



Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

---

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

---

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:   
Public – Local   
Public – State   
Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)   
District   
Site   
Structure   
Object

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>13</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>25</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: Water Related

Domestic: Institutional Housing

Other: Light Station

**Current Functions:** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: Water Related

Landscape: Park

Recreation and Culture: Museum

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification:** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Stick/Eastlake

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Brick, concrete

Walls: Wood (weatherboard)

Roof: Wood (shingle)

Other: Windows: Wood

Other: Doors: Wood

Other: Chimneys: Brick

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Point Fermin Light Station Historic District is located at Point Fermin, a rocky promontory in San Pedro, California situated due west of the entrance to the Port of Los Angeles (see the attached USGS map). The Point Fermin Light Station—as well as Pt. Fermin, itself—are ensconced within a park called Point Fermin Park, which is owned and maintained by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department. The boundaries of the 9.08-acre historic district include the following: all buildings, sites, and objects associated with the Point Fermin Light Station; archeological findings including REDACTED and the historic architectural remains of buildings associated with the lighthouse; and all buildings, structures, sites, and objects within the district's boundaries that are located between the historic lighthouse—the Point Fermin Lighthouse—and the ocean. Contributing features of the historic district include the lighthouse and attached lighthouse keeper's residence, original storehouse, original coal house and privy, three cisterns, a domestic yard, and the prehistoric archeological site. Non-contributing features include three buildings (the Radio Compass Station Generator Building, the Naval Detection Defense Station, and the Los Angeles Fire Department lookout post), five sites (a parking lot, the extant foundation that once belonged to a signal beacon, the extant foundation that once belonged to a radio direction finder building, a playground, and a picnic area), 13 structures (five verandas, an arbor, a storage shed, a fence that encloses the lighthouse, a waist-high wall that traverses much of the length of Point Fermin Park wall that separates the park from the sea cliff

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

of the rocky promontory, U.S. Army base end stations B1/5 and B1/6, a chain-link fence, and a wind breaker wall), and four objects (a Los Angeles Fire Department weather station and three different types of light standards that are found within the district as well as the larger Point Fermin Park in which the district is ensconced).<sup>1</sup> (See the attached sketch map for the locations of all contributing and non-contributing features, which are described and numbered below.) Although integrity of setting and feeling has diminished as a result of rehabilitation and reconfiguration of some of the contributing elements of the district, the Point Fermin Light Station Historic District retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance.

---

### **Narrative Description**

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District is located near the tip of Point Fermin, a rocky promontory in San Pedro, California situated due west of the entrance to the Port of Los Angeles (see the attached USGS map). The district includes the following: a lighthouse and attached lighthouse keeper's residence; original storehouse; original coal house and privy; three cisterns; a domestic yard; archeological findings that include prehistoric site CA-LAN-144—which is located to the west of the light station (it occupies approximately the western half of Point Fermin Park)—and the historic architectural remains of buildings associated with the lighthouse; and many altered, non-original, and non-contributing features including three buildings, five sites, 13 structures, and four objects. (See the attached sketch map for the locations of all contributing and non-contributing features, which are described and numbered below.) The contributing features that comprise the historic district, as well as their original construction dates, are as follows:

1. Point Fermin Lighthouse (1874): Point Fermin Lighthouse was constructed in 1874 to serve the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro. As part of the original construction, the lighthouse included an attached lighthouse keeper's residence, as well. However, today, the lighthouse and residence are used as a City of Los Angeles-operated museum that interprets the history of the property to the public.
2. Original storehouse (1839): The present-day restrooms and kitchenette/storage space for use by museum staff was originally constructed as a store house.
3. Original coal house and privy (1839): Originally constructed as a coal house and privy, the interior of this building has been converted for use as an office for museum staff and a gift shop.
- 4-6. Three Cisterns
  - a. Cistern with small brick dome (1874-93): A small brick dome marks the location of a cistern that is otherwise submerged underground at the southeast side of the lighthouse, in close proximity to the front entry to the building.

---

<sup>1</sup> The exact quantity of these light standards is not known, so each of the three types of light standards is counted here as one non-contributing object. The individual standards are not counted.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

- b. Cistern with metal cover (1874-93): Only a round metal cover located directly east of the rear entry to the lighthouse residence demarcates the location of this cistern, which is entirely submerged underground.
- c. Cistern with large brick dome (1874-93): A large brick dome marks the location of this cistern, which is located to the northeast of the lighthouse and is otherwise submerged underground.
7. Domestic yard (ca. 1893): An enclosed domestic yard for use by the lighthouse keeper has surrounded the lighthouse since at least 1893.
8. REDACTED

The non-contributing features of the historic district include:

- 9-13. Verandas (ca. 1990): Five concrete verandas were constructed in approximately 1990 as located at different points along the Point Fermin Park wall, and these replaced earlier wood verandas. The post-and-beam structures provide shaded seating areas for use by the public.
14. Arbor (ca. 1925-65): A large arbor located in the garden area west of the lighthouse was constructed around or after the City of Los Angeles leased the lighthouse from the Federal Government.
15. Storage shed (ca. 1925-65): The shed is located in the parking lot west of the lighthouse.
16. Parking lot (2003): The parking lot was paved as part of the 2002-03 rehabilitation of the Point Fermin Lighthouse and is located west of the lighthouse.
17. Lighthouse fence (1997): The wood picket fence is approximately four feet tall, and it separates the light station from the larger 37-acre, city-owned Point Fermin Park in which the district is ensconced.
18. Point Fermin Park wall (ca. 1990): The concrete wall marks the southern edge of Point Fermin Park. It was constructed in ca. 1990 and replaced an earlier park wall.
19. Light standards (type 1) in Point Fermin Park (ca. early 1990s): An unconfirmed number of electric light standards were installed as part of the rehabilitation of Point Fermin Park in the early 1990s. The concrete standards are approximately 18 feet tall and feature Victorian Era-inspired details.
20. Light standards (type 2) near the parking lot (2003): Three electric light standards were installed as part of the 2002-03 rehabilitation of Point Fermin Lighthouse and are located at the western edge of the parking lot. The metal standards are approximately 24 feet tall and are raised on concrete bollards.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

