

HT-0019



CITY OF KEY WEST TREE COMMISSION
HERITAGE TREE NOMINATION FORM

Date: 7.28.2020

TREE LOCATION: 938 Whitehead St.

PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY: MONROE COUNTY property leased to KWAHS

TREE NAME/SPECIES: Banyan - Ficus benghalensis - Fig

NOMINATOR NAME: Helen Harrison

ADDRESS: 827 White St.

CITY, STATE, ZIP: KW FL

E-MAIL ADDRESS: hh@harrison-gallery.com

PHONE: 305 294 0609

ARE YOU THE PROPERTY OWNER Yes ☒ No

Approval from the Property Owner will be required to process application

- ☒ Tree is a unique specimen, size and/or age
☒ Tree is connected to a historical event/building, or individual
☐ Tree was dedicated/planted as a memorial
☐ Other

Attach supporting documentation including photos, newspaper articles, or any additional text or letters.

Sketch a location of the tree below:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a hand-drawn sketch of the tree's location on the property.

Karen DeMaria

From: Helen Harrison <hh@harrison-gallery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: Re: Heritage Trees
Attachments: Scan 2020-7-28 14.18.50.pdf

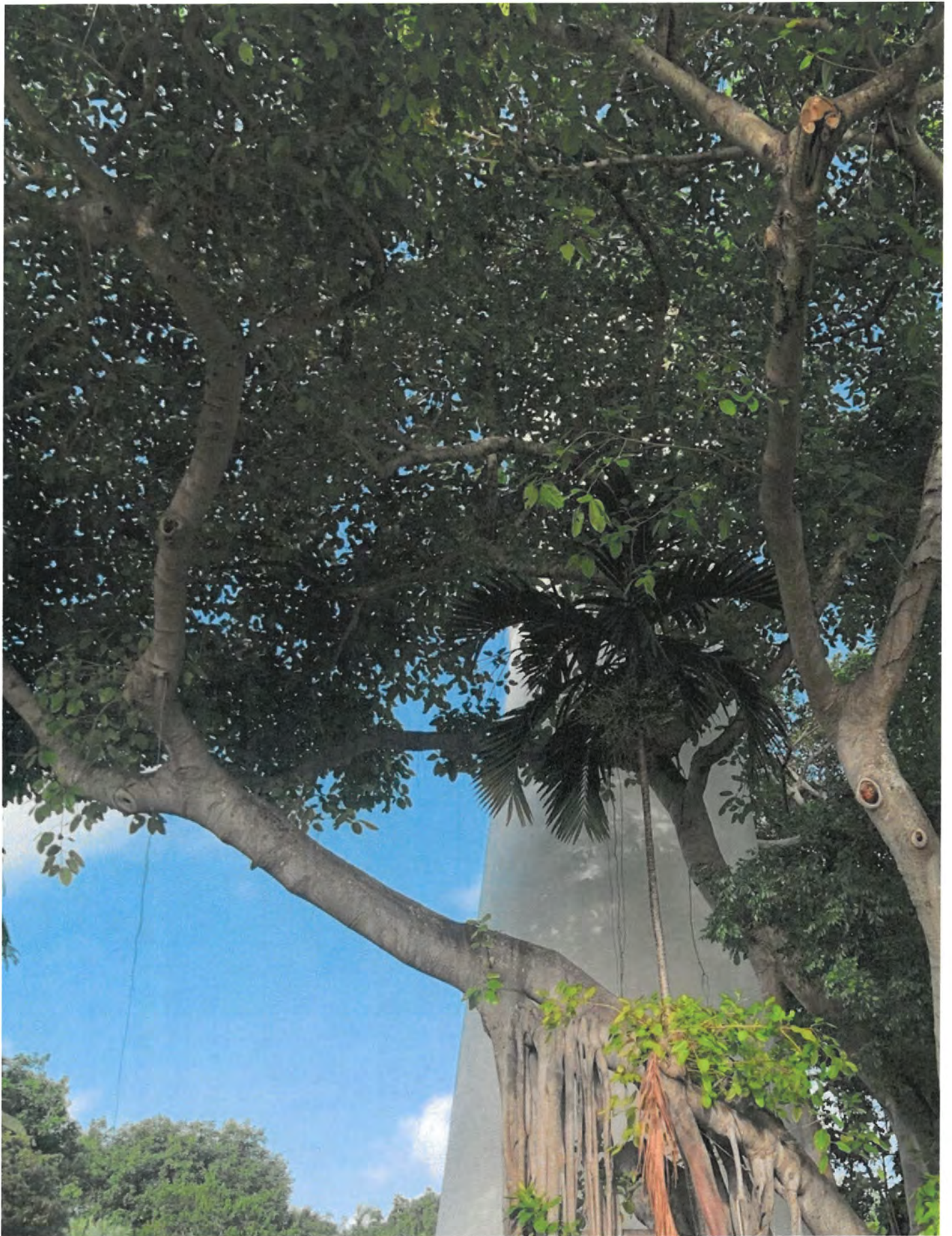
Karen,

I called Cori at the Custom House to try locating any info on the tree and was unsuccessful. She imagined the tree was planted by the lighthouse keeper in the 1920's. She was glad it was being considered to be recognized.

Here a few more photos. The lighthouse is 90.5 feet.

Thank you.

Helen







On Jul 27, 2020, at 12:22 PM, Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov> wrote:

It have not been nominated yet. Fill out the attached form and I will get the paperwork started.

Sincerely,

Karen

From: Helen Harrison <hh@harrison-gallery.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Heritage Trees

Hi Karen,

I hope you and Don are well and coping as we all are now.

I have been meaning to get in touch about the Banyan tree at the Lighthouse. Is it on the Heritage tree list? If it is not, could you get it on there or tell me what to do.

Thank you.

Helen

<image001.jpg>
Helen Harrison, Director
Harrison Gallery
825 White St.
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-0609

hh@harrison-gallery.com
www.harrison-gallery.com
www.facebook.com/harrisongallery

