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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. *See instructions in back.* Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Maurice River Lighthouse

other names/site number East Point Lighthouse (since 1912)

2. Location

street & number Lighthouse Road, near end of East Point Road, SW of Heislerville not for publication

city or town Maurice River Township vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Cumberland code 011 zip code 08324

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/17/85
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

[Signature] Edson H. Beall 8/25/85
Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	1	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/water-related

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/water-related

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls brick

roof metal

other wood (cupola)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Maurice River Lighthouse
Name of Property

Cumberland Co., NJ
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations NA
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # NJ-832
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Engineering
- Maritime History
- Transportation
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1849 - 1941

Significant Dates

September 1849

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N. & S. Middleton, Phila., PA (builder)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Maurice River Lighthouse
Name of Property

Cumberland Co., NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.6

Port Norris, NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8
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4	9	7	6	0	0
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4	3	3	8	3	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James T. Gowdy / Lighthouse historian and Trustee

organization Maurice River Historical Society date March 1995

street & number P.O. Box 175 telephone (609) 476-4532

city or town Mizpah state NJ zip code 08342

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

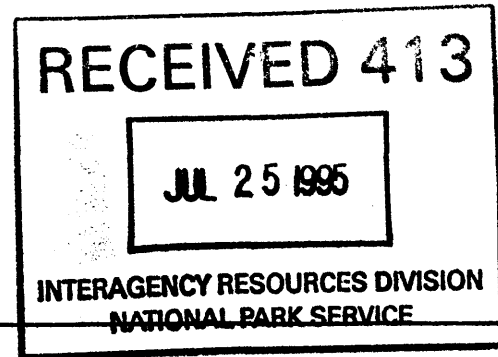
name State of New Jersey, DEP, Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife

street & number CN 400 telephone (609) 292-2965

city or town Trenton state NJ zip code 08625-0400

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Narrative Description (Historic):

The site upon which the lighthouse stands (photo #7) was described in 1849 as being all salt marsh except a knoll or sand island, about a half acre in extent and known locally as Haystack Island, upon which the lighthouse was erected. The lighthouse measures 36' by 20', with a 15' by 14' addition at the east end which was the original kitchen. The two and one half story brick structure (photo #8) was built on a foundation of granite stone, and has a cellar (photo #19) with a brick floor. The first story is divided into two rooms and a center hallway (photos #15, #16, and #17), with the attached one story kitchen (photo #18) at the east end originally also being used as an oil-room. The second story is divided in the same way (photo #20, #21, and #23), with a stairway (photo #24) leading to an unfinished attic (photo #25, #26, and #28), from which a stairway (photo #24) leads to the lantern room (photo #14). The light in the lantern room (photo #29) was once a 6th order Fresnel lens manufactured by the firm of Henry LePaute of Paris, France, and exhibited from about 45' above sea level. Its guiding light could be seen by ships up to 10 nautical miles away.

Near the northeast corner of the lighthouse stands a brick oil shed (photo #27 and #31) about 8' by 12' in size and built between 1900 and 1901. Attached to the rear of the oil shed is a small brick room once used as an out house (photo #32). Only these two original structures remain on the site. A wooden boathouse, wooden fencing, a wooden walkway to the shore, a barn, and the first oil shed (1875) did not survive over the years. Little is known about how they looked, where they stood, and from when to when they existed on the site.

