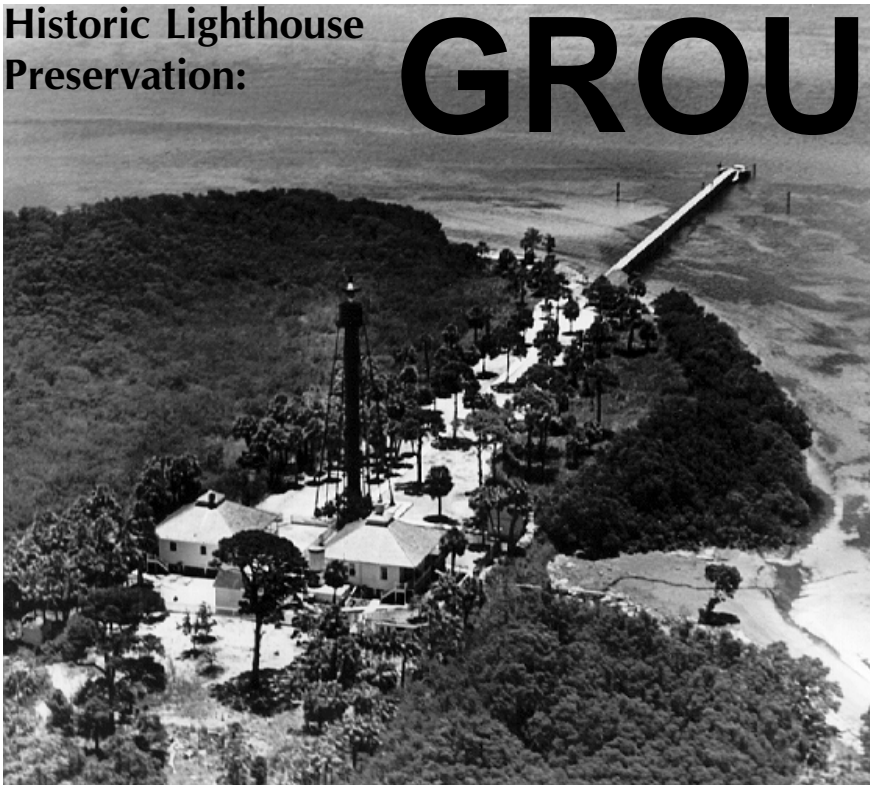


## Historic Lighthouse Preservation:

# GROUNDNS



**Figure 1.** Historic aerial view of Anclote Key Light Station, Florida.

The landscape and ancillary buildings immediately surrounding a lighthouse are as important to defining the overall character of the light station as the lighthouse itself. The ancillary structures that comprise a light station—keepers' quarters, fog signal building, oil house, cisterns, privy, storage buildings, barn, boat sheds, etc., and the manipulated landscape—berms, sidewalks and pathways,

and plantings, compromise the cultural landscape of the light station. Archeological sites in the vicinity of previously existing buildings or possible prehistoric sites also contribute to the cultural landscape. These features and their relationship to one another are character-defining and therefore should be preserved. The following are general guidelines for historic light station site preservation based on the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*



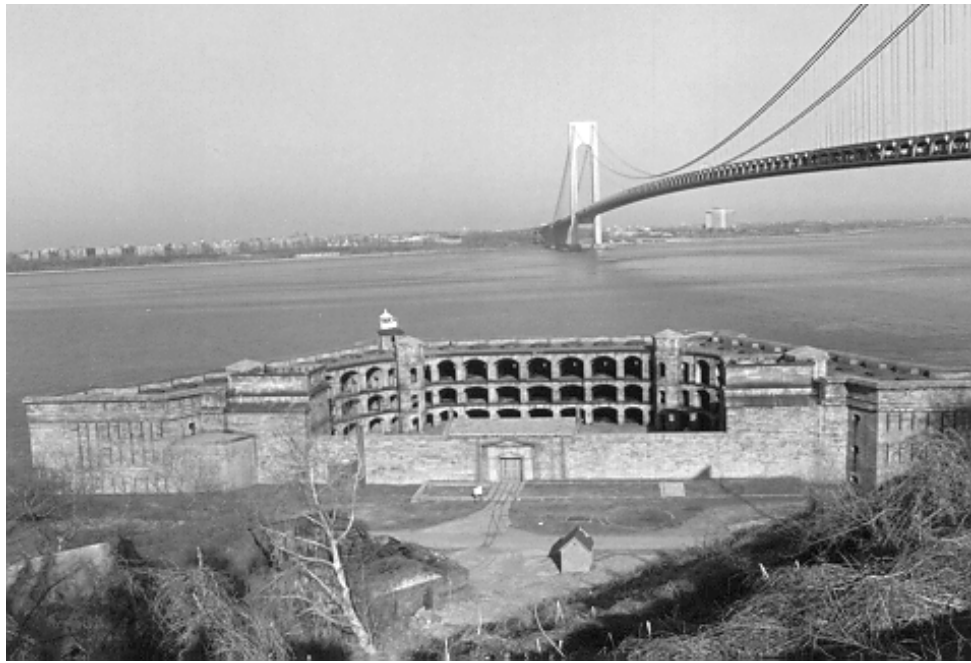
WPTC photo

**Figure 2.** View of the two light towers at Cape Henry, Virginia. The relationship of the two generations of lighthouses is part of the cultural landscape at the Cape Henry Light Station.