<Heritage Tree Nomination Application Form.pdf>

Karen DeMaria

From: Michael Gieda <mgieda@kwahs.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: RE: Lighthouse Lofty Fig/"Banyan" Tree

Karen,

Wonderful news!! It's a beautiful tree.

I sent an inquiry to our curator about the age of the tree, or at least some historical context. I also forwarded everything to Cary Knight who is the Director of Project Management (Public Works) with the County. I assume he or Kevin Wilson would be the signers. Either way, once I hear back, I will let you know.

Kind regards,

Michael F. Gieda

Executive Director

281 Front Street

Key West, FL 33040

(305)295-6616, ext. 103

The mission of the Key West Art & Historical Society is to preserve the culture of the Florida Keys through exhibiting and displaying regional art, architecture and history for the purpose of educating the community and visiting public.



KEY WEST

ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY™

From: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:43 PM

To: Michael Gieda <mgieda@kwahs.org>

Subject: RE: Lighthouse Lofty Fig/"Banyan" Tree

Michael:

I was on the property to take photos of the Banyan tree as it has been nominated for the City of Key West Heritage tree program. Helen Harrison nominated the tree for the program. Below is some basic information regarding the program:

Applications: Applications can be submitted for trees located on public or private property. If the property owner is not the one submitting the application, the property owner must give consent. Prior to final issuance of a Heritage Tree status, a signed agreement with property owner must be part of the file (see attached agreement).

The application must state the address for the tree, tree species, and a statement as to what notable local or regional historical event, person, structure, landscape the tree is associated with or if it is an important or unique species, or if the tree had been dedicated or planted as a public memorial. Historical photos, newspaper articles, age of the tree, and other supporting documents should be attached to the application. Trees being considered for the heritage tree program must be certified as being sufficiently healthy by an arborist.

