

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 23 1981  
MAR 19 1981  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

St. Augustine Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *Ad.*  
Old Beach Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

St. Augustine

— VICINITY OF

4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Florida

12

St. Johns

109

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Navigator

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

(See Continuation Sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Johns County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

St. Augustine

STATE

Florida

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. Augustine Lighthouse and the adjacent Keeper's quarters are located on Northeast Anastasia Island, just inside the city limits of St. Augustine, Florida. Positioned on an approximate five acre tract in the suburb of Anastasia (the oldest beach area in St. Augustine), the lighthouse complex consists of three structures, the lighthouse tower, a base-structure (storeroom), and the lighthouse-keeper's quarters.

The lighthouse is the tallest structure in St. Augustine, rising 165 feet. The tower is circular in plan, tapers toward the top, and rests on an octagonal base. A one-story storage building, T in plan, projects from and provides the entrance to the lighthouse. Constructed between 1871 and 1874, the St. Augustine Lighthouse is similar to other east coast lighthouses of the same time period. However, no two lighthouses have the same characteristics. The St. Augustine Lighthouse is distinguished by its black and white spiral bands.

The brick tower is surmounted by the lantern gallery, which contains a First Order Lens and lighting equipment. A balcony surrounds the lantern-gallery and is supported by decorative iron brackets. The lantern-gallery has a conical roof which is surmounted by a red ball finial. Access to the lantern-gallery is made by a spiral staircase, comprised of more than 200 steps.

Three regularly spaced windows are positioned on the east face of the tower. The uppermost is located directly under the balcony. Another is located in the center of the tower. The last window is positioned about one third of the height of the lighthouse from the base.

The base of the structure is octagonal. A projecting T-shape brick building provides entrance to the lighthouse at the base. The one-story brick building has a central door, shielded by a bracket gable hood. The building has two chimneys. These are located at gable ends of the building. A granite belt-course is located at the floor line level of the structure.

The lighthouse and base structure essentially have maintained their original appearance. A brick wall which at one time surrounded the entire complex has been removed. A chain link fence which surrounds only the lighthouse and base structure has been added.

The keeper's quarters was partially destroyed by fire in 1970. Substantial damage was done to the roof, the upper porches, and the north apartment. The building also suffered extensive water damage. However, structural damage was limited and the building is in salvageable condition.

The keeper's quarters is rectangular in plan and originally was constructed as a duplex, with the keeper residing in the north apartment and the assistant in the south apartment. The quarters have two flanking kitchens, north and south.

The two-story building was constructed of brick and had a coquina block foundation. It had a gable roof which projected over two-story galleries on both the east and west elevations of the building. Two corbelled brick chimneys rose from each end of the gable. Each kitchen also had a chimney. The exterior of the house featured heavily bracketed eaves and chamfered porch posts with jigsaw brackets.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Maritime	

SPECIFIC DATES +1872 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Pittee, Hezekiah (St. Augustine, Fla.)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Criteria of Significance

- A. Constructed between 1871 and 1874, the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters are the oldest surviving brick structures in the City of St. Augustine, Florida.
- B. The St. Augustine Lighthouse has served continuously since 1874 as an integral unit in the complex of navigational aids positioned along the Atlantic Coast. It has been a familiar and welcome maritime landmark to both ships and the local community for over a century.

### Historical Narrative

The St. Augustine Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters are the oldest surviving brick structures in St. Augustine, Florida.<sup>1</sup> The lighthouse was constructed between 1871 and 1874 and is similar to other lighthouses of the period. Each lighthouse has certain distinguishing characteristics. The St. Augustine Lighthouse is noted for its spiraling black and white bands.

The Lighthouse is located on a site that has served historically as the location of a watchtower and lighthouse. The Spaniards constructed a wooden watchtower on the site in the sixteenth century. A stone watchtower was constructed at a later date and converted to a lighthouse in 1823. This tower, positioned too close to the shoreline, collapsed in 1880 after being undermined by the sea.<sup>2</sup>

As part of the redevelopment that took place in the south after the Civil War, a new lighthouse was built at St. Augustine. A site was selected near the old one, but set farther back from the water and on higher ground. The land owned by Dr. Charles W. Ballard of Albert Lea, Minnesota, was purchased and on May 16, 1872, Governor Harrison Reed signed a document ceding state jurisdiction to the five acres purchased for the lighthouse.<sup>3</sup>

The man in charge of building the structure was Hezekiah H. Pittee (1826-1918). A native of Maine, Pittee was superintendent of lighthouse construction along the Atlantic coast. The Lighthouse Board records include an October 10, 1871 contract for \$11,900 with Paulding, Kemble and Company of Cold Spring, New York "to furnish all the material and labor necessary to construct and erect at their workshops, take down after acceptance, and deliver on board a vessel at New York, the metal work for a First Order Lt. House for St. Augustine." These were to be delivered on or before April 1, 1872. The new lighthouse was completed three years later at a total cost of \$105,000.<sup>4</sup>

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME USGS, St. Augustine

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 min.

