

PH 36544

# 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 DEC 17 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

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

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

BURNT ISLAND LIGHT STATION

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

ROOTHBAY HARBOR

STATE  
MAINE

VICINITY OF

CODE  
23

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1ST

COUNTY  
LINCOLN

CODE  
015

### 2 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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT

STREET & NUMBER

150 CAUSEWAY STREET

CITY, TOWN

BOSTON

VICINITY OF

STATE

MASSACHUSETTS

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS LINCOLN CO.

STREET & NUMBER

LINCOLN CO. COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

WISCASETT

STATE

MAINE

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

COMMANDER, FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

BOSTON

STATE

MASSACHUSETTS

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Burnt Island Light Station consists of:

DWELLING: Two story with basement, wood frame construction, 34'X20' with 18' porch connected to light tower by covered way approximately 45' long built in 1821.

BOATHOUSE: One story, wood frame construction, 12 1/2'X25 1/2', built in 1821.

OIL HOUSE - Brick and slate construction, 10'X10', built in 1821.

LIGHT TOWER - Fieldstone, brick and cement construction, painted white, conical form, 15' diameter at base, 9'9" diameter at parapet, 61 feet above mean high water. The details of light are 375 mm fresnel classical lens, 1000 watt lamp, characteristic is a flashing red, two white sectors every six seconds; 2 one second flash. The red sector has 2380 candle-power with a twelve mile range; white sector has a 10,800 candle power with a range of 15 miles. There is an FA 232 Fog Signal whose range is 1/2 a mile. The characteristic of the fog signal is a one second blast every ten seconds. Tower was built in 1821.

The following is a description of Burnt Island Light as it was in the year 1909:

The characteristic of the light was flashing red with a flashing white sector. Tower was built in 1821, shape of tower was circular, form conical, height from base to ventilator ball of lantern 30 feet, height of local plane above mean high water was 61 feet, color was white, built of stone, diameter of tower at base, 15 feet.

The fourth order lantern was polygonal, diameter 6'9", number of sides ten, vertical bars, height three feet.

Illuminating apparatus was made by Barbier, Benard & Turenne; Paris, France It was fourth order, inside diameter 24" square.

Characteristic of light was flash every 5 seconds, time of revolution, 20 seconds, intervals between flashes, five seconds, duration of flash one second, number of panels in lens was four, four flash panels are 90 degrees, one element in each panel of central drum of lens, four bullseyes with five rings outside center piece. Flashes are produced by the whole apparatus revolving by clock work.

Fog signal was a fog bell striking machine made by Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Company, New York in 1895; strikes a double blow every minute. The diameter of bell was three feet one inch, height is two feet three inches, housed in white, pyramidal bell tower.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	NOV 8 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

---

The dwelling was wood frame construction, seven rooms, painted white with lead covered trimmings and two outhouses. The water was supplied by rain water from roof of dwelling to a brick, 4000 gallon cistern in the cellar of the dwelling.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900.	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Burnt Island Light Station was built in 1821 on the west side of the entrance to Boothbay Harbor. Its purpose was the guidance of ships, the carriers of cargo destined for the development of industry and commerce, into Boothbay Harbor approximately 1 1/2 miles away. The mission and buildings are basically the same today.

In 1888, a dead angle was put into the lantern at Burnt Island Light to prevent ships from being wrecked on the rocks called the Cuckolds. About 1890 the light was changed from fixed white to fixed red with two white sectors covering the fairways into Boothbay Harbor. This made the dead angle unnecessary. Two years later, the light was changed to flashing red every five seconds with two white sectors to prevent confusion with the other lights near the entrance of Boothbay Harbor.

The lighthouse keepers, in addition to performing their routine duties, anticipated and prepared for malfunctions prior to their happening. This enabled the light to remain operational through all kinds of weather, guiding ships into safe harbor and preventing the loss of life and property. This is the true test of the capability of a light station.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Lighthouses of New England (1944)  
 by Edward Rowe Snow - The Yankee  
 Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 Acres Plus Or Minus

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	4,48,440	4,85,2440	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Island known as Burnt Island, located in the Atlantic Ocean in Lincoln County, ME. Burnt Island is positioned approximately 1/4 mile Southerly of Mouse Island, ME., and one (1) mile North-westerly of Squirrel Island, ME., 1/4 mile Easterly of Capital Island, ME.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

MICHAEL F. FLAHERTY

9/22/76

ORGANIZATION

First Coast Guard District

STREET & NUMBER

150 Causeway Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 223-6903

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Carle S. Shattuck Jr.  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, 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 State National  State  Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Robert B. Rettig

TITLE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

DATE 12/13/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

John

DATE 11/23/77

ATTEST:

Charles

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-17-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER