WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

88000159

INIT # 1313

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Great Duck Island Light Station (Light Stations of Maine MPS)
Hancock County
MAINE

Working No. JAN 29 1988
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-89
Date Due: 2/25/88 - 3/14/88
Action: ✓ ACCEPT 3-14-88
___ RETURN
___ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the National Register

☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

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
JAN 29 1988
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 Great Duck Island Light Station
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Southern Tip of Great Duck Island [N/A] not for publication
city, town Frenchboro, [X] vicinity
state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04635

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[ ] private	[ ] building(s)	4	____ buildings
[ ] public-local	[X] district	____	____ sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	1	____ structures
[X] public-Federal	[ ] structure	____	____ objects
	[ ] object	5	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Light Stations of Maine

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. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date 12/17/87
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official — Date 1/25/88
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[X] entered in the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:) _____

Entered in the National Register — 3/14/88

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Transportation: Water-Related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Transportation: Water-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)
Other: Light Station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone
walls Wood - Weatherboard
Brick
roof Asphalt
other Iron Lantern and Deck on Tower

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Prominently situated at the southern end of Great Duck Island, this light station is composed of a circular brick tower with workroom, a detached keeper's house, fog signal building, oil house, and a small shed.

1. LIGHT TOWER - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

The light tower at Great Duck Island, constructed in 1890, is a cylindrical brick structure that rises to a height of thirty-five-and-a-half feet from its base to the center of the lantern. Punctuated by three small openings (now filled with glass blocks) the tower is capped by a handsome bracketed iron parapet with railing. Centrally located behind the railing is the ten-sided lantern. The narrow brick workroom extends from the west face of the tower. It has an opening below the west gable end and a glass block window on the south side.

2. KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Standing at a considerable distance to the north of the tower is the keeper's house; the lone survivor of the three originally erected here in 1890. The one-and-a-half-story wooden frame dwelling has a narrow, centrally located shed roofed porch on its three-bay front (east) elevation and a shed at the rear. Gable roofed dormers are positioned on both the front and rear facades. A pair of brick flues punctuate the roof ridge. Clapboards cover the house. Paired windows are located in both gable ends.

3. FOG SIGNAL BUILDING - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Built at the same time that the station was established, the square brick fog signal building stands to the south of the tower. Covered by a low hipped roof, the building has two doors and three windows on its north wall, and two openings on the south elevation. Originally, a tall chimney rose through the west plane of the roof.

4. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

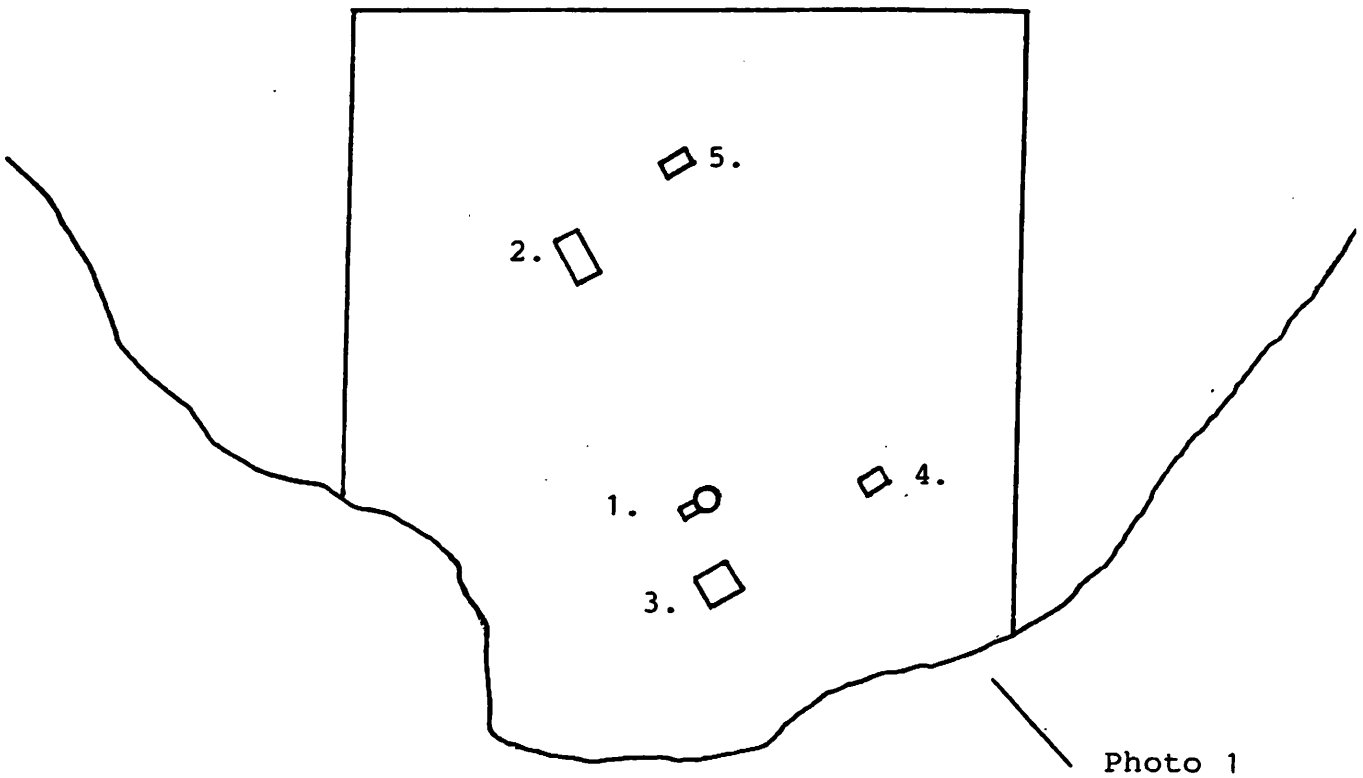
Constructed in 1901, the oil house is a small stone building similar in plan to those erected at other Maine light stations. It stands to the east of the tower and features a door and ventilator in its west gable end.

