

PH0691348

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 16 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ARANSAS PASS LIGHT STATION

*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of Port Aransas on

CITY, TOWN

Harbor Island

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF

CODE
048

COUNTY

Aransas

CODE

007

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☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles C. Butt

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 9216

CITY, TOWN

Corpus Christi

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

78408

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk, Nueces County

STREET & NUMBER

Nueces County Court House, P.O. Box 2626

CITY, TOWN

Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Texas State Historical Marker

DATE

August 1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas State Historical Survey Committee

CITY, TOWN

O.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Aransas Pass Light Station comprises several historically significant buildings dating from 1857 to 1938. These structures reflect the history of the second oldest surviving lighthouse on the Texas Coast.

The light station property consists for nearly 25 acres, bounded on one side by Lydia Ann Channel of the Intracoastal Canal and on the other three sides by marsh land. The land is low, just a few feet above high tide, and consists of marsh grass and black mangroves. The nearest buildable land is across the Intracoastal Canal on San Jose Island. A bayou slices through the property and gives access to the station's structures. It is an integral part of the scene and any effort to widen it would have an adverse effect upon the historical setting of the light station.

Built in 1857, The Aransas Pass Light Station consisted of a brick light tower, a brick dwelling for one keeper and his family, a wharf, a privy, a cistern, and apparently a plank walk connecting the various structures. The station remained this way for the next thirty years when the Lighthouse Board erected a wooden dwelling for the assistant keeper, built a small storeroom, replaced the old wharf with a T-head wharf, installed a double privy for the single one, raised the walks off the ground five feet, and added two more cisterns. Eight years later, in 1895, the Board erected an oil house for the station.

In 1916 a devastating hurricane wrecked the station leaving only the light tower and the wooden dwelling, which was "badly damaged and wrenched," standing. Shortly afterwards the Lighthouse Service let a contract to repair the station. The work provided for the erection of a new privy, an oil house, raised walks, and a T-wharf, and a tile and stucco double dwelling. The work was slow in getting underway, but finally it did. As the contract neared completion another hurricane struck in 1919 and swept away the previously damaged assistant keeper's wooden dwelling, the new oil house, walks, wharf, and cisterns. The new tile and stucco double dwelling survived with but minor damage. Over the next couple of years the damaged station was repaired, and by 1922 the oil house had been rebuilt, the double privy replaced, the wharf and raised walks reconstructed, and the cisterns restored.

In 1928 the Lighthouse Service installed a radio beacon at the station and in the process erected a small wooden radio shack and a steel skeleton tower.

Five years later, 1933, the Service built a small wooden, two room dwelling for one of the assistant keepers, and in 1939 erected a wooden dwelling for the principal keeper and his family.

Today the light station consists of the double dwelling, the two wooden single dwellings, the light tower, the radio shack, the raised walks, the T-Wharf, the foundations of the oil house, the privy foundation and four concrete pads where the radio tower rested.

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PAGE TWO

Specific details of the surviving structures are as follows:

Double dwelling -- Built in 1916-1919, this tile and stucco building was originally two structures. One building was a four-room structure and the other was a few feet to the rear and had two rooms - both kitchens. Each was constructed of hollow tile covered with stucco. The interior of the four-room, or main building had a solid wall of hollow tile that ran lengthwise down the center. Another wall ran athwart the structure at the center, but this wall had a doorway through it in each apartment. In the center of the building was a chimney where the two walls would have normally crossed each other, and it provided four fireplaces, one for each room. Every room contained a clothes closet.

The kitchens were separated from the main building by a four foot space, but connected to it by a common roof and a gallery or breezeway. Each kitchen had a storeroom, a sink, and a flue for the cook stove. On the rear of the kitchen was a small porch that permitted access to the walkway that led to the privy.

The front or main building has a hip roof. It also has a porch on the front and two sides and the rear, or kitchen portion, has a gable.

Both buildings are eight feet off the ground, supported by steel I-beams and circular steel posts. The posts rest on creosoted wooden pilings that have been driven into the ground. A concrete apron was placed beneath the buildings.

Few changes have occurred to the exterior of the buildings. The only one is the enclosing with cedar planking of the area separating the two buildings, so that now there is one structure. The exterior, originally painted white, has been sand-blasted to soften it, so that today the exterior is basically unpainted stucco.

