

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES  
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Anne Arundel  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY DATE: FEB 20 1975

1. NAME  
COMMON: Thomas Point Shoals Light Station  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER: Kent Island Chesapeake Bay  
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis  
STATE: Maryland  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First  
CODE: 24  
COUNTY: Anne Arundel  
CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

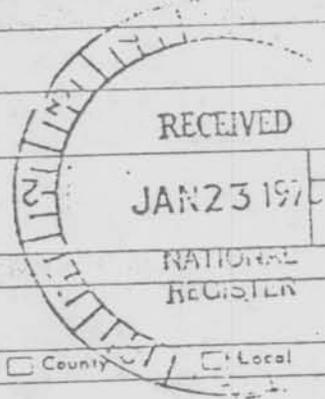
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Coast Guard Station</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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4. AGENCY  
Department of Transportation  
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)  
Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District  
CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth,  
STREET AND NUMBER: 431 Crawford Street  
STATE: Virginia  
CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Same as #4  
STREET AND NUMBER: Legal Department  
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY: None  
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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

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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
	(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

Thomas Point Shoals Light, standing at the confluence of the Severn River and Chesapeake Bay, is a hexagonal white wood frame house (18' on each side) supported on a steel framework of nine screw piles. These piles are so called because each is tipped with two blades arranged screw fashion.

The 1½ story house, with light tower and living quarters, is covered with moulded wood siding and a metal roof. The roof is topped with six large dormer windows and a steel octagonal cupola containing the light. The cupola panes are rectangular.

The lighthouse stands in seven feet of water between two areas of stone rip-rap. The height of the focal plane is 43 feet above mean low water. At its base is a steel snow-plowblade for deflecting the ice coming from the north or upper Chesapeake Bay.

The light source is now from a 250 watt electric bulb receiving primary power from an underwater cable. The original light source was probably a Kerosine lamp. The original fourth order fixed glass lens is intact. The brass frame is embossed with the name of the French manufacturer. The light characteristic is flashing white  $\frac{1}{6}$  sec. (1.0-5.0) with red sectors (011° to 051½° and 096½° to 202°). The rated intensity is 6000 candlepower and the range, 11.9 miles (white).

The fog signal, audible for two miles, is one two second blast every 15 seconds at a frequency of 300 Hz.

The lighthouse remains as built in 1875 with only minor and superficial alterations.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1875

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

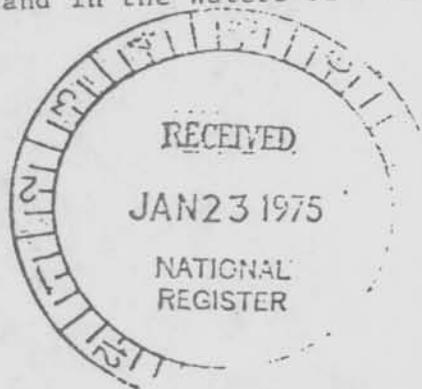
Designed by staff professionals of the U.S. Lighthouse Service, Thomas Point Lighthouse is the last of the manned screwpile, off-shore lights on the Chesapeake Bay. The principle of the screwpile design was first introduced in England in 1838 and later used in the United States in 1854. This method of anchoring a lighthouse was simple, effective, inexpensive and most appropriate for the sandy and muddy bottom of the Chesapeake Bay.

Constructed in 1875 the structure remains virtually intact. The splat baluster railings, the shaped dormer rafter projections and the steel octagonal cupola (bearing the inscription "Atlantic Steam Engine Works, Brooklyn, New York, 1875") are architectural features of interest.

Robert de Cast in The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake gives a date as early as 1825 for the establishment of a light at Thomas Point. The location was a narrow neck of land at the mouth of the South River which is now under water. Charts of the area show a lighthouse on the site as early as 1846. The present structure has stood on the shoal since commissioned on 20 November 1875.

The Thomas Point Lighthouse was built on five acres conveyed by the State of Maryland on 28 October 1874. The conveyance of a Use and Occupancy Deed from Governor James Black Groome was authorized by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly of 6 April 1874 which read: "An Act to provide for the relinquishment to the United States in certain cases of title to and jurisdiction over lands for sites of lighthouses, beacons and other aids to navigation, and for the protection of beacons, buoys and floating guides on the Coast and in the Waters of this State."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

De Gast, Robert, Lighthouses of the Chesapeake Bay (John Hopkins University Press).

