2026 JUN 15 15:60

REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP

Archival Research Room Record Request
National Archives at St. Louis

Date: 06/12/2026

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Researcher ID Card Number
Burns, Andrew	4563213
E-Mail Address:	**Phone Number:**
afbfg4@umsl.edu	636-415-7353

INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much as possible)

Name used in Service (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Service Number/SSN	Date & Place of Birth
Pruitt, Vernon		

MILITARY SERVICE

Branch of Service:

- ☐ Air Force
- ☐ Army Air Corps
- ☐ Army Air Force
- ☐ Army
- ☐ Marine Corps
- ☐ Navy
- ☐ Coast Guard
- ☐ Unknown

Type of Rank:

- ☐ Enlisted
- ☐ Officer
- ☐ Unknown

Service Period (Check all that apply):

- ☐ 1939 & Prior
- ☐ 1940 - 1950
- ☐ 1950 & After

Date & Place of Death:

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

Other Identifying Information (Parent's Names, CSC Number, etc.)

Researcher Signature: Andrew Burns

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location)		
Lighthouse Service (MD) 5th District	From: 1935	To: 1936
(Agency & Location)	From:	To:
(Agency & Location)	From:	To:

Other Identifying Information (Maiden Name, Job Title, etc.)

This Space Intentionally Left Blank

STAFF USE ONLY

Appointment Time and Date:

Additional Researchers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

CMRS Service Request Number: C-00076277777

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s): Sent to arc search 6/17/26

Remarks:

'26 JUN 24 PM 1:40:30

SCREENING NOTES

☑ Reviewed and Nothing Removed CMM ☐ Items Removed and User Informed

Hold Requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Requests:

Screened Items:

☐ Additional charge outs and signatures on reverse side

Time Out:

Final Return:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Vernon Pruitt (Name) ..... Va (Legal Residence)

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SERVICE AND GRADE	SALARY	ACTION	BUREAU	STATION—DISTRICT	DATE OF EFFECT
Keeper	—	1500	TEMPORARY Pend Cert	L. H.	Hooper Island LS 5th Dist	5-14-35
		LAST DAY OF SERVICE	Nov. 30, 1935			

VERNON PRUITT

out

VERNON PRUITT

Form 73

HVS 1

NOMINATION

1

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, Fifth DISTRICT,

Norfolk, Va. (City), April 29, (Date), 1935

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Thru District Manager, 4th Civil Service Dist.

Action recommended, Temporary Appointment pending the establishment of an eligible register.

Name, Vernon Pruitt

Position, Assistant Keeper

Location, Hooper Island Light Station, Md.

Effective, May 1, 1935

Legal residence, Virginia

Proposed salary, $1500.p.a. exclusive of $60. p.a. for quarters.

Proposed range, $1500-1860. "

Appropriation, Sal. Keepers of L.H.

~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~ or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, New employee

Location, -

Former salary, -

Former range, -

Rank on eligible list, - Rating, - Percentage, - , Other eligibles considered: -

(Lt.#909)

Previous incumbent and his pay, Hollie R. Laird / $1560.p.a. exclusive of $60. p.a. for quarters.

Services terminated, On or about May 1, 1935

Reason, Transfer

Members of family in Government service, None

Remarks:

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Approved for , 19---- temporary appointment, Sec. 2, Rule VIII, pending establishment of an eligible register (subject to the receipt and approval of Form 124b.)

May 1, 1935. Secretary, 4th Civil Service District.

L. M. HOPKINS
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1935

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved, for temporary appointment as indicated.

W. P. HARMAN
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

Form A-30

NOT TO BE ACCEPTED AS AUTHORITY FOR INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

1935 MAY 11 PM 12:27 LIGHTHOUSES

May 10, 1935.

Mr. Vernon Pruitt,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of One Thousand Five Hundred dollars per annum

effective upon entrance on duty and to continue for a period not to exceed thirty days from the date of the establishment of a register for probationary appointment.

Nature of appointment: Temporary.

Civil Service authority: Manager, Fourth Civil Service District.

Classification allocation:

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

F. A. DeLong

C
5 Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation (unit): Field.

Vice: Hollis R. Laird.

Legal residence: Virginia.

MAY 18 1935

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1935 11—8857

O.F. No. C-24
Oct. 1934

FOURTH UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE DISTRICT
Office of the Manager
WASHINGTON, D. C.

