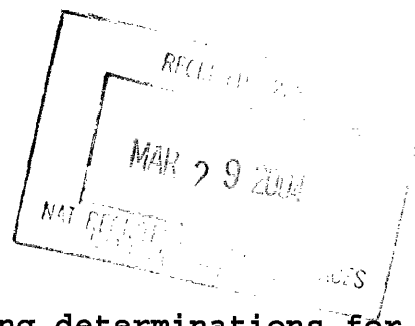


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Five Finger Light Station

other names/site number Five Finger Lighthouse  
AHRS Site No. SUM-00009

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number north end of the southernmost island of The Five Fingers, a group of islands in Stephens Passage, approximately 37 miles northwest of the city of Petersburg in Southeast Alaska

not for publication n/a

city or town Petersburg vicinity X

state Alaska code AK county Wrangell-Petersburg code 280 zip code 99833

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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   meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant   nationally  X  statewide   locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Butner  
Signature of certifying official

March 23, 2004  
Date

Alaska  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

=====  
5. Classification  
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Light Stations of the United States

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation Sub: water-related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation Sub: water-related  
=====

7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete (lighthouse)  
roof concrete (lighthouse)  
walls concrete (lighthouse)  
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Five Finger Light Station is at the north end of the southernmost island of The Five Fingers, a group of islands in Stephens Passage, approximately 37 miles northwest of the city of Petersburg in Southeast Alaska. The island is 2.9 acres in size. The U.S. Lighthouse Service built the combined keeper's quarters and light tower of reinforced concrete in 1934-1935 after fire destroyed the original wood frame building. The building has decorative piers at the corners of the building and tower, and between the window openings of the building characteristic of Modern Movement architecture. The present building stands ten feet east of the original lighthouse site. Other buildings at the station include a boathouse and a carpenter shop built in 1902, and a hoist house built in 1934. All are located around a concrete dock that is on the east side, or front, of the lighthouse. Northwest of the lighthouse is a helicopter pad constructed about 1965.

The buildings are painted white with green trim. The U.S. Lighthouse Service and its successor, the U.S. Coast Guard, regularly maintained the buildings until leasing them in 1997 to the Juneau Lighthouse Association, and transferring ownership to the group in 2004. The U.S. Coast Guard continues to service the light, which was automated in 1984.

Contributing buildings and structure

**Lighthouse.** The lighthouse is a two-story reinforced concrete building built into the side of a hill on the island. The building measures 40 by

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) n/a

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Maritime History  
Architecture  
Transportation

Period of Significance 1902-1954

Significant Dates 1902  
1935

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder U.S. Lighthouse Service  
U.S. Lighthouse Board

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Brown, C.M. *Lighthouses and Other Aids to Navigation in Alaska History*. Juneau, Alaska: U.S. Coast Guard, 1990.

Gibbs, James A. *Sentinels of the North Pacific*. Portland, Oregon: Binfords & Mort, 1955.

Hunt, Bill. "Lighting the Maritime Trail," *Alaska Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 10 (October 1990):46-50.

Lowry, Shannon. "Alaska Lighthouse Tales," *Alaska Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 10 (October 1990):30-45.

Lowry, Shannon and Jeff Schultz. *Northern Lights*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 1992.

U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau Division. Files of the Offices of Aids to Navigation, Civil Engineering, and Public Affairs.

Wheeler, Wayne. "Northern Lights: Lighthouse Development in the Alaska Territory," *The Keeper's Log*, Vol. VI, No. 3 (Spring 1990):2-13.

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

Name of repository: U.S. Coast Guard Archives, Washington, D.C.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

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10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>08</u>	<u>582600</u>	<u>6348125</u>	3		
2				4		
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Five Finger Light Station is located in the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 15, Township 53 South, Range 74 East, Copper River Meridian.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the lighthouse and the outbuildings and dock associated with it within a two hundred foot radius. The helicopter pad associated with the site was built after the period of significance and is not included as a contributing property.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Valerie O'Hare, Jennifer Klein

organization Juneau Lighthouse Association

date July 12, 1999; revised March 23, 2004

street & number P.O. Box 22163

telephone 907-790-3339

city or town Juneau state AK zip code 99801-2163

40 feet. A 13 by 13 foot tower with a cylindrical glass and metal lantern rises 68 feet from the center of the building's flat roof. Inside the building on the upper level are four bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen-living room area, a storage room, and a radio room. The lower level, referred to as the basement in the 1934-1935 construction drawings, is only partially excavated and originally contained all the necessary machinery in duplicate.

