

CT-65
Cove Point Lighthouse
Lighthouse Boulevard (MD 497)
Cove Point
Federal

1828

The Cove Point Lighthouse is a conical brick tower rising 51' above the ground. Its walls are over 30" thick at the base. It has a nominal range (the maximum distance at which the light may be seen in clear weather) of 21 miles and 150,000 candle-power lamp. It has a flashing white beacon. The lighthouse has a radio beacon and a horn as well. The entrance to the lighthouse is on the west side. Two 6/6 sash windows pierce the north side of the tower, one near the bottom and one near the top, and a single 6/6 sash window pierces the south side of the tower, about half way up. A balcony with an iron railing encircles the top of the lighthouse. The brick tower was covered with stucco in 1953. The circular lantern, with cast-iron mullions supported by a masonry wall and surrounded by an 18" stone deck and cast iron railing, has triangular panes of glass and is painted black. The interior floor of the lantern is formed of a single iron plate. The interior winding staircase is constructed of triangular wooden treads with a hole on the interior side of each tread through which a central wooden column is threaded. The outward side of each tread is fitted directly into the masonry of the tower as is a narrow handrail which appears to be original. Next to the stairwell column a square shaft, also running from the ground level to the lantern, houses the counterweights of the original winding mechanism. The lightkeeper's house, located immediately to the west of the lighthouse, was raised to two stories in 1883, providing three additional rooms. This square brick

building is four bays by three bays, with a pyramidal hip roof and large gabled dormers with two 6/6 sash windows each. Windows on the first and second floors are 8/8 sash. Doors, covered by shed-roofed vestibules reached by a flight of steps, appear in the outer bays of the four-bay facades. A small 1901 gable-front frame shed, one bay wide by two deep, stands to the south of the lighthouse. Centered on the peak of the west gable end of its roof is a large fog bell supported by a bracketed frame. The entrance to the shed, covered by paneled shutters, consists of a double door in the west end. Windows, two each on the north and south facades, and one on the east gable end, are 4/4 sash with a single paneled shutter. The roof is standing seam metal. The shed originally housed a blower siren and machinery.

One of twelve lighthouses built in Maryland by John Donohoo, the Cove Point Lighthouse has served as a navigational aid on the Chesapeake Bay since its construction in 1828. It is the oldest light on the Maryland shore of the Chesapeake Bay. In the 1820s, the United States realized the importance of erecting navigational aids on the Bay. The State of Maryland granted the Federal government the right of jurisdiction over the property they had already purchased. Originally, the lighthouse used eleven lamps with eleven 18" reflectors. On June 12, 1855, the lighthouse was equipped with a fifth-order Fresnel lens, which exhibited a fixed light, varied by flashes. In 1897, a fourth-order Fresnel lens replaced the lamps and reflectors. This lens had a weight-driven rotation mechanism. The light was fully electrified in 1907. Though automated since 1986, the light still functions, and the houses at the station

serve as quarters for several Coast Guard personnel who work nearby. The Cove Point station has had a fog signal for many years, the first in 1834. This bell lasted until 1858, when it was considered worn out and was replaced by a new bell and striking apparatus. In 1880 the first of a series of bell towers was built. Fashioned at the Lazaretto Depot, the first tower lasted seven years before it had to be replaced. In 1898 an iron fog bell tower, a square pyramidal structure 31' tall, was installed. This tower was removed in the spring of 1901 and replaced with another wood frame structure, this time on a brick foundation. This tower held a second class Daboll trumpet fog signal. The old fog bell, attached to a support on the roof, was retained for emergency use. In 1891, in response to erosion problems, the Lighthouse Board approved a substantial wooden seawall surrounding the house. The fog bell tower was also moved inland 16'. A seawall still protects the point from erosion.

CT-65

COVE POINT LIGHTHOUSE

1828

Of stone construction, now stuccoed and painted white, this structure is the oldest lighthouse extant in southern Maryland as well as one of the oldest in Maryland.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cove Point Lighthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cove Point, Lighthouse Boulevard (Maryland Route 497)

CITY OR TOWN:
Cove Point Beach

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24	COUNTY: Calvert	CODE: 009
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) lighthouse <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
**United States of America
Dept. of Transportation, U. S. Coast Guard**

STREET AND NUMBER:
5th District Commander, Federal Building, 431 Crawford Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portsmouth

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Calvert County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Prince Frederick

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Calvert
ENTRY NUMBER: FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cove Point Lighthouse is a white conical masonry tower rising 51 feet above the ground. It has a nominal range¹ of 21 miles and 150,000 candle-power lamp. It has a flashing white beacon. The lighthouse has a radio beacon and a horn as well.