21. Light standard (type 3) near the Naval Detection Defense Station (date of installation unknown, but before 1965): One electric light standard was installed before 1965 near the Naval Detection Defense Station. The metal standard is approximately 14 feet tall.
22. Radio Compass Station Generator Building (ca. 1920-24): The concrete building is located between the lighthouse and Base End Station B1/5. It is one story in height, is partially below grade, and is capped by a flat roof. The building functioned as a radio compass station generator building (ca. 1924), a radio direction finder transmitter powerhouse (ca. 1940), and since 1983 as a receiver station for the Los Angeles Police Department.
23. U.S. Army Base End Station B1/5 (ca. 1920): One of two base end stations (also known as fire control stations) at Point Fermin, the concrete structure is partially below grade. It is purely utilitarian and features no ornamentation. A hatch with an iron door is located on the top of the structure. Slits designed for observation of the ocean (and potential enemy targets at sea), which measure eight inches in width, have been filled with brick and mortar, and the openings are obscured from the exterior by iron shutters.
24. U.S. Army Base End Station B1/6 (ca. 1920): One of two base end stations (also known as fire control stations) at Point Fermin, the concrete structure is partially below grade. It is purely utilitarian and features no ornamentation. A hatch with an iron door is located on the top of the structure. Slits designed for observation of the ocean (and potential enemy targets at sea), which measure eight inches in width have been filled with brick and mortar, and the openings are obscured by iron shutters.
25. Naval Detection Defense Station (ca. 1942-45): Located between the two base end stations, the one-story-over-basement, wood-frame building measures 23 feet by 53 feet. It is clad in horizontal drop siding and is capped by a hipped roof.
26. Los Angeles Fire Department lookout post (ca. 1950): This one-room, wood-frame building was constructed on top of the foundation of the earlier radio direction finder building, which was demolished in ca. 1948. The lookout post building is clad in vertical wood siding and features fenestration on all four sides whose openings are either enclosed by a wood door or covered with removable wood boards. It is outside the chain-link fence to the west.
27. Chain-link fence (2003): The chain-link fence was erected in 2003. Within the fence are the two base end stations, the Naval Detection Defense Station, the wind breaker wall, and the foundation of the signal beacon.
28. Wind breaker wall (date unknown): The wind breaker wall is L-shaped in plan and located northwest of the Naval Detection Defense Station. The structure is approximately 35 feet in total length, and it is approximately six feet tall. It wood-

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

- frame construction consists of a sill, a double top plate, posts and horizontal bracing between the posts. The wind breaker wall sits on a low stone foundation.
29. Foundation of signal beacon (exact date unknown, but before 1965): The foundation of a former signal beacon is located between Base End Station B1/6 and the Naval Detection Defense Station. The concrete foundation is roughly circular in plan. It is known that a light tower for a signal beacon existed on top of the foundation as late as in 1965, but archival research could not determine when exactly the light tower was either constructed or demolished.
  30. Los Angeles Fire Department weather station (2001): The automated weather station is sited at the farthest southwest point of Point Fermin. Instruments are mounted on a three-legged metal stand, and a camera is mounted on a shorter metal post nearby.
  31. Foundation of radio direction finder building (ca. 1920): The concrete foundation of a former radio direction finder building is located outside the chain-link fence to the west. A wood deck constructed on top of the foundation provides a platform for the Los Angeles Fire Department lookout post.
  32. Playground (exact date of construction unknown, but after 1990): The playground in Point Fermin Park features metal and plastic play structures in an oblong area filled with sand.
  33. Picnic area (exact date of construction unknown, but after 1990): The picnic area located east of the playground in Point Fermin Park is composed of groupings of one, two, three, and four picnic tables on rectangular concrete pads.

### *1. Point Fermin Lighthouse – Contributing Building*

Point Fermin Lighthouse was constructed in 1874 as a light tower with an attached two-story, wood-frame residence for use by the lighthouse keeper situated directly beneath it. The wood-frame light tower rises three stories above the center of the residence below, and its total height is 59 feet above grade. The tower, itself, is square in plan while the residence below is rectangular in plan. The entire composition—both light tower and residence—was designed in the Stick Style, which was a popular architectural style during the Victorian Era. The building is oriented southwest towards both the tip of the rocky promontory on which it sits and the Pacific Ocean beyond.

The residence is capped by a cross-gabled roof with wood shingles. Each gable end features decorative wood molding commonly referred to as gingerbread, and the eaves feature carved rafter tails. The building is clad in horizontal wood shiplap joint siding on the portion of the building that serves as a residence, while the gable ends and the tower feature vertical channel siding.

The building features multi-lite, wood-sash windows on the two floors of the residence and the lower two floors of the light tower, and many of the windows feature pent hoods with wood shingles. The main entry is composed of a paneled wood door with a multi-lite transom. There are two paneled wood doors with transoms on the north (rear) façade; the door in the center of



Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

the north façade is capped with a gabled hood, and the door on the east end of the façade is capped with a shed hood.

There is a full-length porch across the primary (south) façade that features turned wood posts with diagonal bracing. To the east of the main entrance, the porch is covered with a shed roof with wood shingles. To the west of the main entrance, a wood balcony at the second floor covers the porch. The balcony is accessed by an exterior staircase on the west façade. The entry porch and the balcony feature wood balustrades with jigsaw-cut boards. There are two brick chimneys located on the building's west façade that are expressed primarily to the interior and one brick chimney on the east façade, which is also expressed primarily to the interior of the building. The building also has a concrete and brick basement.

The building is of redwood construction, and the interior board floors are of Douglas fir. Interior wood details include wainscots, picture molding, and paneled doors with molding around the frames. There are three fireplaces with carved wood mantels, brick surrounds, and ceramic hearths. The first floor of the residence contains a drawing room in the southwest corner, a bedroom in the northwest corner, and a kitchen on the east side with a pantry to the north. On the second floor, there is a living room in the southwest corner, a small bedroom in the center, a large bedroom with a dressing room on the east side, and a third bedroom in the northeast corner of the building. The stairs that lead to the light tower are located in the center of the north side of the residence.