Centered on the façade on the lower level is a double leaf door. Paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows are set into the wall on either side of the doorway. Similar windows are located above the door and south window; a smaller 1/1 double hung sash window occupies the space above the smaller north window.

The exposed north elevation of the building is only one-story in height and has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows on the right side and a door on the left that leads to a small enclosed area. This door is accessed by a flight of stairs parallel to the north side of the building that ascend from the dock. The west elevation has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows in the center, flanked by single 1/1 double-hung windows. The upper half of the south elevation has three pairs of 1/1 double hung windows evenly spaced; the lower half of the south elevation, which is only partially exposed, contains a pair of 1/1 double hung windows to the east and a smaller opening that contains an exhaust vent.

The tower exhibits unique corners that are cut away, giving them a multi-faceted surface. Walls, modestly recessed from the tower elevations, rise at the tower's corners to form a partially enclosed gallery around the lantern. The tower elevations are punctuated by 1/1 double-hung windows. Windows occupy the top one-third on all elevations, the middle one-third on the north and south elevations, and the bottom one-third on the north elevation only. The east elevation also has a door at its base that provides access to the roof. A projecting band encircles the tower directly above the door. A cylindrical metal watchroom rises from the center of the tower and is topped by a metal and glass lantern. The glass is broken horizontally by thin metal muntins that form diamond shaped panes. The roof of the lantern is capped by a ventilator ball. The lantern room contains a modern VRB-25 optic showing a white flash every ten seconds. The light has an 18-mile range and a focal plane of 81 feet above sea level.

A flagpole rises from the southeast corner of the roof and a chimney from the northeast corner.

**Boathouse.** Built in 1902, it is one of the original station buildings. Located 25 feet southeast of the lighthouse, the boathouse is a wood framed, 20 by 30 foot building with shiplap siding and a slightly overhanging hipped roof. The north elevation has two garage doors, the left one slightly larger than the right. The east elevation has two multi-paned single sash windows and a personnel door. The south and west elevations are unadorned.



USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

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**Carpenter and paint shop.** The other original building at the station is immediately west of and parallel to the boathouse. The shop is a wood frame, 12 by 20 foot single story building on a raised foundation with a slightly overhanging gable roof with brackets. The north elevation has a double leaf door centrally placed. The other elevations are unadorned.

**Hoist house.** The hoist house stands 36 feet northeast of the lighthouse and was built in 1934. It is a one story, concrete, 10 by 12 foot building on a raised foundation. The building has a twelve light metal sash window in its east elevation, a 24 light metal sash window in its south elevation, and a personnel door set into the west elevation, which is accessed by a short flight of stairs. To the northeast of the building is a massive concrete footer that supported one of three legs of a derrick that once stood at the site.

**Concrete dock.** On the east side of the lighthouse, a concrete dock extends from the boathouse and carpenter shop to the hoist house.

**Noncontributing structures**

**Helicopter pad.** Accessed by a flight of stairs, the large square wooden platform is twenty feet northwest of the station. It was added at an unknown date, believed to be during the 1960s, but after the period of significance.

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**

Five Finger Light Station is one of sixteen staffed navigational lights established by the U.S. Government in Alaska. Since 1902, it has been part of a system of navigational aids to safely guide commercial and recreational vessels through the dangerous and heavily traveled Southeast Alaska waterway known as the Inside Passage. Located south of the city of Juneau and north of the city of Petersburg at the entrance to Stephens Passage, Five Finger Light Station began operation March 1, 1902, on the same day as Sentinel Island Light Station (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) north of Juneau. These were the first U.S. lighthouses built in Alaska. The U.S. Lighthouse Service built the concrete lighthouse and hoist house that stand at the station in 1935 after the original wood frame lighthouse burned. The lighthouse is a good example of Modern Movement architecture, popular in the 1930s for concrete buildings, and adapted by the U.S. Lighthouse Service as the agency replaced the original wood frame lighthouse buildings at many of its sixteen staffed stations in Alaska. Two original station buildings, the boathouse and the carpenter and paint shop, still stand at Five Finger. The Coast Guard stopped assigning keepers to the station in 1984 when the light was automated. The station continues to guide vessels through Stephens Passage today, however the period of significance ends in 1954, fifty years ago.

