

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Bass Harbor Head Light Station
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Bass Harbor Head N/A not for publication
city, town Bass Harbor, X vicinity
state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04653

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	3	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	4	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
			Total
			0

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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

James S. Feltz SHPO
Signature of certifying official
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date 10/30/87

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

John A. Quinn
Signature of commenting or other official
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION OST/P-14
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date 12/7/87

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- 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:)

Ray Schlazel
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action 1/21/88

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 Brickwalls BrickSynthetics: Vinylroof Asphaltother Iron Lantern and Deck on Tower

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Standing on a bold rock ledge, Bass Harbor Head Light Station consists of a circular brick tower connected to a one-and-a-half-story frame keeper's quarters. Detached from the tower is a small rectangular bell house, an oil house and a barn.

1. LIGHT TOWER AND KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

The light tower, built in 1858, is twenty-six feet in height from its base to the original focal plane of the beacon. Its brick walls are punctuated by a pair of small windows facing Blue Hill Bay. Capped by a walkway and iron railing the tower supports a polygonal lantern whose iron base features paired round arched panels in each face. A modern beacon has replaced the original lens. A narrow frame, covered passage supported on a stone foundation links the tower with the house. Its south wall is punctuated by a single small window and the exterior walls, like those on the keeper's quarters and bell house, are covered in replacement vinyl siding.

The T-shaped house has a three-bay front (west) elevation featuring a narrow vestibule at the northwest corner and a shed roofed dormer centrally located on the roof. Like the tower it was constructed in 1858. The window openings retain their six-over-six double-hung sash. There are four windows, two on each story, on the gable ends. A brick flue punctuates the roof and a second dormer is located on the rear elevation. The one-story ell, which was lengthened by ten feet in 1900, extends from the east elevation. In 1878 the house was raised ten inches and the original board-and-batten siding replaced with clapboards. The clapboards have since been covered with vinyl siding.

2. BELL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Standing to the east of the tower is the bell house. This one-story brick building, erected in 1876, has a three-bay front elevation that faces the bay. Two six-over-six windows flank a narrow central opening, the bell was formerly supported by brackets and a boom which projected from the central pent roof. Its pent gable ends are sheathed in clapboards, and each frames a window. At the rear is a door.

3. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The brick oil house was added to the complex in 1902. It is typical of other oil houses built in Maine at this time and features a door and narrow ventilator in one gable end. A slate roof covers the small rectangular building.

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

4. BARN - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Constructed in 1905, the barn is a rectangular frame building covered in clapboards. Three of its four walls are punctuated by windows while the fourth one has a door.

The compound on which the light station stands is bordered by a low concrete retaining wall. This is apparently a modern feature since it does not appear in early twentieth century documentary photographs of the site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

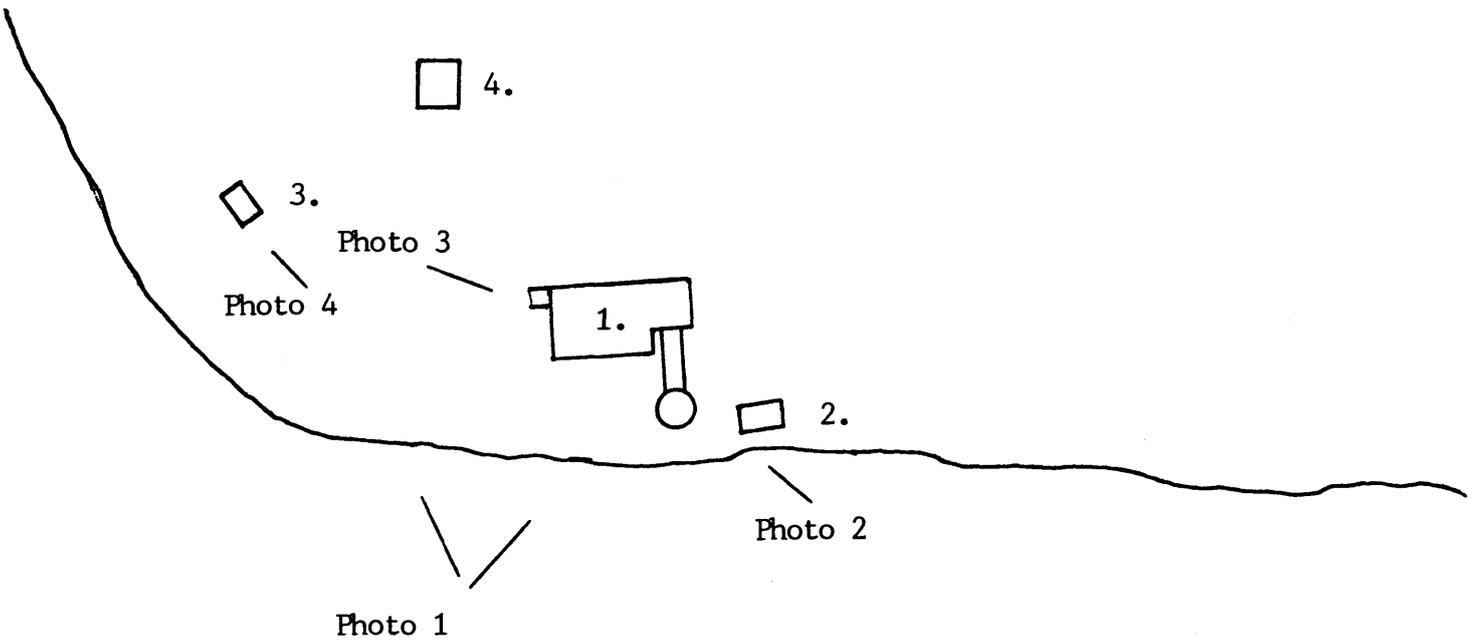
Section number 7 Page 3



Sketch Map

Bass Harbor Head Light Station
Bass Harbor Vic., Maine

Not to Scale



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

1858-1937

Significant Dates

1858

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.

Prominently sited at the edge of a bold rock ledge, the Bass Harbor Head Light Station retains integrity of design, setting and association, and meets the requirements for registration as set forth in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". Its significance is described with respect to the associated historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

The light station at Bass Harbor Head was established in 1858 during a period of increased effort by the Federal government to provide aids to navigation along the coast. Its location at this site was designed to aid vessels coming into Bass Harbor, a small fishing village located to the northwest of the light. The station was automated in 1974.

Bass Harbor Head Light Station 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 is primarily of mid-nineteenth century design and construction, although it also features components from the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

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 2.5

UTM References

A

1	9
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5	5	2	9	0	0
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4	8	9	6	5	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of 2.5 acres occupies the Town of Tremont, Tax Map 2, Lot 13.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Bass Harbor Head Light Station embraces the buildings and the immediate physical setting historically associated with this complex.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian	date	October, 1987
organization	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	telephone	207/289-2132
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city or town	Augusta,	zip code	04333