LIGHTHOUSES

May 28, 1935. JE
(Date and File)

1935 MAY 29 AM

Commissioner of Lighthouses,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

This office recently approved a temporary appointment in the case indicated below, subject to the receipt of certain forms which were necessary before the appointment could be finally approved.

The required forms have been received and, as they are satisfactory, the conditional approval of the appointment may be amended to show final approval.

Very truly yours,

T. D. DUNN,
Acting District Manager

Name of Appointee	Position	Salary	Place	Branch of Service
Vernon Pruitt	Assistant Keeper	$1500 p/a	Hooper Island Light Station, Md.	Commerce

STANDARD FORM NO. 6
(Approved by the President March 28, 1924)

PERSONAL HISTORY

(Statement to be prepared by appointee in his own handwriting)

Bureau, division, or office Lighthouses

1. Name in full Vernon Pruitt

2. Legal (voting) residence Virginia 1st Accomac Tangier
(State and Congressional District) (County) (City or town)

3. Where born? Virginia Tangier When born? Aug 28. 1893
(State or foreign country) (City or town) (Date)

4. If foreign, state whether naturalized or alien

5. Indicate sex, marital condition, and race by check, thus: √

SEX		MARITAL CONDITION				RACE. (If other, state which)		
Male ✓	Female	Single	Married ✓	Divorced	Widowed	White ✓	Colored	

6. A complete record of your past civil service for the United States Government:

BRANCH OF SERVICE AND PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	POSITION	SALARY	DATE APPOINTED			DATE SEPARATED		
			Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year
none								

7. Military and naval record. If any, check (√) to indicate branch and other information and give dates of enlistment and discharge:

None	Army ✓	Navy	Marine Corps	Coast Guard	War Veteran ✓	Pensioner	Veterans' Bureau beneficiary

Enlisted May 27. 1918 Discharged Nov. 25. 1919
Organization P. H. E. 61st Co. C.A.C. Corps

Enlisted ____ Discharged ____
Organization ____

8.

EDUCATION (Circle number of years)	Common school	High school	College	Degrees, if any
	1 2 3 4 5 (6) 7 8	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	none

9. State special qualifications I have fin a Waterman most all my life. I am a good Painter. understand Gas Motors.

10. Name, relationship, and address of person to be notified in case of emergency:

Maggie Pruitt (Name) Wife (Relationship)

Tangier Virginia (Post office address)

I certify that the foregoing answers are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Vernon Pruitt
(Name as usually written and which will be used as official signature)

June 1. 1935 (Date) Present address Tangier Virginia

10—1659

Letter from Lloyd Reggin, Crisfield,Md.,dated Nov.29,1935, indorsing Vernon Puritt of Tangier,Va.,for employment.

- - - - -

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington,D.C.
December 2, 1935.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Norfolk, Va., for reply direct.

For the Commissioner:

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

MEMORANDUM SHOWING LAST DAY SERVED BY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE

(To be filled in immediately after the last day temporary employee serves, signed by the proper official and forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce.)

Name of employee Vernon Pruitt

Designation Keeper *Compensation* $1500. p.a.

Place of employment Hooper Island Light Station, Md.

Last day served November 30, 1935.

DEC - 4 1935

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

For the Commissioner,

Chief, Personnel Division

L. M. HOPKINS

Superintendent of Lighthouses
(*Official title.*)

Date December 3, 1935

Lighthouse Service, 5th District
(*Bureau or service.*)

11—2876

SEVENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

SCHUYLER OTIS BLAND, VA., CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM I. SIROVICH, N. Y.
ROBERT RAMSPECK, GA.
AMBROSE J. KENNEDY, MD.
CHARLES N. CROSBY, PA.
MONRAD C. WALLGREN, WASH.
A. H. CARMICHAEL, ALA.
JOSEPH J. MANSFIELD, TEX.
LINDSAY C. WARREN, N. C.
EUGENE B. CROWE, IND.
LOUIS C. RABAUT, MICH.
SIMON M. HAMLIN, MAINE
EDWARD J. HART, N. J.
JAMES A. O'LEARY, N. Y.
OTHA D. WEARIN, IOWA

FREDERICK R. LEHLBACH, N. J.
RICHARD J. WELCH, CALIF.
FRANCIS D. CULKIN, N. Y.
RALPH O. BREWSTER, MAINE
CLARE E. HOFFMAN, MICH.
SAMUEL W. KING, HAWAII
ANTHONY J. DIMOND, ALASKA

J. W. GULICK, JR., CLERK

House of Representatives U. S.

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

Washington, D. C.

