NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED
FEB 2 5 1992
NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: west breakwater pierhead, entrance to harbor [N/A] not for publication
city, town: Fairport Harbor [N/A] vicinity
state: Ohio code: OH county: Lake code: 43 zip code: 44077

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[ ] private	[ ] building(s)		buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district		sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site		sites
[X] public-Federal	[X] structure	1	structures
	[ ] object		objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Light Stations of Ohio

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [X] See continuation sheet.

Barbara Pawn — 12-3-91
Signature of certifying official — Date

SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Joseph D. Canny — 2/20/92
Signature of commenting or other official — Date

Office of the Secretary, Dept. of Transportation
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[✓] entered in the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet. — Patrick Andrus — 4/10/92
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:) _____

for / Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
TRANSPORTATION: water-related	TRANSPORTATION: water-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

other: light station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls steel
brick
roof steel
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light, owned and operated by the United States Coast Guard, is located on an attached stone breakwater on the west side of the entrance to the Grand River, approximately 1,000 feet north of Headlands Beach State Park. It rests on a concrete pierhead reached by a flight of concrete steps and is surrounded by a pipe railing. The light station consists of a three-story tower, 12 feet, 8 inches square and 33 feet, 5/8 inches high, surmounted on the northeast corner of a two-story-and-basement building 29 feet, 8 inches square. The light has a focal plane height of 56 feet, 7½ inches (measured from mean lake level).

The light station is of steel-frame construction. Its 12-inch-thick brick walls are clad with ¼-inch steel cover plates and butt straps painted white. A pyramidal hipped roof, of steel cover plates and butt straps, is painted red; there are ventilators in the south and west elevations. The light station has a central entrance with transom light in the south (facade) elevation and double doors with strap-hinged storm shutters (now welded shut) in the east elevation. Each entrance is reached by a flight of concrete steps. The former engine room, on the first floor, is still equipped with a trolley beam for the movement of heavy machinery through the double doors. The station's first-story windows are enclosed by metal storm shutters painted green; some storm shutters in the second story have been removed. In the west elevation there is an inside end chimney of concrete.

Inside, the first floor contains an engine room and workshop. From the first floor, a flight of steps leads to the cellar, consisting of a storeroom, cistern, and coal bin, while a circular metal stairway leads to the station's former living quarters on the second floor, consisting of a kitchen, pantry, bedroom, and bath. These rooms, no longer occupied, feature hardwood floors, plaster walls, and simple door and window moldings. From the second floor, a spiral stairway leads to the watch room and lantern.

The lantern deck is enclosed by a gently curved cast-iron railing with round balusters and finials at the corners. The cylindrical lantern has a conical roof topped with a cast-iron ventilator ball and platinum lightning-conductor spindle. A 250-watt clear lens equipped with a 4-place changer (which automatically changes to a new bulb when one blows out) shows an isophase white light having a nominal range of 13 miles.

[X] See continuation sheet

In 1988 the light station was painted and its original double-hung windows, with 1/1 lights, were replaced with Plexiglas panels. A 4th-order Fresnel lens still in service in 1979 when the light station was inventoried by the Historic American Engineering Record has since been removed.

Section number 8--continued

breakwater pierhead. Plans for the new light station were approved in 1920 by Tenth District Lighthouse Superintendent Roscoe House. World War I and inadequate funding delayed construction, however, and the structure was not completed until 1925.

Steelwork for the new light station was fabricated and assembled at the Buffalo Lighthouse Depot, then shipped to the site aboard the steamer Wotan, arriving in Fairport Harbor on June 21, 1921. On June 9, 1925, an occulting white light of 4,500 candlepower, operated by electricity supplied by small oil-engine generators, was exhibited for the first time. The fog signal, an air diaphone, was powered by two oil-engine air compressors. Upon installation of the new breakwater light, the old light station on the mainland was abandoned. (Listed on the National Register, it now houses the Fairport Marine Museum.)

Fairport's iron ore docks ceased operations in 1946; its coal docks shut down in 1964. In 1965, the Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light was automated with the installation of new alternating-current equipment.

This property meets the requirements for registration set forth in the multiple property documentation form "Light Stations of Ohio." The Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light is significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the associated historic contexts of "Transportation and Commerce on Lake Erie, 1818-1936" and "Light Stations on the Great Lakes, 1819-1939."

The structure is architecturally significant for representing a distinct type of light station. In the early 20th century light stations with attached dwellings were typically of steel and brick, or steel and reinforced concrete, and clad with iron plate. These stations were commonly built on the ends of breakwater or on pierheads. Another common feature of light station construction of this period was the cast iron winding stairway. all these features are exhibited by the Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light. In addition, the structure represents the practice of designing light stations to reflect current design influences. The Fairport Harbor light has some architectural features associated with the American Foursquare building type, such as the cube shape, hip roof, and symmetrical fenestration pattern. The West Sister Island light was remodeled in the American Foursquare style in 1902, but is no longer extant. The Lorain Lighthouse (NR: 12/29/78) displays similar architectural characteristics except it is of reinforced concrete with steel windows and shutters, and features a gable roof.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Transportation

Period of Significance
1920-25

Significant Dates
1920-25

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light, erected between 1921 and 1925, marks the entrance to the Grand River at Fairport Harbor, an important lake port and shipbuilding center in the nineteenth century. Founded on the pierhead of the west breakwall (since extended northward), the light station has been in continuous service since 1925. The whitewashed light tower with its red roof, which stands out in high relief against Lake Erie, continues to play a vital role in the safe navigation of both commercial and recreational vessels.

