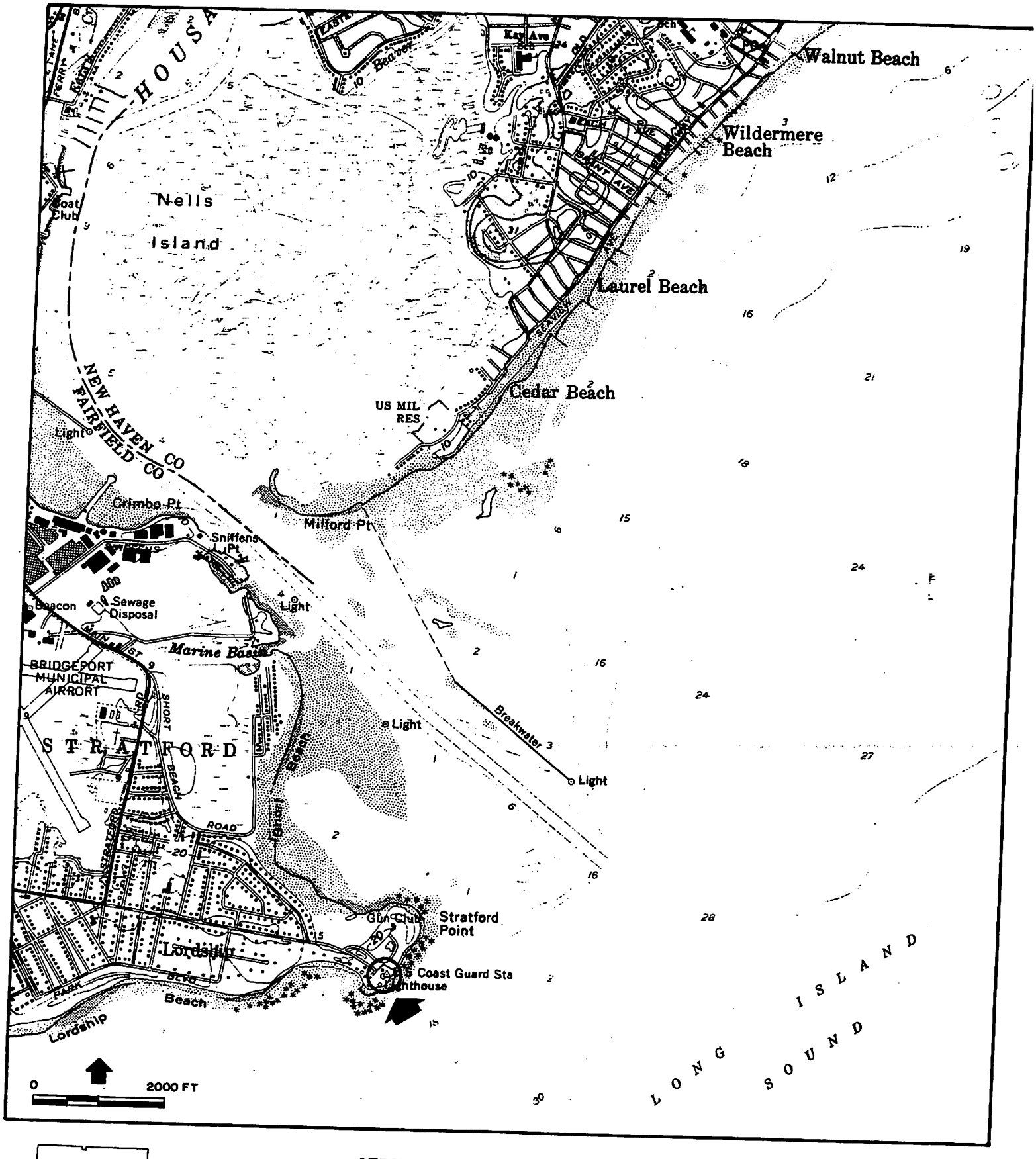
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

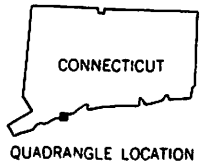
Descriptive List of Light Stations, "Stratford Point," 1887, National Archives Record Group 26.

Inspection Report, 1881, "Stratford Point", Third Coast Guard District Legal Department, Property File.

Lighthouse Board, Civil Engineering Drawings, Reel 5A: "Stratford Point," United States Coast Guard Academy Library.

U.S. Lighthouse Board, Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board, 1867-81, 1883, 1888-90, 1895-96, 1899, 1910.