Reg. to me & ret. to me with any info. from me

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES DEC 19 1935

December 18, 1935

12/19 acknd. 1/7/36 and copy to

1935 DEC - 19 - AM 9 - 25

Captain H. D. King,
Commissioner of Lighthouses,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain King:

I am writing to you in the interest of Mr. Vernon Pruitt, of Tangier, Va., who was notified of the termination of his service on November 30th as Assistant Lighthouse Keeper at the Hoopers Island Light Station, Maryland.

I respectfully urge that further consideration may be given this matter and that Mr. Pruitt may be retained. Mr. Pruitt comes to me most highly endorsed. He is an excellent young man and the only thing I can find in connection with his service was an omission on November 5th to blow the fog signal by about two minutes late. Certainly in the case of a man of his reputation his faithful service from May 14, 1935, to November 30, 1935, might have been taken into consideration and a reprimand would have been sufficient.

Mr. Pruitt is married, is an ex-service man with an honorable discharge and he has a wife and four children to support. It seems to me that the matter should have been given the fullest consideration and that at least he would be entitled to have another chance. I urge that no assignment may be made until this matter can be finally determined, because I am very keenly interested in getting Mr. Pruitt restored to his position.

Yours very sincerely,

V. O. Bland

CCB.

Supt.
Asst. Supt.
Chief Clk.
Asso Engr.
Asst. Engr. (1)
Asst. Engr. (2)
Junior Engr
Hydrog.
Accounts
Purchasing
Personnel
Cont Insp
Prop. Clk.
Stenog
Messenger
File

RG-EK Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C., December 19, 1935.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Norfolk, Va. for full report and return, the report to include reasons for the discontinuance of the services of this man, and whether they were terminated on account of unsatisfactory services or for other reasons. If for unsatisfactory services, give full details.

For the Commissioner:

W.P. Harman
Adm. Asst.

December 19, 1935.

Hon. S. O. Bland,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bland:

I have your letter of December 18 in the interest of Mr. Vernon Pruitt of Tangier, Virginia, whose temporary services as a keeper at Hooper Island Light Station, Maryland, appear to have been recently terminated. I am having the facts in the matter assembled, and will give them my consideration and write you more fully at an early date.

Very truly yours,

RC-EK

Commissioner of Lighthouses

December 30, 1935.

Honorable S. C. Bland,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bland:

I had expected before this date to be able to give you final report on my inquiry as to the circumstances surrounding the separation of Mr. Vernon Pruitt, formerly holding temporary appointment as assistant keeper at Hooper Island Light Station. With this in view, a representative of this office was sent to Hooper Island Light Station on December 27th, but unfortunately adverse weather conditions, particularly ice in the locality, made it impossible to secure the full information desired. In the meantime, the Superintendent of Lighthouses at Norfolk is endeavoring to secure desirably complete evidence in the case, and upon the receipt of his further report I shall promptly communicate with you.

Sincerely yours,

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

HDK:EBF

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NORFOLK, VA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

WLR:LML
Enc.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

1935 JAN 3 AM 8:01

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 5TH DISTRICT
NORFOLK, VA.

January 2, 1935.

E N D O R S E M E N T

Returned to the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

1. In order that the Bureau may have a complete picture of this case some of the facts will be restated.

2. Under date of November 6 Capt. John Mayne, Jr. of the Victor Lynn, reported to this office that on November 5, 12:15 A. M. during a fog, the bell on Hooper Island Light Station was not ringing. Copy of complaint is attached. It was received in this office on November 8. On November 9 this office wrote keeper of Hooper Island Light Station for an explanation and instructed Lighthouse Engineer, H. Almy, to proceed to the light station and make a personal investigation. See copy of letter attached. See also copy of Lighthouse Engineer Almy's report, dated November 13, attached.

3. As previously reported the temporary assistant keeper, Vernon Pruitt, was on duty at the time, and his neglect in this instance is obvious. The keeper further reported to Lighthouse Engineer Almy that Pruitt is not suitable for the duties of Lighthouse Keeper, that he is careless on watch, and that he, the keeper, had to start the fog bell several times when Pruitt was on watch, probably asleep. This statement of the keeper, partly borne out by the incident of November 5, caused this office to remove Pruitt at the close of November 30. I did then and still believe that Pruitt is not desirable material for a Lighthouse Keeper.

4. Since Pruitt was dropped, we have received numerous letters from people living in the vicinity of the lighthouse, attesting to his integrity, etc. It is apparent that all of these letters were influenced by Pruitt. A copy of his letter of December 12 is herewith.

