

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 22 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 6 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

SMITH ISLAND LIGHT STATION

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of Port Townsend

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

PT. TOWNSEND

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

WASHINGTON

CODE

53

COUNTY

ISLAND

CODE

029

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable) U. S. COAST GUARD

COMMANDER, THIRTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT (flp)

STREET & NUMBER

915 Second Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

— VICINITY OF

Washington

STATE

98174

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

ISLAND COUNTY RECORDER

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE KNOWN

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original lighthouse, abandoned in 1957 because of worsening erosion, is a rectangular masonry structure 35 feet by 25 feet with a gable roof. The round tower projects through the roof on the north side and was capped with a metal lantern (now located on the privately owned and maintained Skunk Bay Light). The structure is quite similar in detail to New Dungeness, Cape Flattery and the long gone original Lighthouse at Willapa Bay.

The structure now stands in a ruinous state at the edge of the cliff on the west side of Smith Island, its foundation being increasingly exposed by erosion. Other structures on the island include the present metal skeleton light tower, two recent residential units, a shop building and a fog signal building located at the end of a long spit on the east side.

Light Characteristics: flashing white, 15 seconds
Light List #2263
Heights: 97 feet over sea, 45 feet over land
Range: 20 miles
Fog Signal: NONE
Radio Beacon: 314 khz (- - .) located 310 degrees @ 355 degrees from light tower
Light Specs: 60,000 candlepower electric
(Light Characteristics refer to the aid to navigation located atop the modern tower)

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

HARTMAN BACHE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Smith Island is located at the eastern end of the Strait Of Juan de Fuca. The island is quite small (approx. 15 acres) and is surrounded by shoals and thick kelp beds. Smith Island lies in a fog belt and for about two months of every year the visibility is about 10 miles. Smith Island has long been a hazard to navigation. Three sailing vessels are recorded as having grounded on or near the island. The COQUIMBO in 1862, the bark ALCALDE in 1894 and the schooner MINNIE A. CAINE in 1901. All three vessels were salvaged.

The light was engineered by Hartman Bache and was constructed under supervision of the U. S. Engineers. The light structure is a combined tower and keepers quarters. The walls are over 14 inches thick, consisting of four courses of brick plus an exterior overlay of plaster. The total weight of the structure is estimated to exceed 300 tons. Construction of the light was completed in 1858. At that time the light was a considerable distance from the western bluff. The lighthouse was abandoned in 1957 because erosion of the bluff was undermining the structure.

While construction of the light was underway there was great concern over hostile attack by the Haida Indians from Northern Vancouver and the Queen Charlottes. A blockhouse was constructed for protection of the workman but only a few Indians ventured near the island and no trouble ensued. In 1859 a Haida war canoe landed near Port Townsend. The local populace panicked and arrested the occupants of the canoe; some 21 women, three boys and a blind old chief. The Haida's did not forget this affront and shortly thereafter Haida war canoes were reported off Point Wilson and Smith Island. The rather farcical "battle" of Smith Island followed. The light keeper and his wife were evacuated leaving Mr. Applegate, the assistant keeper, to tend the light. The Indians came ashore on Smith Island and Mr. Applegate seriously wounded one of them. By the time help arrived the Indians had withdrawn. The local militia and volunteers stood watch at Smith Island for several weeks but the Haida's never returned. Mr. Applegate became somewhat of a local hero for his defense of Smith Island.

Perhaps the most famous keeper of Smith Island was Bernard Meagher, who in 1917, left his post in a skiff to aid the steamer SAMSON which had become disabled by a broken steam pipe. Meagher picked up the first mate of the vessel and rowed 11 miles to the nearest mainland telephone so the mate could call for assistance. Meagher then rowed 11 miles back to Smith Island so he could put the light in operation by nightfall.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

JIM GIBBS WEST COAST LIGHTHOUSES (SEATTLE: SUPERIOR PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1974)
 JAMES A. GIBBS Jr. SENTINELS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC (PORTLAND: BINFORDS & MORT, 1955)
 F. ROSS HOLLAND Jr. AMERICA'S LIGHTHOUSES (BRATTLEBORO, VT: STEPHEN GREENE, 1972)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Lighthouse only 0.12 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	5 1 1 6 0 0	5 3 51 5 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

R. J. WILLIAMSON, LT USCG, Chief, Logistics & Property Branch

ORGANIZATION

DATE

13th Coast Guard District, 915-2nd Ave.,

FTS: 399-5620 or 5723

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Seattle

Washington 98174

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ___ NO ___ NONE ___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

SEE ORIGINAL NOMINATION
 I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Phil [Signature]*

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Lothar [Signature]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/6/78

DATE 3-13-78