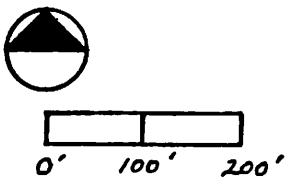
☐ See continuation sheet

5. SHED - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Located at a point that is northeast of the keeper's house, the shed probably dates to the establishment of the station in 1890, but its original use is not known. The frame building is sheathed in clapboards and covered by a gable roof.

At the time of its establishment the light station on Great Duck Island also featured, in addition to the two dwellings, a boathouse and slip 200 feet in length, a barn, a long rain shed used to collect water for the fog signal, an engine house, coal bunkers, and a number of small outbuildings. Most of these ancillary buildings had been removed prior to the automation of the light in 1986.





1"=200'
Buildings not to scale

Sketch Map

Great Duck Island
Light Station
Frenchboro Vic., Maine

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)

Architecture
Engineering
Transportation

Period of Significance: 1890-1937

Significant Dates: 1890

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer

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

Great Duck Island Light Station was established in 1890 as a secondary seacoast light strategically located between the primary light on Mount Desert Rock and the approach to Blue Hill Bay and Mount Desert Island. Despite the loss of a number of ancillary buildings, Great Duck meets the requirements for registration as outlined in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". The complex retains integrity of design, setting and association as more thoroughly discussed in the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1917.

The construction of Great Duck Island Light Station illustrates the continued effort by the Light-House Board to establish an integral system of navigational aids along the coast of Maine. In its 1885 Annual Report the Board first recognized the need for a light at this location. Three years later the Annual Report pointed to the increased "...importance of Mount Desert and the vicinity as a summer resort", and further stated the need for a fog signal "...not only for the general coastwise commerce, but for the safety of the steamers and yachts frequenting Frenchman's Bay."

The light station on Great Duck Island derives significance under criteria A and C. Criteria A is satisfied by the association of the complex with Maine's critical reliance on maritime transportation and the aids that made navigation possible. Criteria C is met by the station's distinctive character that reflects late nineteenth century light station design and construction.

☐ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report of the Light-House Board. Washington, D. C., U.S.G.P.O., various dates.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- ☐ 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: U. S. Coast Guard

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 11 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	19	560400	4887870
B	19	560550	4887875
C	19	560550	4887600
D	19	560400	4887590

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See sketch map.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property of approximately eleven acres embraces the buildings, light tower and immediate physical setting historically associated with this complex.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987
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city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333