

1338

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 New Dungeness Light Station

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Dungeness Spit not for publication

city or town Sequim vicinity

state Washington code WA county Clallam code 009 zip code 98382

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary Sampson 3/11/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Donald R. Jullena 10/8/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Director, Ofc of Transportation Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Dept of Transportation/OST
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Def R. Lusign 11/30/93

New Dungeness Light Station
Name of Property

Clallam Co., WA
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
5	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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)

Mid - 19th Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

Brick

roof Wood: Shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Spit, Sequim vicinity, Clallam County, WA

Description

Located about one-sixth mile from the tip of the Dungeness Spit in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the New Dungeness Light Station is a historical compound that includes an 1857 lighthouse with tower, a 1904 keepers' quarters, and several auxiliary structures. The New Dungeness light was the first federal navigational aid constructed north of the Columbia River. Although the tower was lowered in 1927 to its present height, and the station automated in 1976, the complex still reflects both the original construction and the evolution of the station over the last 140 years.

The New Dungeness Light Station is the only man-made feature on the spit, which since the early 20th century has been a federal wildlife sanctuary (and off-limits to construction). The isolation of the light is further emphasized by frequent storms and fog, and on rare occasions (first recorded in 1871) the north end of the spit (on which the lighthouse stands) has been temporarily severed from the base of the spit by rising waters.

The Dungeness Spit is a narrow, five and one-half mile long finger of low-lying land that gently curves to the northeast as it stretches into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The landform is relatively barren, characterized by sand, rocks, logs, and beach grasses, and supports no trees (despite a 1852 Coast Survey Team recommendation that trees be planted to help alert navigators). The western shore is lapped by the open waters of the Strait, while the inner eastern shore shelters the gentler waters of New Dungeness Bay and Harbor. About halfway to the tip, a secondary spit—Graveyard Spit—projects from the main spit into the bay.

The primary feature of the station is the original lighthouse. Constructed of large sandstone blocks and brick in 1857, the lighthouse is a one-and-one-half story rectangular stone building with a 63-foot brick tower rising from the center of the house. At its crest, the tower is 67 feet above sea level. The lighthouse is composed of a side-gabled main block, measuring 40 feet across the facade by 28 feet 3 inches along the side elevations, with a perpendicular gabled wing, measuring five feet 10 inches by 24 feet, projecting off the rear. A one-story rear annex provides restroom facilities. (The perpendicular wing and annex were constructed sometime after the original construction but before 1904.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Split, Sequim Vicinity, Clallam County

The foundation, raised basement, and house are constructed of large sandstone blocks, measuring about two feet square, shipped from a Bellingham quarry and faced in stucco. The upper walls of the tower are brick, covered with a stucco veneer. The gable roofs are faced in wood shingles.

The north facade of the lighthouse is symmetrical, with a central entry flanked by two first floor windows on each side. The entry, which is spanned by a large sandstone lintel, features a recessed single leaf door beneath a glazed transom and framed by sidelights. The windows on the facade are also surmounted by flat sandstone lintels and rest on stone sills. Each window features double-hung wood sash, with two horizontal lights in each sash. The side gable-end elevations are lighted by a single window on the first floor and two windows on the second floor. As on the facade, the windows have stone lintels and sills with double hung sash. A drip molding surrounds the structure above the concrete basement. The eaves of the gable roof are boxed with a projecting cornice molding. Two brick chimneys rise above the roof ridge on either side of the central tower. The one and one-half story rear gabled wing projects from the south elevation and is lighted by wood frame windows with stone lintels and sills. The one-story rear annex features several windows and a door on either side.

The tapering brick tower rises through the center of the gabled roof. At its foundation inside the house, the tower has a diameter of 17 feet 3 inches and is constructed of sandstone. The shaft is built of double brick walls—an inner wall that rises on a straight vertical plane to the lantern and an exterior wall that tapers as it rises until it nearly converges with the inner wall at the crest. The tower is punctuated by several small wood frame windows placed at the landings, and is surmounted by an octagonal iron deck, surrounded by an iron railing, and capped by a circular metal-framed glazed lantern housing the light. The diamond-shaped panes of the lantern followed the curvature of the tower. The original lantern housed a third order Fresnel lens, which was replaced (when the tower was lowered in 1927) with a Barbier and Benard lens (built in 1897 and earlier installed at Admiralty Point Lighthouse). The rotating lens was removed in 1976 during automation. A conical roof with a large finial ball caps the tower.