5. Pruitt's letter, as well as several others, mentioned Keeper Tyler's favorable comment on Pruitt. Under date of December 19 this office directed Tyler to explain the conflict of these statements and those he made to Lighthouse Engineer Almy. His reply of December 30 is herewith. This office does not attach much importance to the favorable remarks the keeper made ashore concerning Pruitt, as the latter apparently has a good many politically minded friends, and Tyler was merely avoiding a wrangle. In localities like Tangier and Crisfield a matter of this nature becomes a town topic.

6. Keeper Tyler has been in the Service since June 1919. He has a good record, and we have never had occasion to caution or criticize him as far as can be recalled or made a matter of record. Furthermore, I am inclined to believe Tyler's statement concerning Pruitt, and do not recommend rehiring Pruitt.

7. A temporary substitute was hired at Hooper Island Light Station (John W. Creighton, Fishing Creek, Md.) until selection can be made from the register about to be established. Creighton was selected from the list of those who participated in the last keeper's examination.

8. Pruitt was employed under temporary appointment, effective May 14, 1935, pending establishment of an eligible register.

L. M. Hopkins

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

C
O (LML)
P
Y

Baltimore, Md.

11/6/35

Light House Dept.
Baltimore Md.

Capt. Almy:

Dear Sir:

On the morning of November the 5 fog shut in on Victor Lynn on or about 12:15 o'clock A. M. I passed Hooper Island Light House at 1:08 A. M. November 5 about one hundred feet west of it and there was no bell ringing and I blew several blast of the whistle abeam of the light and we at no time before or after passing the light heard any bell.

On watch were Master John Mayne, Jr.
Mate M. Robertson
Lookout, John Mayne, Sr.

Yours respectfully,

/S/ Capt. John Mayne, Jr.

- - - - - - -

HA/ljr.

Sub-Office, Lighthouse Service, Balto., Md.
November 7, 1935.

Forwarded to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Norfolk, Va., with the request that I be advised whether it is the desire of the Superintendent for me to investigate the above condition at Hooper Island Light Station at the time I investigate a similar condition at Hooper Straits Light Station on November 11, 1935.

/S/ H. Almy
Lighthouse Engineer.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NORFOLK, VA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LMH:LML

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 5TH DISTRICT
NORFOLK, VA.

November 9, 1935

Keeper,
Hooper Island Light Station,
Dames Quarter, Maryland.

Subject: Fog Signal; failure to sound.

1. This Office has received the following report from the master of the motor vessel, Victor Lynn:

> "On the morning of November 5, fog shut in on the Victor Lynn about 12:15 o'clock A.M. I passed Hooper Island Lighthouse at 1:08 A.M. November 5, about 100 feet west of it, and there was no bell ringing and I blew several blasts of the whistle abeam of the light and we at no time before or after passing the light heard any bell."

2. In accordance with Instructions to Employees of the U. S. Lighthouse Service, Part III, page 71, regarding the operation of fog signals, responsibility of keepers, etc., you are requested to submit a full and prompt report regarding the failure to sound the fog signal at this station as reported by the Master of the Victor Lynn. Exact copies in duplicate of the station journal and fog signal records showing the operation of this signal on November 5 are to be submitted with your report.

L. M. HOPKINS
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

COPY to Lighthouse Engineer, H. Almy, for his information, confirming telephone conversation today instructing you to make a thorough investigation of this matter, and submit a full report in duplicate with recommendation regarding failure of the fog signal to sound as reported.

L. M. Hopkins.

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
BALTIMORE, MD.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

HA/ljr

Sub-Office, Room 13 Custom House

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 5TH DISTRICT
BALTIMORE, MD.

SUPT. OF LIGHTHOUSES
NOV 14 1935
NORFOLK, VA.

November 13, 1935.

Superintendent of Lighthouses,
Norfolk, Va.

Subject: Fog Signal; failure to sound, Hooper Island Light Station.
Reference: "A" Letter of C.O. Victor Lynn, dated Nov. 6, 1935.
"B" Your LMH/LML letter of Nov. 9, 1935.

1. Complying with reference "B" letter, the writer took passage on the Tender Violet leaving Baltimore A.M. on November 11th and proceeded to Hooper Island Light Station.