Character-defining features of the lighthouse include the following:

- Light tower with gallery and paired brackets;
- Lantern with glazing on all sides and a spherical copper roof;
- Steeply pitched, gabled roofs with decorative trusses in the apex of the gables;
- Double-hung, wood-sash windows in a variety of configurations with bracketed hoods, wide board trim, and projecting sill;
- Three red brick chimneys;
- Horizontal shiplap siding and vertical sawtooth siding;
- Overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and brackets;
- Full-length porch and balcony on south façade with diagonal crossed brackets; and
- Fourth-order Fresnel lens.<sup>2</sup> The lens, which was first installed in the light tower in 1874, was removed sometime after World War II. It was returned to the Lighthouse Museum in 2006. Currently, there is a lens on display on the first floor of the Lighthouse Museum;

---

<sup>2</sup> “Memorandum of Agreement by and Among the United States of America Acting by and Through Its General Services Administration, the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, the United States Coast Guard, the California State Historic Preservation Office, and the City of Los Angeles Regarding the Conveyance and Preservation of Point Fermin Light Station Historic District, San Pedro, Los Angeles, California” (GSA Control No. 9-U-CA-1684), September 7, 2018, 4-5.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

this lens is the third and last lens to serve the lighthouse in the period of time spanning from 1912 to 1941.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. *Original Storehouse – Contributing Building*

The building that originally functioned as a store house used by the lighthouse keepers has been converted for use as both a restroom and a kitchenette/storage space for museum staff. The building is located northwest of the lighthouse. It is one story in height, measures 40 feet by 20 feet, and it is capped by a side-facing gable roof with wood shingles. The building is clad in wood shiplap siding and sits on a non-original reinforced concrete foundation. On the north end of the west (primary) façade are a large carriage-style wood garage door and a paneled wood door; on the south end of the façade are three paneled wood doors. All fenestration on the west façade was added after the City of Los Angeles began leasing the light station property in 1925, and the four paneled wood doors were added in 2003.<sup>4</sup> There is a pair of paneled wood doors and a wood-sash casement window on the east (rear) façade.

Character-defining features of the original storehouse include the following:

- One-story height;
- Gable roofs;
- Horizontal wood shiplap siding;
- Paneled wood doors; and
- Wood-sash windows with wide board trim.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. *Original Coal House and Privy – Contributing Building*

The building that originally functioned as a coal house and privy is currently used as an office and gift shop. In 1912, it was relocated from the rear yard north of the lighthouse to its present location, which abuts the south wall of the original storehouse. It is slightly shorter than the original storehouse and set back from that building's west façade. The original coalhouse is rectangular in plan, measures 24 feet by 16 feet, is capped by a side-facing gable roof with wood shingles, and is clad in wood shiplap siding. The west façade features a pair of partially-glazed paneled wood doors, a wood-sash casement window, and a single partially-glazed door. There is a paneled wood door and a ribbon window on the east façade, and the south façade features a wood hung window as well as an additional window that is smaller in size.

Character-defining features of the original coal house and privy include the following:

- One-story height;
- Gable roofs;

<sup>3</sup> "Point Fermin's 4th Order Light and Lens," interpretive panel on display at the Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum, accessed December 11, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> A photograph of this façade prior to the 2003 rehabilitation is included in James Hill & Associates with M2A Milofsky & Michali Architects and P2S Engineering, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, prepared for the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, April 1999, 11.

<sup>5</sup> "Memorandum of Agreement," 5.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

- Horizontal wood shiplap siding;
- Paneled wood doors; and
- Wood-sash windows with wide board trim.<sup>6</sup>

#### 4-6. *Three Cisterns – Contributing Structures*

It is unclear exactly when the three cisterns were built. A U.S. Lighthouse Board Report noted that one cistern was built in 1880; however, archival research has not determined the construction dates of the other two cisterns.<sup>7</sup> Two of the three cisterns are constructed of brick with domed tops over cylindrical underground tanks. The third cistern has a metal top, rather than a brick dome, that sits flush with the ground. The cisterns are approximately ten feet deep and were designed to capture rain water collected from the lighthouse's gutter system, which diverted water into underground metal pipes that emptied into the cisterns. Water would then be pumped from the cisterns into the lighthouse keeper's residence as delivered by a hand pump. Each of the two cisterns in closest proximity to the lighthouse have the capacity to store 7,000 gallons of water, and the cistern located a farther distance away and to the northeast of the lighthouse has the capacity to store 10,000 gallons. Each of the three cisterns is described in greater detail below:

- Cistern with the small brick dome.* The cistern with the small brick dome is a below-grade brick cistern located on the south end of the district and to the east of the entry porch. The brick dome, which caps the cistern and sits several inches above grade, measures approximately five feet in diameter. The bricks that comprise the dome are laid in a radial brick pattern with tapered mortar joints. The interior of the cistern was historically accessed by a metal manhole cover placed in the center of the brick dome; however, this cover has been welded shut.
- Cistern with a metal cover.* This cistern is also located to the east of the lighthouse and it sits approximately 25 feet north of the cistern with the small brick dome. The cistern is capped with a metal manhole cover and this sits flush with the ground.
- Cistern with the large brick dome.* The cistern with the large brick dome has the largest visible area of the three cisterns. It is located to the northeast of the lighthouse. It measures roughly 10 feet in diameter and the dome rises 18 inches above grade. Like the cistern with the small brick dome, the bricks that comprise the large dome are laid in a radial brick pattern with tapered mortar joints and it has a welded metal manhole door that provides access to the interior of the cistern at the top.

Character-defining features of the three contributing cisterns include the following:

<sup>6</sup> "Memorandum of Agreement," 5.