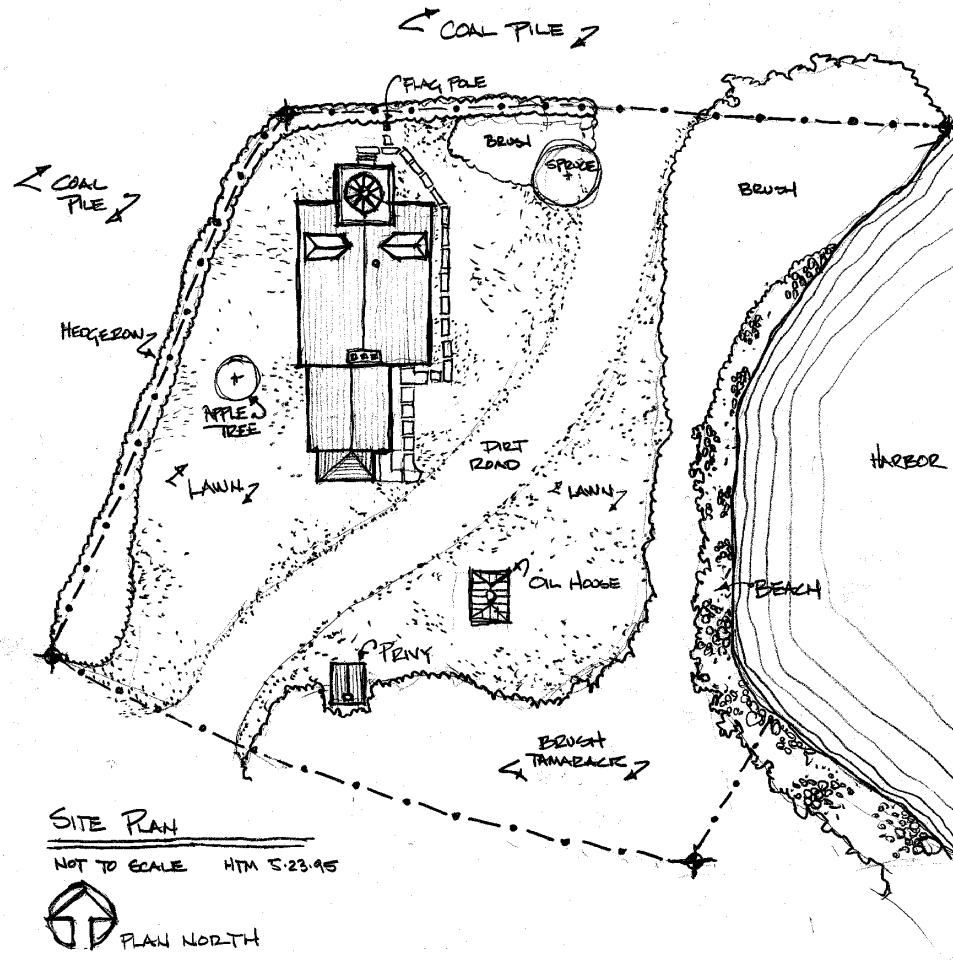
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**Figure 3.** Outbuildings, fences, and walkways are all part of the cultural landscape of a historic light station.



WPTC photo

**Figure 4.** Some light station sites are part of a larger cultural landscape such as this early 20th-century lighthouse on a salient of Fort Wadsworth, a Civil-War-era stone fort in New York Harbor.



**Figure 5.** A simple sketch site plan records the relationship of a light station's buildings and features. This type of recordation should be dated and filed with the lighthouse maintenance records. (WPTC drawing by H. Thomas McGrath)

with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (1996).

