LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 36

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

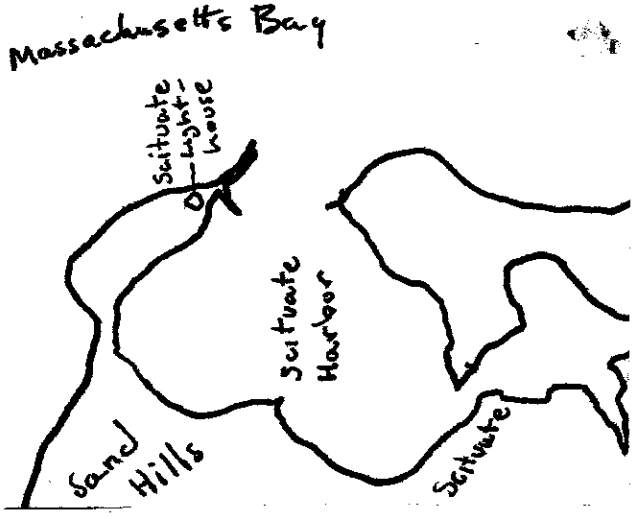
Charlotte Parsons - Scituate - 1981

1) Keeper's house and light

2) Tower interior with stair

3) View from lantern to harbor

SKETCH MAP



HISTORIC NAME: Scituate Light

TOWN: Scituate

LOCATION: At end of Lighthouse Road on Cedar Point at north entrance to harbor.

COUNTY: Plymouth CODE: 023

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 12th

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Plymouth County Courthouse

Book 1283; p. 284 6/6/1917

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

See attached site plan recorded with above deed

LAT./LONG.: 42°12' 70°42'W

UTM COORDINATE: 19/358/400/4673/400

USGS QUADRANGLE: BOSTON,MA;NH;CT;RI;ME

SCALE: 1:250,000

ACREAGE: 1,162 acres

OWNER(S): Town of Scituate

Town Hall

Scituate, MA

STATUS: Unmanned/Inactive

RECORDED BY: N. Salzman

ORGANIZATION: MHC

DATE: July 31, 1981

LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION

SITE DESCRIPTION

Scituate Light is sited on Cedar Point at the entrance to Scituate Harbor. Part of the approach to Boston Harbor, off Cohasset Rocks and Minots Ledge, it has been the site of many wrecks. It is surrounded on the south by a rocky beach and inlet, on the east by the ocean, and on the north and west by a parking lot. Scituate is known as the best harbor of refuge between Marblehead to the north and the Cape Cod Canal to the south.

MAJOR ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION
The complex consists of the original 1811 stone lighthouse with its 1827 superstructure, 1847 modifications and 1930 lens room on top. Also extant is the original 1811 Keeper's House (3 bay by 2 bay, with tower). Complex has been restored and is maintained by the Scituate Historical Society.

Frame Keeper's Dwelling (1811 specifications): 24 feet sq., ft. sq. 8' x 4' half story divided into chambers above and 12' x 14', 12' x 10', 12' x 6' and an 8 x 12' passageway. 1" pine featheredge board and shingles; doors hung on iron hinges with thumb latches, lath and plaster; 2 good coats lime mortar. Double floors woodwork, roof, and outside; two coats of paint.

Keeper's house is a center chimney, three bay house with a door in the left bay. Two windows in top story. Lower story has one window and doorway into walkway on seaward side. Interior is well preserved. Fireplaces in each room. Kitchen ell is 3 bays wide with a door in the right bay. The two endwall bays connect with the walkway. The walkway has two windows on the south elevation, one on the opposite side.

Exterior is unpainted shingle with white trim and a shingle roof.

Oil Vault: no longer extant. Its original configuration was described thus: "12' x 18' of stone, plastered and stuccoed. Shingle roof. Five white pine cisterns with covers; 200 gal. of oil each. Set on blocks with receivers under them to preserve oil in case of leakage."

LIGHTHOUSES OF [illegible] MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1810 - 2 3/4 acres of land purchased for purpose of erecting a lighthouse.

1811 - stone octagon tower, oil vault, well and wood frame keeper's house built for $3200 by Charles Gill, Nathel Gill, Jr., and Joseph Hammond, Jr., of Hingham.

1814 - Keeper Simeon Bates absent from light, three children trick British landing party and save the town from marauders. Hiding behind a hill, they sounded military maneuvers with a fife and drum, convincing the British that troops were nearby. The fife is still at the Keeper's house. Important to Scituate history.

1827 - Brick superstructure 15' high with four unusual granite post and lintel window bays and new dome and lantern added. Numerous renovations and replacements made by Marshall Lincoln at a cost of $1074.

1841 - Rebuilding of walls, arch of lens room and new lamps and ventilator system completed by Winslow Lewis for $7090; price included similar repairs to Thatcher's Island Light (#9) off Cape Ann. The Fifth Auditor Stephen Pleasanton "would have preferred to abandon it after building the first Minot's Ledge Light [#26]."