The interior has been adapted to modern use. A wide doorway has been punched in the wall connecting the two front rooms to give better access. The two kitchens have been made into bedrooms and their storerooms, converted to bathrooms in the 1930s, have in recent years been equipped with more modern fixtures. One room of the main building has been adapted for use as a kitchen. The interior of the structure has been finished in rough-cut cedar planks to give it a rustic appearance. The fireplace openings have been enlarged and the chimney has been faced with old bricks. The window casings have been retained, but have been left unpainted to blend in with the rustic appearance of the rooms.

Small Dwelling -- Living conditions at the light station were dreadfully crowded after 1919 as the station's complement grew. To relieve partially this condition, the Bureau of Lighthouses had erected in the summer of 1933 a small, plain, wood frame dwelling for one of the assistant keepers. Located near the light tower, this

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structure was about 21 feet long and 16 feet wide with a front porch five feet wide that ran the width of the building. The interior had three rooms -- one large and two small ones. In 1938 the Bureau extended the dwelling with an addition 29 feet long and 16 feet wide. The attachment was divided into two bedrooms of equal size.

The building rests on wooden creosoted posts strengthened by wooden braces. It is eight feet off the ground. It has a gable roof with a shed roof over the front porch. A walkway connects it to the double dwelling.

Today the building serves as guest quarters and a recreation area. The center wall of the new addition was moved in January 1972 to expand the forward bedroom to make it a more adequate game room. Originally white, the structure was sandblasted in the 1960s and then stained a grayish color.

Principal Keeper's Dwelling -- This dwelling is the newest one at the station. To relieve the crowded living conditions at the light station the Bureau of Lighthouses had a new dwelling erected in 1938. It was 41' x 25', outside dimensions, and had a large porch that runs across half the front and about three-quarters down the south side of the building. The house has a gable roof with an eave that continues over the porch on the side and projects with a gable off-set over the entrance.

It was a simple wood frame, two-bedroom structure painted white on its exterior. There has been no change to the dwelling, except that the exterior has been painted a light gray. Eight feet off the ground, the house rests on wooden piles strengthened by wood braces.

Radio Room and Radio Beacon Tower -- In the autumn of 1928 workmen began installing a radio fog signal system at the station. They erected a steel skeleton tower and rested each of its four legs on a low concrete footing. The workmen at the same time built a small wood frame radio room with gable roof that rested on wooden pilings and was twelve feet off the ground. It housed several radio transmitters, and sent out its first signal on January 9, 1929.

In 1934 the Bureau of Lighthouses had a small addition built on to the rear of the radio room.

The structure has a wide, double door entrance, two windows on the south side and a window and doorway on the north side. The porch of the double dwelling extends to the north door of the radio room.

Today the building is used as a tool room and its exterior and interior appears pretty much as it did during the active years of the station. Originally painted white on the exterior, today its exterior is light gray.

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Oil House -- The first oil house was built at the station in 1895. It was a brick structure and lasted until the hurricane of 1916. Rebuilt shortly afterwards, it succumbed to the hurricane of 1919. In 1922 the brick oil house was reconstructed.

This latter structure rested on a solid concrete foundation that raised the oil house eight feet off the ground. Hurricane Celia destroyed the oil house in 1970, and since that time the foundation has been converted to a barbecue area. A brick wall has been built on top of the outer edges of the foundation and wooden benches have been installed. A barbecue grill has been placed on the foundation; the station's flag pole is also there. Normal access is by the wooden boardwalk -- but in addition there is a small stairway that has been built in recent years onto the north side of the foundation, thus providing access to the barbecue area from the ground.

Light Tower and Lantern -- The light tower is an octagonal brick structure resting on a concrete foundation that in turn sits upon a base of wooden cribbing on piles. All the wooden portion is below low water level, thus insuring that the wood would be wet at all times and, consequently, helping in its preservation. The brick masons erected a tapered octagonal tower that was surmounted by a metal lantern of the fourth order. The top of the lantern was sixty feet above the ground. The lantern contained a fourth order fixed fresnel lens. A spiral stairway with a metal center post and cast iron treads that had one end embedded in the interior wall of the tower was the sole access to the lantern from the ground.