The entrance to the lighthouse is on the west side. There is a window half way up the tower on the south. A balcony encircles the top of the lighthouse. The light is enclosed by glass.

The lightkeeper's house is located immediately to the west of the lighthouse.

¹Nominal range: the maximum distance at which the light may be seen in clear weather.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1828

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>navigation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cove Point Lighthouse has served as a navigational aid on the Chesapeake Bay since its construction in 1828. It is the oldest light on the Maryland shore of the Chesapeake Bay.¹ In the 1820's the United States realized the importance of erecting navigational aids on the Bay. The State of Maryland granted the federal government the right of jurisdiction over the property they had already purchased.²

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

¹Charles Francis Stein, History of Calvert County, Maryland, n.p. 1960, 151.

²Laws of Maryland 1826, Chapter 101

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Coast Guard. Light List. Vol. 1. The Atlantic Coast. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1962.

Laws of Maryland. 1826. Chapter 201.

Stein, Charles Francis. A History of Calvert County, Maryland. n.p.: the author, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	23'	10"	76°	22'	56"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: four acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nancy Miller, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Sept. 20, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland 21401** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer
for Maryland

Date Sept. 27, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

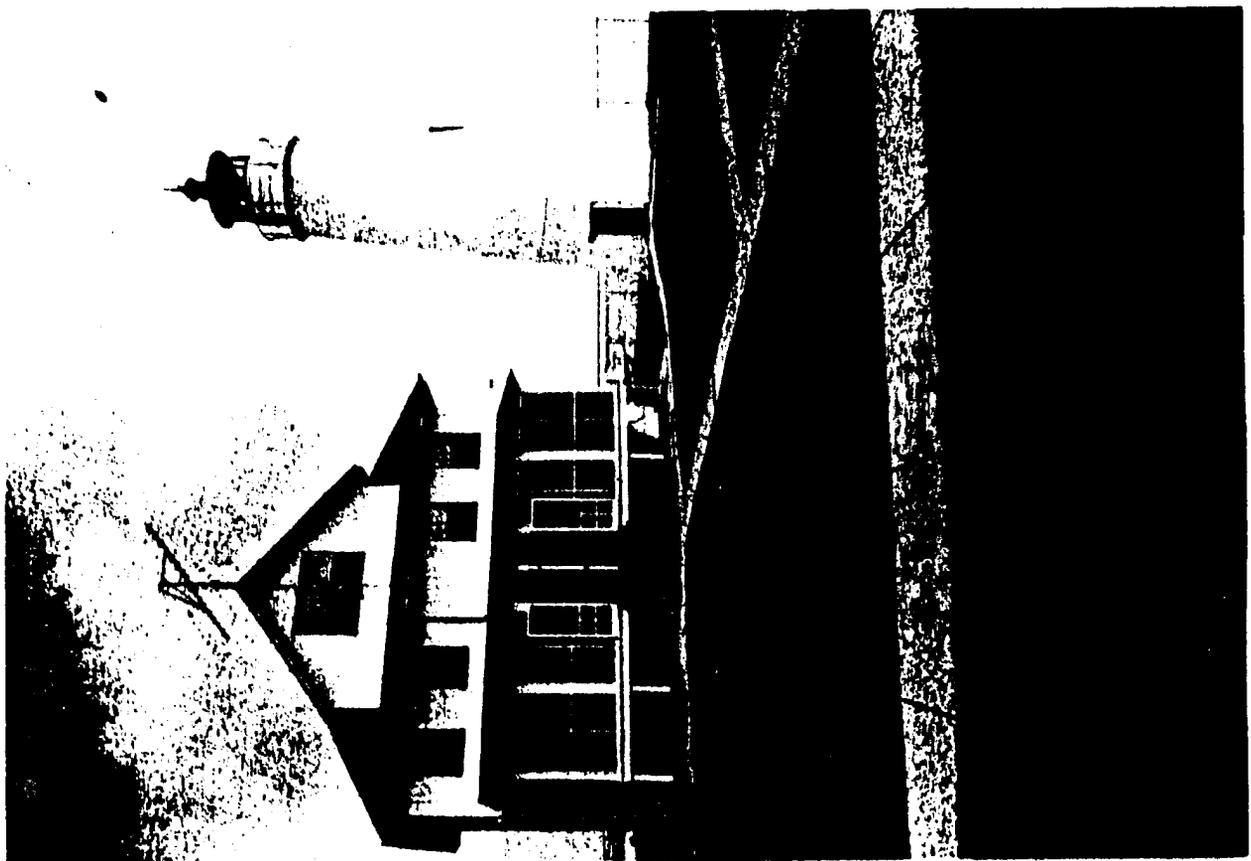
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Maryland	
COUNTY	
Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Cove Point Lighthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Cove Point			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Cove Point Beach			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Calvert	009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: David A. Gibb			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1967			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust			
2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
South elevation			