2. The keeper, Mr. Tyler, was on board this station at the time I visited there and in interrogating Mr. Tylor, the fact was brought out that Mr. Pruitt, the assistant, was on watch on the night in equestion when fog signal failed to operate as claimed. Mr. Pruitt, the assistant keeper, was on leave at that time and therefore I could not interrogate him on the complaint referred to above. The fog record shows no mention of fog on Nov. 5th but it does show and is recorded in the log that the bell was started Nov. 6th, 7 A.M.

3. It was brought out during the investigation that the keeper, Mr. Tyler, made a statement that his assistant is not a very reliable man and went on to say that he would have reported Mr. Pruitt long ago but that he had had trouble with men before that were sent there and did not want to say anything against any man that the office sent him also saying "Mr. Pruitt is very careless on watch. I have had to start fog bell several times when he was supposed to be on watch, but was asleep I suppose." He also further stated that "There is no satisfaction on being on leave. Always worried about conditions on light house. Most of time I look several times each night, when I am on leave, to see if the light is burning OK. When I return to station I usually find conditions very bad and have trouble with light which is kept in very bad condition by Mr. Pruitt."

4. It might be well to explain the above by stating that Mr. Tyler lives on Hooper Island and can see the light from his residence and therefore can observe the light as above stated.

5. While at the above station, it was noted that the fog bell and equipment at the station is in working condition.

6. The statements above are all that I desire to make and any recommendation on my part would be superfluous inasmuch as the keeper, Mr. Tyler, has made very pertinent statements as to this man's efficiency.

H. Abney
Lighthouse Engineer.

C
O (LML)
P
Y

Tangier, Va.
Dec. 12, 1935.

Supt. of Lighthouses
Norfolk, Va.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you in regards to my position in the Lighthouse Service. When I think how hard I tried to make good during the six months I was in the service, it makes me feel bad to know that you do not think well of my service. I consider that I have had the responsibility of Hooper Island Lighthouse on me in regards to the upkeep of the Station. I am not ashame of my six months of service because i have acted square with the Books in every respect, and done my duty. I haven't had the chance like most of the Asst. Keepers I have never been instructed to the things I should have bin. If I had I would not had this trouble. Capt. Tyler has told me that I was one of the best Asst. Keepers he ever had and also told the people ashore the same. If you will investgate this mater you will find I am right because I believe the Lighthouse service is my work and I believe I can make good with any Keeper on the Bay except Capt. Tyler. now I have reasons to say this if not I would not say so as you no I was a new man and dont you think some little things ought to be considered as I am one of the porest men on the shore with a large family and without a dollar Please consider this and give me another chance to any station you choose.

Respectfully,

/S/ Verson Pruitt
Tangier, Va.

Answer soon.

C
O (LML)
P
Y

December 19, 1935.

E. C. Tyler, Keeper,
Hooper Island Light Station,
Hoopersville, Md.

1. At the time Lighthouse Engineer H. Almy investigated matters at your station, made necessary by the failure of your fog signal to operate, I was advised by Lighthouse Engineer Almy that he learned from you that the services of Vernon Pruitt, temporary second assistant keeper, were far from satisfactory. Acting on this information, Mr. Pruitt's services were discontinued inasmuch as he was serving merely in a temporary capacity. Since that time, I have received several letters contradicting the information I had received from Mr. Almy, in one of which is a statement that you informed Mr. Pruitt that he was one of the best assistant keepers you ever had and also that you told people ashore the same thing.

2. In view of these conflicting statements, you are directed to submit to this office at an early date a full and comprehensive statement concerning the services rendered byMr. Pruitt, stating in your reply whether or not he was willing, whether or not he followed all your orders explicitly, and also whether or not he was capable. If in your reply;you show that he was inefficient, it is suggested that you give incidents, if practicable, upon which you base your conclusions.

/S/ L. M. Hopkins

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

C
O (LML)
P
Y

Hooper Island Light Station

December 30th, 1935.

Sir:

In reply to letter received December 19th concerning Mr. Pruitt. While at this Station I found Mr. Pruitt to be a gentleman in every respect as a man. Mr. Pruitt was not the man for this station. He said he could not go high on stage to paint. I told Mr. Pruitt he could hire s someone on shore to do it for him. When he left station to go home try and get back on time so as to finish up with out side painting. Mr. Pruitt did not take the intress he should have done while at this station. When I left Station for shore I always told Mr. Pruitt to watch for fog and keep the light burning. While on shore this time I heard that Mr. Pruitt said he was going to Norfolk and did not get satisfaction there he was going Washington and further said he was going to do all he could do to put me off of my job. I have not done anything I am ashame to tell while at this station I have had the people on shore to ask me how do you like your new man I always say fine. I am very sorry this occured.