During the civil War Confederate soldiers attempted to destroy the tower by blowing off its upper portion. They damaged the top twenty feet and in 1867 the federal government repaired the tower by removing the top twenty feet and re-laying the brick. The metal center post of the spiral stairway was damaged and the workmen removed the top ten or so feet of it and replaced that segment with a wooden pole of the same diameter. A lampist installed a fourth order fixed fresnel lens.

At some point, possibly in 1919, the Lighthouse Service had the lower exterior metal portion of the lantern plastered with a thick layer of cement, probably in an effort to prevent moisture and salt from rusting the metal.

When the light went out of service in 1952, the tower and lantern received no maintenance and the spiral stairway deteriorated. In 1972 the present owner restored the stairway, removed the rust and repainted the lantern, and repointed the brickwork. Most of the treads of the stairway were deteriorated beyond use, and the owner had new ones cast. The interior of the tower today has its historic appearance except for the introduction of a small plastic handrail to assist climbing the stairs. The metal door at the entrance was blown away in a hurricane in 1972 and has since been replaced by a small wooden door. The interior is painted the traditional white, and the exterior is unpainted as it historically has been.

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Wharf -- Though the light station must have always had a wharf, the first description of one occurred in 1887 when workmen erected a "T Head wharf at Bayou 15' x 20' resting on 9 cypress posts 8" x 16' long, walk and wharf all planked with 2' x 12' pine plank, built one boat landing at end of wharf 8' x 9' connected by steps" The wharf was repaired from time to time and probably no original timber remains, but it retains the configuration described in 1887.

Walks -- The first mention of walks at the light station was in 1867 when repairmen laid a plank walk "from the dwelling to the tower." In 1887 workmen erected an "elevated walk three feet wide." The walk, planked with 2" x 12" pine boards, was five feet off the ground. These walks were destroyed in the hurricane of 1916 and were rebuilt the following year, five feet "above the marsh level." Destroyed in another hurricane two years later, the walks were again reconstructed in 1922 at the same height. At least by the early 1900's the walks had handrails.

In 1972, the walks were once again reconstructed, five feet off the ground and probably on the same piling that supported the previous walk. Handrails with cross bracing were placed on each side of the walks. The wooden plank walk runs from the tower to the wharf in front of the three dwellings and the radio room. One set of stairs near the radio room descends to the ground. A branch of the walk extends perpendicular from it to the foundation of the old oil house (now barbecue area).

Privies -- Outhouses, through the years, have been located at several different points at the light station. The only remnant of one today is the foundation of the last one, a double privy which had one side marked "Men" and the other "Women". The solid brick foundation, roughly 7 feet wide, 11 feet long and 5 feet high is situated a few feet behind the double dwelling.

Cisterns -- Cisterns have always been at light station, the number at any one time depended upon the number of people residing there. Today the station has five surviving cisterns still in use. Made of cypress planks held together with heavy iron bands and resting on pilings the cisterns are twelve feet off the ground and are still in service. It was impossible to stop their leaking and the present owner had the interior of each lined with fibreglass so they would be serviceable.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1857 - 1952

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

U.S. Lighthouse Board

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first aid to navigation on the Texas coast was a lightvessel which was placed at Galveston in 1849. In the 1850s the federal government began erecting lighthouses to assist the mariner as he approached or coasted along the Texas shores. The first towers were at Bolivar Point at Galveston Bay and Pass Cavallo on Matagorda Island. The following year the Lighthouse Board erected towers at Point Isabel and at Brazos Santiago near the Mexican border. Then in 1854 the Board placed three small screwpile lighthouses in Galveston Bay. Three years later the Board completed and lighted a brick light tower at Aransas Pass near Corpus Christi. Of these first lights on the Texas coast only two -- Point Isabel and Aransas Pass -- survive.

Though today it is the second oldest lighthouse on the Texas coast, the Aransas Pass Light Station remained in service for a far longer period of time than did Point Isabel, going out of service in 1952, some 47 years after Point Isabel was extinguished for the last time. Moreover, Aransas Pass Light Station survives almost as it was during its active years; the oil house and the radio beacon are the only structures that do not stand today. All that remains of Point Isabel is the tower.