The present tower is 27 feet shorter than it was originally. It was lowered in 1927 because of structural instability. The tower was shortened by removing the upper courses of bricks and placing a new light

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Split, Sequim Vicinity, Clallam County

housing on top of the shortened tower. Otherwise the tower is all original material.

The interior of the lighthouse is arranged on a bilateral, symmetrical plan. The entry hall leads to the spiral stairs which ascend the central tower. To either side of the hall, single leaf doors lead to original keeper's residence rooms with double-hung wood sash windows. The rooms at the rear feature curved inner walls which conform to the base of the tower. A rear stairway leads to the second story bedrooms, and the kitchen is located in the rear wing. The tower is accessed through a spiral wooden stairs with iron railing, which ascends to the lantern.

In 1904, a wood frame keepers' quarters was constructed to the west of the lighthouse to accommodate the personnel stationed at the light. The frame structure is a one-and-one-half story rectangular structure with a side gable roof and restrained Neoclassical ornament. The house rests on a concrete foundation and raised basement; the upper walls are sheathed in drop siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The walls of the house are framed by a projecting drip molding above the raised basement, corner boards, and an architrave molding beneath a projecting cornice molding which supports the boxed eaves of the roof. The side elevations are trimmed with molded cornice returns on the side elevations.

The composition of the house is based on bilateral symmetry with a central entry flanked by wood frame windows. The windows are double-hung wood sash units with two-over-two lights and are framed by molded hoods and projecting sills. The central entry is sheltered by a large porch which is the most dramatic element of the facade. The flat roof of the porch is treated as a classical entablature, with plain frieze, dentil course, and cornice. The entablature is supported by paired Tuscan columns which rest on plinths. Decorative pilasters are placed against the wall on either side of the entry and a railing runs between the columns. The doorway itself is a single leaf unit flanked by glazed sidelights. The porch is accessed by a flight of six steps. Above the porch, a gabled dormer window projects from the front slope of the roof. The dormer is lighted by paired multi-light windows, with a decorative sunburst in the tympanum.

The classical motif is continued on the side elevations, which are lighted in the gable ends by tripartite Palladian windows composed of a central

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Spit, Sequim Vicinity, Clallam County

round arch light flanked by double-hung sidelights. Elsewhere windows are wood frame double-hung sash with two-over-two lights, trim by hood moldings and sills. An enclosed rear porch is glazed with ribbon windows.

The interior plan of the house features a central hall with a staircase with turned banisters and a square newel. Rooms are located to either side of the central stairs and feature simple baseboard trim. Two rear rooms (a bedroom and a kitchen) are located on the first floor. Two bedrooms are located upstairs on either side of the central hall. The bedrooms are accessed through paneled doors.

Elsewhere on the grounds are utilitarian structures that date from the 20th century, including a square concrete transformer house, a frame gable roof garage and workshop; a frame paint shed / oil house with corrugated tin siding; and the concrete foundations of the original fog signal building. An office building and boat house once located at the complex no longer stand.

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.)

- [x] 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.)

Property is:

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Maritime History

Period of Significance

1857 - 1942

Significant Dates

1857; 1904; 1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See text

Smith, Isaac (Superintendent of construction)

Primary location of additional data:

- [] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Spit, Sequim vicinity, Clallam County

Statement of Significance

The New Dungeness Light Station was the first federal navigational aid constructed north of the Columbia River. Lighted in December, 1857 (just a few weeks before the light on Tatoosh Island), the Station consists of the original lighthouse with tower and a nearby keepers' residence built in 1904. The Light Station is situated at the tip of Dungeness Spit in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and has served for nearly 140 years as a maritime beacon in an area plagued by strong storms, dense fog, and heavy commercial traffic. Although the tower was lowered in the early 20th century, the station retains excellent integrity and remains an enduring symbol of the historic lighthouses of Washington.

Background: When Congress passed the Lighthouse Act of 1789, the federal government assumed responsibility for constructing and operating navigational aids in the United States. Since then, more than 1,000 lighthouses have been built along with hundreds of fog signals and lightships. In 1852, Congress created a special Lighthouse Board, composed of scientists and military officials, to administer the navigational aids program. The Board gave way to the Bureau of Lighthouses in 1910 and in 1939 the bureau and its employees in the United States Lighthouse Service were amalgamated with other agencies with maritime responsibilities to become the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard has had responsibility for navigational aids since that time.