Respectfully,

/S/ E. C. Tyler, Keeper.

Comdr

I have received all the papers, but have only one suggestion, as indicated, which goes further to about statement that Pruitt was only about two minutes late in sounding signal

WPK
1/7

Per OK to route

January 3rd, 1936.

Memorandum: 1/7/36 wrote Island Copy to S-4

Visit to Hooper Island Lightstation.

In company with Lighthouse Engineer Almy, I visited Hooper Island Lightstation on December 27th.

Keeper Tyler was on leave and ice and weather conditions prevented going ashore at Hooperville to interview him.

Temporary Asst. Keeper Creighton was on duty at the station.

On account of not being able to interview Keeper Tyler, we were unable to get much information in regard to V. C. Pruitt who was formerly temporary Assistant Keeper at this station and whose services were terminated on December 1st as being unsatisfactory.

The station books were examined and it was noted that entries had been made up to date. There did not appear to be any erasures and as near as could be determined from a rather hasty examination of the signatures in the watch book, they were in the handwriting of the Keeper standing the watch.

Entries in the daily journal were very meager and did not include any notations as to happenings at the station other than a notation of very routine duties.

From an examination of the signatures in the Watch book it would appear that the amount of time the Keeper was absent from the station each month varied from eight to ten days. In accordance with a district standing order, a notation is required in the books as to the time a Keeper goes ashore and the probable duration of his stay. No such notation appeared for the absence of Keeper Tyler at the time of my visit, despite the fact that Superintendent Hopkins had noted this same omission in the inspection book at the time of his last inspection and left instructions that such entries should be made.

Temporary Assistant Keeper Creighton is a man of many years experience on the water, having been in charge of boats for the Bureau of Fisheries and the Maryland State Police. This is his first experience in the Lighthouse Service. While he is quite a little above the age of the general run of keepers entering the Service, he impressed me favorably as being a man well adapted by experience, for this Service. He spoke well of Keeper Tyler and stated that he had known him for many years. He stated, however, that Keeper Tyler left the station within 24 hours after his (Creighton's) arrival without giving much instruction as to the care of the station, especially as to keeping the station records. Even with the lack of instruction, Asst. Creighton was keeping a very complete record of all doings at the station.

R. L. Hankinson.

RLH:E

January 7, 1936.

Hon. S. C. Bland,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bland:

As I have informed you previously in connection with your letter of December 18 in the interest of Mr. Vernon Pruitt of Tangier, Virginia, the conditions at Hooper Island Light Station, Maryland, have been under investigation. The results of this now enable me to give you a report. Mr. Pruitt's employment, as you remember, was completed at the close of November; this action resulted from a careful investigation of a report that the station fog signal was not in operation, this report having been made by the master of a vessel which was shut in by fog while passing very close to the station about one o'clock in the morning of November 5th. The master reported that he blew several blasts of his whistle while abeam of the light but that at no time before or after passing the light was the fog signal being sounded. The station log does not record the operation of the fog bell on the date in question. It was ascertained that Mr. Pruitt was supposed to be on watch at the station at the time, and it was in consequence of this that he was relieved. I know you appreciate that the standards of the Service in matters of this kind are very strict on account of the calamities liable to ensue in such circumstances.

I also appreciate your sincere interest in Mr. Pruitt, and I am able to sympathize with one in need; but at the present time there appears to be no further assistance to be rendered him in this connection because the position he temporarily occupied is now subject to being filled from the regular register of eligibles which the Civil Service Commission has now practically established. In other words, the termination of Mr. Pruitt's temporary appointment would now be necessitated if his employment had been continued up to this time.

Mr. Pruitt's experience in this matter may possibly be of benefit to him and in the event he should qualify in some future civil service examination for keeper it would be possible then to give consideration to his appointment.

Very truly yours,

RG-EK

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

SUBJECT: Copy Bureau letter dated January 7, 1936 to Hon. S. O. Bland, re discontinuance services Vernon Pruitt.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Norfolk, Va., for information, together with a copy of a report in the matter by Associate Engineer Hankinson. Attention is specially invited to the last two paragraphs, particularly to the last sentence in the second last paragraph and the second last sentence in the last paragraph.