Beginning in the 1820's, Fairport served as a fueling station and supply depot for steamboats. A lighthouse was first established here in 1825. The conical brick tower, built on high ground on the east bank of the river, was designed by Jonathan Goldsmith, well-known architect of Ohio's Western Reserve. Between 1827 and 1831, in response to a citizen petition, the U.S. Government improved the harbor, building docks and piers. Early commerce of the harbor, which consisted primarily of the forwarding trade, had almost vanished by the Civil War due to competition from newly built railroads, but after 1877, when Fairport was connected by railway with the steel mills of Youngstown and Pittsburgh, the small harbor was transformed into a busy transshipment point for iron ore and coal.

Fairport's first lighthouse was in "hazardous condition" by 1868, and in 1870-71 a new stone tower with an attached brick keeper's dwelling was built on the same site. Government construction of breakwaters in the early 1900s resulted in the creation of an outer harbor approximately 7,600 feet long by 2,000 feet wide, in addition to the lower 1½ miles of the Grand River. After 1910, the establishment of the extensive lakefront plant of Diamond Alkali (later Diamond Shamrock) Company, a heavy importer of Michigan limestone and exporter of sodium products manufactured from the salt underlaying its site, further increased harbor traffic.

In 1917 the U.S. Bureau of Lighthouses appropriated $42,000 for the improvement of aids to navigation at Fairport Harbor, including construction of a new combination light and fog signal station on the west

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Drawing and photograph files. United States Coast Guard Ninth District, Cleveland, Ohio.

Fairport Harbor Bicentennial Committee. A History of Fairport Harbor, Ohio. Fairport Harbor, O.: Lake Photo Engraving, Inc., 1976.

Lake Carriers' Association. Annual Report. Cleveland: Lake Carriers' Association, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925.

National Archives and Records Administration. Records of the United States Coast Guard. Record Group 26. Records of the Bureau of Lighthouses and Its Predecessors, 1789-1939.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: Nat'l Archives & Records Admin.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	476600	4623780
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light, as it rests on the west breakwater pierhead, 50 feet square, at the entrance to Fairport Harbor.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the light station and its foundation.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Poh Miller/Historical Consultant - under contract with
organization Ohio Historic Preservation Office date 8/2/91
street & number 17903 Rosecliff Road telephone 216/692-0747
city or town Cleveland state Ohio zip code 44119

PHOTOGRAPHS-FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT

1) Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light
2) Fairport Harbor, Ohio
3) Carol Poh Miller photograph
4) October 1990
5) Ohio Historic Preservation Office
[NOTE: THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS THE SAME FOR PHOTOS #2-6]
6) Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light, at the entrance to Fairport Harbor, looking north from Mentor Headlands State Park.
7) #1 of 7

6) South (facade) and east elevations, looking northwest
7) #2 of 7

6) West and north elevations, looking east.
7) #3 of 7

6) First-floor machinery room, showing double doors in east elevation and spiral stairway to living quarters.
7) #4 of 7

6) Second-floor stairway. The station's original sash windows have been replaced with Plexiglas.
7) #5 of 7

6) Gallery and lantern detail, looking south toward the Grand River.
7) #6 of 7

1) Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light
2) Fairport Harbor, Ohio
3) United States Coast Guard photograph
4) November 25, 1925
5) Ohio Historic Preservation Office (copy negative)
6) East and north elevations, looking southwest.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000242 Date Listed: 4/10/92

Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light
Property Name:

Lake OH
County: State:

Light Stations of Ohio MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus — 7/14/92

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

This structure was nominated under Criterion C, but no Area of Significance was selected. The nomination form is officially amended to add Architecture as an Area of Significance. This has been agreed to by David Reese of the Coast Guard FPO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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(8-86)

2/22/90
OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Light Stations of Ohio MPS
Ottawa County
OHIO

		Date Listed
COVER	Substantive Review	4/5/90
1. South Bass Island Light	Substantive Review	4/5/90
2. Green Island Light	Entered in the National Register	12/18/90
3. Huron Harbor Light		
4. Conneaut Harbor West Breakwater Light	Entered in the National Register	4/10/92
5. Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light	Substantive Review	4/10/92

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light

MULTIPLE NAME: Light Stations of Ohio MPS

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Lake

DATE RECEIVED: 2/25/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/10/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/26/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/10/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000242

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	Y	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 4/10/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Historically & architecturally significant early 20th century lighthouse

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A & C
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 4/10/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N 11/14

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CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
FAIRPORT HARBOR, LAKE Co., OH
#1 OF 7



FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
FAIRPORT HARBOR, LAKE CO., OH
#2 OF 7



FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
FAIRPORT HARBOR, LAKE CO., OH
#3 OF 7


NO
SMOKING

FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
FAIRPORT HARBOR, LAKE Co., OH
#4 OF 7



FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
FAIRPORT HARBOR, LAKE CO., OH
#5 OF 7



FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
FAIRPORT HARBOR, LAKE CO., OH
#6 OF 7



FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
FAIRPORT HARBOR, LAKE Co., OH
#7 OF 7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MENTOR QUADRANGLE
OHIO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHT
760 000 FEET
FAIRPORT HARBOR, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO
N. 4 616 600 . 4623 780

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and U. S. Lake Survey

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952 and planetable surveys 1953. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1963

Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey chart 34 (1958). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters south and 14 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve. Land lines established by private subdivision of the Connecticut Western Reserve

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 570.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

OHIO
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1984

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route

MENTOR, OHIO
41081-F3-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 4767 III NE—SERIES V852

COMMERCIAL SURVEY CO.
203 Caxton Bldg. 812 Huron Rd
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 771-3995

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1984