

NOTES FROM COMMANDER PLAYDON'S INSPECTION JUNE 1950

SANKATY LIGHT STATION:

*file* ↑  
This is an old double keepers quarters adjoining the light. Partitions are knocked out and loran station crew live here - about 10-minute drive from loran station. Quarters are adequate and full. Any people added for lookout function should be compensated by S&Q for up to four (4) loran people who have families on the island.

Lens has been removed from light tower to Nantucket museum and will be replaced by electric, some 1,100,000 candlepower. This light seems to be structurally adaptable to lookout and particularly so as the new type lense is very directional. The present District intentions are to put a radar and lookout shack on the lawn some 100' from the light with the radar antenna on a pole. The lookout position is lousy, being obstructed to south and to the sound ~~side~~ Good only at sea towards the shoals N&S. Every effort should be made to put the lookout in the tower under the light. Feasibility of lookout in the lighthouse should be worked out by ETD without too much delay. Visibility from light tower is excellent.

*file ↓*  
*Nantucket*  
LORAN STATION near Siasconset consists of new antennas, new standby single phase generators in an out-building and two more structures, one a 20x60 quonset used for storage of parts and overnight sleeping for the night relief (Midwatch) and watch supervisor. -Dismal and unsatisfactory, second the new loran equipment building - brand new (some cracks show already) with equipment operation as master for Bicaro (Canadian-Nova Scotia) and Hatteras and a slave to the auto master at Sandy Hook. Noted station

SANKATY LIGHT STATION:(CONTINUED)

is heated by electricity and consumes up to 100 KW. Electric bill for this station from City approaches \$1000 per month. Effective range of loran is about 700-miles.

Other systems like Decca, Grid, Gee, etc. are much cheaper but only good up to 200-miles.

Barracks for this station has been stricken from '52 program. Recommend construction of typical island bungalow for Officer-in-Charge at station for \$8000. Similar construction is going on all over the island. Barracks not required at this time. This cheap bungalow and \$20 for extra men is a good and cheap suggestion. Also recommend recondition and restow the quonset for "readyroom" and storeroom.

Officer-in-Charge has obtained sheet metal link matting (airfield stuff) and laid it with station crew for entrance road to station over sand. This is excellent idea if obtainable from surplus to save wear and tear on vehicles and for use at many of our stations. Should be obtained as surplus and held in stock on no-maintenance basis at various district locations.