The Aransas Pass Light Station came into being in 1857. The need for a light at Aransas Pass had been long recognized. In 1851 Congress authorized a light there and the officer sent to locate a site for one recommended a lightship for the pass. In 1852 the group of officers and scientists that shortly thereafter came to constitute the Lighthouse Board urged that a light be placed at Aransas Pass, and the following year, after the Board had received responsibility for this country's aids to navigation, it dispatched Lt. Commanding H. S. Stellwagen to that area to locate a site for a light station. Feeling that a light was required at the pass to permit vessels to navigate safely the pass and to provide coasting vessels an "invaluable ... landmark on a coast where there is so much sameness as to make it almost impossible to distinguish one place from another," he recommended placing the light station "on the small island back of the pass" where it could serve both as a coastal guide and an aid to cross the Aransas Pass Bar.

The island "back of the pass" where the light station was placed was then called Low Island. In time its name was changed to Harbor Island. Composed primarily of black mangrove and marsh grass, the island was but a foot or two above the surrounding water. On a higher portion of the island, the Lighthouse Service marked off 25 acres and erected a light tower and a keeper's dwelling. Though the Lighthouse Board began taking steps to build the light station in 1853, the station was not completed until 1857.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

F. R. Holland, Jr., The Aransas Pass Light Station:

A History

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 23.8

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 4 6 9 1 6 0 0 3 0 8 3 4 8 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1 4 6 9 1 5 0 0 3 0 8 3 2 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1 4 6 9 1 1 6 0 3 0 8 3 3 4 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 1 4 6 9 1 3 0 0 3 0 8 3 6 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A bayou slices through the light station property, passing by the station's wharf. The bayou enters the property from Lydia Ann Channel. From the center of the Bayou's entrance proceed south along Lydia Ann Channel for approximately 400 feet to a 6"xx 6" stone post marked "U.S.L.H.E." Then proceed west about 1038 feet; then north 1006 feet; and then east for 1038 feet, back to Lydia Ann Channel. From this point then proceed south along Lydia Ann Channel 1006 feet back to the stone post marked U.S.L.H.E.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Texas		Aransas	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

F. R. Holland, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

30 Strawberry Hill Road

TELEPHONE

617-263-1319

CITY OR TOWN

Acton

STATE

Massachusetts

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

[Signature] 2-11-77

TITLE

Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

8-3-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-29-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Apparently first lighted on July 15, 1857, the light station exhibited its light from the top of a cylindrical brick tower that through its active life remained unpainted. A white light emanated from a fourth order, fixed fresnel lens.

It soon became obvious that the lantern and lens needed protection from flying birds attracted by the bright light. In September 1857, the Board authorized the placing of a wire netting around the lantern to prevent the birds from damaging the lens.

The advent of the Civil War brought a cessation of the light off the Aransas Pass Lighthouse. During the war the light tower served as a day mark to blockading Federal vessels, at times as a target for navy gunners, and as a viewing platform for Union sailors. Captain J. W. Kittredge, USN, plied the waters in the vicinity of the lighthouse attempting to disrupt Confederate water borne traffic behind Texas' barrier islands. During this period he visited the lighthouse several times, and on occasion used the tower as a viewing platform. Kittredge also led the Union forces in the Battle of Corpus Christi.

Captured later by the Confederates, Kittredge was paroled and had to leave the scene where he had been the scourge of Confederate shipping traffic.

With the threat of an impending invasion of Texas by water, the Commander of Confederate forces in Texas ordered the disabling of the Aransas Pass light tower, for he feared it would be advantageous for Union spotters. A few days after Christmas, 1862, Confederate soldiers went to the light tower and with black powder blew off its top.

Toward the end of the war, the Lighthouse Board made fitful efforts to re-light the lighthouse. But actual work on the tower did not begin until February, 1867. When they began their labors the workmen had to rebuild the top twenty feet of the tower. After completing their work, the workmen re-installed a fourth order, fixed lens in the tower's lantern. The keeper relighted the lighthouse on the evening of July 15, 1867.

