

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 24 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 18 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Point Bolivar Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1/4 mile west of Highway 2612 on Highway 87

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Port Bolivar

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

9

STATE
Texas

CODE
48

COUNTY
Galveston

CODE
167

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. E. B. Boyt and Mr. George Maxwell

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Devers

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas 77538

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Galveston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Galveston

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Texas Historic Engineering Site Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

History of Engineering Program, C.E. Department

CITY, TOWN
Lubbock

STATE
Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1852, an iron tower lighthouse was constructed on Bolivar Point but was dismantled during the Civil War. A temporary light was put in its place in 1865, and in 1872-1873 the Bureau of Lighthouses had a brick-lined, malleable-iron tower erected.

The 1872 Point Bolivar Lighthouse is unusual in many structural aspects. At 117 feet, it is one of the tallest lighthouses in Texas, and is one of only two remaining iron lighthouses along the Gulf Coast. The Point Bolivar tower is constructed of brick, 18" thick at the bottom and tapering to 12" at the top, and covered on the exterior by one-inch-thick malleable-iron plates riveted together. Inside the lighthouse, an iron spiral stairway runs from ground level to the light tower and observation balcony at the top. Light was provided by a large oil-burning lantern which projected a piercing beam through a rotating reflective lens. The mechanism which turned the lens was much like that of a weighted clock and required periodic winding. A lighthouse keeper who lived nearby tended to this mechanism, making sure that the huge lantern never ran short of oil. There are three windows on the south side of the lighthouse, inset with 1/4"-thick curved glass, the same type of glass which filled the brass frames in the lighthouse dome. The cupola roof and the railing around the observation balcony are constructed of brass. An iron door, similar to the iron sheathing, provides an entry at the base of the structure. The massive Point Bolivar lighthouse is firmly anchored to a foundation consisting of nine feet of concrete over a timber piling base.

Today, the property is privately owned and maintained. Houses on each side of the lighthouse are used as vacation cottages. The lighthouse is in need of attention for the prevention of rust and the replacement of broken and missing parts. The glass on the tower dome has been broken out and the structure is in need of general maintenance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1872 - 73

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bureau of Lighthouses

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Point Bolivar Lighthouse is significant because it is one of the few nineteenth-century lighthouses remaining on the Texas Gulf Coast. The structure, a brick tower covered with cast iron plates, represents an unusual type of construction. The 1872 Point Bolivar Lighthouse was first lighted on November 19, 1873, and operated until it was discontinued on May 29, 1933. The light shined every night during its 60 years of service except for two, during the 1915 hurricane when a storm destroyed the oil house.

During the devastating Galveston Hurricane of 1900, the Point Bolivar Lighthouse withstood the savage winds and safely harbored about 125 refugees. Few other structures survived the 1900 onslaught.

In 1915, when winds reached an estimated 125 miles per hour and the lighthouse top swayed 12 inches from side-to-side, fifty people took refuge in the structure for two nights, sitting in pairs on alternating steps of the iron stairway. The tower vibrated so that the lens would not rotate, but the keeper turned it by hand until the oil supply washed away. In the midst of the storm, the sea forced open the lighthouse door, filling the base of the tower with approximately four feet of water. The crashing of waves against the structure added to the alarm of the refugees. The Point Bolivar Lighthouse continued to operate until 1933, when it was abandoned. The Federal government later sold the structure and surrounding property to a private individual.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Baughman, J. L. "Taps for Texas Lighthouses." n.p.: n.p., Sunday, June 29, 1952 [unidentified newspaper article].
- Halstead, Murat. Galveston: The Horrors of a Stricken City. n.p.: American Publishers' Association, 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>15</u>	<u>328520</u>	<u>3249720</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William L. Cumiford and Paul D. Hutchison, Research Assistants

ORGANIZATION

History of Engineering Program

DATE

10-13-76

STREET & NUMBER

Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 4089

TELEPHONE

(806) 742-3593

CITY OR TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas 79409

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 8, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Handwritten Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

2/18/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-16-77

OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 24 1977
DATE ENTERED	AUG 18 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Holland, Francis Ross, Jr. America's Lighthouses: Their Illustrated History Since 1716. Brattleboro, Vt.: Stephen Greene Press, 1972. pp. 149-152.

Lester, Paul. The Great Galveston Disaster. Philadelphia: Globe Bible Publishing Co., 1900.

Putnam, George R. Sentinel of the Coasts: Log of a Lighthouse Engineer. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1937. p. 350.

Duplicate

Ref # 77001445

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Point Bolivar lighthouse
Port Bolivar, TX
Galveston Co.