Processing: Applications will be accepted from January 1 to June 30 of each year. The submitted application is then reviewed by the Urban Forester who will review the application for completeness, verify and document the condition and status of the tree, and collect any additional information, as necessary then forward accepted and completed applications to the Tree Commission for final review and vote. Final decision granting the heritage tree approval would be done by the City Commission. Trees are then given a marker approved the City then placed on website list and map.

If you have any information regarding the age of the tree, that would be very helpful. Also, I have attached the property owner agreement. I am not sure if you can sign that form or if it needs to be signed by a representative from the Monroe County or both. Can you follow up on getting the signature from the County or let me know who your direct contact person is.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen DeMaria
Urban Forestry Manager
City of Key West
305-809-3768

From: Michael Gieda <mgieda@kwahs.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Lighthouse Lofty Fig/"Banyan" Tree

Karen,

A staff member shared your business card that was left at the Lighthouse. If you have any specific questions or need access, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Michael F. Gieda
Executive Director
281 Front Street
Key West, FL 33040
(305)295-6616, ext. 103

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KEY WEST

ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY™

Karen DeMaria

From: Michael Gieda <mgieda@kwahs.org>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: RE: Lighthouse Lofty Fig/"Banyan" Tree

Karen,

Just following up, did anyone from the county respond?

Our curator state the following, "It was definitely not on the property in 1893, and I'm leaning toward it being planted when William Demerritt took up residency on the property, circa 1915. So, that means my guess is that the tree is roughly 100 years old. Hope this helps!"

Kind regards,

Michael F. Gieda

Executive Director

281 Front Street

Key West, FL 33040

(305)295-6616, ext. 103

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KEY WEST

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qPublic.net™ Monroe County, FL

Disclaimer

The Monroe County Property Appraiser's office maintains data on property within the County solely for the purpose of fulfilling its responsibility to secure a just valuation for ad valorem tax purposes of all property within the County. The Monroe County Property Appraiser's office cannot guarantee its accuracy for any other purpose. Likewise, data provided regarding one tax year may not be applicable in prior or subsequent years. By requesting such data, you hereby understand and agree that the data is intended for ad valorem tax purposes only and should not be relied on for any other purpose.

By continuing into this site you assert that you have read and agree to the above statement.

Summary

Parcel ID 00014970-000000
 Account# 1015318
 Property ID 1015318
 Millage Group 11KW
 Location Address 938 WHITEHEAD St, KEY WEST
 Legal Description KW PT SQR 3 TR 3 OR267-367/71 OR1117-113/15
 (Note: Not to be used on legal documents)
 Neighborhood 32060
 Property Class COUNTY (8600)
 Subdivision
 Sec/Twp/Rng 06/68/25
 Affordable Housing No



Owner

MONROE COUNTY
 500 Whitehead St
 Key West FL 33040

Valuation

	2020	2019	2018	2017
+ Market Improvement Value	\$587,279	\$587,279	\$587,279	\$587,279
+ Market Misc Value	\$79,070	\$79,070	\$79,070	\$79,070
+ Market Land Value	\$1,628,833	\$1,628,833	\$1,628,833	\$1,628,833
= Just Market Value	\$2,295,182	\$2,295,182	\$2,295,182	\$2,295,182
= Total Assessed Value	\$2,295,182	\$2,295,182	\$2,295,182	\$2,295,182
- School Exempt Value	(\$2,295,182)	(\$2,295,182)	(\$2,295,182)	(\$2,295,182)
= School Taxable Value	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Land

Land Use	Number of Units	Unit Type	Frontage	Depth
COMMERCIAL EXEMPT (100E)	33,471.00	Square Foot	174	192

Commercial Buildings

Style TOURIST ATTRAC-A / 35A
 Gross Sq Ft 2,245
 Finished Sq Ft 1,445
 Perimeter 0
 Stories 1
 Interior Walls
 Exterior Walls AB AVE WOOD SIDING
 Quality 450 (I)
 Roof Type
 Roof Material
 Exterior Wall1 AB AVE WOOD SIDING
 Exterior Wall2
 Foundation
 Interior Finish
 Ground Floor Area
 Floor Cover
 Full Bathrooms 0
 Half Bathrooms 0
 Heating Type
 Year Built 1943
 Year Remodeled
 Effective Year Built 1993

