

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001108 Date Listed: 08/01/90

Five Mile Point Lighthouse New Haven CT
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


signature of the Keeper

8/1/90
Date of Action

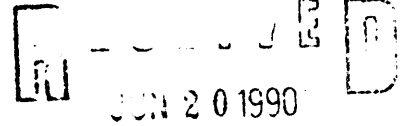
=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Level

The appropriate level of significance for this property is local.
This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone,

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: FIVE MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE

other name/site number: Old New Haven Lighthouse

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Lighthouse Point Park

not for publication: N/A

city/town: New Haven

vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: New Haven

code: 009 zip code: 06512

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: public-local

Category of Property: structure

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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: John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: 6/14/90

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official; Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register (checked) See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Signature of Keeper: Beth Darye; Date of Action: 8/1/90

6. Function or Use

Historic: TRANSPORTATION Sub: water-related
Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: outdoor recreation

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: lighthouse

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation STONE: sandstone roof METAL: iron
walls STONE: sandstone other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERING

Period(s) of Significance: c.1812-1877

Significant Dates: c.1812 (dwelling built); 1845 (lighthouse completed)

Significant Person(s): _____

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: Marcus Bassett (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: less than 1

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>18</u>	<u>675620</u>	<u>4568280</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

The nominated property includes only the lighthouse and adjacent keeper's dwelling. See sketch map.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The lighthouse and keeper's dwelling are the only structures associated with the historic operation of the lighthouse; the nearby carousel and ranger station are associated with the recreational function that began after the lighthouse was decommissioned in 1877.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Matthew Roth and Bruce Clouette, Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: January 29, 1990

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT ZIP: 06106

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description (continued)

Five Mile Point Lighthouse Page 7-1
New Haven, CT

Five Mile Point Lighthouse, which was placed in service in 1845, is an octagonal brownstone tower with white-painted walls (Photograph 1, 2). Some 30 feet east of the lighthouse stands the keeper's dwelling, (Photograph 1, 9, 10), a brick building erected during the War of 1812, when an earlier lighthouse was in place at this site. Five Mile Point Lighthouse (so-named because it stands about five miles from the center of New Haven) marked the eastern side of the entrance to New Haven Harbor from Long Island Sound. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1877, when Southwest Ledge Lighthouse, which stands on a breakwater south of this site, was placed in service. The lighthouse and dwelling stand in the city-owned Lighthouse Point Park, which includes an early 20th-century carousel, a ranger station and bathing pavilion of recent construction, and several acres of waterfront property; this nomination includes only the lighthouse and keeper's dwelling.

The lighthouse is built on top of a ledge outcropping (Photograph 3). It is about 80 feet tall, and each of its sides is approximately 10 feet wide at the base. The walls, foundation and steps are all built of large brownstone blocks. The west side of the tower, which faces the harbor, has three small rectangular window openings, one at ground level, one halfway up, and one immediately below the lantern deck; the sash has been removed and the openings are filled with brick or plywood. The entrance, facing south, is a simple rectangular opening fitted with a steel security door (Photograph 3). The tower is surmounted by a round lantern made up of cast-iron plates bolted together; the lantern has a conical roof. The lantern was probably installed in the late 1860s or early 1870s, when American lighthouse technology began to use prefabricated iron components.

The tower is lined with brick, and the total wall thickness is approximately 3-1/2 feet at the base (Photograph 4). The walls taper to a thickness of about two feet at the top. The stone walls and the brick lining are tied together by means of brownstone blocks placed at regular intervals around the tower (Photograph 6). The circular stairway consists of large granite winders, each of which has a central lobe to accommodate stacking (Photograph 5). Inside the lobes there is probably a doweled or keyed joint, but no such feature is visible. The outside edge of each step is let into the brick lining. The back sides of the steps are chiseled to make a gracefully curving helix. Iron eye-bolts in the brick lining are all that remain of the railing (Photograph 7). The steps ascend continuously with no landings to the watch-deck immediately below the lantern, where they end in a floor made of a single granite slab. From the watch-deck, an iron ship's-ladder

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description (continued)

Five Mile Point Lighthouse
New Haven, CT

Page 7-2

provides access to the lantern, which has vertical beaded-board walls below the windows (Photograph 8). There is no historic equipment in the lantern. An iron door in the base of the lantern permits access to the gallery surrounding the lantern.

The keeper's dwelling is a gable-roofed, 2-and-1/2-story brick house with flat granite lintels. Its south-facing facade features three symmetrically placed bays with a central entry; a 20th-century porch obscures the first story (Photograph 9). A cross-gabled ell extends from the back of the house. Both the main body and the ell have simply molded, partially returned wooden cornices, above a frieze of raised brick. A low frame shed is attached to the rear of the ell (Photograph 10); when the light was in operation, this shed was probably used to store illuminating oil and other supplies.