For the next eighty-five years, the Aransas Pass light guided shipping along the Texas Coast and through Aransas Pass. The off-springs of a number of Texas pioneer families who settled the nearby barrier islands of St. Joseph and Mustang served over the years as keepers and assistant keepers of the light station.

Through the years the station grew and evolved. By 1940 it had quarters for four families and had a radio beacon. During the years hurricanes swept over the station, and on at least two occasions these storms destroyed the homes of the keepers. At one of these times the keeper was cited for keeping the light burning during the severe hurricane.

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In the meantime Aransas Pass moved steadily southward and by 1962 the light was no longer as effective as it had been to incoming and outgoing traffic. Consequently, the Coast Guard moved the light to a steel skeleton tower adjacent to the pass.

The light station afterwards did not receive attention and it fell into disrepair. In 1955 the Coast Guard turned the lightstation over to GSA and that agency put the property up for sale. After that it went through several hands until 1971 when Charles C. Butt of Corpus Christi acquired it.

Though some work had been done on the double quarters by a previous owner, Mr. Butt found the light station generally in a poor state of repair. He undertook extensive repairs to the station, rehabilitating the several quarters, repairing the light tower, and restoring the tower's stairs. By 1973 all the structures were in an excellent state of repair, and they have been kept that way to the present.

For 95 years the Aransas Pass Light Station witnessed the growth of maritime traffic along the Texas coast and in the Aranssas Pass-Corpus Christi area. The light tower is the oldest surviving structure in the vicinity of Arnasas Pass, and today it stands as a symbol of the growth and development of seafaring activities along that section of the Texas coast and to the growth and development the area experienced as a result of that activity.

Property Aransas Pass Light Station

State Texas

Working Number 216.77.285

Aransas
77001423

TECHNICAL

Photos 6

Maps 1, sketch

Revised ~~plans~~ cont. sheets

CONTROL

2.17.77

HISTORIAN

accept
LB Franklin
4.25.77

Acres is excessive (25 acres) but tied to identified boundaries + this is marsh land anyway, so-

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Lebovich
4.21.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

An important structure in Texas' transportation history. Definitely eligible for NR.

HAER

Inventory accept

Review accept

6/27/77 Donald C. Jackson

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
Cole
7-21-77

BRANCH CHIEF

Harrison
7.22.77

KEEPER

Wm
8/3/77

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

9.6.77

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

AUG 3 1977

INT:2106-74



PHOTO 9

822

Photo No. 1

Aransas Pass Light Station
Harbor Island, Port Aransas, Aransas Co.,
Texas

Kay Franklin, June 1976
Neg. filed: Charles C. Butt, P.O. Box 9216
Corpus Christi, Texas

Aransas Pass Light Station and its
setting. Looking west. Structures left
to right: Keeper's dwelling, radio room,
double dwelling, assistant keeper's
dwelling, and light tower.

AUG 3

1977

Photo #1 of 6

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Photo No. 2

Aransas Pass Light Station
Harbor Island, Port Aransas, Aransas Co,
Texas

FEB 16 1977

Kay Franklin, June 1976
Charles C. Butt, P.O. Box 9216,
Corpus Christi, Texas

Buildings of Aransas Pass Light Station,
looking west. Structures left to right
are: Keeper's dwelling, radio room, doubl
double dwelling, assistant keeper's
dwelling, and light tower. Note raised
walk. The flagpole is on foundation of
the oil house. PHOTO #246

AUG 3 1977

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Photo No. 3

Aransas Pass Light Station
Harbor Island, Port Aransas, Aransas Co,
Texas

Kay Franklin, June 1976
Charles C. Butt, P.O. Box 9216,
Corpus Christi, Texas

FEB 16 1977

Rear of buildings at Aransas Pass Light Station. Looking east. Structures left to right are: Assistant Keeper's dwelling, double dwelling, radio room, and keeper's dwelling. Note the four cisterns.

PHOTO #3 ^{4/6}

AUG 3 1977

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Harbor Island, Port Aransas, Aransas Co.
Texas

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Kay Franklin, June 1976
Charles C. Butt, P.O. Box 9216,
Corpus Christi, Texas

Light tower of Aransas Pass Light Station
looking east. Building to left of tower
is the assistant keeper's dwelling.
Note corner of double dwelling.