<sup>7</sup> An 1880 U.S. Lighthouse Board Report showed a new 5,000-gallon capacity cistern had been built at the light station. An 1881 U.S. Lighthouse Board Report mentioned that rainfall was never sufficient at Point Fermin in any one year to fill the cisterns indicating more than one cistern existed. From "Notes by Kristen Heather." These records are held at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

- Domed brick caps with cementitious parge coat
- Steel manhole lids.<sup>8</sup>

### *7. Domestic Yard – Contributing Site*

An enclosed domestic yard has surrounded the lighthouse since at least 1893, the earliest known date of a wood picket fence existing in this location. The domestic yard was for the use of the lighthouse keeper. Although archival research did not confirm every historical use of the domestic yard, it is known that it did contain a windmill, tower, and water tank beginning in 1907 that provided water pressure for the lighthouse’s new indoor plumbing, and these structures were in use for approximately a decade.<sup>9</sup> In 1884—and again in 1913—the lighthouse keepers planted shade trees, grass, and flowering plants around the lighthouse.<sup>10</sup>

Today, the domestic yard is enclosed by a replacement lighthouse fence (a non-contributing feature) that approximates the location of the original wood picket fence that enclosed the domestic yard as early as 1893. The domestic yard is characterized by expanses of lawn segmented by concrete walkways. There is a front yard to the south of the lighthouse, a rear yard to the north, and a side yard to the east. The three cisterns are located in the domestic yard.

### *8. REDACTED*

#### *Other Ancillary Buildings, Sites, Structures, and Objects*

The historic district includes a number of ancillary features that do not contribute to the district’s significance, as listed in detail in the section above and as referenced here by the number assigned to them in that list. (See the attached sketch map for the locations of non-contributing features.) These non-contributing features include a number of structures that, at first glance, appear to belong the period of significance, but that archival research indicates most likely do not. The arbor (#14 in the list above) may have been constructed as early as 1925; however, as based on photographic evidence, it was likely constructed much later. The arbor does not appear in the 1924 photograph of the light station prior to the initial City of Los Angeles lease for part of the site. It is possible that it may have been constructed toward the last years of the period of significance—in 1926 or 1927—but is not strongly associated with the light station functions and is, therefore, not considered a contributing feature. Like the arbor, the storage shed (#15) also does not appear in a 1924 photograph of the light station. No evidence of the storage shed existing on the site and in that location appears in any archival or photographic materials until 1965, when a U.S. Coast Guard map depicts a ca. 1919 concrete oil house in the vicinity of a rectangular structure that is similar in shape and location to the storage shed. Based on the absence of any documentation of the shed’s existence up until that point, it appears highly likely that the storage shed was constructed after the period of significance for the historic district. In regard to the wood picket fence (#17) that surrounds the lighthouse today, a wood picket fence has surrounded the lighthouse since at least 1893; however, the current fence was constructed in

<sup>8</sup> “Memorandum of Agreement,” 5.

<sup>9</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, prepared for U.S. General Services Administration, July 1, 2014, 63.

<sup>10</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, 87.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

2007 and in a different location from the earliest fence. Therefore, it is also considered a non-contributing feature of the district. Other features are known to date outside of the district's period of significance; these include the parking lot (#16) and the light standards (type 2) that are adjacent to it (#20). While these features do not contribute to the significance of the historic district, they are compatible with the historic lighthouse and its associated features.<sup>11</sup>

The features constructed as part of the development of Point Fermin Park are not associated with the light station and, therefore, do not contribute to the significance of the district. These include the five verandas (#9-13), the Point Fermin Park wall (#18), the light standards (type 1) in Point Fermin Park (#19), the playground (#32), and the picnic area (#33).<sup>12</sup>

None of the built features on the Seaward Parcel (the southwest portion of the historic district property) are related to the historic, architectural, or archeological significance of the Point Fermin Light Station Historic District. These include all features installed by the U.S. Army and Navy on Point Fermin during the first half of the 20th century, which were sited away from the light station and closer to the bluffs. Military operations at Point Fermin generally remained separate and independent from the light station. During World War II, however, the lighthouse was converted for military use with the addition of a radar shack informally referred to as the "chicken coop," which was later removed. Non-contributors in the Seaward Parcel include the Radio Compass Station Generator Building (#22) and the nearby light standard (type 3, #21), the two base end stations (#23 and #24), the Naval Detection Defense Station (#25), the Los Angeles Fire Department lookout post (#26) and weather station (#30), the chain-link fence (#27), the wind breaker wall (#28), and the remaining foundations of both the signal beacon (#29) and radio direction finder building (#31).<sup>13</sup>

### *Integrity*

The contributing resources that comprise the Point Fermin Light Station Historic District possess integrity, despite some changes over time. These include the relocation of the original coal house to its present site in 1912, which occurred during the period of significance, and the relatively recent 2003 rehabilitation project at the property, which was executed in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Although integrity of setting and feeling has diminished, the Point Fermin Light Station Historic District retains a sufficient degree of integrity to continue to convey its significance.

---

<sup>11</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, 93-94.

<sup>12</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, 93.

<sup>13</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, 94.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

---

### Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance:** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Maritime History

Transportation

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

Architecture

Commerce

Archeology: Historic—Non-Aboriginal

Archeology: Prehistoric

**Period of Significance**

1873-1927

1150-1782

**Significant Dates**

1874

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

Late Period

Gabrielino/Tongva

**Architect/Builder**

Pelz, Paul Johannes

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Point Fermin Light Station Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A because the complex of buildings, structures, and sites that comprises it are associated with the history of California maritime transportation.<sup>14</sup> The construction of the lighthouse (with attached lighthouse keeper's residence) in 1873 was the first in the Los Angeles area, and it followed the first wave of lighthouses built following the Gold Rush. This wave of construction activity was a result of significant increases in maritime traffic along the California coast. The Point Fermin Lighthouse (which was individually listed on the National Register in 1972 and is one element of the larger light station complex) is believed to be one of the first projects of the federal government in the region and one of the oldest extant buildings in San Pedro.<sup>15</sup> In addition to the lighthouse, the light station historic district includes seven other contributing resources, as follows: the original coal house and privy (the present-day office and gift shop), the original storehouse (present-day restrooms and kitchenette/storage space for use by museum staff), three brick cisterns, the domestic yard, and historic-age archeological findings

<sup>14</sup> A light station is comprised of a lighthouse and all ancillary buildings and structures.