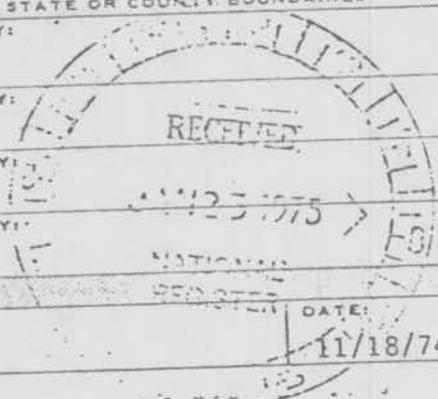
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"			
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	53'	55.861"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	North		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	76°	26'	10.417"
							West		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: FIVE

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
W. M. WHITTINGTON, Realty Specialist

BUSINESS ADDRESS:  
Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District

STREET AND NUMBER:  
431 Crawford Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth

PHONE:  
804 393-9304

STATE:  
Virginia 23705

DATE:  
11/18/74

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

*William C. Townsend*  
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local

*Robert C. ...* 1/20/75  
Federal Representative Signature Date

*DOT Federal Representative*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*R. R. Maxey*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/20/75

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-19-75

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Gottage

Arundel on the Bay

C  
H  
E  
S  
A

Creek

Thomas Point

Thomas Pt Shoal

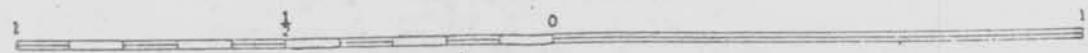
△ Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse

Maryland State Grid Coordinates  
X = 960,451.06  
Y = 388,532.61  
Latitude 38° 53' 55.861"  
Longitude 76° 26' 10.417"

ANNE ARUNDEL CO  
QUEEN ANNES CO

473 27' 30" 474 476 477 25'

SCALE 1:24000



1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET - DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85

10/25/85

view from water

Negative on file @ MHT



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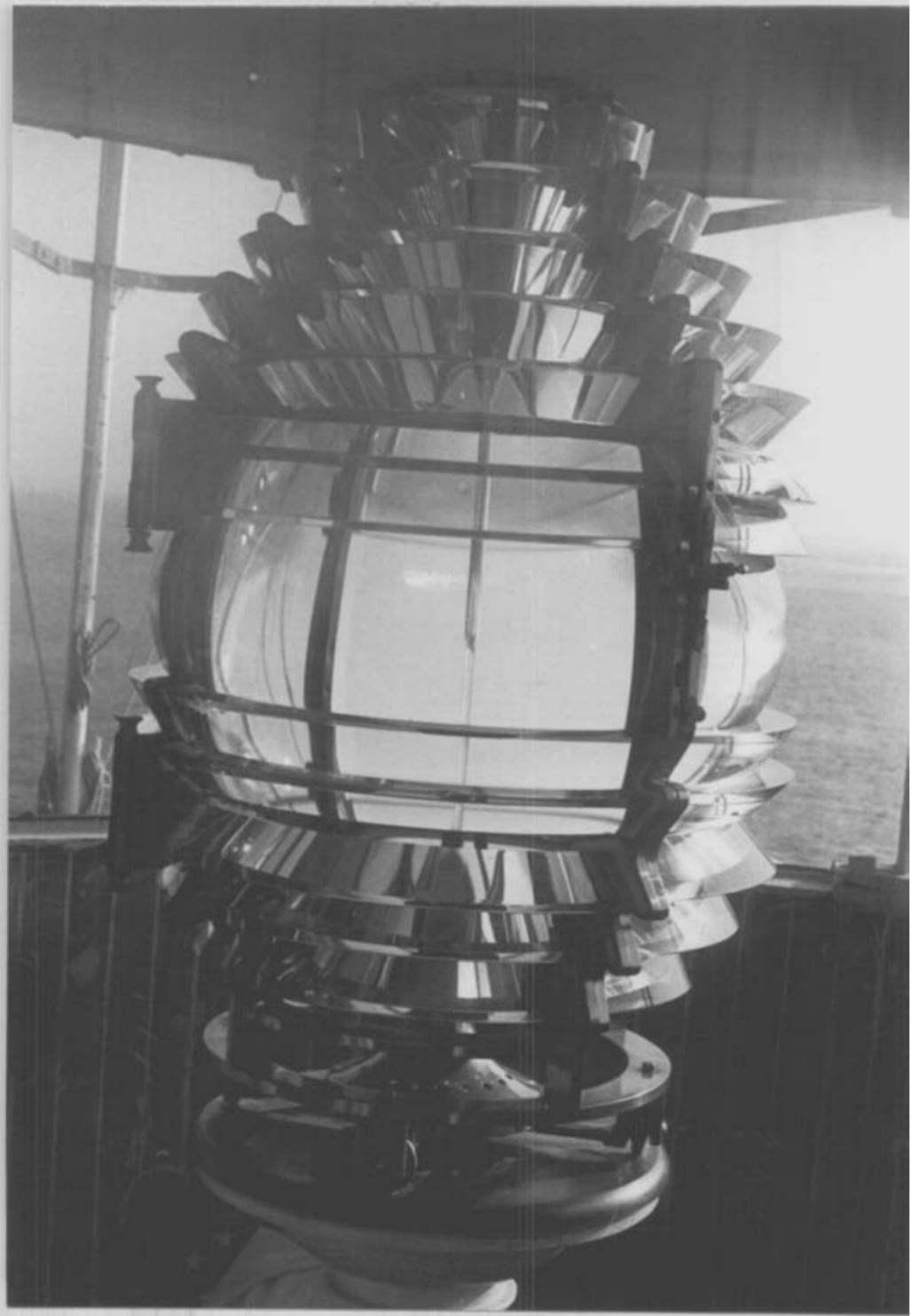
Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85