From the beginning all the way through until today, the exterior brickwork has been white (photo #1 and #8). In 1875 the tower was white with a red lantern room, and from at least 1879 through 1907 the lantern was painted black. It probably remained black through 1939 when the US Coast Guard took over. Records from 1908 indicate that the window shutters were green, and that the windows had a lead colored trim. No records yet found ever stated the color of the roof, but it is believed always to have been red. Today, the exterior brickwork is white, and the roof, tower, and lantern room are painted red.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Narrative Description (Current):

The name of the Maurice River Lighthouse was changed to East Point Lighthouse in 1912. The East Point Lighthouse was discontinued by the US Coast Guard in 1941, although caretakers may have habited the building for a few more years. On April 10, 1956 the vacant property (photo #3) was deeded to the State of New Jersey, Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife, which was interested in the land for wildlife purposes, but never had the funding or manpower to take care of the historic lighthouse structure. By February of 1971 the condition of the structure had deteriorated to such an extent that a large group of concerned local citizens formed the Maurice River Historical Society for the purpose of saving the and restoring the lighthouse. Sadly, a fire started by trespassers on July 15, 1971 totally destroyed the lighthouse roof and lantern room, and caused serious damage to the building's interior. In 1972, however, the Maurice River Historical Society reached an agreement with the State of New Jersey, and began to rebuild the roof and cupola, an effort which continued through the mid 1970's, financed solely by donations and local fundraising. An additional step taken at this time was to move a donated cottage (photo #27 and #34) to the site formerly occupied by the barn, and to rehabilitate and rent out the cottage as a dwelling so that someone would live on the site and thereby curb vandalism. Finally, on July 2, 1980 the US Coast Guard responded to public request and relit the East Point Lighthouse and put it back on the list of active aids to navigation, where it faithfully remains today.

Due to years of neglect and vandalism, as well as the serious fire of July 1971, the condition of the East Point Lighthouse is understandably poor. Once the roof and cupola were replaced in the 1970's, a lack of proper funding prevented any rehabilitation of the structure through the end of the 1980's. Recent efforts by the Maurice River Historical Society have been to stabilize the building and prevent vandalism, both of which efforts have been a decided success. On January 13, 1994 the Maurice River Historical Society was awarded a \$184,000 grant from the fiscal year 1995 ISTEA Enhancement Funding Program. That money is to be used toward rehabilitating the structure's exterior, and additional grants will be sought later to rehabilitate the interior of the structure. Also, beginning in 1993 the East Point Lighthouse has been marked as a point of interest on the National Park Service's recently opened New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Narrative Description (Current):

Currently the following projects need to be carried out in order to save and rehabilitate the former Maurice River Lighthouse:

- 1) A number of weakened beams in the cellar (photo #19) must be replaced, and proper ventilation for the cellar needs to be restored.
- 2) All of the interior rooms must be rehabilitated.
- 3) All exterior doors, windows, and window shutters must be replaced.
- 4) Some brickwork must be repaired, and the remainder repointed so that the lighthouse exterior can be repainted.
- 5) The wooden portions of the cupola (photo #14) must be rebuilt.
- 6) The porch for the front door (photo #1) must be replaced.

Photograph #2 shows a one room wooden addition on the east end of the lighthouse which became the new kitchen. It is not known when that room was added on, but it existed at least into the 1950's. Only the brick foundations still remain to show where that room was once located (photo #13). Photograph #2 also shows an enclosed porch or sunroom which had been added on sometime after 1913, and also remained at least until the 1950's. It is not known whether either of those two rooms will be rebuilt.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Due to the importance of the maritime industry to the Delaware River and Bay area, between 1764 when the area's first lighthouse was built at Cape Henlopen, Delaware, and 1926 when the last manned-type lighthouse was built at the Harbor of Refuge near Lewes, Delaware, over 50 separate lighthouse or lightship stations were once in operation. Today, all of the lightship stations have been discontinued, none of the lighthouse sites has a year-round keeper or custodian, and only 20 of the historic lighthouses or keeper's dwellings still exist in this area. Of those remaining structures, the former Maurice River Lighthouse is the oldest in the Delaware River and Bay area, and the second oldest in the states of New Jersey and Delaware, with only the Sandy Hook Lighthouse of 1764 having existed longer. The structure now known as the East Point Lighthouse is also the only operating lighthouse still standing on the shores of the Delaware Bay.

