

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).

1. Name of Property

historic name Heron Neck Light Station other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Heron Neck, Greens Island city, town Vinalhaven, state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04863

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing, Noncontributing.

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. Signature of commenting or other official: U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION EST/P-14

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

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: Granitewalls BrickWood: Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Iron and CastIron Lantern and Deck on Tower

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Heron Neck Light Station is situated on a bold rock ledge which falls abruptly to the ocean. A station which has undergone numerous changes since it was first constructed in 1853, the present complex consists of a round brick tower connected to a one-and-a-half-story frame keeper's house and an oil house. A detached modern concrete block structure houses the fog horn.

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

The light tower, erected in 1853, is situated at the head of the range of buildings. Its brick shaft is punctuated on the seaward side by a pair of small stair windows. A wide iron parapet with a railing caps and projects over the tower shaft. The polygonal lantern, which houses a modern beacon, is crowned by an iron roof and ventilator. It is an 1890 replacement of an earlier lantern. A documentary photograph of the tower reveals that it had a narrow parapet around a short brick shaft that supported the original lantern.

A narrow enclosed passageway with a small window on its east side links the tower to the dwelling. This L-shaped frame house was built in 1895-96 to replace the original brick dwelling. It is sheathed in clapboards and wood shingles and has a single window opening (now boarded shut) and two dormers on its south tower elevation. Its west gable end is punctuated by one window on each story. The broader east elevation features a pair of windows on both stories and a clipped gable roof. A small shed roofed porch shelters the door which open into the narrow ell. There are two windows on the ell's gable end. Two brick flues punctuate the roof. The house rests on a granite foundation.

2. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The oil house, which was built in 1903, is similar in form to its Maine contemporaries, but is constructed of stone. It is covered by a slate roof and has a narrow door and vent in one gable end.

3. FOG SIGNAL BUILDING - NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING

A short distance to the north of the house is the fog horn building. This nearly square hip roofed structure has a two-leaf steel door on its east wall and a pair of windows on the north elevation. It was built after 1944.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2



Sketch Map

Heron Neck Light Station
Vinalhaven Vic., Maine

Not to Scale

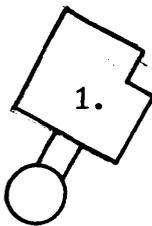
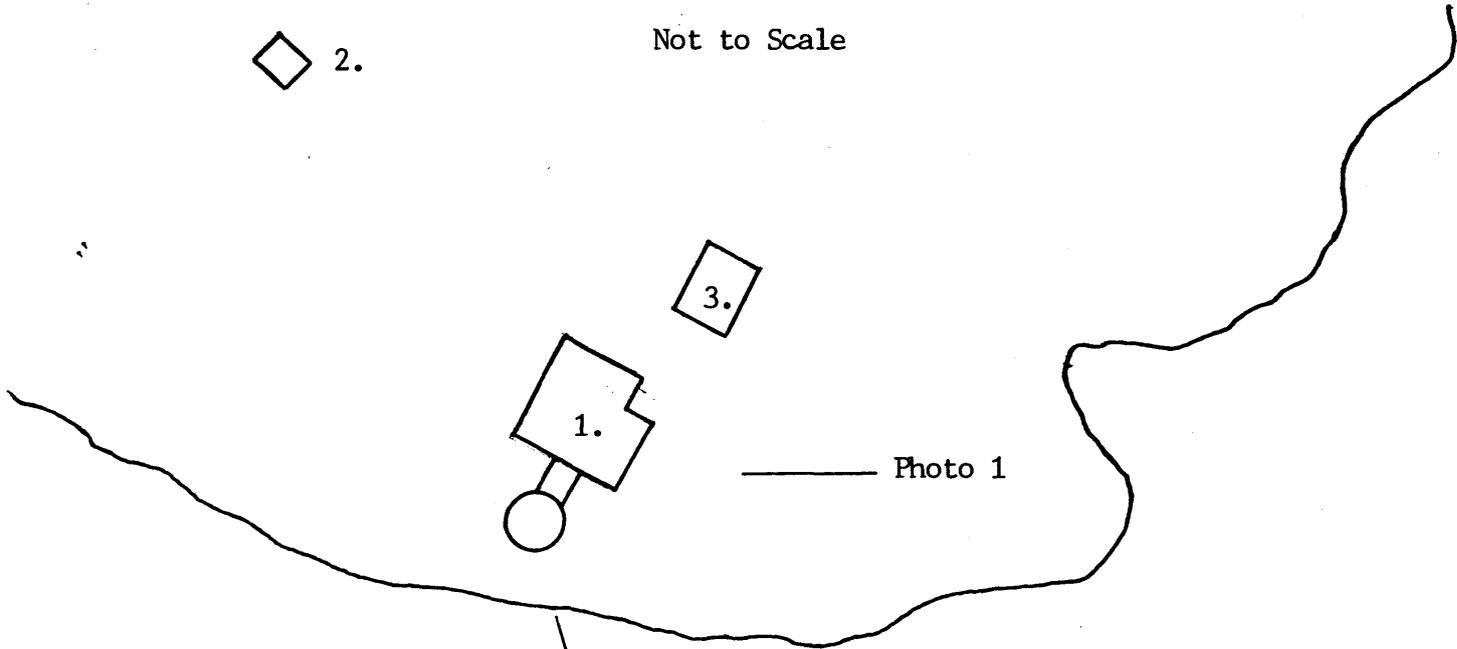


Photo 1

Photo 2



8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Engineering
Transportation

Period of Significance

1853-1937

Significant Dates

1853

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, Designer

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

Heron Neck Light Station was established in 1853 as a guide to Carvers Harbor and Hurricane Sound. It is a component in the system of navigational aids in Penobscot Bay. The station retains its integrity of design, materials, setting, and association, and meets the requirements for registration as defined in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". An evaluation of significance is made with respect to the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

One of the principal communities served by the Heron Neck Light was Vinalhaven located at the north end of Carvers Harbor. Incorporated in 1789, Vinalhaven's population in 1850 was 1,252 persons, most of whom probably combined fishing with limited farming. Later in the century, Vinalhaven witnessed the development of a local granite quarry and tourist industry. The Heron Neck Light was also sited at the southeast entrance to Hurricane Sound, a body of water framing the west side of Vinalhaven Island and punctuated with islets.

The Heron Neck light 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 a combination of mid and 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.
Maine State Year Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: G. M. Donham, 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 7.75

UTM References

A 19 511030 4874470
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of 7.75 acres occupies the Town of Vinalhaven Tax Map 11, Lot 5.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Heron Neck Light Station embraces the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with the complex.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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