10/25/85

Cast iron ice breaker

Negative on file @MHT



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Fresnel lens in  
Thomas Point  
Lantern, Mark R  
Edwards. 185

10/25/85

Negative on file  
@ MHT



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Thomas Point Light

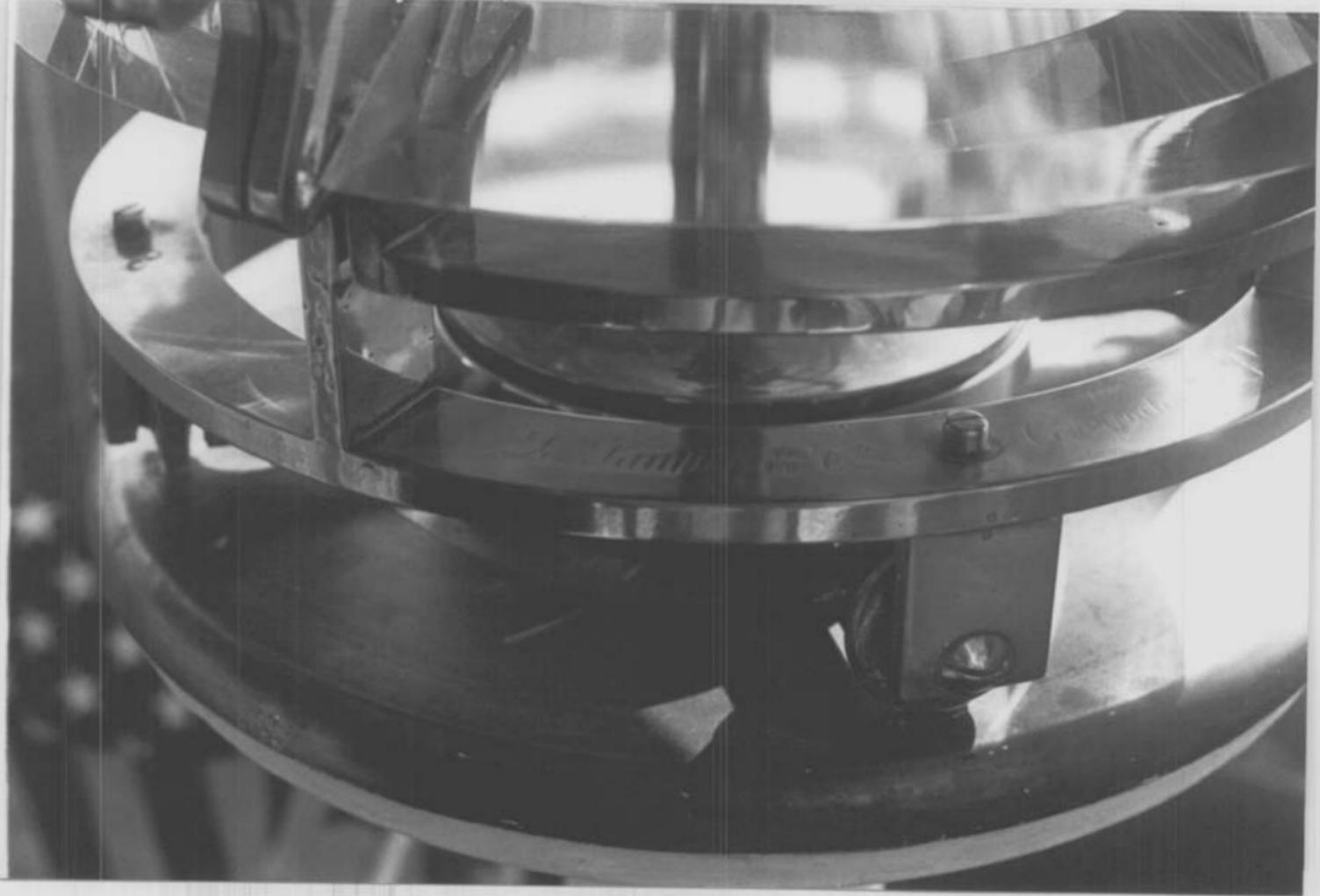
Pedestal supporting  
Fresnel lens in lantern