Historic background

The discovery of rich gold deposits on upper Yukon River tributaries at the close of the nineteenth century prompted a massive rise in the number of ships navigating the Inside Passage, a safer route for ships to travel through southeast Alaskan waters than the open ocean route to the west. In the late 1890s, watercraft of every description converged upon the Pacific Northwest ports to sail north. Once they passed British Columbia waters, there were few guides through the Inside Passage. Fog, rain, strong tides, and a rocky shoreline made this passage particularly difficult, especially for large steamers overloaded with prospectors and freight. Over three hundred accidents in Inside Passage waters were reported in 1898. Although Alaska's governors had been urging the U.S. Government to mark navigation hazards along Alaska's coasts for over a decade, only a few markers and buoys had been installed. In 1901, Congress appropriated funds for two lighthouses including \$22,500 for a light in The Five Fingers group of islands south of Juneau. Built on the southeasternmost island in the group and originally identified in the *Light List* as Southeast Five-Finger Islands, Five Finger Light Station started operating on March 1, 1902, sharing the honor with Sentinel Island Light Station north of Juneau, as one of the first two U.S. built lighthouses operating in Alaska.

The original Five Finger Light Station had a square light tower on a two-story wood dwelling. The structure also housed the fog signal apparatus, a Daboll trumpet. The tower displayed a fourth-order fixed white light visible 13¼ miles, 68 feet above mean high water. The station was improved

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Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

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with a third class radio beacon in late 1931 becoming the sixth in Alaska with such equipment. On December 8, 1933, fire destroyed the lighthouse and the adjacent radio beacon building. The crew of the lighthouse tender *Cedar*, landing supplies at the station at the time, helped the keepers save the boathouse and carpenter shop. The U.S. Lighthouse Service constructed a new concrete light and fog signal building with quarters for four, as well as a new hoist house at the site, between 1934 and 1935. The cost of construction was \$92,996.10. The new station stands ten feet east of the original site.

By 1936, the U.S. Coast Guard *Light List* reported the radio beacon had been upgraded to Class B and identified Five Fingers as a distance finding station. The fog signal, now an air diaphone, and radio beacon at the station were synchronized so that by noting the time elapsed between the reception of the two sounds in a vessel pilot house and dividing the same by five, a close approximation of a vessel's distance from the station in miles could be obtained. In addition, the light characteristic changed. The lantern now displayed two white flashes every ten seconds visible up to 15 miles, 81 feet above water. The apparatus illuminant was listed as a 375 millimeter, electric powered lens.

Five Finger Light Station was the last station in Alaska to be automated and unmanned. A 1979 USCG Local Notice to Mariners announced that the fog horn at the station had been permanently discontinued. In 1984, the U.S. Coast Guard removed the keepers. The Juneau Lighthouse Association, a non-profit organization, leased the property in 1997 from the U.S. Coast Guard and in 2004 became the owner. The light, however, continues to operate and the site serves as a weather reporting station for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