<sup>15</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, 92.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

and a prehistoric archeological site (CA-LAN-144). While the historic-age archeological findings are directly associated with the development of the light station, it is important to note here that the prehistoric archeological site is not; therefore, it is significant to the historic district only under Criterion D (not under Criterion A, as are the historic-age archeological findings). The period of significance under Criterion A is from 1873 to 1927, which spans from the time when the federal government first funded, constructed, and operated the Point Fermin Light Station until the time when its operation was ceded, through a lease arrangement, to the City of Los Angeles for use as a city park superintendent's residence. The historic district is also eligible under Criterion C because the lighthouse and attached lighthouse keeper's residence is an excellent example of the Stick Style of architecture and also a rare building type constructed of an archaic framing technique. The other contributing buildings and structures are vernacular and do not reflect the Stick Style. The period of significance is 1874, the date when construction was completed. Lastly, the historic district is eligible under Criterion D at the local level as a property that has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to prehistory or history. Previous excavations have revealed archaeological deposits with demonstrated and potential ability to address research issues pertaining to prehistoric/protohistoric human activity at the site, including subsistence and ceremonial activities, as well as issues within the identified areas of significance for the lighthouse, such as data on the previous lighthouse keepers and their families and the historical appearance and changes to the landscape over time.<sup>16</sup> The period of significance under Criterion D is from 1150 to 1782.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1849, Congress launched the U.S. Coast Survey of California in response to the increased maritime traffic along the Pacific Coast that followed the Gold Rush, which began in 1848. The purpose of the survey was to scout out potential sites for new lighthouses. Although Point Fermin was not one of the 16 sites identified, Phineas Banning, a local shipping merchant and a partner in the Alexander & Banning Shipping Company, petitioned Congress as early as 1854 for a lighthouse in proximity to the small San Pedro Harbor, which served a mostly rural Southern California. Banning eventually owned the majority of the waterfront and played a significant role in the harbor's development into the deep-water Port of Los Angeles.<sup>17</sup>

By 1858, \$10,000 had been appropriated for the construction of a lighthouse and fog signal at Point Fermin, the southern tip of the Palos Verdes Peninsula which is in the former township of San Pedro and located west of Long Beach.<sup>18</sup> However, development of Point Fermin was postponed for nearly two decades while the American Civil War was underway and after

---

<sup>16</sup> Greenwood and Associates, "Archaeological Investigations: Point Fermin Lighthouse Rehabilitation," March 19, 2003; Historic Resources Group, LLC, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, prepared for CP&A/Arquitectonica, August 15, 2003, Appendix E.

<sup>17</sup> Ernest Marquez and Veronique De Turenne, *Port of Los Angeles: An Illustrated History from 1850 to 1945* (Santa Monica, CA: Angel City, 2007), 49.

<sup>18</sup> Historic Resources Group, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, IA-7; James Hill & Associates, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, 5.



Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

multiple title claimants presented challenges for the federal government to condemn the land. In 1873, a three-acre plot at Point Fermin was reserved for development and maintenance by federal employees of the U.S. Lighthouse Board.<sup>19</sup>

Roughly concurrent to the land being set aside, plans were underway for a combined lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's residence to be constructed on the site. These plans were drawn by Paul J. Pelz, a draftsman of the Lighthouse Board, and the drawings were signed in December 1872 by George H. Elliot, the Engineering Secretary of the Lighthouse Board. The developed plans called for the erection of a square light tower to fit a fourth-order Fresnel lens, which would be used both to announce the entrance to the harbor and to warn against local hazards.<sup>20</sup> However, Pelz's design for a lighthouse was not unique to Point Fermin. Ultimately, six lighthouses were built according to his design, including Point Hueneme near Oxnard, California (demolished); East Brother in Richmond, California (extant); and Hereford Inlet in North Wildwood, New Jersey (extant).<sup>21</sup> While other lighthouses of Pelz's design remain extant, the Point Fermin Lighthouse is the only remaining wood-frame lighthouse constructed during the 1870s between San Francisco and San Diego, which represents a significant portion of California's coastline.<sup>22</sup>

California light stations were, of necessity, distinct from those constructed elsewhere in the country due to the state's unique geographical, climatic, and topographical features. Pelz's design for the lighthouse at Point Fermin was the culmination of nearly two decades of trial and error on the part of Lighthouse Board architects to determine the specific construction methods, techniques, and materials that were best suited to their particular locations.<sup>23</sup> For Point Fermin, a balloon-frame structure with brick infill and a brick foundation was selected. Balloon framing became outmoded by the mid-20th-century, when it was largely replaced with platform framing. The combined lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's residence were embellished with turned and jigsaw-cut molding, posts, knee braces, rafter tails, and gable-end trusses as well as small areas of stickwork (decorative wood boards applied to the cladding) below the first-floor windows and at the fifth-floor lantern gallery and other details that are characteristic of Stick Style, which was a nationally popular style of residential architecture between the 1860s and 1890s. Stick-style design elements that identify the building as a lighthouse include the vertical orientation of the

<sup>19</sup> "Lighthouse History," *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum*, accessed December 27, 2018, <http://www.pointferminlighthouse.org/history.html>.

<sup>20</sup> James Hill & Associates, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, 5. Three different fourth-order Fresnel lenses were used at Point Fermin Lighthouse from 1874 to 1941. The last lens was removed from the light tower sometime after World War II. It has been on display as a non-operational museum exhibit at the Lighthouse Museum since 2006. See "Point Fermin's 4th Order Light and Lens," interpretive panel on display at the Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum, accessed December 11, 2018.

<sup>21</sup> Henrietta E. Mosley, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Families, 1874-1927* (Palos Verdes, CA.: Pacific Heritage Books, 2013), 7. Only four sister lighthouses are identified in Historic Resources Group, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, IA-8.

