

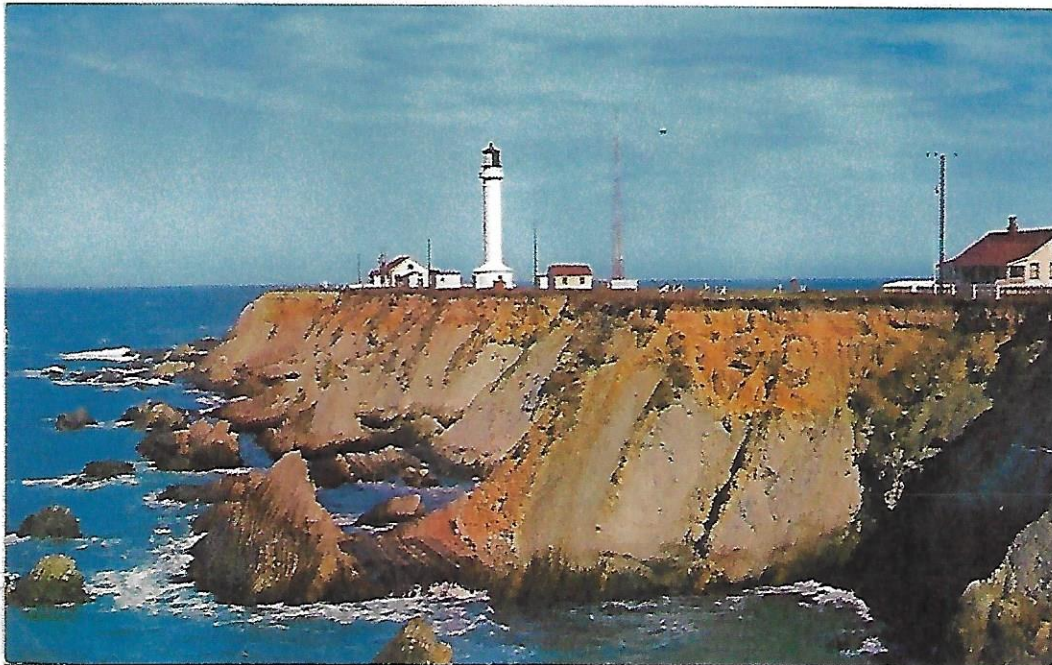
## Point Arena Lighthouse...Lighting the Way!

The purpose of this exhibit is to share the importance, structural components, history and legacy of Point Arena Lighthouse.

A lighthouse is a tower or building designed to emit light and serve as a navigational aid for maritime pilots at sea or inland waterways. The ancient "lighthouses" started as a fire built on a hilltop or platform to improve the coastline visibility for incoming ships. Around the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as the need for lighthouses grew and construction methods improved, modern lighthouses began to be built.

Lighthouses are used around the world to mark dangerous coastlines for ships coming into ports or harbors and have also assisted with aerial navigation. It is like having a traffic sign on the sea.

In California, the coastline once boasted fifty lighthouses! Twenty-nine of the original fifty are still active and of these, sixteen are open to the public. Point Arena is one of these lighthouses and considered a California Historical Landmark.



Chrome, divided back postcard 1960

Plan:  
Location  
Shipwrecks  
The Making of a Lighthouse  
Anatomy  
Keepers  
Town  
Coast Guard  
Today

Back of postcard:

**POINT ARENA LIGHT STATION**  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Point Arena, California

One of the interesting landmarks of Northern California, this light and weather station is visited by tourists of California's Shoreline Highway 1.