

PHOTO 7.100

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Knox
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 17 1973

H13 O=496100
 2119 N4894040
 N4893960
 N4894140
 N4894220
 E 496000
 E 495800
 E 495860

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Curtis Island Light

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Negro Island Light

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
4/5 of a mile from Camden Harbor

CITY OR TOWN: Camden

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maine	23	Knox	013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Unoccupied</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U.S. Coast Guard G.S.A. → BOR → City of Camden

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Knox County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rockland STATE: Maine CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

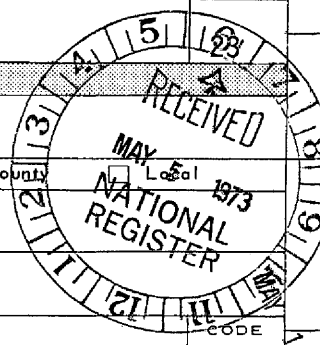
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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DATE: MAY 17 1973

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Curtis Island Light is located at the southern entrance to Camden Harbor. The island is approximately 4/5 of a mile from the town docking facility at Camden. The island itself is approximately 5½ acres with soft-wood dominating the foliage. The lighthouse is at the southern end of the island and the docking facility is at the northern end.

There are four structures on the island which are all part of the lighthouse facility. The light tower itself is of brick as is the small building housing the station's power supply. There is a tool shed or garage which is constructed of wood. The keeper's house is a 1½ story frame house also constructed of wood and sheathed in clapboards. These structures are all at the southern end of the island.

From the island, one has an excellent view of one of the most scenic areas in Maine. The harbor with the mountains in the background form perhaps the most perfect harbor in Maine.

Following the automation of the light by the Coast Guard, the station was closed as a manned lighthouse.



SIGNIFICANCE

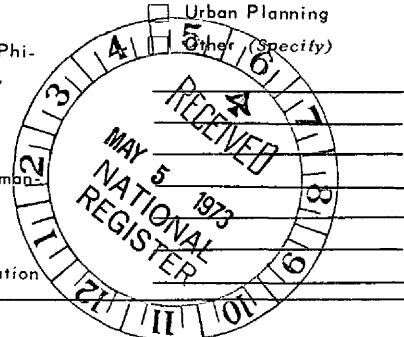
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Curtis Island Light, or Negro Island Light, as it was called for one hundred years, was first built in 1836 under the presidency of Andrew Jackson. The light was built by George Gault of Boston and the first keeper was H. K. M. Bowers. Bowers stayed on until 1841 and since then many men have occupied the position.

The light station must have fallen into disrepair at some time for in 1896 it was ordered rebuilt by President Grover Cleveland.

For many years the island was a signal station for the Boston-Bangor boats, many of which stopped at Camden. This small island also served as a pleasure spot for many of Camden's residents and visitors as a favorite picnic area.

In 1934 the town of Camden honored one of its most distinguished summer residents, Mr. Cyrus H. K. Curtis, famous publisher and philanthropist.

The name of the island was changed from Negro Island to Curtis Island. Mr. Curtis was one of the island's many visitors each year. As a philanthropist, Mr. Curtis did much for the town of Camden so the citizens honored his name. His daughter, Mrs. Mary Louise Bok officiated at the dedication ceremony on August 6, 1934.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Camden Herald. October 13, 1932.

Portland Press Herald. August 7, 1934.

Sterling, Robert Thayer. Lighthouses of the Maine Coast. Brattleboro, Vermont: Stephen Daye Press, 1935.

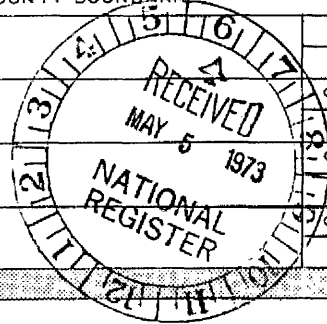
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44°	12'	07"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	69°	03'	02"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 1/2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Richard D. Kelly, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

April 24, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Augusta

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Murdy

Title

State Liaison Officer

Date

April 20, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

5/17/73

ATTEST:

W. Murdy
Keeper of The National Register

Date

5 15 73

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

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The island is a natural shelter for Camden Harbor in its function as a natural breakwater. It absorbs the fierce waves from the ocean while the harbor remains quite calm at all times.

The Curtis Island Lighthouse has for nearly one hundred and fifty years served the people of Maine who have eked a livelihood from the sea as a beacon of friendship and safety.