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

CHECK GRID, INITIALS, MEMORANDA

ETC., SHOULD GO ON PAPERS

To	For
Commissioner	Information
Deputy Com.	Proper action
A. A.	Approve if No objection
C. C.	Attach papers
Chief Engr.	Rec. & ret. to
Mar. Eng.	---thru---
Signals	Prepare reply
Arch. & Str.	for sig. of
Hydrographic	----------
Personnel	Forward to _____
Finance	Ack. & to _____
L. & P.	for rec.
Edit Clerk	To _____ for
Examiner	direct action
R. L.H.	and report
Files	Bulletin
	Call up w.a.r.
	Call up w.f.r.r.
	Call up

9040

Tangier,Va.,
Jan.12,1936.

Commissioner of Lighthouses,
Washington,D.C.
Mr.Harold D. King.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you in regards to my position formerly held at Hooper Island Light Station. Mr. King I was in the Service from May 14th until Nov.30th,1935 but unfortunately I was reported by the master of the motor vessel Victor Lyn on November the 5th the vessel past the station at 1:8 a m I was in the beel rooms when he blew the whistle if I had been instructed what to have done this would never happended. I tried my best to make good. I thought so much of my job. I have had a large family for some time and have dold my boat that I had to make a living in depending on the lighthouse service. I wish you could see my conditions and could see why I am out of the service as I do. I know the laws of the service are strict and I tried to obey them as far as I knew if I was a man of bad conduct and wasn't fit for the service I would have expected this but there are nothing about the station I cannot do. I am a good boatsman, a good painter, a good swimmer and like to keep things in good condition. I served 18 months in the Army 14 over seas so please consider my conditions and give me another change. I will go to any station on the Bay and will promise you to make a good lighthouse keeper. Please answer.

Respectfully,

(sdg) Vernon Pruitt
Tangier,Va.

P.S. You will find in the log book at the station Nov.5th 1:10 a.m. the signal sounded.

January 15, 1936.

dated Jan.12,
Letter from Vernon Pruitt, Tangier,Va.,/re his service as keeper.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Norfolk, Va., for reply direct, inviting attention to the postscript on Mr. Pruitt's letter. Also see Bureau letter of January 7 to Congressman Bland, especially the last paragraph thereof.

For the Commissioner:

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

6

September 24, 1937.

Form letter dated Sept.17 (160*22*MF) from Sears,Roebuck & Co., Philadelphia,Pa.,requesting information re Mrs.Vernon C. Pruitt, Tangier,Va.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Norfolk, Va., for reply direct.

For the Commissioner:

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

E-K
Incls.

Dept.

MEMORANDUM SHOWING LAST DAY SERVED BY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE

(To be filled in immediately after the last day temporary employee serves, signed by the proper official and forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DEC - 5 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

1935 DEC - 4 PM 3:55

Name of employee Vernon Pruitt

Designation Keeper Compensation $1500. p.a.

Place of employment Hooper Island Light Station, Md.

Last day served November 30, 1935.

CHIEF CLERK

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
ENTERED
DEC - 7 1935
SHEET NO. 1
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DEC - 4 1935
Forwarded to Secretary of Commerce for official use.
For the Commissioner
Chief Appointment Division

CARDED

R. D. Irvin
Superintendent of Lighthouses
(Official title.)

December 5, 1935
Date

Lighthouse Service, 5th District
(Bureau or service.)

11—2876

STANDARD FORM NO. 6
(Approved by the President March 28, 1924)

PERSONAL HISTORY

(Statement to be prepared by appointee in his own handwriting)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JUN 14 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Bureau, division, or office ~~#~~ Lighthouses

1. Name in full Vernon Pruitt

2. Legal (voting) residence Virginia (State and Congressional District) 1st (County) Accomac (City or town) Tangier

3. Where born? Virginia (State or foreign country) Tangier (City or town) When born? Aug. 28. 1893. (Date)

4. If foreign, state whether naturalized or alien

5. Indicate sex, marital condition, and race by check, thus: √

SEX		MARITAL CONDITION				RACE. (If other, state which)	
Male ✓	Female	Single	Married ✓	Divorced	Widowed	White ✓	Colored

6. A complete record of your past civil service for the United States Government:

BRANCH OF SERVICE AND PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	POSITION	SALARY	DATE APPOINTED			DATE SEPARATED		
			Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year
None								

7. Military and naval record. If any, check (√) to indicate branch and other information and give dates of enlistment and discharge:

None	Army ✓	Navy	Marine Corps	Coast Guard	War Veteran ✓	Pensioner	Veterans' Bureau beneficiary

Enlisted May 27. 1918, Discharged Nov. 25 1919
Organization P. W. E. 61st. Co. U. S. Corps

Enlisted ..... Discharged .....
Organization .....