## General Site Recommendations

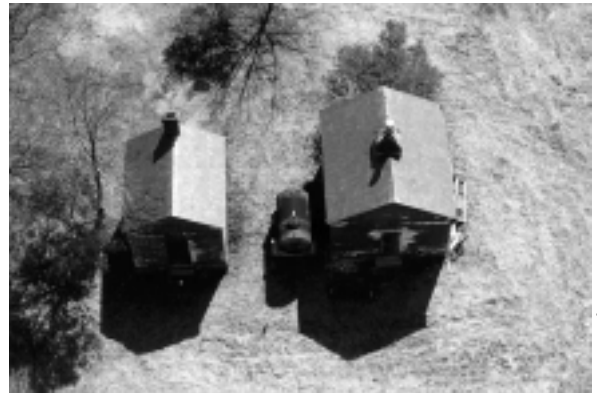
- Identify all character-defining features of the light station's site, including all associated ancillary structures; manipulated landscape for the purpose of facilitating the operation of the light station; and any plantings such as fruit trees, shade trees, gardens, and archeological sites. If potential archeological sites are not readily identifiable, contact a professional archeological firm to perform an archeological site survey. Once all features are identified, they should be documented photographically and located on a site plan that is kept with the light station maintenance file.
- Evaluate the existing condition of materials and features to determine whether more than protection and maintenance are required, that is, if repairs to light station building and site features will be necessary.
- Provide continued protection of historic light station building materials and plant features through appropriate cleaning, rust removal, limited paint removal, reapplication of protective coating systems, and pruning and vegetation management.
- Repair features of the buildings and site by reinforcing historic materials using recognized preservation methods. The new work should be unobtrusively dated to guide future research and treatment.
- Do not remove historic materials that could be repaired, use improper repair techniques, or fail to document new work.
- When performing any work on the lighthouse or site, retain the historic relationship between historic buildings and the landscape.
- When necessary, stabilize deteriorated or damaged historic site features as a preliminary measure before undertaking appropriate preservation work.
- To avoid diminishing the station's character, do not alter site features which are important in defining the overall historic character of the property.
- Do not remove or relocate historic light station buildings or landscape features, thus destroying

the historic relationship between the lighthouse, the buildings, and the landscape.



WPTC photo

**Figure 6.** The relationship of the keeper's quarters to its support buildings, in this case a privy and a storage building, are essential to understanding how the light keeper lived and worked.



WPTC photo

**Figure 7.** The relationship of this oil house (right) and generator building (left) show the variety of structures associated with a manned light station.



WPTC photo

**Figure 8.** These circa WWII observation towers are part of the evolution of the light station site.

**Figure 9.** View of a highly intact historic light station in California. All principal structures that made up the light station are intact including the large concrete rain water catchment (in the foreground) and the below-grade wood cisterns (just the lids are visible in the center of the photo) used to store the rainwater to produce steam for the fog signal. The preservation of a site at this level of integrity is essential to understanding the relationship of the light station buildings and their contribution to the station's overall operation.



WPTC photo

## Archeological Recommendations

- Minimize disturbance of terrain around buildings or elsewhere on the site, thus reducing the possibility of destroying or damaging important landscape features or archeological resources.
  - Survey and document areas where the terrain will be altered to determine the potential impact to important landscape features or archeological resources.
  - Protect important archeological resources by preserving them in place.
  - When preservation in place is not feasible, plan and carry out any necessary investigations using professional archeologists and modern archeological methods.
- Do not introduce heavy machinery into areas where it may disturb or damage important archeological resources.



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**Figures 10 (left) and 11 (above).** Views of potential archeological sites.

- Do not permit unqualified personnel to perform data recovery on archeological resources. This will prevent the loss of important archeological material through improper methodology. (See “Archeological Documentation” under Part VI., **Resources** for additional information.)
- Do not leave known archeological material unprotected so that it is damaged during preservation work.

## Landscape Features

- Preserve important landscape features; this includes ongoing maintenance of historic plant material.
- Protect and maintain the light station buildings and sites by providing proper drainage to assure that water does not erode foundation walls, drain toward the buildings, or damage or erode the landscape.
- Do not introduce heavy machinery into areas where it may disturb or damage important landscape features.
- Do not allow important landscape features to be lost or damaged through lack of maintenance.
- Do not advertise location of archeological sites, unless protection mechanisms are in place.

## Security

- Protect light station buildings, landscape features, and archeological sites against arson and vandalism before preservation work begins, i.e., erect protective fencing and install alarm systems that are keyed into local protection agencies. If possible, contact the local community to see if the light station site can become part of a police patrol or neighborhood watch program.

## Limited Replacement In Kind

- Replace in kind extensively deteriorated or missing parts of the light station buildings or site where there are surviving prototypes such as partial building remains, part of a fence, portions of a walkway, or parts of other site features. New work should match the old in materials, design, color, and texture, and be unobtrusively dated to guide future research and treatment.
- Do not replace an entire feature of the building or site when limited replacement of deteriorated and missing parts is appropriate.
- Do not use replacement material that does not match the building site feature, or fail to properly document the new work.



**Figure 12.** Historic plantings, such as this ice plant (the ground cover at the bottom of the image) planted as a fire break around the light station structures, are part of the light station’s cultural landscape and should be preserved.

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