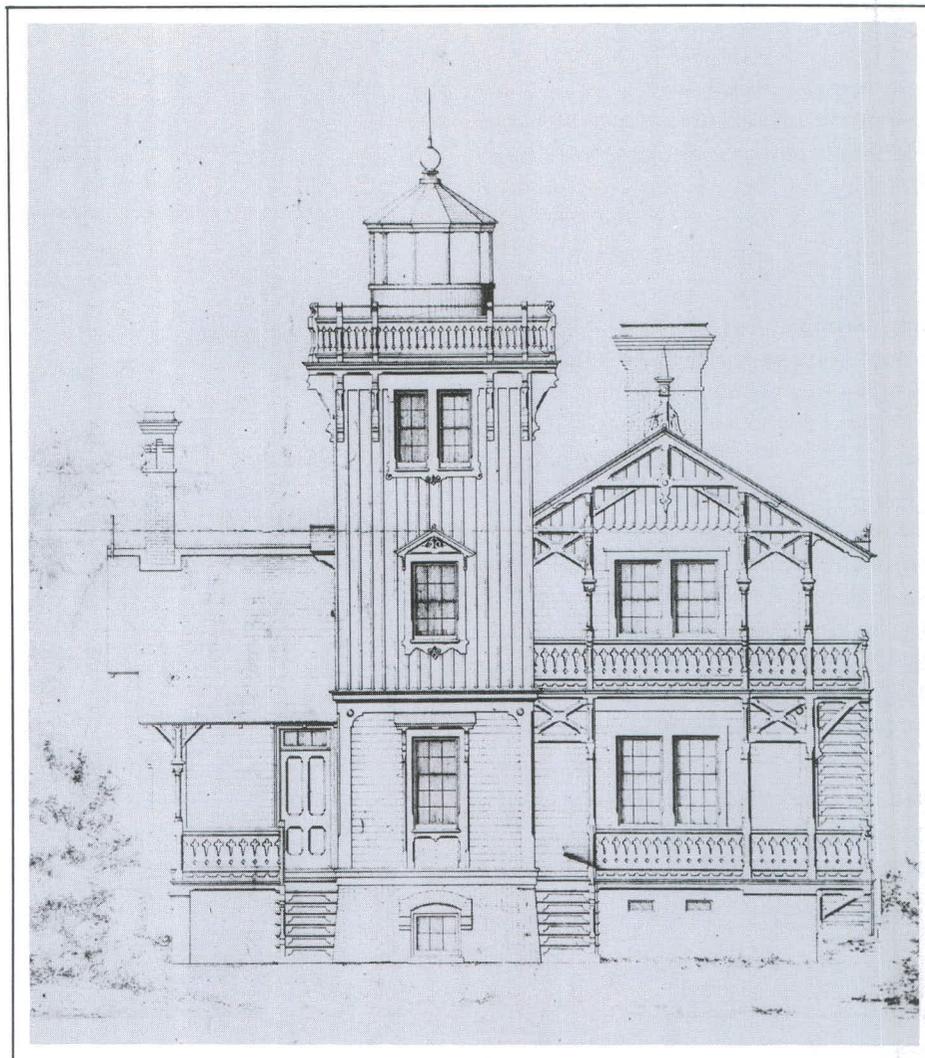


**EAST BROTHER—
A History of a Light Station**
by Frank Perry, 1984.
109 pages

An absolutely charming book about the life of a Victorian light station (1873) located on an island in Northern San Francisco Bay. Frank Perry has written a thoroughly engaging book from the "Introduction" to the fascinating appendices at the end. The first section, "West Coast Lighthouses," is an overview of the first sixteen constructed on the west coast in the 1850's. In the next section, "A Light Station for East Brother," Mr. Perry touches on the growth of commerce on San Francisco Bay and the need for the additional lighthouses which were constructed in the 1870's. Problems of land acquisitions, the design of the station and funding for the construction are all briefly and clearly explained. This section contains interesting engineering drawings and an overview of the island.

The sections, "Early Years at the Lighthouse," "Pages from the Past," "The Stenmark Era," and "Later Years," relate the story of the early keepers, their families and their duties. These sections constitute the heart of the book and provide a very real flavor of lighthouse life on a small island in a protected bay. The



East Brother Island Lighthouse.

last section, "Saved from Destruction" is a story in itself. It details the poignant tale of local residents rescuing the light station from destruction. It provides details on the herculean efforts a group of people exerted to obtain and completely restore the original buildings to their 1870's appearance and convert it into a non-profit bed and breakfast inn. This charming book is capped off with appendices that list all the keepers and their assistants as well as the recent inn keepers. There is also a map of California detailing the location of the lighthouses of the state and a bibliography of suggested reading.

Although the book deals with one particular California lighthouse, it really should appeal to lighthouse lovers throughout America. It will inspire those of you about to embark

on a lighthouse renovation project. The book is laced with historic photographs and before and after pictures taken during restoration.

This is a very clean book, easy to read and understand but heavy with the flavor of a by-gone way of life, the U.S. Lighthouse Service. A charmer and a must for your lighthouse library!

East Brother—A History of an Island Light Station may be ordered by writing East Brother Light Station, Inc., 117 Park Place, Point Richmond, CA 94801. The cost is \$10 plus \$2 postage and handling.