By the early 1850s, Congress had authorized construction of 16 West Coast lighthouses--including five in today's Washington State. The first completed lighthouse on the Pacific Coast was at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, lighted on June 1, 1854. Three years later, the first lighthouse built north of the Columbia River was lighted on the New Dungeness Spit on December 14, 1857.

The Dungeness Spit is a narrow five and one-half mile, low-lying stretch of sand, drift logs, and beach grass that reaches into the Strait of Juan de Fuca (an international boundary between Washington and British Columbia). First identified as Point Santa Cruz by Spanish explorers in 1790, the landform and surrounding bay was named "New Dungeness" in 1792 by British Captain George Vancouver, after Dungeness Point on the English Channel.

Because of the deceptively low profile of the spit, and its unusual length, the site was the scene of many shipwrecks--and a logical location

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Split, Sequim Vicinity, Clallam County

for a light. The Coastal Survey of 1852 went so far as to recommend planting trees to alert navigators. In September 1850, Congress passed an enabling act providing for a New Dungeness lighthouse (as well as one at Tatoosh Island at the entrance to the Strait). In August, 1854, Congress reserved sites and appropriated \$39,000 for construction of both stations.

Construction of the lighthouses began in 1856 under the supervision of Isaac Smith. Work on the New Dungeness light was undertaken by a crew that included John Tibbals and mason Konrad Schneider. Federal officials were concerned about the remote location, inclement weather, and potential Indian hostilities, and encouraged Smith to seek a timely completion. To spur his crews, Smith initiated a friendly rivalry, challenging each to finish first. The race ended on December 14, 1857 when the New Dungeness beacon was lighted two weeks before the Tatoosh Island light, thus becoming the first lighthouse on the Strait and the first American light north of the Columbia River.

The new lighthouse, patterned after prototypical designs of Treasury architect Ammi B. Young, consisted of a tapering tower that rose 89 feet from the center of a gable-roofed keeper's house. Smith acquired huge blocks of sandstone from the Bellingham area for the house and brick for the tower, which was painted white on its lower half and a dark color on the upper section. The original oil lamp shown through a fixed lens of the third order of Fresnel.

Franklin Tucker and John Tibbals of Port Townsend were named temporary keepers until February, 1858, when Captain Thomas Boyling and Captain William Henry Blake arrived to assume permanent command. By March, Blake was appointed sole keeper-in-charge, a position he held until 1868. Blake was replaced by Jacob J. Rogers, who retained the post until 1871, when he was replaced by Charles Blake. Franklin Tucker (the temporary keeper in 1857-58) replaced Blake in 1873 and remained in charge from April of that year until December, 1882, when he was transferred to Ediz Hook Light Station and replaced by Amos Morgan. Morgan served until March, 1896, and in the late 1890s Oscar Brown and Joseph Dunn served as station keepers.

The lightkeeper's life in the 19th and early 20th centuries was occupied with extensive maintenance and regulated by timely operations. Polishing brass, bronze, and glass was a daily chore, especially in the early years when the oil lamps tended to smut up the Fresnel lens. The keeper fed the lamp with oil every day. (A kerosene lamp replaced the oil lamp which in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Spit, Sequim Vicinity, Clallam County

turn was replaced by a mineral oil lamp in the 1880s.) In addition, the station featured a 1,100 pound fogbell (housed on a platform near the lighthouse) which required the keeper to wind the weights every few hours, day and night. Occasionally, the bell striker became inoperative, requiring hand-ringing around the clock. (In 1873 Congress appropriated money for a 12" steam whistle, operated by two large boilers. Later an air whistle was installed, replaced by a compressed air siren in 1907, which in turn was replaced in 1937 by diaphones.) In the early years, the keeper would row to Victoria for supplies.