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 472110 3305950  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is bounded on the north by Carver Street, the east by Beach Road, the south by Anastasia Avenue, and the west by Poñce de Leon Drive.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Queen, Rolla L. (Historic Sites Specialist)

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

DATE

December 3, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

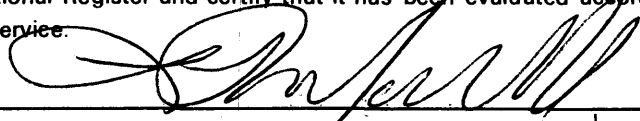
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

L. Ross Morrell, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/10/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Ann A. Reese*

DATE

3/19/81

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Ann D. Drake*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3/17/81

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**      one      ITEM NUMBER      4      PAGE      1

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OWNERS OF SITE:

Board of County Commission of St. Johns County  
Post Office Box 300  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Commandant CG-FLT/71  
U.S. Coast Guard, 400 7th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Attention: Lt. Commander Bower

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

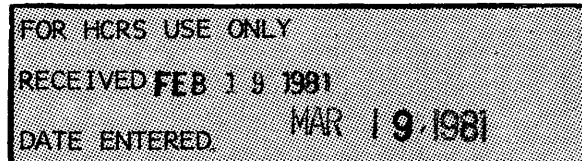
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CONTINUATION SHEET    two                      ITEM NUMBER 7                      PAGE 1

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The house had one the few basements in St. Augustine. The basement floors were brick and there were duplicate brick arched enclosures on the interior north and south walls. Located at the center of the basement were two identical brick cisterns.

With the exception of the quarter's, the lighthouse complex still appears and functions as it did when it was constructed. The lighting mechanism has been automated, but this resulted in minor structural change to the lighthouse.



## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET    three                    ITEM NUMBER    8                    PAGE    1

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The lighthouse was equipped with a lens of the First Order and its focal plane was 101' above sea level. The light was visible for nineteen miles. The lighthouse also served as a daymark and was distinguished by its black and white spiral bands. It was distinguished at night by the thirty second interval between light flashes.

In 1872, \$20,000.00 in government funds were appropriated to build a keeper's house in conjunction with the construction of the lighthouse. Funds were advanced in 1875 for the roof and walls and the brick duplex residence was ready for occupancy by 1876. Additional funds were made available by the government in 1888 to construct two 14' x 16' exterior kitchens attached to the rear of the building on the north and southwest sides.<sup>5</sup>

The lighthouse beam was electrified in 1936. It had been maintained previously with kerosene and originally with hogshead (lard) oil. A motor-driven gear for the rotating light was also installed, replacing a hand wound clock-type gear. The replacement of the kerosene lamp with an electric bulb resulted in an increase in candle power, from 13,000 to 20,000.<sup>6</sup>

During the Second World War, the light was reduced from 20,000 to 5,000 candle power fixed. This was intended to reduce the number of ships sunk by enemy submarines. Enemy submarines would pinpoint ships as they passed the brilliant light of the lighthouse. A reduction in the light resulted in a reduction of the number of ships sunk during the war.<sup>7</sup>

The lighthouse has had several keepers. The 1885 and 1889 St. Augustine directories listed W.A. Harn as the lighthouse keeper. After his death Mrs. Harn occupied the position. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, the keeper was Captain Peter Rasmussen. He was succeeded in 1924 by Captain John Lindquist. C.D. Daniels assumed the position in 1936, when the light was electrified.<sup>8</sup>

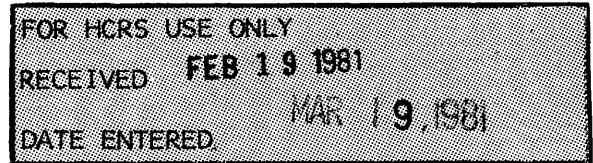
The Coast Guard assumed responsibility for the lighthouse from the Department of Interior in July 1939. Frank Lovely was appointed lighthouse keeper. He was followed by James L. Pippin who was the last keeper to be assigned. Pippin retired when the lighthouse was automated in 1955.<sup>9</sup>

In 1970 the lighthouse keeper's house was acquired by St. John's County. In that same year, the Keeper's Quarters was partially destroyed by fire. It has remained standing since the fire and its future is uncertain. Several attempts have been made to encourage restoration of the building but these have not been successful to date.

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FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board. "Historic Sites and Buildings Survey



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CONTINUATION SHEET      four                      ITEM NUMBER      8                      PAGE      2

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of St. Augustine, Florida", Unpublished Survey report. (September, 1980), p. 157-158.

<sup>2</sup>"Sentinels of the Coast" in El Escribano (April, 1964), p. 10. Miss Ruby Harn, Typescript of "Recollections" on file at St. Augustine Historical Society; Constance Fenimore Cooper in Harper's New Monthly Magazine, December, 1874. A marker erected by the St. Johns County Historical Commission at Lighthouse Park reads: "Since early times, Coastal towers were important in the defense of St. Augustine. From the wooden lookout here in 1586, Spanish sentries warned of approaching English raiders under Sir Francis Drake. Later the tower was built of stone. It served during the 1740 siege, was converted to a lighthouse in 1823 and used until it was lost to the sea. The present light replaced it in 1874."

<sup>3</sup>National Archives Record Group, No. 26. Copy in St. Augustine Historical Society, "Lighthouse" file.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville), March 1, 1936.

<sup>7</sup>Captain George R. Leslie, 7th Coast Guard District, Miami. Letter to Doris Wiles, St. Augustine Historical Society, November 30, 1961.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid; St. Augustine Record, June 25, 1924.

<sup>9</sup>Leslie, "Letter";



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Cooper, Constance Fenimore in Harper's New Monthly Magazine, December, 1874.

Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville), March 1, 1936.

Harn, Ruby. "Recollections" on file at St. Augustine Historical Society.

Leslie, Captain George R. (7th Coast Guard District, Miami) Letter to Doris Wiles, St. Augustine Historical Society, November 30, 1961.

National Archives Records Group, No. 26. Copy in "Lighthouse" file, St. Augustine Historical Society.

St. Augustine Record (St. Augustine), June 25, 1924.

"Sentinels of the Coast", in El Escribano. (April, 1964).

Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board. "Historic Sites and Buildings Survey of St. Augustine, Florida", Unpublished Survey report. (September, 1980)