<sup>22</sup> William L. Olesen, Point Fermin Lighthouse Committee, "Point Fermin Lighthouse," National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form, prepared July 11, 1971, listed June 13, 1972, 3.

<sup>23</sup> Jack Bookwalter, Research Historian, Sonoma State University, "Light Stations of California," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, prepared October 16, 1989, received by the National Register on July 22, 1991, section F.II, 2.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

light tower, the second-floor balcony that overlooks the ocean, and the fifth-floor observation deck that repeats the decorative elements seen on the lighthouse keeper's residence below.

Construction on the Point Fermin Lighthouse began in 1873, shortly after Pelz's plans were completed. It became operational on December 15, 1874, and it was painted white to increase its visibility as a daymark.<sup>24</sup> The earliest ancillary facilities at the site were likely built at the same time in order to support lighthouse operations; however, archival research has not identified any records that list the light station's earliest ancillary facilities. According to historical notations contained in reports of the U.S. Lighthouse Board as well as lighthouse keepers' log books, it is believed that a stable and at least one cistern were constructed early in the development of the Point Fermin Light Station.<sup>25</sup>

Typical of light stations, a lighthouse keeper would be required to reside on the property on a full-time basis in order to oversee all operations. Because of the remote and rural nature of many lighthouse sites, the lighthouse keepers who manned them required a certain degree of self-sufficiency, as afforded by the various functions of ancillary structures.<sup>26</sup> Ancillary buildings and structures commonly found at California light stations include the following:

- Fog signal buildings that contained noise warning apparatus, which were often steam driven; fog signal buildings were usually simple and utilitarian, but occasionally reflected distinctive architectural styles;
- Compact, fireproof oil storage buildings that housed various types of fuel (e.g. whale oil, lard, kerosene) to illuminate the lantern lamps;
- Barns that housed animals and equipment. Until a light station was connected to nearby towns by roads, all fresh produce and meat for consumption by the keeper and his or her dependents would need to be produced on site;
- Cisterns (and, less commonly, catch basins) that collected fresh water for domestic consumption and to generate steam to operate the fog signal;
- Landings for boats that provided connection to the outside world;
- Funicular and incline railways that were used to haul supplies from boat landings to higher elevations;
- Workshops for carpenters and/or blacksmiths;
- Storage buildings;
- Coal sheds; and

---

<sup>24</sup> Olesen, "Point Fermin Lighthouse," 3. Lighthouses were historically painted different colors to distinguish them from one another and so that mariners could easily identify them during daylight hours. James Hill & Associates, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, 9.

<sup>25</sup> The Point Fermin lighthouse keeper's log from November 1, 1875, mentioned the arrival of materials for an addition to the stable, and an 1880 U.S. Lighthouse Board Report showed a new 5,000-gallon capacity cistern and another addition to the stable were built at the station. An 1881 U.S. Lighthouse Board Report mentioned that rainfall was never sufficient at Point Fermin in any one year to fill the cisterns indicating more than one cistern existed. From "Notes by Kristen Heather." These records are held at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

<sup>26</sup> Bookwalter, "Light Stations of California," section F.II, 3.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

- Garages<sup>27</sup>

In 1874, the first lighthouse keeper appointed to Point Fermin was Mary L. Smith, who was assisted by her sister Helen Smith. It was unusual that a woman was given the appointment of the initial keeper of a lighthouse. While many women worked in this role, they most often were promoted to lighthouse keeper after the death or retirement of a husband or father who had served in this capacity. This type of promotion often occurred due to the isolated nature of lighthouses; because they were typically remote places to live and work, it was simply easier to retain the services of a woman (or women) who was already used to living in a light station than to recruit and pay for a male replacement. In contrast to the typical female lighthouse keeper, the Misses Smith were unusual in that they were selected to perform the job from the outset and paid salaries that were competitive to those of their male counterparts. The sisters remained at Point Fermin until their joint retirement in 1882.<sup>28</sup>

From 1882 to 1904, the post of lighthouse keeper was filled by George N. Shaw. A document dating from the time that he was tenured at the light station offers the earliest concrete evidence that there were ancillary facilities in place to support the light station's operations. A 1893 topographical survey of the Point Fermin Light Station describes the presence on the site of a "double coal house and privy" (the present-day gift shop and office) and three extant "round brick cisterns with arched tops and iron manhole rings and covers" within the boundaries of a wood picket fence (the original fence is no longer extant). West of the fence were a storehouse (the present-day restrooms and a kitchenette/storage space for use by museum staff) and a stable with a poultry house neither of the latter which remains extant today. A board fence, which is no longer extant, extended the length of the light station's northern boundary. The topographical survey was accompanied by photographs that depicted the landscape around the light station as comprised mainly of grassland punctuated with cypress trees that were planted along the northern fence line. Photographs also showed other types of trees and plantings located within the picket fence that formerly surrounded the light station.<sup>29</sup>

By 1896, other ancillary structures had been built on the site, as indicated by entries contained in the lighthouse keeper's log book. These entries mention a barn, carriage house, cleaning warehouse, oil room, and chicken house existing at the light station during a period extending from 1896 to 1905; however, none of these buildings remain extant today.<sup>30</sup> In 1907, a windmill, tower, and tank were constructed north of the lighthouse to generate water pressure and deliver

<sup>27</sup> Bookwalter, "Light Stations of California," section F.II, 2-10.

<sup>28</sup> Kristen Heather, Curator, Point Fermin Museum, telephone interview by Page & Turnbull, September 27, 2013; Historic Resources Group, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, section IB 1-2.

<sup>29</sup> 1893 topographic survey of Point Fermin Light Station. Included in Box 13, NC-31, E-66, HM-1999. Point Fermin (CA 60). Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Lighthouse Service, Lighthouse Site Files, 1790-1939, Record Group 26. National Archives Building, Washington, DC. Courtesy of and with annotated notes from Kristen Heather, Curator, Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum, provided to Page & Turnbull in April 2014.

<sup>30</sup> December 1896, April 1898, June 1905, July 1905, and November 1905 lighthouse keeper's journals, from notes taken from the original keeper's Log Books from 1874 to 1927 located in the National Archives in Washington, DC, by Kristen Heather, Curator Point Fermin Museum, provided to Page & Turnbull in April 2014.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

water from the cisterns to the lighthouse's new indoor plumbing.<sup>31</sup> An oil house was constructed in 1908, and this was demolished at a date that remains unknown.<sup>32</sup> In 1912, the original coal house and privy—which is today used as a gift shop and an office to serve staff of the lighthouse, which functions as a museum—was moved to its current location adjacent to the original storehouse (present-day restrooms and a kitchenette/storage space for use by museum staff).<sup>33</sup> By 1917, the windmill, tower, and tank had been removed.

Until the completion of the San Pedro Breakwater—an 8.5-mile protective barrier between the harbor and the ocean that was constructed in 1911—Point Fermin acted as a natural entrance into the Los Angeles Harbor. However, in the two decades that followed the completion of the breakwater, two other lighthouses were constructed and began operating nearby. One was the Los Angeles “Angel’s Gate” Lighthouse, the construction of which began in 1912. The intent in constructing this new lighthouse, which was built with appropriations from the U.S. Congress, was to mark the outer end of the newly erected San Pedro Breakwater in the Los Angeles Harbor. The other was the Point Vicente Lighthouse, which was built in Rancho Palos Verdes and located less than 10 miles to the northwest of Point Fermin. As early as 1911—when funds were appropriated by Congress for the construction of the Angel’s Gate Lighthouse—the obsolescence and imminent demolition of the Point Fermin Lighthouse was the subject of some public discussion as reported in newspapers of the time.<sup>34</sup> However, the Point Fermin Lighthouse remained in operation throughout the duration of the Point Vicente Lighthouse construction, which concluded in 1926.

The Point Fermin Lighthouse ultimately was not demolished, and by 1923, a city park had been created around it. In 1925, the lighthouse’s oil lamps were replaced with an electric light that required much less maintenance; eliminated the need for the routine cleaning, polishing, and lighting of the lamps; and was visible from 18 miles away.<sup>35</sup> The federal government, which owned the Point Fermin Lighthouse, first leased a portion of the land upon which the lighthouse sits to the City of Los Angeles in 1925. Two years later, in 1927, the lighthouse and its ancillary buildings were leased to the city for use as a public park. At this time, the lighthouse keeper—who resided in the lighthouse and was an employee of the Federal Government—was replaced by the park superintendent, an employee of the city. It then became the park superintendent’s charge to reside at the lighthouse and to “clean the lenses of the light and report failure of the light to the Federal superintendent of lighthouses in San Francisco.”<sup>36</sup> Around the time of the city’s lease of the lighthouse and its ancillary buildings, a decorative wood picket fence was constructed around the immediate lighthouse property; this was later demolished at an unknown

<sup>31</sup> “Point Fermin Lighthouse Cisterns,” information sheet provided to Page & Turnbull by Kristen Heather, Curator, Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum on April 29, 2014.

<sup>32</sup> January 16, and March 17, 1908 lighthouse keeper’s logs, in notes provided by Kristen Heather to Page & Turnbull in April 2014.

<sup>33</sup> December 9 and 10-14, 1912 lighthouse keeper’s log, in notes provided by Kristen Heather to Page & Turnbull in April 2014.

<sup>34</sup> “Old Lighthouse to Be Wrecked.” *Oakland Tribune*, November 15, 1911.

<sup>35</sup> Historic Resources Group, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, IB-4; Olesen, “Point Fermin Lighthouse,” 3.

<sup>36</sup> “Park Board Will Tend Lighthouse,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 25, 1926.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

date. The extant wood arbor and fence were constructed west of the lighthouse sometime between 1925 and 1965.

During World War II, the U.S. Navy occupied the lighthouse, which was painted “wartime green,” and a radar shack was added to the light tower and was informally referred to as the “chicken coop.” The Navy also constructed a radio station and barracks on the bluff immediately south of the light station.<sup>37</sup> Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the coastal lights at Point Fermin Lighthouse and all other lighthouses were extinguished as a security measure to protect against enemy invasion. On December 9, 1941, the light at Point Fermin Lighthouse was turned off for the last time; henceforth, it was not used for navigation purposes.<sup>38</sup>

Following the conclusion of World War II in 1945, the City of Los Angeles regained its lease of the lighthouse from the federal government and resumed using it as a residence for the park superintendent. However, by the late 1960s, the city proposed demolishing the lighthouse. In response, two private citizens—William Olesen and John Olguin—established the Point Fermin Lighthouse Committee to advocate for preservation of the building. In 1972, their efforts came to fruition when the lighthouse was listed individually on the National Register. They also spearheaded the effort to remove the “chicken coop” radar shack and restore the light tower in advance of the lighthouse’s centennial in 1974.<sup>39</sup>

In 2002-03, the light station underwent a major rehabilitation project in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. The work included a seismic retrofit and reroofing of the lighthouse and ancillary buildings and the installation of modern plumbing, electrical, safety, and HVAC features. The original storehouse was dismantled and reassembled following the construction of a new reinforced concrete foundation and floor slab. The coal house was removed from its foundation in one piece and replaced on the new foundation. The buildings were adaptively reused to function as restrooms and a kitchenette/storage space for use by museum staff (original storehouse) and gift shop/staff office (original coal house and privy).<sup>40</sup> The parking lot located immediately west of the lighthouse was paved at this time; it was previously an unpaved area used as a maintenance yard by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

<sup>37</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, 65.

<sup>38</sup> Historic Resources Group, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, IB-4.

<sup>39</sup> Page & Turnbull, *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*, 65.

<sup>40</sup> Historic Resources Group, *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*, IB-9.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

---

## Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bookwalter, Jack. "Light Stations of California." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Prepared October 16, 1989. Received by the National Register July 22, 1991.