PHOTO #4 *76*

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Aransas Pass Light Station
Harbor Island, Port Aransas, Aransas Co.,
Texas

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Kay Franklin, June 1976
Charles C. Butt, P.O. Box 9216,
Corpus Christi, Texas

Looking north down raised boardwalk to
light tower. Building to left in
foreground is the Keeper's dwelling.
Next building down is the radio room.

PHOTO #5 *ab6*

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APR 1964

Aransas Pass Light Station
Harbor Island, Port Aransas, Aransas Co.,
Texas

Kay Franklin, June 1976
Charles C. Butt, P.O. Box 9216,
Corpus Christi, Texas

View looking south from top of light tower
tower. Building to right is the Keeper's
dwelling. Note wharf and bayou.

PHOTO #6 *86*

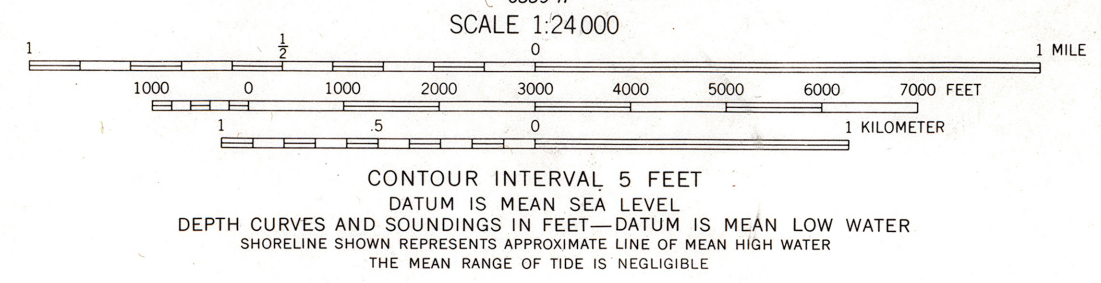
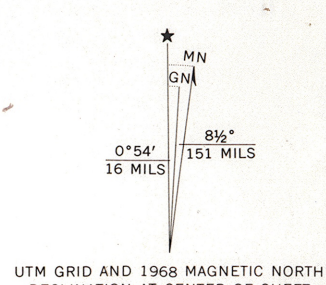
AUG 3 1977

FEB 16 1977

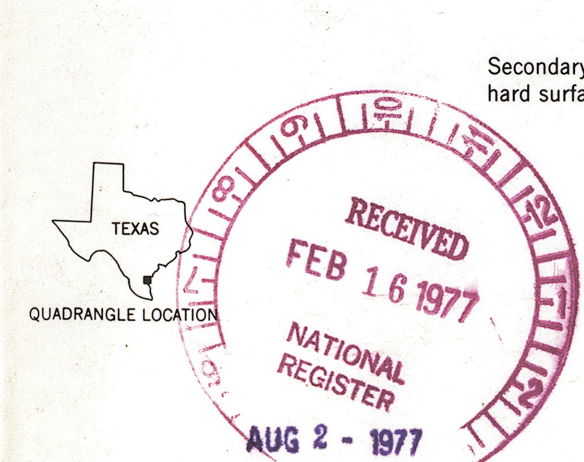
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Supersedes map dated 1954
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS chart 523 (1969)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Texas coordinate system, south and south central zones
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Water stages in this area vary with meteorological conditions
Approximate limits of occasional inundation shown by dashed blue lines where mean high water is undetermined for lack of visual evidence
Dotted blue lines indicate the approximate limits of low water