Mark Edwards '85

10/25/85

Negative on file

@MHT



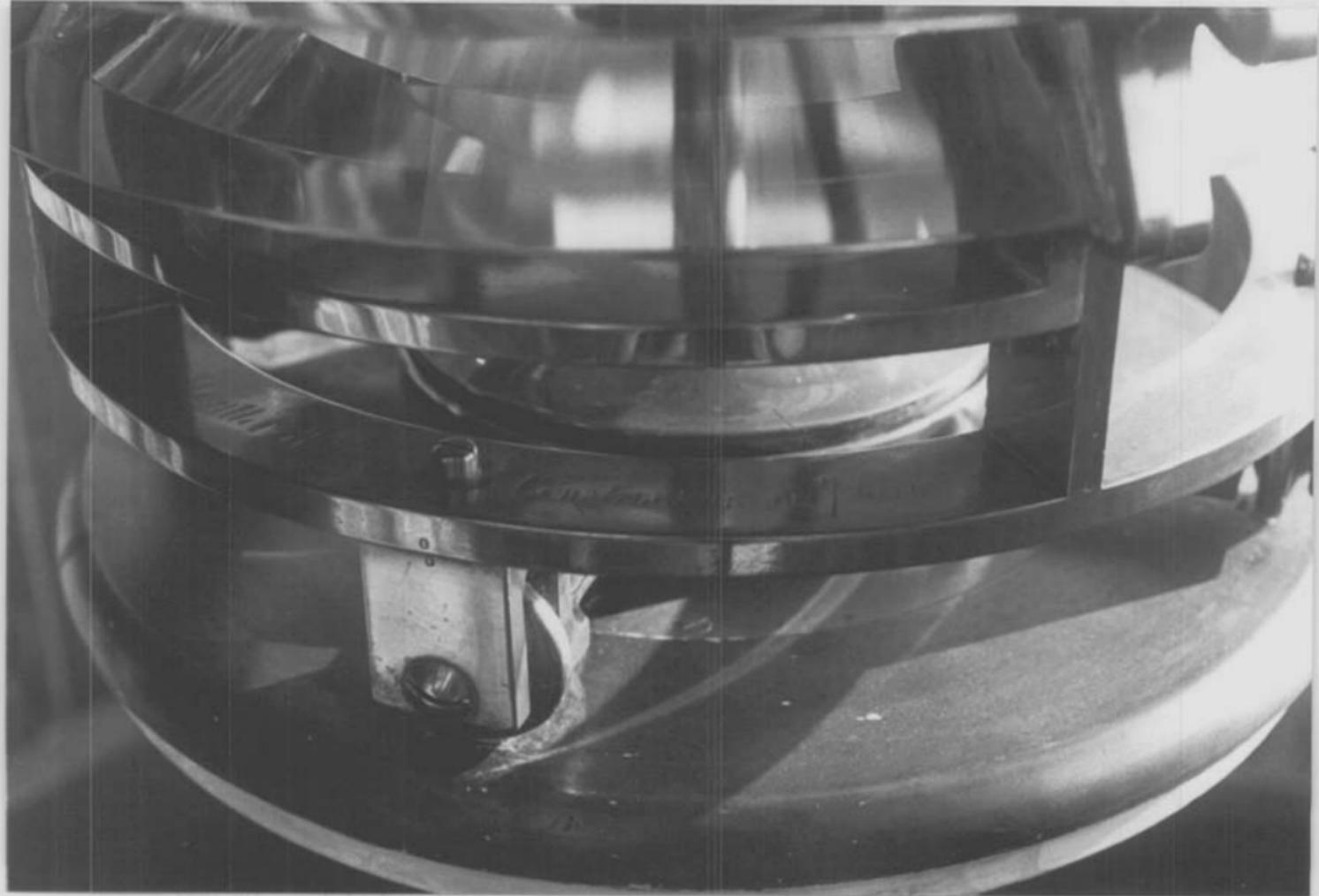
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Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards 85 10/25/85

