

# Cape Cod Lighthouses



VII. WOOD END LIGHT

Wood End light is on the sandy spit which curls around from the Province lands to enclose Provincetown harbor. It is about one mile from the point, Long Point, the extreme tip end of Cape Cod. It is the only lighthouse on the Cape which flashes an all-red beam. It is not a coastal, but a harbor entrance beacon. Wood End is the central light of the three which guard the five mile stretch of sand between Provincetown and the open sea.

Wood End light was erected in 1872, a white pyramidal brick tower. It is 39 feet above land, and 45 above water. Its light, flashing red, has a 15-second period consisting of a one-second flash with a 14-second eclipse. Its range is 12 miles. Illuminated by incandescent oil vapor, Wood End light has a lens of the 4th order and throws a light of 11,000 candlepower. It has been sighted at Manomet, 20 miles away.

For fog Wood End has a bell which sounds one stroke every 15 seconds.

No small lighthouse along the New England coast is better known than Wood End. The reason is its keeper, Douglas H. Shepherd, who has broadcasted radio programs on the work of the lighthouse and coast guard services for many years. Keeper Shepherd has also written many articles on the work of the services.

In 1927 not far from Wood End light occurred the disastrous col-

One of a series of articles describing Cape Cod lighthouses, picturesque guardians of our seacoast. Summer visitors as well as year around residents will find visits to these lighthouses interesting experiences. "We are pleased to inform you that visiting hours at the lighthouses on Cape Cod are from 10 A.M. to 12 M. and from 2 to 4 P.M. on all days except holidays," writes Captain George E. Eaton, district superintendent of this Lighthouse district. Nowhere can Cape Cod visitors find more of the nautical flavor, of the romance and of the reality of perils of navigation along Cape Cod shores, than in these sentinels of the seacoast.

lision between the submarine S-4, rising to the surface after a trial dive, and the Coast Guard destroyer Paulding. The S-4 sank, and with her went the lives of 40 officers and men. For weeks the waters off Wood End were dotted with naval vessels, but the ocean depths and storms thwarted all rescue attempts.

Wood End is most easily reached by water from Provincetown. Down the beach a short distance is Wood End coast guard station, and one mile further along stands Long Point light. It is possible to reach Wood End in one of the beach autos with "doughnut" tires; by a long hike over the stone dike, and down the beach; or by boat from Provincetown village.

Where the main street, Bradford, of Provincetown, ends and the new scenic highway begins, and where the granite dike shoots across to the point, is the spot where the Mayflower passengers landed.

Wood End light is about 50 miles from Hyannis.

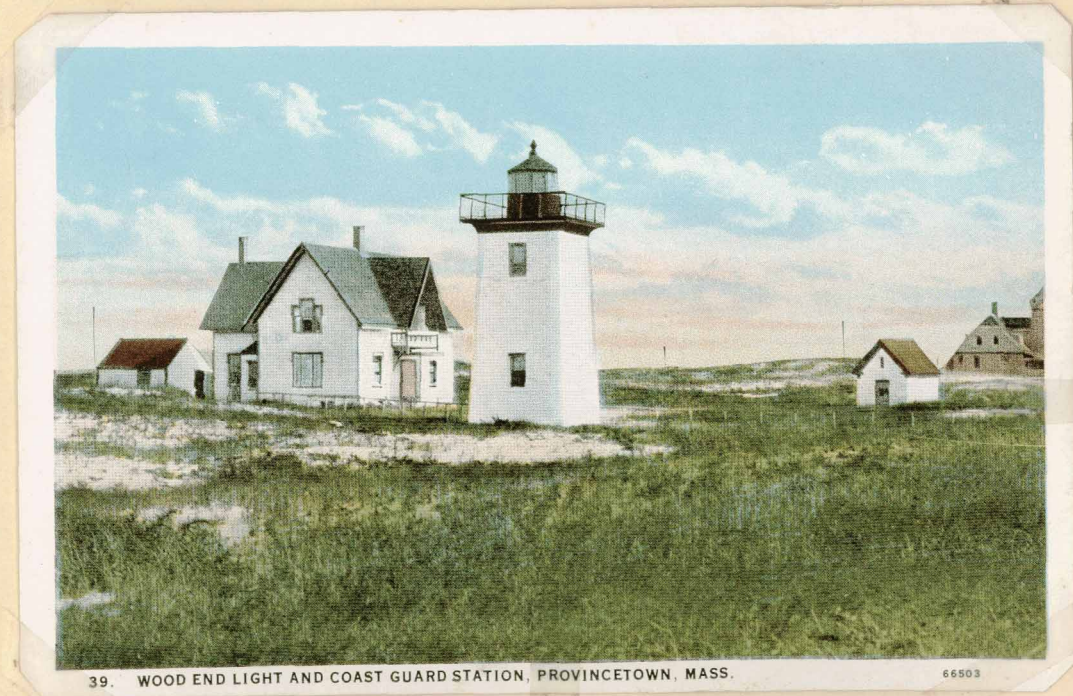


Wood End Light Provincetown, Mass.

Pub. by The Provincetown Ad.

Fog Bell, Wood End Lighthouse, & Keepers House which is now gone - 1906 -

- Keeper in the late 1875' was Thomas Low.
- 1850-1862... John Thomas Dunham
- 1912 Sam Soper Smith
- 1916: Philip Smith
- 1935: Douglas H. Shepherd



39. WOOD END LIGHT AND COAST GUARD STATION, PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

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Other side of Wood End Light with Life Saving Station on right - 1916 - Only the Light remains