Lofty Fig

Ficus Altissima



The Lofty Fig, or Council Tree, or False Banyan is a large, evergreen forest tree with a buttressed trunk and a spreading crown which can grow up to 100 feet

Moraceae Family

Southeast Asia

11/13/2020



HT-0019

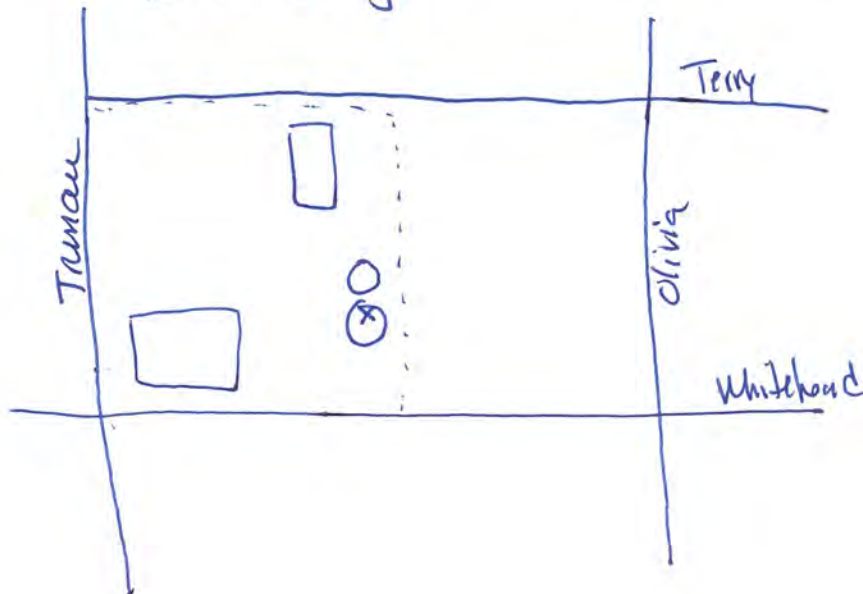
THE CITY OF KEY WEST
TREE COMMISSION
Heritage Tree Program
Information Sheet

Date: 11-13-20
Address: 938 Whitehead St - Key West Lighthouse
Number of Trees: (1)
Common Name of tree: Banyan Ficus / Lofty or Council Fig
Scientific Name of Tree: _____
Circumference (inches, measured 4.5 ft from ground on trunk): Not Measured Height (ft): +50 ft
Canopy Spread (ft): 75 ft x 55 ft approx. GPS: 24.33:02 N
81.48:02 W
Approximate Age: around 100 yrs old

Status of Species (Native/Indigenous/Caribbean/Invasive): Non Native (common to SPL)
Noteworthy Facts or Features: tree is tagged on the property as being a Council or Lofty Fig tree. Very photographed and well known tree. grows at base of lighthouse. Healthy tree.