Base of Fresnel lens in lantern w/  
engraved brass ring of Parisian  
manufacturer.

Negative on file @MHT



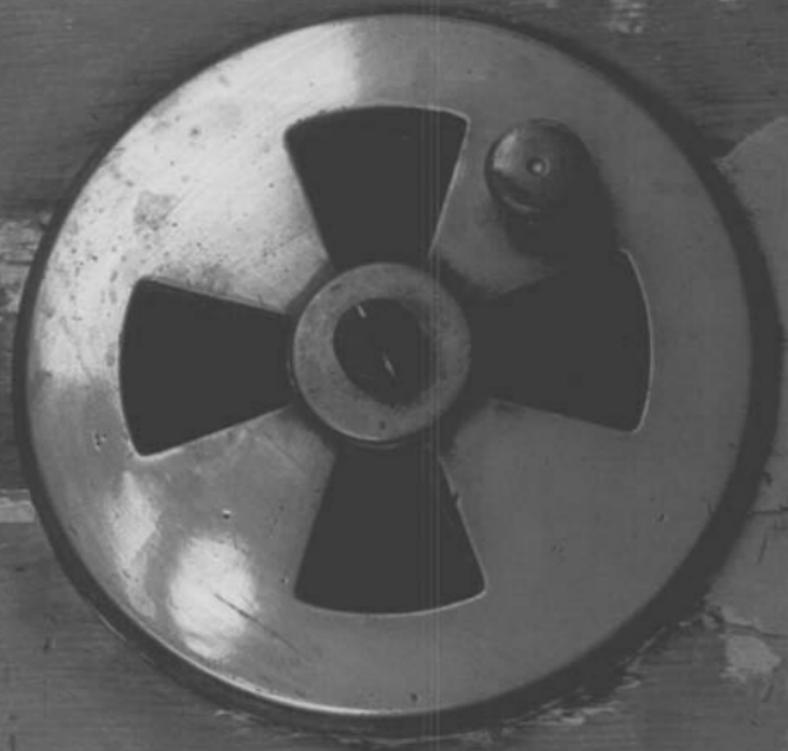
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Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85 10/25/85

Base of Fresnel lens in lantern  
w/engraved brass ring of  
Parisian manufacturer

Negative on file @ MHT



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Thomas Point light

Mark Edwards '85  
10/25/85

Interior of lantern;

Brass vent fitting

Negative on file @ RHT

ATLANTIC  
STEAM-ENGINE WORKS  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.  
1875.