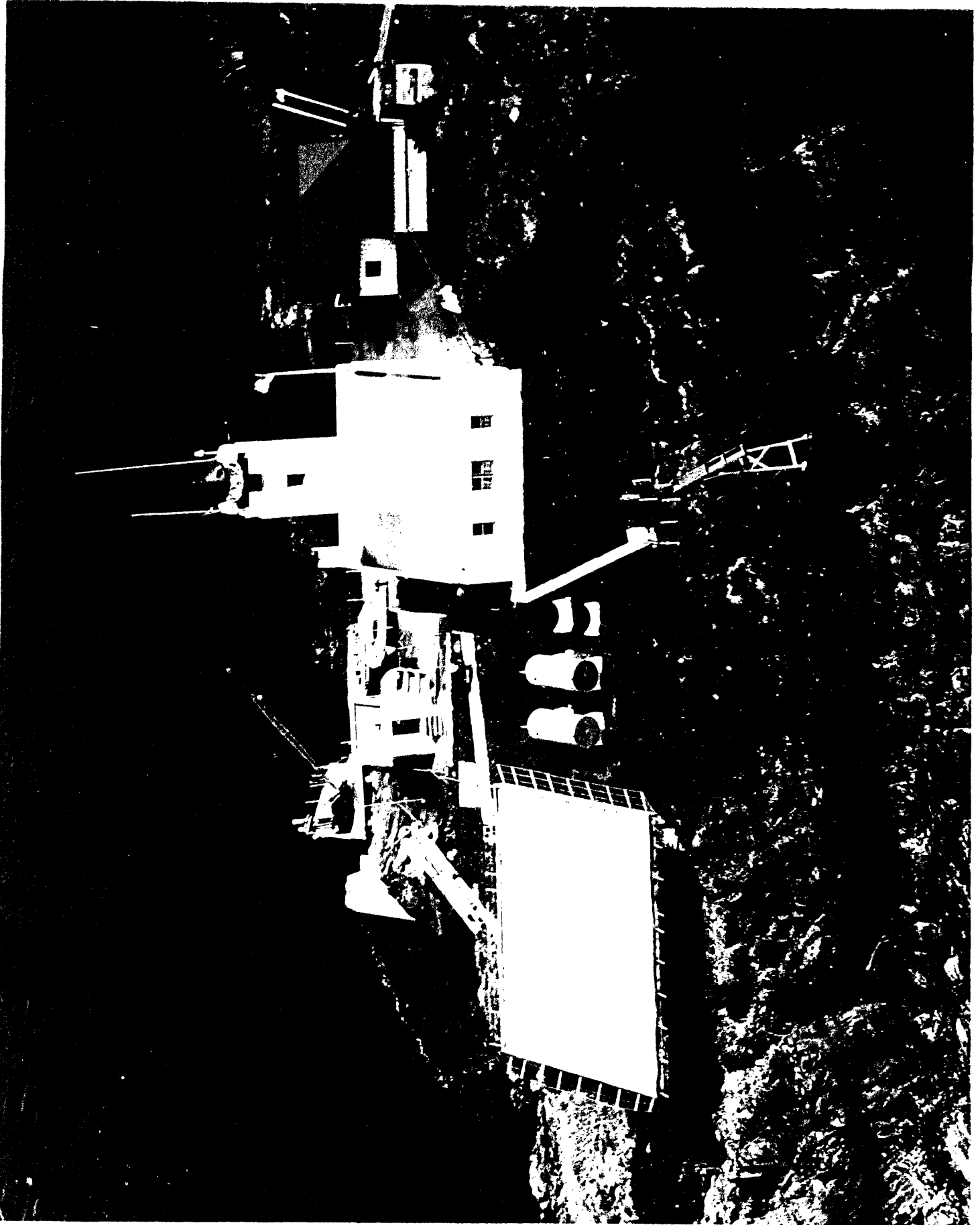
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Juneau Lighthouse Association