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

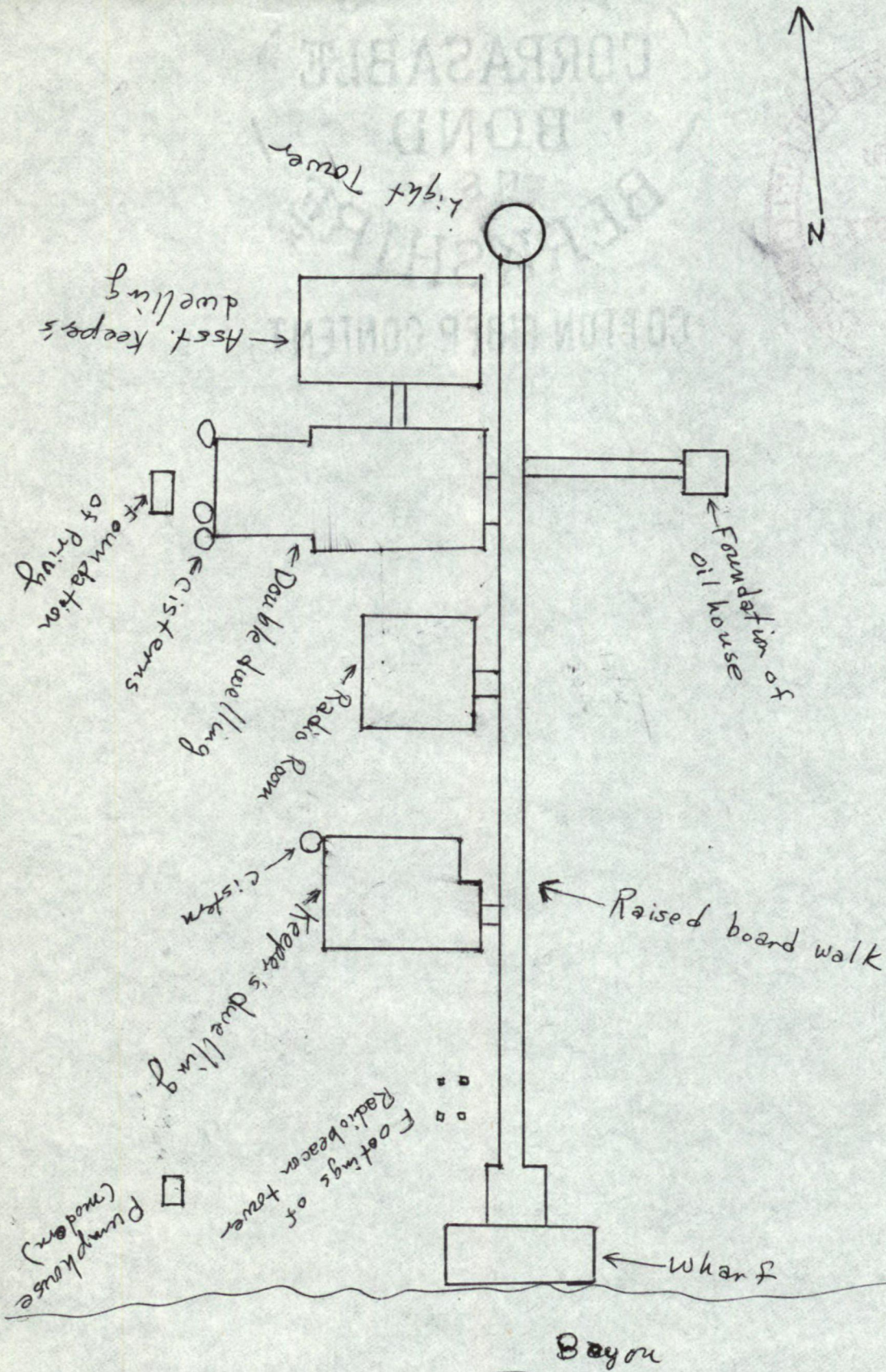


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Secondary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather, hard surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