1850 - Scituate shares duties with first Minot's Light (1847 - 1/150)

1851 - Minot's Light destroyed in storm on April 17.

1860 - Nov. 14 last lighting of Scituate Light.
Nov. 15 first lighting of new Minot's Ledge Light.

1913 - Town begins attempt to acquire property.

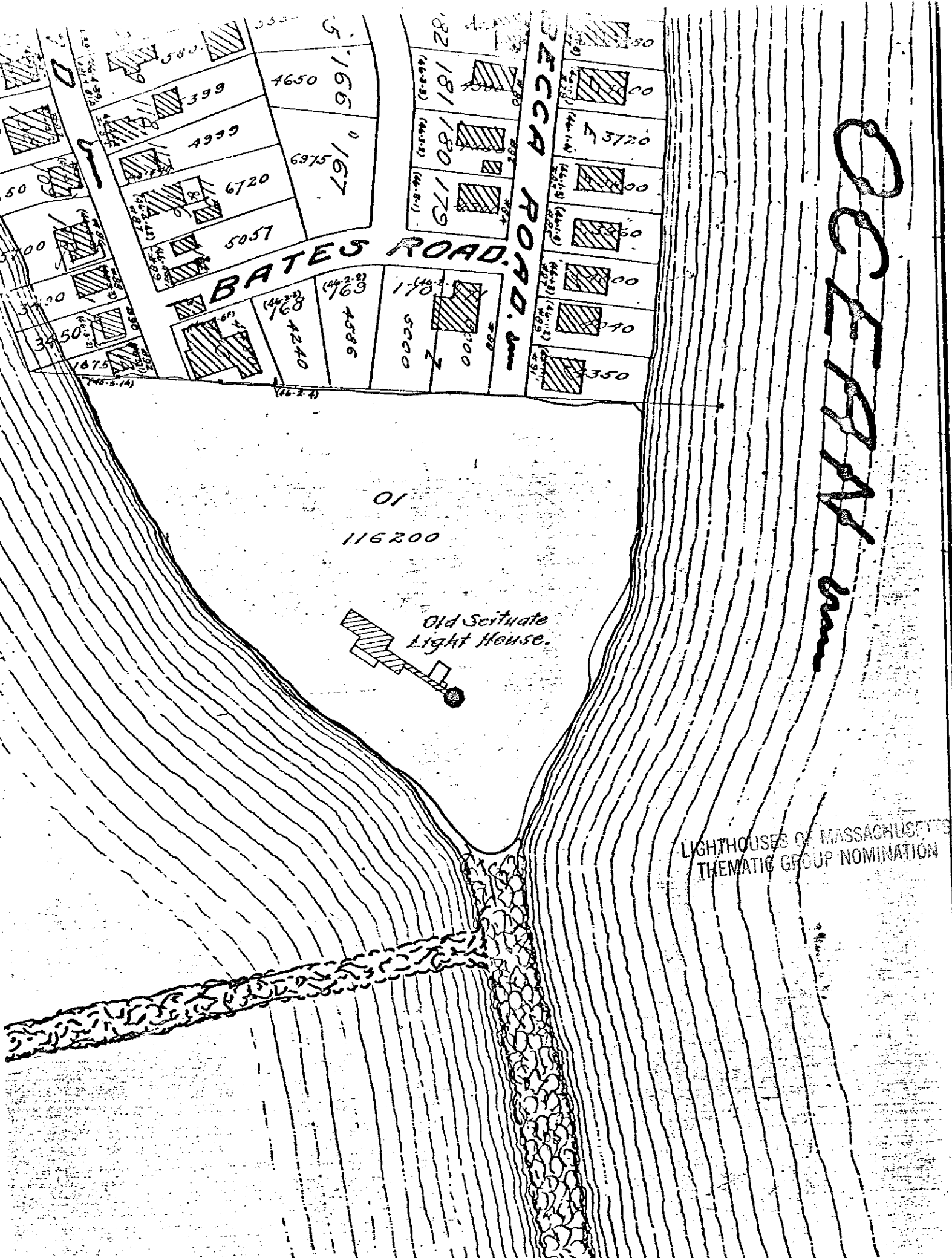
6/17/1917 - Town of Scituate acquires property for $1000, additional $1500 for all land to the southeast. Deed requires town "to maintain it as an historic landmark."

1966 - vacated, vandalized.

1968 - town gives responsibility for upkeep to Historical Society.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Scituate Light possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Constructed in 1811, it is a good example of an early masonry tower of an unusual splayed octagonal form, even though its lens room has been replaced. It is important for its scenic qualities, as a tower with attached keeper's house overlooking Scituate Harbor, and as a prime symbol from the town, used frequently in public relations. It is also unique in its retention of a complete set of original building specifications, which are attached to this form. The light meets criteria A and C of the NRHP as well as survey criteria 2a, 3a, 3b, 4a.


BATES ROAD.
ACCO ROAD.
OCEAN
01
116200
Old Scituate
Light House.
LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION



