

PH0071330

Hon. Peter Kyros

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	York
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Fletcher's Neck Life Saving Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ocean Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Biddeford Pool

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
1st

STATE: Maine      CODE: 23      COUNTY: York      CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Decommissioned	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
General Services Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D.C.

CODE:  
11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
York County Court House and Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Alfred

STATE:  
Maine

CODE:  
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County

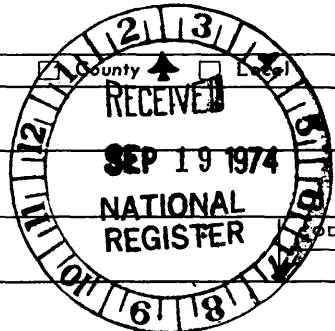
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	York
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Building of the Fletcher's Neck Life-Saving Station at Biddeford Pool, Maine is a rare surviving example of a series of such stations which once dotted the Maine and New Hampshire coasts. Fletcher's Neck ranks as one of the first of these structures, having been built in 1874 along with stations at West Quaddy Head, Cross Island, Crample Island and Locke's Point, N.H. A standardized but delightful stick-style design of the period was adopted for these stations. Some decorative variation was apparently allowed; for an old view of the White Head Station shows an abstract cut out work design in its gable ornamentation, while dolphins appeared in the same location on the Fletcher's Neck Station.

The Fletcher's Neck Station is a small one and a half story gable roofed building of frame construction, The facade faces southeast toward the ocean. The first story of the facade contains a large opening which is enclosed by a pair of doors. This doorway opened on to the life boat storage area. On either side of the doorway is a small area of shingled wall. Above the doorway is a pair of pointed arch windows, over which appears a circular ornament.

With the exception of simple vertical boarding below the windows, the remainder of the half story wall surface has a board and batten treatment with a pierced circle at the end of each vertical strip of wood. The gable possesses a pronounced overhang on all four sides. As a gable end, the facade was highly decorated. A series of four large wooden brackets with pierced ornaments extended perpendicularly from the lower section of the half story. These brackets supported a triangular gable ornament which was located on either side of the center pair of windows. These two ornaments each contained a carved dolphin in the center. Between the ornaments was a wooden arch which enframed the two windows behind it. This entire elaborate composition was capped by a three pronged wooden pinnacle on the roof. Only two large brackets with pierced ornament survive from this gable decoration. The design of the facade was duplicated on the rear or northwest wall of the building. The only variation is the presence of a wall with two windows in place of the doorway and the survival of the gable pinnacle.

The northeast wall of the station is covered with shingles on the first story. A large wooden buttress was located at either corner and the center of the wall. The Southwest wall is now shingled and has a doorway at the rear. The Northeast first story possesses a window and a rear entrance. The roof overhang is supported by a series of eleven brackets, in between which appears a board and batten treatment with pierced circles below.

Attached to most of the southwest wall of the station was a one story equipment shed. This simple wooden structure had a door at the center of its side wall as well as one at either end. A square platform rested at the center of the gabled roof. This platform was surrounded by a railing and had a flag pole located at its center. Both of these features are now gone. A small brick chimney projects from the rear of

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

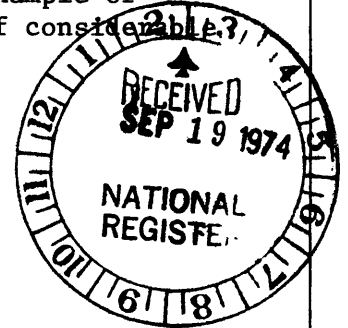
7.

Description

the roof.

The somewhat limited interior space of the station was divided in a utilitarian manner. Most of the first story was used for the storage of the 1000 pound life-boat on wheels. Behind this large room was a general room for cooking, where the men could sit during off duty hours. The half story contained a room for the keeper and a dormitory for six men.

Like its contemporaries, Biddeford Pool's Life Saving Station combined a necessary function with a picturesque design. Although now technologically obsolete, it remains as a small scale example of Stick style architecture as well as a coastal landmark of considerable maritime significance.



## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former United States Coast Guard Station at Fletcher's Neck is of historic interest as representative of one of the first five life-saving stations established in Maine and New Hampshire by the Revenue Marine Bureau. The original building remains and is of a design apparently standardized for the period.

The Life-Saving Service was created by Congress in July, 1874 acting on a proposal by Hon. Sumner I. Kimball, head of the Revenue Marine Bureau of the Treasury Department. His interest was to establish a chain of stations for the entire coast in charge of experienced seamen living in the neighborhood and having "local knowledge" of the area. A stringent code of regulations was prepared and political preferment for employment prohibited.

Suitable buildings, of which the older of the two at Fletcher's Neck is typical, were to be erected containing a large room with double doors for the storage of the 1,000 pound life boat on wheels. There was also a general room for cooking where the men could sit when off duty and above a room for the keeper and a dormitory of six men.

At first, the stations were operated only from December 1 to May 1 during the period of the severest winter storms. The crews, chosen from local fishermen and boatmen, patrolled the coast on foot making contact when possible, with men from the neighboring stations in order to put an end to the luring of ships ashore with false lights by "wreckers". Weather conditions were logged and weekly reports sent to Washington. The Atlantic Ocean is often too rough in winter to launch a boat and life-saving ordinance was employed to reach a vessel in distress. This consisted of a Lyle mortar which fired a shot line up to a distance of 700 yards. The shot line was carefully coiled in a "faking box" so that it would run off smoothly and was attached to a hawser on which the breeches buoy ran back and forth. A bi-lingual (French and English) instruction tablet was attached to the shot line explaining how to rig it for use.

Medals of honor in gold and silver were awarded for extraordinary heroism in saving life. In the 1880's volunteer ladies' groups supplied

(See Continuation Sheet)

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Joseph W. Smith, Gleanings from the Sea, Andover, 1887.

Howard V.L. Bloomfield, The Compact History of the United States Coast Guard, New York, 1966.

2419  
 HB  
 2391350  
 N 4810630

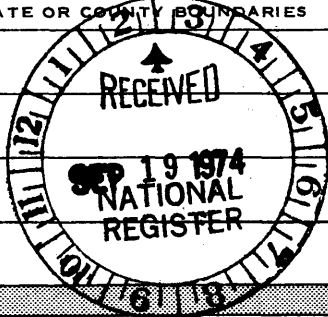
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		43 0 26 34 "	70 0 20 34 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
E.G. Shettleworth & P.A. Beard

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: 8-30-74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: James H. Mundy

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 16, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. Quorlesse  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/1/74

ATTEST:

Low Munday  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-29-74

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

warm clothing and blankets for those rescued.

To demonstrate the effectiveness of the early life-saving service some statistics from the 1881 Report of the Superintendent of Life-Saving Stations are of interest. The number of disasters to documented vessels within the field of station operators during the year was 287. Aboard these were 2,268 persons of whom 2,256 were saved (only 12 lost!). The value of these vessels and their cargoes was \$4,757,892 and of that \$3,109,537 was recovered. Over the years since its inception the Life-Saving Service is credited with saving 175,000 lives.

Fletcher's Neck was one of the first five life-saving stations in District No. 1 (Maine and New Hampshire) which were activated on December 1, 1874 and the original building remains standing. Another building was added in 1938 to accommodate the expanded requirements of the Coast Guard which had taken over the Life-Saving Service.

The annals of the Life-Saving Service are filled with deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice and these buildings stand as a monument to a century of noble service.