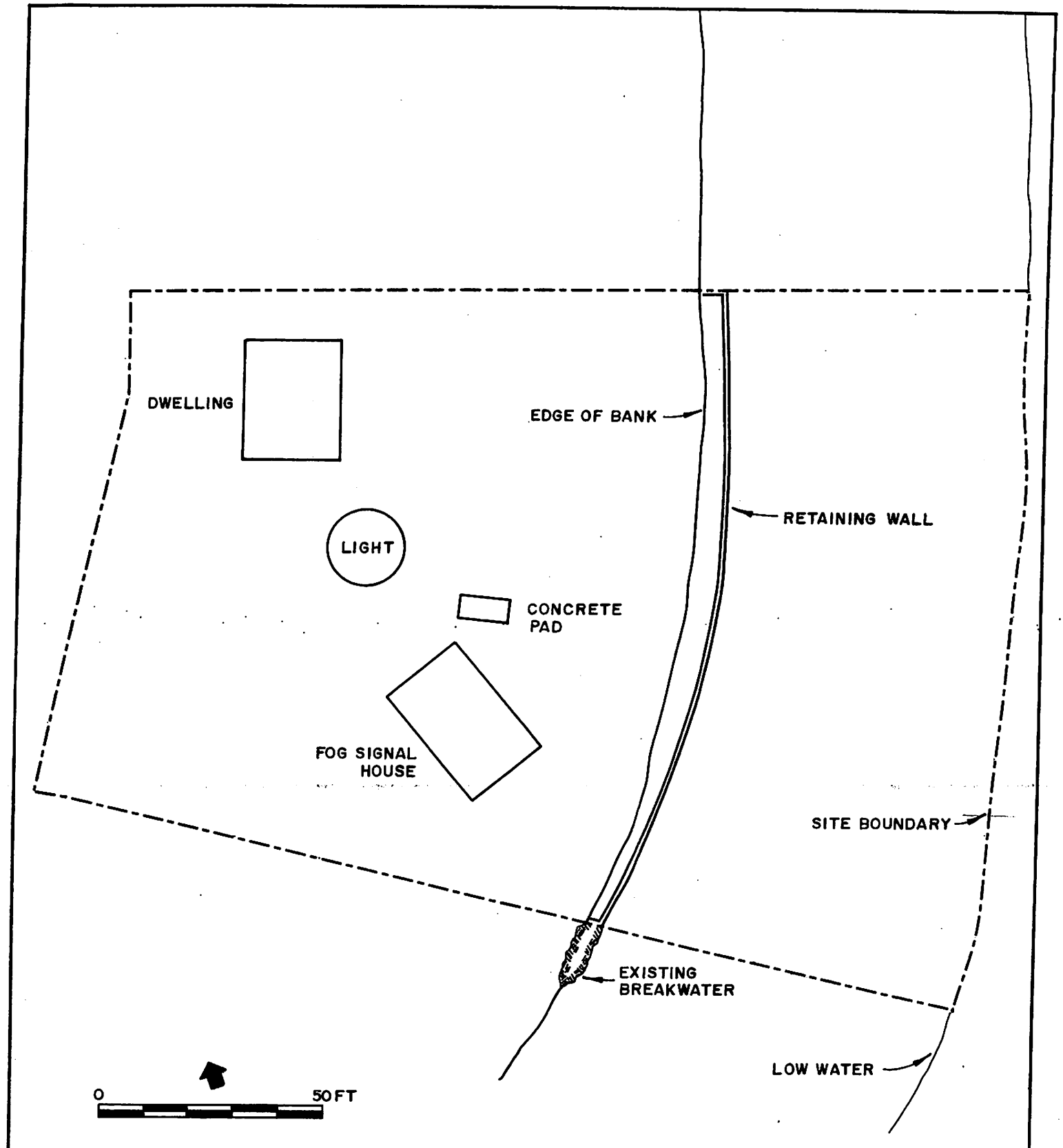


QUADRANGLE LOCATION

STRATFORD POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Milford, Connecticut Quadrangle, 1960
1:24000

UTM References:
18.659120.4557150



SITE PLAN

STRATFORD POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Description (continued):

In 1989, Stratford Point Lighthouse was re-photographed and examined in the field in order to bring the National Register documentation fully up to date. Following are the features or characteristics of the lighthouse that differ from its condition and appearance as described in the National Register Inventory/Nomination form prepared in 1985.

The keeper's dwelling is about 12 feet from the lighthouse, not 45 feet as described in the 1985 documentation.

The powerhouse no longer holds any historic aids-to-navigation equipment.

Stratford Point Lighthouse still retains the requisite degree of integrity for National Register eligibility.