Documents from Box 13, NC-31, E-66, HM-1999. Point Fermin (CA 60). Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Lighthouse Service, Lighthouse Site Files, 1790-1939, Record Group 26. National Archives Building, Washington, DC. Courtesy of and with annotated notes from Kristen Heather, Curator, Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum. Provided to Page & Turnbull in April 2014.

Greenwood and Associates. "Archaeological Investigations: Point Fermin Lighthouse Rehabilitation." March 19, 2003.

Heather, Kristen, Curator Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum. Telephone interview by Page & Turnbull. September 27, 2013.

Historic Resources Group, LLC. *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*. Prepared for CP&A/Arquitectonica. August 15, 2003.

James Hill & Associates, M2A Milofsky & Michali Architects, and P2S Engineering. *Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Structures Report*. Prepared for the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. April 1999.

King, Chester. "The Evolution of Chumash Society: A Comparative Study of Artifact Used for Social System Maintenance in the Santa Barbara Channel Region before A.D. 1804." *The Evolution of North American Indians: A 31-Volume Series of Outstanding Dissertations*. David Hurst Thomas, ed. American Museum of Natural History. New York, NY: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1990.

Marquez, Ernest and Veronique De Turenne. *Port of Los Angeles: An Illustrated History from 1850 to 1945*. Santa Monica, CA: Angel City, 2007.

"Memorandum of Agreement by and Among the United States of America Acting by and Through Its General Services Administration, the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, the United States Coast Guard, the California State Historic Preservation Office, and the City of Los Angeles Regarding the Conveyance and Preservation of Point Fermin Light Station Historic District, San Pedro, Los Angeles, California." GSA Control No. 9-U-CA-1684. September 7, 2018.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

Mosely, Henrietta E. *Point Fermin Lighthouse Families, 1874-1927*. Palos Verdes, CA.: Pacific Heritage Books, 2013.

Nelson, Nels C. Archaeological Site Survey Record (CA-LAN-144). 1912. On file at the South Central Coastal Information Center.

“Old Lighthouse to Be Wrecked.” *Oakland Tribune*. November 15, 1911.

Oleson, William L. “Point Fermin Lighthouse.” National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Prepared July 11, 1971, listed June 13, 1972.

Page & Turnbull. *Point Fermin Light Station Historic Resource Analysis*. Prepared for U.S. General Services Administration. July 1, 2014.

“Park Board Will Tend Lighthouse.” *Los Angeles Times*. December 25, 1926.

“Point Fermin Lighthouse Cisterns.” Information sheet provided by Kristen Heather, Curator of the Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum, to Page & Turnbull on April 29, 2014.

Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum. “Lighthouse History.” Accessed December 27, 2018. <http://www.pointferminlighthouse.org/history.html>.

“Point Fermin’s 4th Order Light and Lens.” Interpretive panel on display at the Point Fermin Lighthouse Historic Site and Museum. Accessed December 11, 2018.

---

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

---

## 8. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 9.08 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |              |                 |                   |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 11S | Easting: 380097 | Northing: 3730409 |
| 2. Zone: 11S | Easting: 380125 | Northing: 3730276 |
| 3. Zone: 11S | Easting: 380242 | Northing: 3730201 |
| 4. Zone: 11S | Easting: 380114 | Northing: 3730180 |



Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

5. Zone: 11S	Easting: 380059	Northing: 3730148
6. Zone: 11S	Easting: 379986	Northing: 3730263
7. Zone: 11S	Easting: 379975	Northing: 3730410

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated on the USGS map included below.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic district boundaries include the following: all buildings, structures, sites, and objects associated with the Point Fermin Light Station; archeological findings including the historic architectural remains of buildings associated with the lighthouse and prehistoric archeological site CA-LAN-144 to the west (which occupies approximately the western half of Point Fermin Park); and all buildings, structures, sites, and objects located between the lighthouse and the ocean (these sit on top of the prehistoric archeological site). The northern boundary aligns with West Paseo del Mar/Shepard Street. The western and southeastern boundaries align with the base of the cliffs of Point Fermin. The northeastern boundary aligns with the northeast portion of the lighthouse fence. The eastern boundary connects back to the intersection of West Paseo del Mar and Shepard Street.

---

**9. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Gabrielle Harlan, Senior Associate II; Johanna Kahn, Senior Associate I; Hanna Winzenried, Associate II; Candace Ehringer, Senior Managing Associate  
organization: Environmental Science Associates (ESA)  
street & number: 626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100  
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90017  
e-mail: gharlan@esassoc.com  
telephone: 213.599.4300  
date: June 6, 2019

---

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photograph Log**

All photographs show resources or other features of the Point Fermin Light Station Historic District, San Pedro, California. Unless noted otherwise, photographs were taken by ESA staff on December 11, 2018.

1. View of the primary (south) façade of the Point Fermin Lighthouse, light standard, and lighthouse fence, facing northeast.
2. Detail view of the stick work on front-facing gable of the primary façade, facing northeast.
3. View of the side (west) façade of the Point Fermin Lighthouse, facing southeast.
4. View of the rear (north) façade of the Point Fermin Lighthouse, facing southwest.
5. Detail view of the light tower, view facing southwest.
6. View of the side (east) façade of the Point Fermin Lighthouse, facing north.
7. View of the kitchen inside the Point Fermin Lighthouse, facing east.
8. View of the fourth-order Fresnel lens on display inside the Point Fermin Lighthouse, facing northeast.
9. View of a bedroom in the Point Fermin Lighthouse, facing west.
10. View of the top of the stairs from the Point Fermin Light Tower, facing north.
11. View from the light tower, facing south.
12. View of the arbor, facing northeast.

Point Fermin Light Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California  
County and State

13. View of the parking lot, lighthouse fence, and light standard at the parking lot, facing northwest.
14. View of the storage shed with the lighthouse in the background, facing southeast.
15. View of the west façades of lighthouse garage and office, facing east.
16. View of the cistern with the large brick dome, facing northeast.
17. View of the domestic yard to the north of the lighthouse, facing southwest.
18. View of the cistern with the metal cover, facing west.
19. View of the cistern with the small brick dome, facing northeast.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.