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Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85 10/23/53

Plaque "Atlantic Steam Engine  
Works, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1875" on  
door leading into lantern.

Negative on file @ MHT



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Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85 10/25/85

Exterior metal vent/lightning rod.

Negative on file @ MHT



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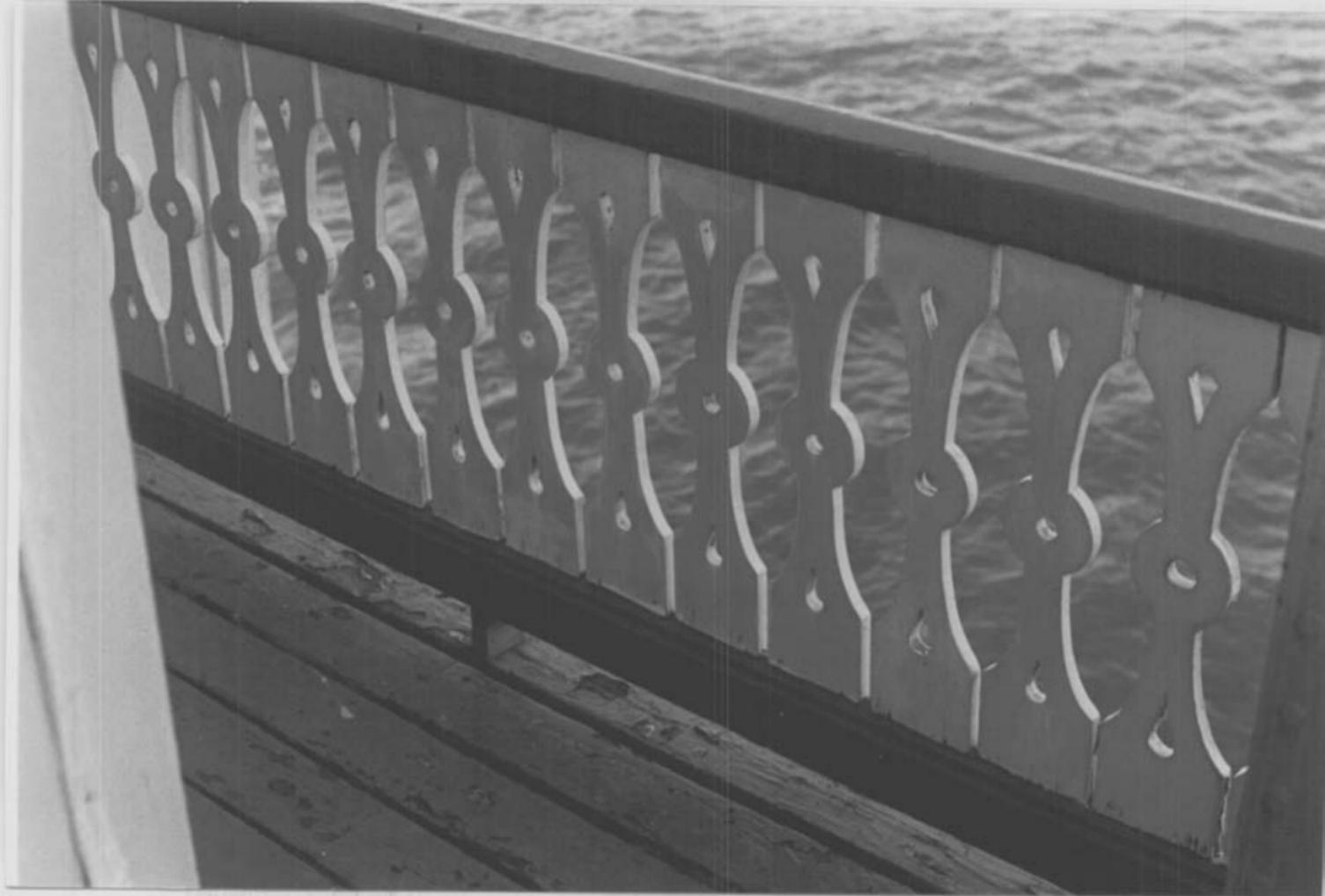
Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85 10/25/85

View of structural system  
connection.

Negative on file @ MHT

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Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85 10/25/85

Victorian railing, main level.