The structural system of the lighthouse is unaltered; thus despite the loss of such details as the sash and door, railing, and illumination apparatus, the lighthouse retains a high degree of historic integrity. The porch is the only visible alteration to the keeper's dwelling; now a private residence for New Haven Recreation Department personnel, its interior is not accessible.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance (continued): Five Mile Point Lighthouse Page 8-1
New Haven, CT

Five Mile Point Lighthouse is significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of American lighthouse construction during the first half of the 19th century (Criterion C). Its simple and undecorated design, masonry construction, and lack of iron components in the original structural system are all characteristic of lighthouses erected in the first half of the 19th century. Starting in the 1860s, new materials, notably cast iron, expanded the options available in lighthouse construction. This lighthouse is also significant in the maritime history of New Haven (Criterion A). During the first half of the 19th century, ship-borne commerce accounted for a major portion of the city's economic growth and justified the substantial public expenditure to build the lofty lighthouse tower.

Aids to Navigation in the United States and New Haven Maritime History

In 1789, the newly constituted United States government assumed responsibility for aids to navigation, the first provision for federal public works. There was no clear delineation of responsibility for lighthouses in the federal government until the Treasury Department's Fifth Auditor's Office was given control in 1820; it remained there until 1851. The number of lighthouses increased from just a handful in 1789 to 55 in 1820 (including the original Five Mile Point Lighthouse of 1805), 210 in 1838 and 325 in 1845, when the second Five Mile Point Lighthouse was placed in service. During this period virtually all the lighthouses were of the "landfall" variety, marking the entrances to busy ports. Most of the appropriations for new lighthouses responded to lobbying by individual communities for improved port facilities.

New Haven could easily support its claim for improved aids to navigation. In the late 18th century and the first years of the 19th century, traffic through the port expanded many times over as a result of the China trade, the numerous seal hunters based in the city, and the growth of coastal and West Indies trade. New Haven merchants capitalized on their city's role in shipping to become a principal market center for much of Connecticut and the Connecticut Valley. Between 1801 and 1807, more than a million dollars' worth of goods passed through the port each year. The first Five Mile Point Lighthouse, which the government completed in 1805, was built to direct the China traders, sealers and packets through the wide mouth of New Haven harbor.

The Embargo Act of 1807 cut New Haven's maritime trade in half, a blow

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance (continued): Five Mile Point Lighthouse Page 8-3
 New Haven, CT

One advantage to the continued use of masonry construction was that material and expertise to build the lighthouses could usually be found locally. This was certainly the case with Five Mile Point in the 1840s: the East Haven quarry of Jabez Potter furnished the stone, and New Haven builder Marcus Bassett received the construction contract.

The last all-masonry towers for landfall lights were built in the early 1860s. After that, iron structural members, such as staircases and lanterns, augmented the traditional methods. The 1868 masonry tower at Little Gull Island in Long Island Sound, for instance, has a cast-iron staircase. By the early 1870s, the government had developed standard plans for prefabricated, all-iron lighthouses made of plates that could be bolted together on site. The lantern on Five Mile Point Lighthouse, which probably dates from the late 1860s or early 1870s, illustrates the use of the new iron-construction technique applied to upgrade an existing structure. The 1860s also saw the beginning of stylistic elaboration in the design of lighthouse towers, such as Little Gull Island, which has a Classical pediment over its entry. Subsequent lighthouses, in all materials, usually featured peaked or molded lintels at windows and entries, or fancy brackets supporting gallery decks. Five Mile Point Lighthouse thus stands near the end of the traditional period in American lighthouse design.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Bibliography Five Mile Point Lighthouse 9-1
New Haven, CT

Atwater, Edward E., ed., History of the City of New Haven. New York, 1887.

Barnard, J.G., "Lighthouse Engineering as Displayed at the Centennial Exhibition," Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, vol. 8 (March 1879): 55-94.

Hayward, Marjorie F., The East Side of New Haven Harbor. New Haven, 1938.

Seymour, George D., New Haven. New Haven, 1924.

Smith, Gaddis, "New Haven and the Sea," in Floyd Shumway and Richard Hegel, eds., New Haven: An Illustrated History. Woodland Hills, CA., 1981.

United States Lighthouse Board, Annual Report, 1872. Washington, D.C., 1873. (Also reports for 1872-1881.)

United States Treasury Department, Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, House of Representatives Document No. 62, 1844.