All photographs:

1. STRATFORD POINT LIGHTHOUSE
2. Stratford, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. March 1989
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT

Left to right: Keeper's dwelling, lighthouse, powerhouse, camera facing southeast.
Photograph 1 of 8

Lighthouse, camera facing southeast
Photograph 2 of 8

Lighthouse, typical window treatment, camera facing east
Photograph 3 of 8

Lighthouse, overhanging lantern gallery and brackets viewed from below, camera facing east
Photograph 4 of 8

Lighthouse, first-floor interior
Photograph 5 of 8

Lighthouse, peripheral corridor at watchdeck level, showing beaded-board paneling and porthole window
Photograph 6 of 8

Powerhouse, camera facing northwest
Photograph 7 of 8

Keeper's dwelling, detail of porch at northwest corner, camera facing southeast
Photograph 8 of 8







NAME OF PROPERTY: Stratford Point Lighthouse

COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985

NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc.

LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc.
309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Keeper's dwelling and light tower, view from the southwest.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 1

NAME OF PROPERTY: Stratford Point Lighthouse

COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT

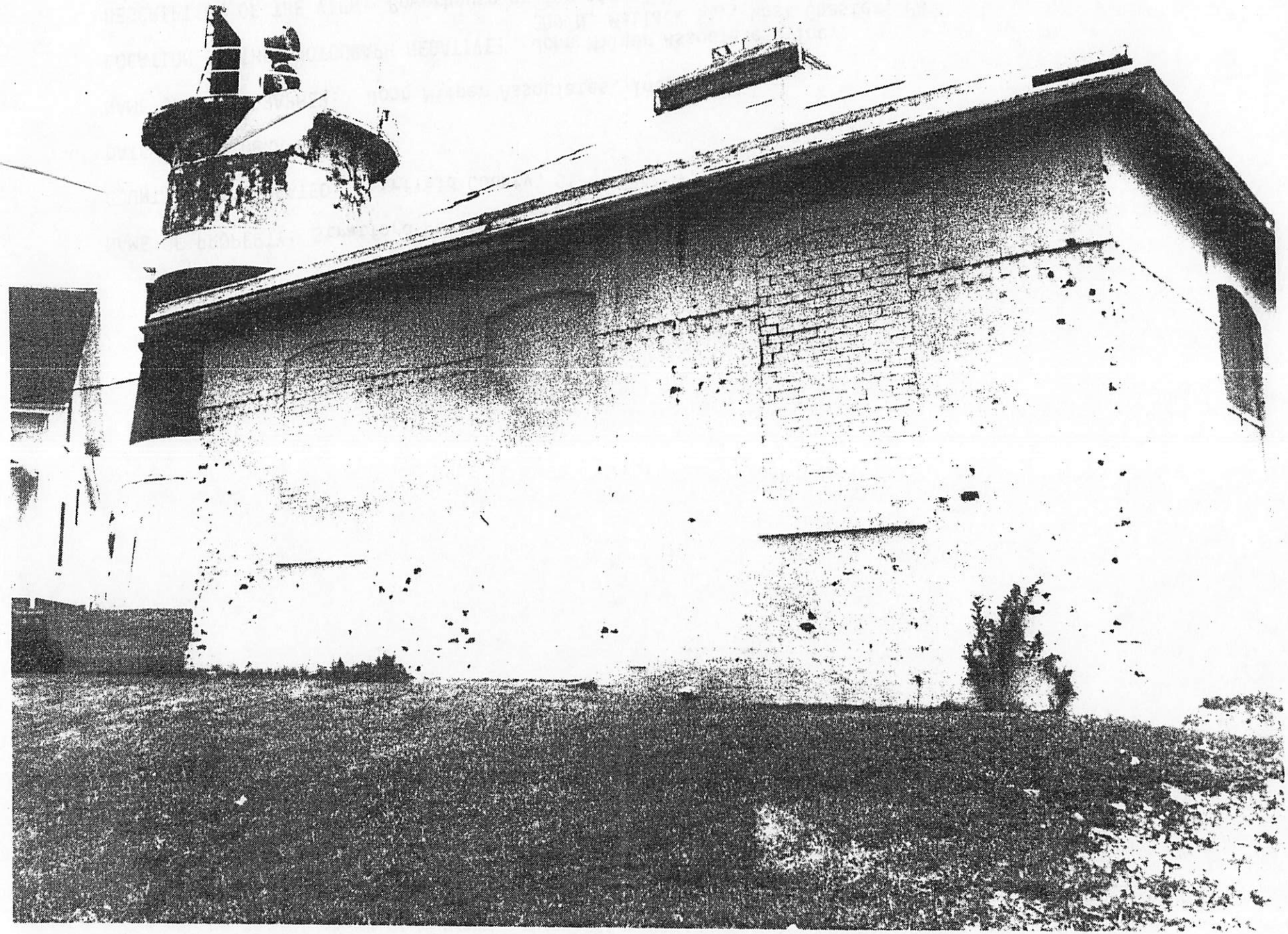
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985

NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc.

LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc.
309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Powerhouse or fog signal house, view from the southwest.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 2





NAME OF PROPERTY: Stratford Point Lighthouse

COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985

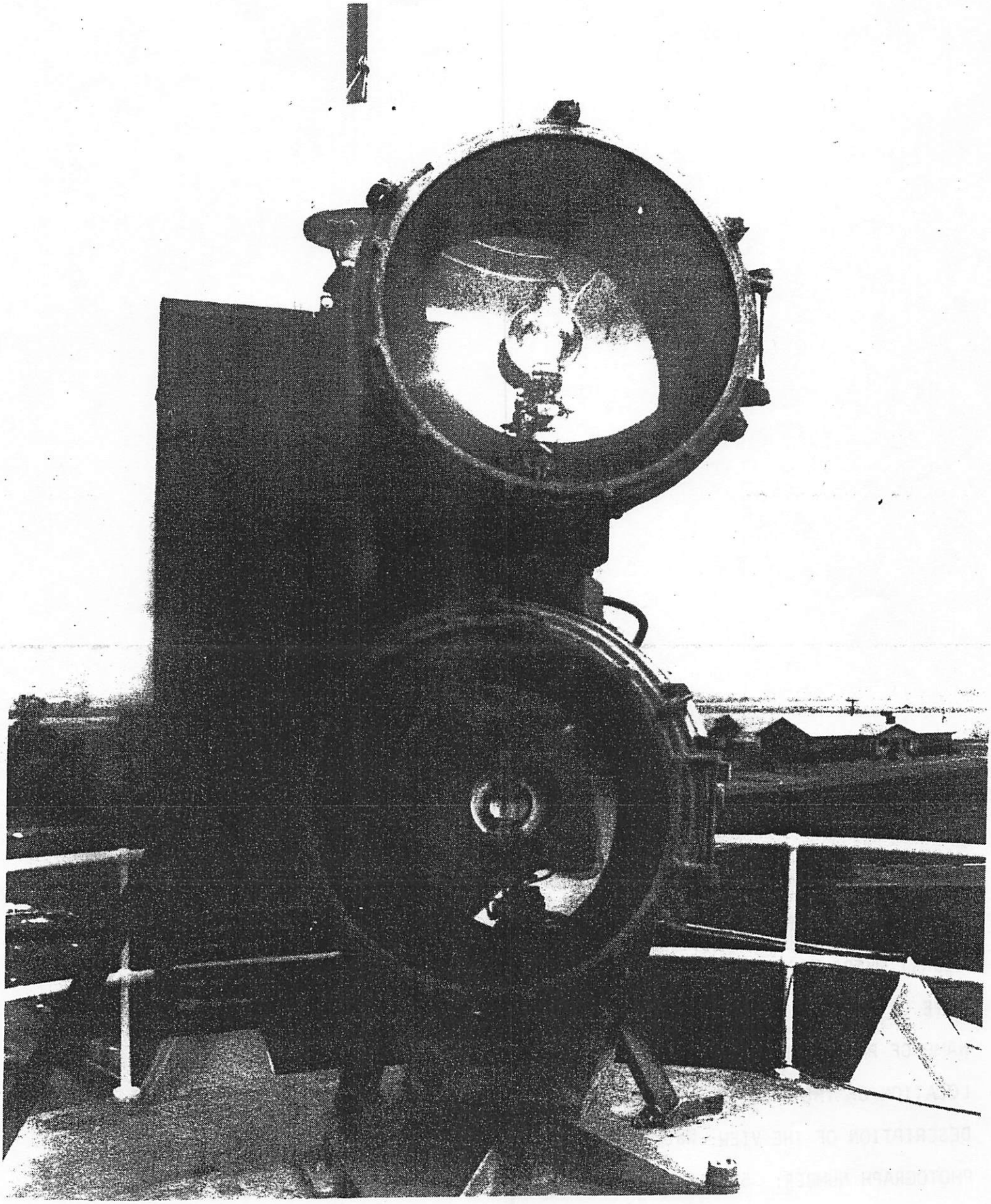
NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc.

LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc.
309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Light tower window, first story, facing southeast.
First style period for cast iron cylinder lighthouses.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 3





NAME OF PROPERTY: Stratford Point Lighthouse

COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985

NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc.

LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc.
309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Watchroom door. Note porthole window.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 5

NAME OF PROPERTY: Stratford Point Lighthouse

COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985

NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc.

LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc.
309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Lighting Apparatus, 1985

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 6