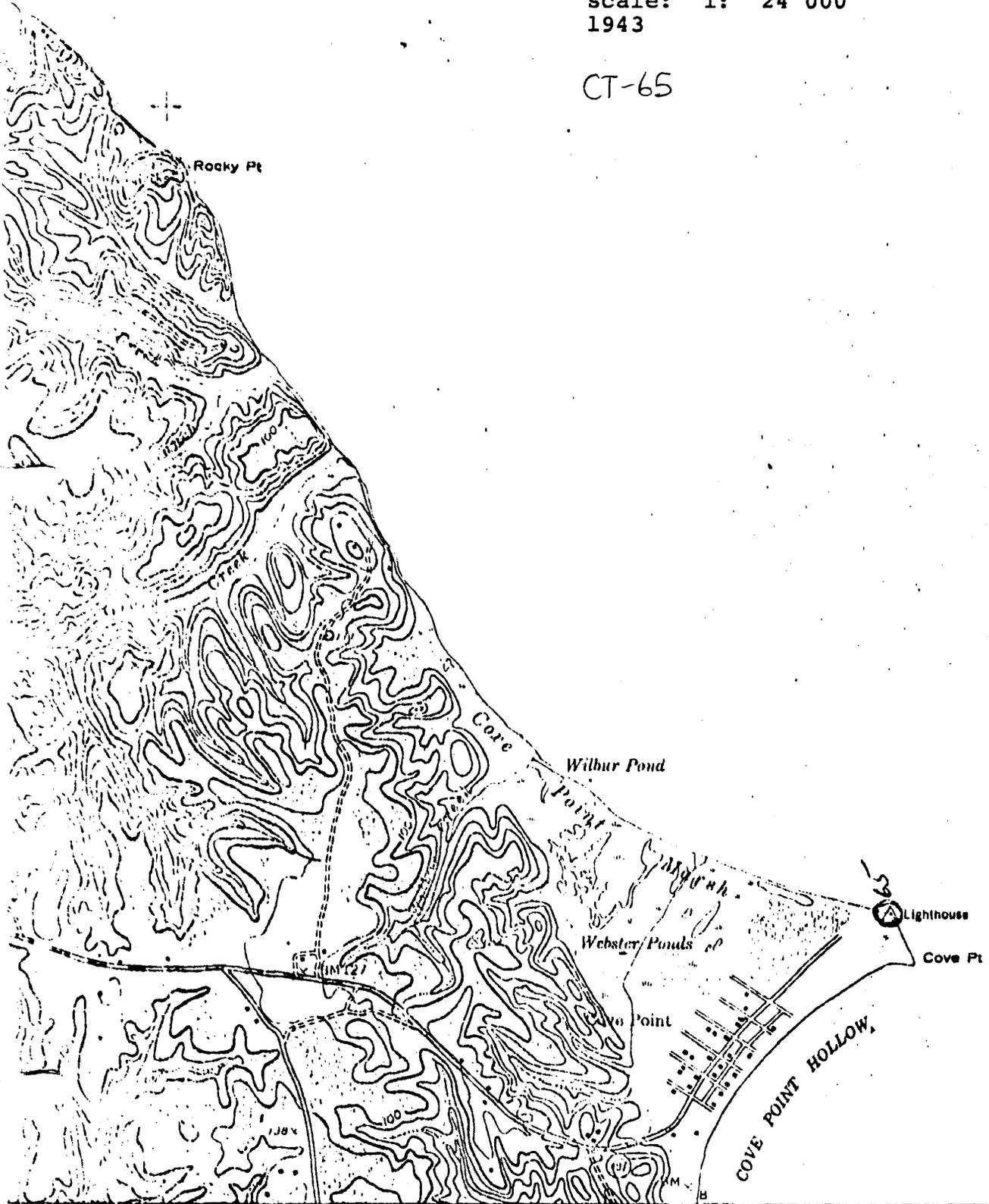
GPO 971-737



HT-65
CT-65

COVE POINT QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1943

CT-65



25'

4249000m N.

38°22'30"

379000m E.

75°22'30"





CT-65



COVE POINT LIGHTHOUSE
CT-65