_____, Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, House of Representatives Document No. 14, 1850.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photograph captions

Five Mile Point Lighthouse
New Haven, CT

Photos-1

All photographs:

1. FIVE MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE
2. New Haven, CT
3. Photo credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. January 1990
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, CT

Captions:

Lighthouse and keeper's dwelling, camera facing northeast
Photograph 1 of 10

Lighthouse, camera facing northeast
Photograph 2 of 10

Lighthouse base and entry, camera facing north
Photograph 3 of 10

Lighthouse interior, entry level window opening, camera facing
northwest
Photograph 4 of 10

Lighthouse interior, staircase at entry level
Photograph 5 of 10

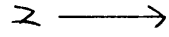
Lighthouse interior, brick lining showing brownstone blocks connecting
lining and exterior wall
Photograph 6 of 10

Lighthouse interior, bracket for railing
Photograph 7 of 10

Lighthouse interior, lantern deck, iron door for gallery access, camera
facing northeast
Photograph 8 of 10

Keeper's dwelling, view north
Photograph 9 of 10

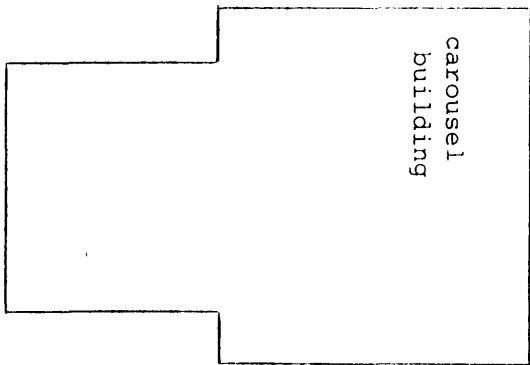
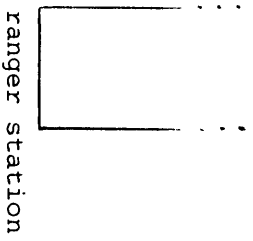
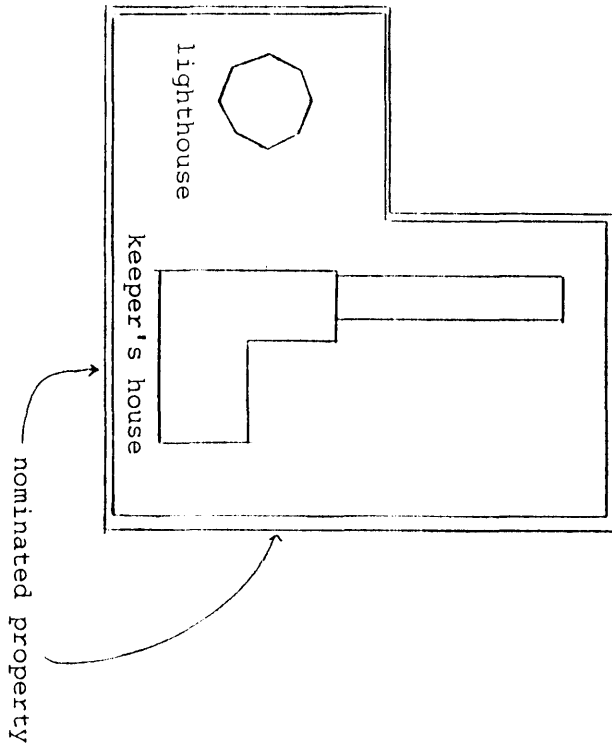
Keeper's dwelling, view from lantern deck
Photograph 10 of 10

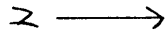


New Haven Harbor

FIVE MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Lighthouse Point Park
New Haven, CT.

1" = 50'

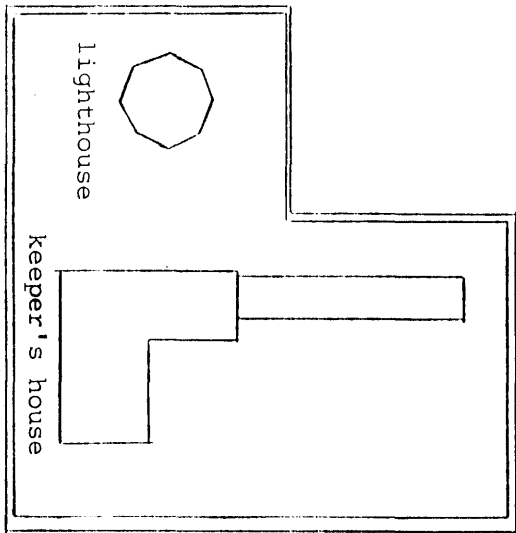




New Haven Harbor

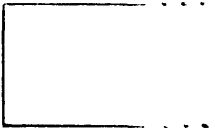
FIVE MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Lighthouse Point Park
New Haven, CT.

1" = 50'



nominated property

ranger station



carousel
building