8. EDUCATION (Circle number of years)

Common school								High school				College				Degrees, if any
1	2	3	4	5	(6)	7	8	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	None

9. State special qualifications I have bin a Waterman most all my life I am a good Painter understand Gas motors

10. Name, relationship, and address of person to be notified in case of emergency:

Maggie Pruitt (Name) Wife (Relationship)
Tangier Virginia (Post office address)

I certify that the foregoing answers are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Vernon Pruitt
(Name as usually written and which will be used as official signature)

June 1. 1935 (Date) Present address Tangier Virginia

10—1659

Standard Form No. 8
(Approved by the President, May 22, 1925)

HVS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE JUN 14 1935 BUR. OF LIGHTHOUSES DIVISION

1935 JUN 13 PM 3:20

BUR. OF LIGHTHOUSES JUN 10 1935 NORFOLK VA.

OATH OF OFFICE

Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes of the United States

Commerce
(Department or Establishment)

Lighthouse
(Bureau or Office)

I, Vernon Pruitt, do
(Name in full, printed or typed)

solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So HELP ME GOD.

RECORDED ON COMPLETION PERSONNEL JOURNAL 6/30/35

Vernon Pruitt
(Signature of Appointee)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7 day of June, A. D. 1935,

at Fishing Creek, Md.
(City or place) (State)

[SEAL]

Myrtle M. Phillips
Fishing Creek
Md.

Supt
Asst Supt
Chief Clk
Asso Engr
Asst Engr (1)
Asst. Engr. (2)
Junior Engr
Hydrog.
Accounts
Purchasing
Personnel
Cost Kpg
Prop. Clk.
Stenog
Messenger
File

NOTE.—If the oath is taken before a Notary Public the date of expiration of his commission should be shown.

May 1937.

Position to which appointed Asst. Keeper, Hooper Island Light Station, Md.

Date of entrance on duty May 14 1935

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10—1689

REGARDED

Form A-30

NOT TO BE ACCEPTED AS AUTHORITY FOR INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1935.

M r. Vernon Pruitt,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of One Thousand Five Hundred dollars per annum

effective upon entrance on duty and to continue for a period not to exceed thirty days from the date of the establishment of a register for probationary appointment.

Nature of appointment: Temporary.

Civil Service authority: Manager, Fourth Civil Service District.

Classification allocation:

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

F. A. DELONG

Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

Appropriation (unit): Field.

Vice: Hollis H. Laird.

Legal residence: Virginia.

4756

CARDED

MAY 11 1935

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1933

11—8657

Form 73

HVS

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

1935 MAY - 2 - AM 8:48

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MAY - 7 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
5

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, Fifth DISTRICT.

1935 MAY - 7 - AM 10:01

Norfolk, Va. (City), April 29, (Date) 1935

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
CHIEF CLERK
MAY 10 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Thru District Manager, 4th Civil Service Dist.

Action recommended, Temporary Appointment pending the establishment of an eligible register.

Name, Vernon Pruitt — Legal residence, Virginia

Position, Assistant Keeper — Proposed salary, $1500.p.a. exclusive of $60. p.a. for quarters.

Location, Hooper Island Light Station, Md. — Proposed range, $1500-1860. " — Appropriation, Sal. Keepers of L.H.

Effective, May 1, 1935 — ~~the actual date of entrance on duty,~~ or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

No Papers

Former position, New employee — Former salary, -

Location, - — Former range, -

Rank on eligible list, - Rating, - Percentage, - , Other eligibles considered: -

(Lt.#909)

Previous incumbent and his pay, Hollie R. Laird / Services terminated, On or about May 1, 1935
$1560.p.a. exclusive of $60. p.a. for quarters.
Reason, Transfer

Members of family in Government service, None

Remarks:

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, **Approved for , 19----- temporary appointment, Sec. 2, Rule VIII, pending establishment of an eligible register (subject to the receipt and approval of Form 124b.)**

Farrar Smith

May 1, 1935. ~~Secretary,~~ manager, 4th *Civil Service District.*

L. M. Hopkins

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1935

5/7/35

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved, **for temporary appointment as indicated.**

THIS IS A CIVIL SERVICE POSITION

Action O. K.

Kerlin
Adm Asst. to Secy

For Mr. Zimths O.K.
Mem. for Joseph C. Nee

W. P. Hartman
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

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1 Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314