

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Goose Rocks Light Station

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number East Entrance, Fox Islands Thorofare

N/A not for publication

city, town North Haven,

X vicinity

state Maine code ME county Knox

code 013 zip code 04853

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
site
X structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 1, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing: Light Stations of Maine

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature]

Date 10/30/87

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official [Signature]

Date 12/7/87

U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- X entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature]

Date of Action 1/21/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Metal: Cast Iron

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roof Metal: Cast Ironother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

One of four so-called "spark plug" lights built in Maine, the Goose Rocks Light Station is a four-stage tapered cylindrical structure which stands on a shallow rock outcropping. The iron tower contains the keeper's quarters within its second stage and was originally equipped with a bell and boat launch.

The tower is composed of a concrete base sheathed in cast iron plates. This first stage is surmounted by an overhanging gallery supported by curvilinear brackets. It was originally sheltered by a roof that has since been removed. The gallery formed by these two components featured a plain tubular railing with vertical support posts and it sheltered windows and the entryway to the tapered second stage. A three-floor division on the interior comprises the keeper's quarters. Three windows are positioned at equidistant points from each other on the second level and a trio of small bulls-eye windows occupies the third level. The latter are located immediately below the bracketed walkway that surrounds the tower's short third stage. A door opens onto this walkway providing access to the short ladder and the crowning lantern stage. The octagonal lantern and its spherical ventilator are framed by another narrow walkway with railing. A solar panel has been added to the gallery since the station's automation.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Transportation

Period of Significance

1890-1937

Significant Dates

1890

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed in 1890, the Goose Rocks Light Station marks the east entrance to the Fox Island Thorofare between Vinalhaven and North Haven Islands. It stands on a shallow rock ledge and contains within its walls the keeper's quarters and storage facilities. By virtue of its design, materials, setting and association the station meets the registration requirements as outlined in the multiple propoerty submission "Light Stations of Maine." Its significance is evaluated with respect to the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine:ca.1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management:1789-1939.

Goose Rocks Light occupies an important position in this heavily traveled thorofare. At the time of the light's construction Vinalhaven supported an important granite industry with two competitive firms, Bodwell Granite Company and the J.H.Sanborn Company. Both islands also attracted summer tourists, and a number of hotels and cottages were erected to serve the growing resort communities. The station was automated in 1963.

This light station derives significance under Criteria A and C. Criteria A is satisfied by the association of the complex with Maine's critical reliance on maritime transportation and the aids that made navigation possible. Criteria C is met by the station's distinctive character reflecting an important engineering solution to the problem of erecting a light station at this site.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Annual Report of the Light-House Board. Washington, D. C.: U. S. G. P. O., various dates.

Maine State Year Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: G. M. Donham, various dates.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

U. S. Coast Guard

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A 19 513520 4886700  
 Zone Easting Northing

C                              

B                                
 Zone Easting Northing

D                              

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Goose Rocks Light Station occupies a shallow rock outcropping at the eastern end of the Fox Islands Thorofare. It does not appear on town tax maps.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Goose Rocks Light Station embraces the structure and the shallow rock outcropping on which it stands.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987

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city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333