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: _____
Action: ACCEPT OE, IE, FF
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Condition
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent
<input type="checkbox"/> good
<input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> altered | Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
|--|---|--|---|

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO #1 of 2

Historic Name: Point Bolivar Lighthouse

Location: Point Bolivar, Tx., County of Gal-
veston

Photo Credit: History of Engineering Program,
11/30/75; negative filed at History of Engi-
neering Program, C.E. Dept., Tx. Tech Univ.

View: Looking across entrance to Galveston
Bay from Ft. Point, on the east end of Galves-
ton Island, towards Point Bolivar. Note Point
Bolivar Lighthouse at center of picture.

AUG 18 1977

FEB 24 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO #2 of 2

Historic Name: Point Bolivar Lighthouse

Location: Point Bolivar, Tx., County of
Galveston

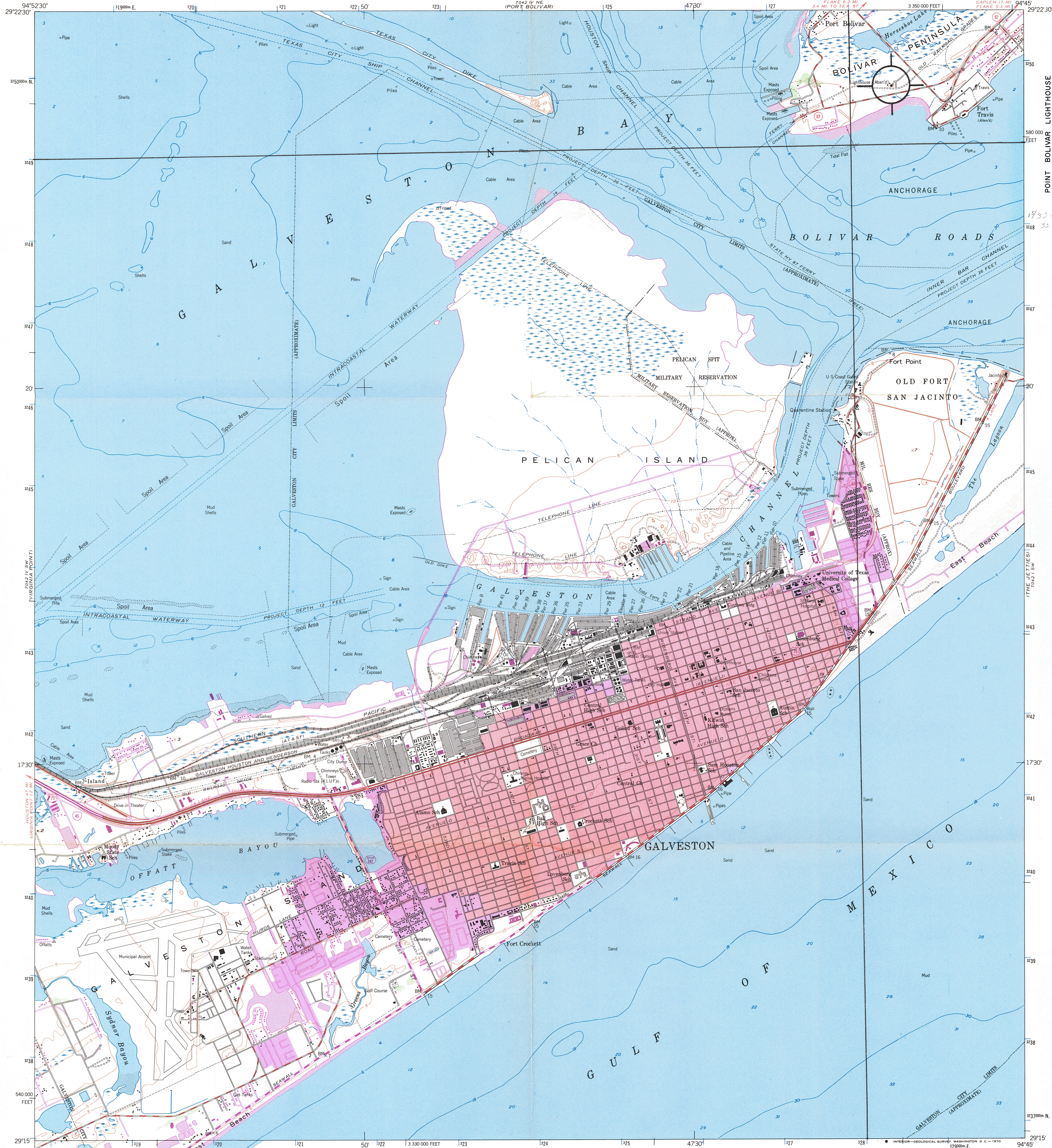
Photo Credit: History of Engineering Program;