Negative on file @ MHT



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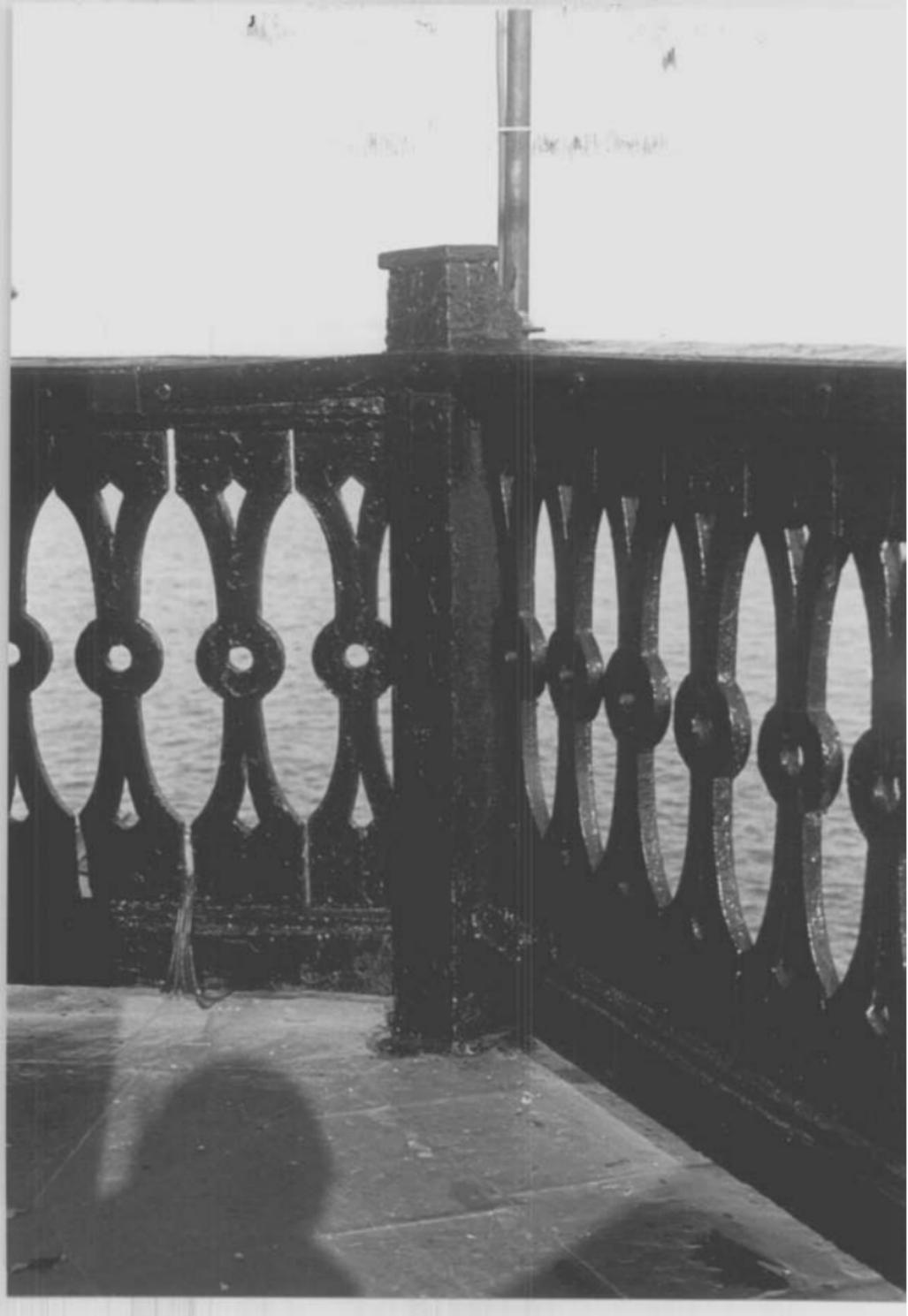
Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85

10/25/85

Outhouse on main  
deck level.

Negative on file @MHT



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Thomas Point Light

Mark Edwards '85

10/25/85

Victorian railing  
at lantern level

Negative on file @ MHT