Despite the presence of light and horn, the heavy fogs of the Strait and the deceptively low-lying profile of the Spit lead to many wrecks, earning the landform the ominous sobriquet "Shipwreck Spit." The first recorded wreck of consequence was that of the schooner John Stevens, which straddled the spit in 1858 just after the lighthouse was commissioned. Other prominent wrecks in the 19th century included the schooner Kosuth (1862), the bark Fremont (1866), the bark George Washington (1867), the bark Iconium (1867), the bark Ocean (1868), the bark Christopher Mitchell (1874), the ship Washington Libby (1874), the Chilean barks Savona (1890) and Eritrea (1893), and the ship R. K. Ham (1894). In 1914, the Mosquito Fleet steamer Sioux was grounded on the Spit but later freed. Obviously, however, the presence of the lighthouse provided significant assistance in an area that continued to pose maritime hazards. (While often hazardous to vessels, the Spit was home for thousands of migrating seabirds. In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed an Executive Order establishing a wildlife refuge on the Dungeness Spit, thus insuring that the Light Station would remain the only man-made feature on the long sandy stretch. Today, the refuge encompasses over 550 acres.)

By 1895, four men were working at the station, and funds were requested for construction of a new, freestanding residence. The new quarters was built in 1904 at the cost of \$45,000. In 1927, the station underwent another major transformation when the original tower was lowered by 26 feet. The unusual action was taken because the district's chief lighthouse engineer, Clarence Sherman, noted structural instabilities. Sherman supervised the reconstruction, knocking off the taller courses of brick. When the tower was shortened to a height of 63 feet, a new gallery, iron deck, and iron railing were installed atop the lowered tower. A new lamp and lantern house were also required, so Sherman removed the light from the abandoned Admiralty Head Lighthouse on Whidbey

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Spit, Sequim Vicinity, Clallam County

hand installed the fourth order Barbier and Benard Prism Lens, which functioned as the prism lens for distant light generation until 1976. The quartz-iodide bulb came on and went off automatically according to light intensity.

In 1976, the lighthouse was fully automated with the installation of an electronic beacon and an automated fog horn. Thereafter, fewer staff were needed, and today a single keeper and spouse attend to the duties of the New Dungeness Light Station.

New Dungeness Light Station
Name of Property

Clallam Co., WA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	10	491820	5336360
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	10	4920000	5336420

3	10	4920000	5336220
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	10	4918300	5336210

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leonard Garfield from information compiled by Harriet Fish

organization OAHP date Nov. 1, 1992

street & number 111 W. 21st Ave. KL-11 telephone (206) 586-2901

city or town Olympia state WA zip code 98501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name United States Coast Guard, 13th District

street & number 915 2nd Avenue telephone _____

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98174

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9.10 Page 1

New Dungeness Light Station
Dungeness Spit, Sequim vicinity, Clallam County, WA

Bibliography

"Dungeness Light Goes Automatic," **Sequim Press**, June 10, 1976.

Harriet Fish, "Lighthouse at Dungeness has Changed," **Peninsula**,
September 2, 1979.

Leo Fitterer, "A Doff of Your Festive Hat to Dungeness Light,
Over 100 Years Old," **Sequim Press**, May 12, 1969.

James Gibbs, **Sentinels of the North Pacific** (Portland: Binfords
and Mort: Portland, 1955).

Francis Ross Holland, **America's Lighthouses: An Illustrated
History** (Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press, 1972).

John Hussey, **Early West Coast Lighthouses** (San Francisco: 1964).

Virginia Keating, **Dungeness: Lure of the River** (Sequim, 1976).
Lucile McDonald, "Century Old Dungeness Light," **Seattle Times**,
February 16, 1958.

Jervis Russell, ed., **Jimmy Come Lately: History of Clallam
County** (Clallam County Historical Society: Port Orchard, 1971),
pp. 61-62.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated parcel is described thusly: To reach
point of beginning, proceed from the southeastern corner of the tip of the Spit
along the shoreline in a southwesterly fashion for approx. 2, 200 feet. From this
p.o.b. continue west on shoreline for 600 feet; proceed north 600 feet; proceed
northeasterly parallel to the shoreline 600 feet; proceed south to the p.o.b. See
USGS map.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the historic light station
buildings and immediate setting within the light station reservation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

New Dungeness Light Station, Dungeness Spit, Clallam Co., WA
All photographs by Leonard Garfield, June, 1992
Negatives at OAHP, Olympia

1. Lighthouse, looking at north facade and side elevation, looking se
2. Lighthouse, looking at south rear elevation, looking n
3. Lighthouse, looking at south rear elevation and shed, looking n
4. Lighthouse and Keepers' Cottage, looking sw
5. Keepers' Cottage, lighthouse, looking e
6. Keepers' Cottage, north facade, looking se
7. Ancilliary structures, looking e