Date of Photo: 11/30/75; Negative filed at
History of Engineering Program, C.E. Dept.,
Texas Tech University

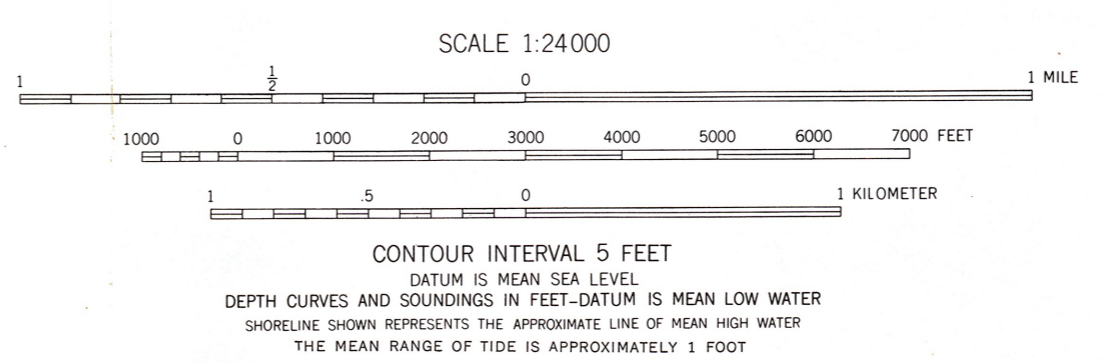
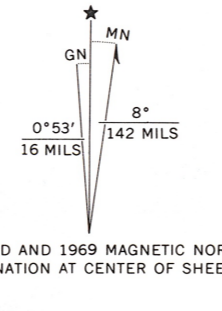
View: Looking north to the Point Bolivar
Lighthouse and associated housing structures

FEB 24 1977

AUG 18 1977



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS, USCE and TVA
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
and by planetable surveys 1943. Revised by photogrammetric
methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 520,886
and 1282 (1953)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
south central zone
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

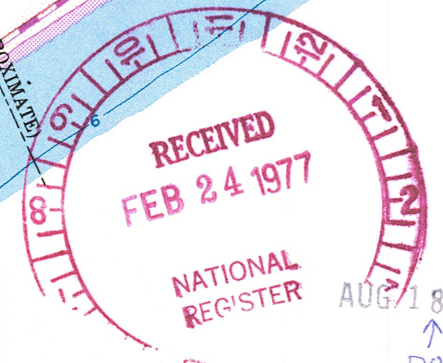
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



GALVESTON, TEX.
N2915-W9445.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1969. This information not field checked
1954
PHOTOREVISED 1969
AMS 7042 IV SE-SERIES V882
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



POINT BOLIVAR LIGHTHOUSE
1/4 MILE W. OF HWY. 2612 ON HWY. 87
PORT BOLIVAR, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE:
15/328520/3249720

1935 45 930
33 8-520

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered AUG 18 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Coryell County Courthouse	Gatesville Coryell County
Erath County Courthouse	Stephenville Erath County
Old Victoria County Courthouse	Victoria Victoria County
Point Bolivar Lighthouse	Fort Bolivar vicinity Galveston County
Val Verde County Courthouse and Jail	Del Rio Val Verde County
Galveston Seawall	Galveston Galveston County
Oliphant House	Milam vicinity Sabina County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd Bentsen
Hon. W. R. Poage
Hon. Omar Burleson
Hon. John Young
Hon. Jack Brooks
Hon. Robert C. Krueger
Hon. Charles Wilson

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 04-25-77
Reviewer INITIALS: MJL

NR / DOE AUG 18 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Point Bolivar Lighthouse

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER TX 87
CITY, TOWN Port Bolivar CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9th
STATE Texas 48 VICINITY OF COUNTY code
Galveston - 167

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - not applicable - 9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT - DETERIORATED - UNALTERED - ORIGINAL SITE
- GOOD - RUINS - ALTERED - MOVED
- FAIR - UNEXPOSED - Reconstructed - Unknown
- Unexcavated - Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- lighthouse

now-

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS
CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION INDUSTRY INVENTION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW/Gov't/politics LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
RELIGION SCIENCE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
entertainment health recreation settlement socio/cultural urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role
&
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1872-3

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1873-1933

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1/4

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

brick-lined masonry-iron tower
117' high

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

One of a few ~~left~~ remaining 19th c lighthouses on the Texas Gulf Coast