

PH0354589

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

MAY 1 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUN 18 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

AND/OR COMMON

LIBBY ISLAND LIGHT STATION

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S of Machias port on Libby Island

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Machiasport

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

Washington

029

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___BUILDING(S)

___PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

___YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

First Coast Guard District

STREET & NUMBER

150 Causeway Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

VICINITY OF

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds Washington Co.

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Machias

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

LIBBY ISLAND LIGHT STATION

DATE

3/23/76

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

LIBBY ISLAND Light Station is located on the island's southwestern part and marks the entrance to MACHIAS BAY. The tower is built of granite, in a conical design, white in color, 42' high, built in 1819, basically unaltered, 91' above sea level. The tower's base diameter is 16' and at the parapet is 12'4".

Dwelling built in 1824, 34' x 36' 1 1/2 story, woodframe, white in color, destroyed prior to 1949.

Rainshed built in 1856, 32' x 22', 1 story, woodframe. *destroyed*

Building built in 1856, 11' x 9', 1 story, masonry.

Boathouse built in 1856, 20' x 40', 1 1/2 story, woodframe.

Fog signal building built in 1856, 32' x 32', 1 story, masonry.

Launch way built in 1941, 24' long timber.

The following information was extracted from the photographs and blueprint files of the Civil Engineering Branch, Engineering Division, First Coast Guard District, Boston, Massachusetts.

A panoramic photograph of the station taken in 1892 shows from North to South; a large barn, a house with an ell, a long shed, the light tower (unpainted) and the Fog Signal House. The house also shows on an original plan of the station, which unfortunately is undated.

By 1909, plans had been drafted to enlarge this house; later, photographs show the house was in fact altered to these plans. Modifications to the original dwelling were extensive; what had been a 34' x 26' one and one-half story duplex house was built over to form a 34 x 36 foot two and one-half story duplex. The enlarged house was destroyed prior to 1949, thus, eliminating all traces of the original house. The large barn was razed at about the same time.

Sometime before 1922, most probably in 1917, a second house was constructed, abutting the southerly end of the Rain Shed. In 1948, or 1949, this house was substantially altered by raising the roof and adding two upstairs bedrooms. It is this dwelling which exists today. The long shed mentioned above was a rain shed for water catchment, it survived until 1944.

Finally, of the light tower and Engine House: By 1944, the tower had been painted white and fitted with a new, enlarged entryway; and the Fog Signal House had been altered by removing the tall chimney used with the steam-operated fog signal. The fog signal is a dual EIG-300/02 with a range of five miles. The fourth order fixed lens has been replaced with a type DCB-224 uncorrected candlepower light of 32,000 KW with an operational range of 25 miles.

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PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

In view of this additional information, the light tower appears to be the only structure with historical significance at LIBBY ISLAND LIGHT STATION, therefore it is recommended that only the light tower be nominated.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

LIBBY ISLAND Light Station was ordered built by President James Monroe in 1822 and has never been rebuilt. According to old journals at the station there were thirty-five wrecks from 1856 to 1902, and out of this number only fifteen lives were lost owing to the efficient work and valor of the light keepers at the station.

Among the ships lost to the sea near the LIBBY ISLAND STATION were the Schooner Caledonia of Windsor, Nova Scotia. The captain and crew were swept overboard by the breakers but two passengers were rescued by the volunteer lifesaving crew from Starboard in 1878. The Bark Fame drifted shore on the point in a heavy gale; twelve of a crew of fifteen were rescued by the heroic keepers, who waded into the surf and threw a rope to the crew, then rigged a boatswain chair and got all but three ashore safely. In 1892 the ship PRINCEPORT was wrecked on the bar between the two islands. After a perilous trip from the light the keepers reached the small piece of the bow, all that remained of the ship, and rescued the crew.

The Schooner F.C. LOCKHART with all sails set, making a beautiful picture, struck the point where she lodged between a natural cradle of rocks where she had to be left until the sea claimed her.

The Barkentine JOHN N. MYERS met disaster on the southwest end of East Libby Island in 1925. The crew managed to make a small lonely island from which they were taken off by the Coast Guard the next morning. The last square rigger to go ashore at LIBBY ISLAND was the Barkentine AFRICA in 1902. In a vain effort to save the ship both anchors, weighing over 5000 pounds, were thrown overboard by the crew, which subsequently escaped to the Island by small boat. These anchors, the only remnants of a once proud ship exist today in an excellent state of preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lighthouses of the Maine Coast and the Men Who Keep Them
 Robert Thayer Sterling, Stephen Daye Press, Brattleboro,
 Vermont.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre - B. Grover
 UTM REFERENCES per phone call 5/13/74

A	119	629	710	49	36	845	B	119	630	340	40	3	649	10
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	119	629	416	49	35	840	D							
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That portion of Libby Island contained within the above UTM references. Commonly referred to as South Libby Island located in Machias Bay of the Gulf of Maine.

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

Michael F. Flaherty

ORGANIZATION

First Coast Guard District

STREET & NUMBER

150 Causeway Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

DATE

12/24/75

TELEPHONE

(617) 223-6903

STATE

Massachusetts

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Carol S. Shelton
 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 National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Environmental Officer

DATE

4/27/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]
 Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/18/76

DATE

6.18.76