street & number P.O. Box 22163

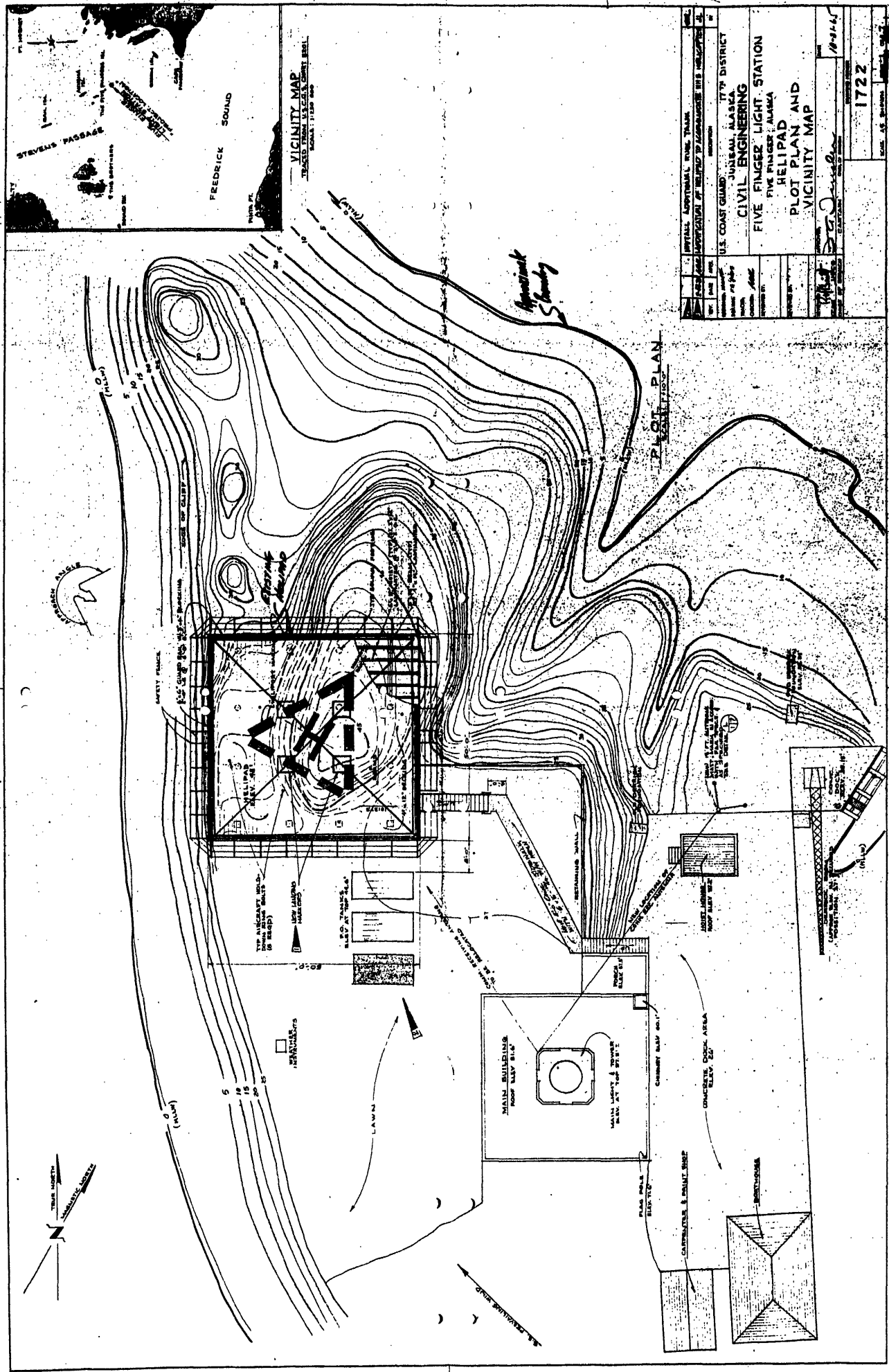
telephone 907-790-3339

city or town Juneau state AK zip code 99802-2163



#6  
Five Finger Light Station, Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska  
Looking east at the light station complex, May 7, 1977  
U.S. Coast Guard, 17th District, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska



PLOT PLAN

VICINITY MAP  
TRADED FROM U.S. COAST GUARD  
SCALE: 1:2500 1948

OFFICE:	ADDITIONAL PING TRAIL
DATE:	1954
SCALE:	AS SHOWN
PROJECT:	1722
U.S. COAST GUARD - JUNEAU, ALASKA	
CIVIL ENGINEERING	
FIVE FINGER LIGHT STATION	
FIVE FINGER, ALASKA	
HELIPAD AND	
PLOT PLAN AND	
VICINITY MAP	
DESIGNED BY:	[Signature]
CHECKED BY:	[Signature]
DATE:	10/24/54

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska

=====  
**Photograph Identification**  
=====

1. Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska  
Jennifer Klein  
August 2, 2003  
Juneau Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 22164, Juneau, AK 99802-2164  
Looking south, from left, at the dock, hoist house, lighthouse and  
helicopter pad
2. Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska  
Jennifer Klein  
August 2, 2003  
Juneau Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 22164, Juneau, AK 99802-2164  
Looking west, from left, at the boathouse, lighthouse, and hoist house
3. Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska  
Jennifer Klein  
August 2, 2003  
Juneau Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 22164, Juneau, AK 99802-2164  
Looking south at the lighthouse
4. Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska  
Jennifer Klein  
August 2, 2003  
Juneau Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 22164, Juneau, AK 99802-2164  
Looking northwest at the lighthouse and hoist house, roofs of the  
carpenter shop and boathouse are visible in the foreground
5. Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska  
Jennifer Klein  
August 2, 2003  
Juneau Lighthouse Association, P.O. Box 22164, Juneau, AK 99802-2164  
Looking east, from left, at the helicopter pad and lighthouse
6. Five Finger Light Station  
Wrangell-Petersburg, Alaska  
U.S. Coast Guard  
May 7, 1977  
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 17<sup>th</sup> District, Juneau, AK 99801  
Looking east at the light station