PORT ARANSAS, TEX.
SE/4 ARANSAS PASS 15' QUADRANGLE
N2745—W9700/7.5
1968
AMS 6539 I SE—SERIES V882

Rough sketch of layout of the old Aransas Pass Light Station

Aransas Co. TX



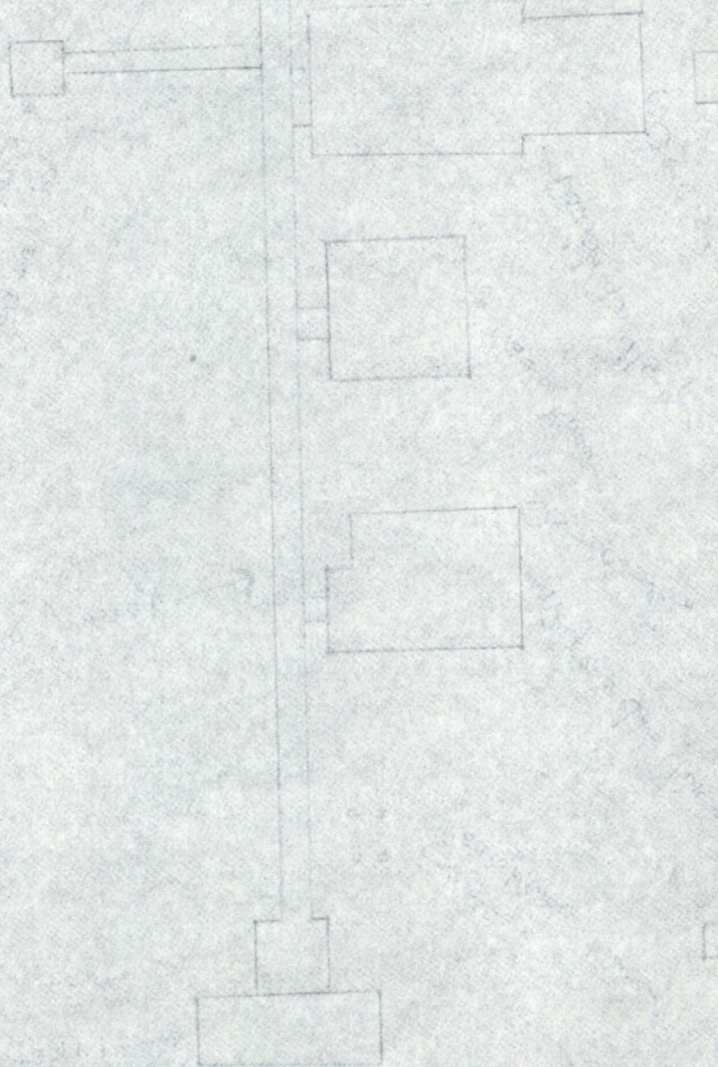
AUG 3 1977



CORRASABLE
BOND

BEARSHIP

COTTON FIBER CONTENT



EATON'S

CHARLES BUTT

April 13, 1977

Dear Dr. Murtagh,

I understand the implications of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 on National Register properties.

Expedite

Re. 2-1677

I own the Aransas Pass Light Station near Port Aransas, Texas and waive my right to comment on its nomination for listing in the National Register.

Sincerely,

Charles Butt

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets
Washington, D.C. 20240

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE	<u>4/22/77</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RESPONSE (ATTACHED)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR FURTHER MATERIAL SENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR REVIEW (ATTACHED)
DATE OF REVIEW	<u>4-27-77</u>
INITIALS	<u>EJ</u>

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered AUG 3 1977

Name

Aransas Pass Light Station

Location

Port Aransas vicinity
Aransas County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. John Young
Regional Director,
Southwest Region

880 MMott/rjs 8/5/77

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: April 21, 1977
 Reviewer INITIALS: Lebovich
 NR DOE

AUG 3 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

Aransas Pass Light Station

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

N of Port Aransas on Harbor Island

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

14th

VICINITY OF Port Aransas

STATE Texas

48

COUNTY

code

Aransas

07

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

- ☒ Substantially intact-1
- ☐ unknown - 4
- ☐ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-2
- ☐ unknown - 5
- ☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

- ☒ Substantially intact-3
- ☐ unknown - 6
- ☐ Not applicable-9

CONDITION -

- ☒ EXCELLENT
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ FAIR

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

- ☐ DETERIORATED
- ☐ RUINS
- ☐ UNEXPOSED
- ☐ Unexcavated

- ☒ UNALTERED
- ☐ ALTERED
- ☐ Reconstructed
- ☐ Excavated

- ☒ ORIGINAL SITE
- ☐ MOVED
- ☐ Unknown

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- residential/transportation

now- residential

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: N/A

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): 1857-1938

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

23.8

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Wharf, pump house (modern), boardwalk, light tower, dwellings, caddis
foundations of oil house + pump
with exception of light tower, structures are elevated
wooden structures.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Light tower is the oldest surviving structure in the
vicinity of Aransas Pass, stands as a symbol of the
growth + development of seafaring activities along Texas coast