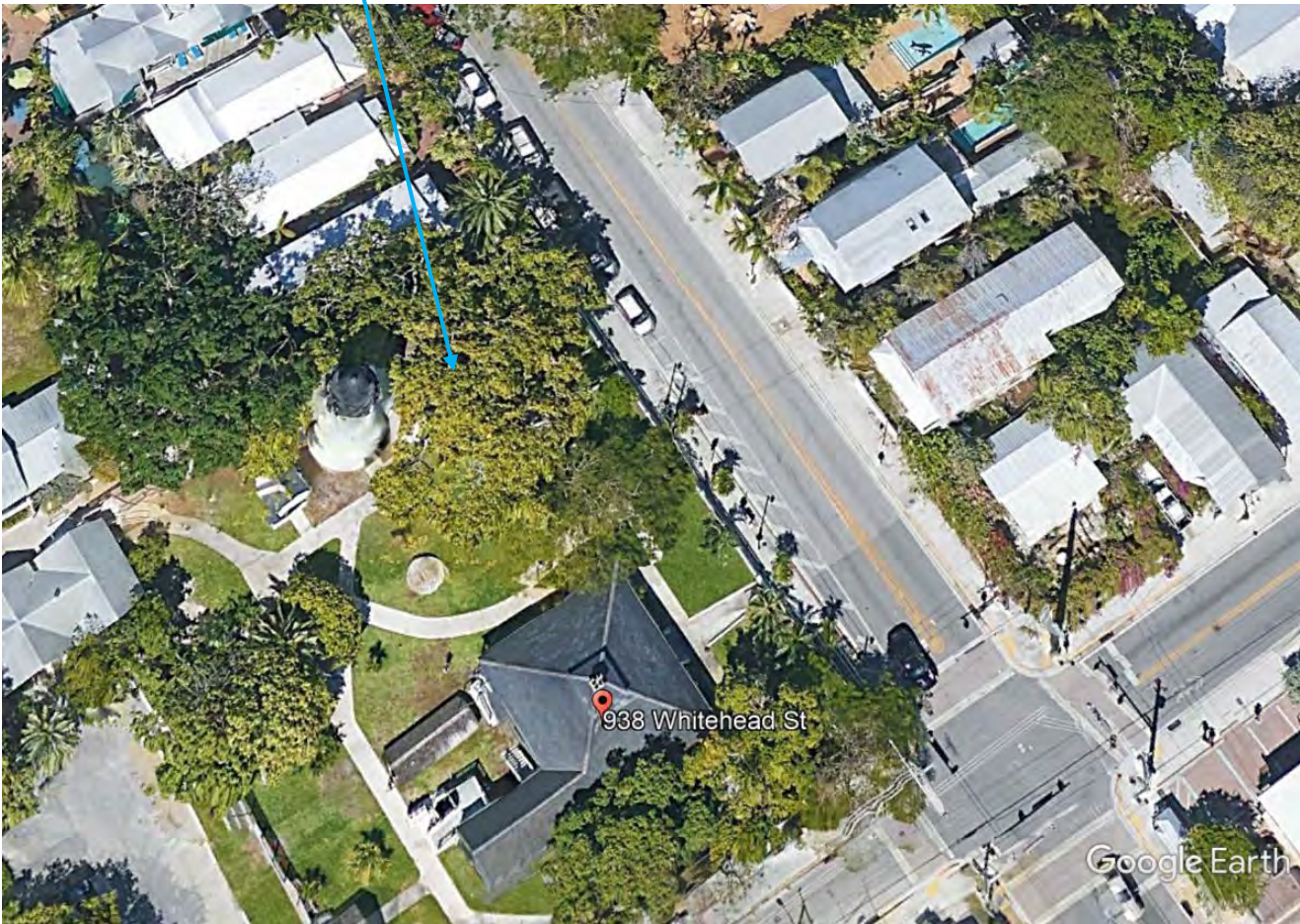
Base of tree consists of numerous aerial roots that have established themselves. Trunk/legs measured approximately 31 ft Long.

Location Map:



Attach Photos

Tree



Two photos from Google Earth showing location of tree.





Photo showing location of tree next to lighthouse, view 1.



Photo looking up at side of lighthouse at tree canopy. Branches are routinely trimmed away from historic lighthouse.



Photo showing location of tree next to lighthouse, view 2.



Photo of tree canopy, view 1.



Photo showing base of tree and trunks, view 1.



Photo showing
base of tree
and trunks,
view 2.



Photo showing
base, trunk and
some tree
canopy.



Photo showing
tree canopy,
view 2.



Photo showing
base of tree and
trunks, view 3.



Photo of tree trunks and canopy, view 1.



Photo of established aerial roots. These roots help to support the tree canopy.



Photo of base of trees showing numerous established aerial roots- legs, view 1.



Photo of base
of trees
showing
numerous
established
aerial roots-
legs, view 2.