From an engineering standpoint, the significance of this lighthouse lies not only in the fact that it is New Jersey's second oldest existing lighthouse, but also in the fact that it is the only lighthouse of its type known to exist on the East Coast of the United States. Sometimes referred to as a Cape Cod style lighthouse, the design for the former Maurice River Lighthouse was adapted for the construction of a number of the first lighthouses to be built on the West Coast beginning in 1852:

The lighthouses and lightships of the Delaware Bay region were established for one of two reasons - those in the water were established to warn of shoals or ledges, and those on land were erected to guide shipping safely in and out of various rivers, creeks, and harbors. The Maurice River Lighthouse had been established for the latter reason - to guide an ever expanding shipping trade in and out of the Maurice River to towns such as Bivalve, Port Norris, Leesburg, Dorchester, Port Elizabeth, Mauricetown, and Millville. Those benefitting from its guiding light were the fishing and oyster fleets, the local shipbuilders, and the numerous ships engaged in transporting sand and gravel from local pits as well as manufactured goods and agricultural items from the numerous factories and farms in the Millville area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued):

Although the East Point Lighthouse's significance to transportation in the region has since diminished with the reduction of shipping traffic on the river in the latter part of this century, its significance to the region's maritime history and the maritime trade currently using the river is still very strong. In terms of maritime trade, the lighthouse structure has long been used as a surveying point for the nearby oyster beds, and large numbers of local fishermen or recreational boaters use the structure both during the day and at night as a landmark to guide them safely on the waters. Rarely is a decommissioned lighthouse brought back into service, but the fact that East Point Lighthouse was relit by the U.S. Coast Guard in July of 1980 (after more than 32 years of darkness), attests to its importance to the region's maritime trade.

In terms of maritime history, the substantial effort local citizens have expended since 1971 to save the structure, and the fact that despite its deteriorated condition the lighthouse has become one of the region's major tourist attractions, confirm that the former Maurice River Lighthouse has earned its place in history, and deserves to be preserved for the benefit of future generations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 2Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, New JerseyBibliography

Gowdy, Jim. Guiding Lights of the Delaware River and Bay. Mizpah, New Jersey: 1990.

Historic American Buildings Survey. East Point Lighthouse: undated.

Lighthouse Service. Light List, Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1901, 1921, 1931.

National Archives, Record Group No. 26. Description of Light-House Tower, Buildings, and Premises at Maurice River Light Station. Washington, D.C.: 1908.

National Archives, Record Group No. 26. Descriptions of Lighthouse Sites for the Fourth Lighthouse District. Undated (circa 1878).

National Archives, Record Group No. 26. Registers of Lighthouse Keepers, 1845 -1912, Roll 2, New York through Virginia.

New Jersey, Senate and General Assembly. Resolution: Relative to a Lighthouse at the mouth of Maurice River, and beacon lights in Newark Bay. Acts of the Seventy-Third Legislature of the State of New Jersey and the Fifth Session Under the New Constitution. Trenton: Phillips & Boswell, 1849.

United States Lighthouse Board. Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1874, 1875, 1880, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Verbal Boundary Description:

The historical description from the deed states, "Beginning at a red cedar post marked U.S., standing on the southwest side of Haystack Island; thence N.60 W. 11 chains to bank of Maurice River Cove; thence along the bank of Maurice River Cove N.29½ E. 4.55 chains; thence S.60 E. 11 chains; thence S.29½ W. 4.55 chains to place of beginning; containing 5 acres."

A more recent boundary description, taken from a 1969 survey by the U.S. Coast Guard Engineers, can be read as follows: Starting from a stone at the southeast corner of the property, then N63 47'W 573.84 feet to the vicinity of the lost stone in the Maurice River Cove, then N25 17'E a distance of 300.3' to the northwest corner (also underwater), then S63 47'E a distance of 573.84' to the northeast corner, then S28 13'W a distance of 300.3' back to the point of beginning; containing approximately 3.60 acres.

Boundary Justification:

The nomination includes all property historically associated with the lighthouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceMAURICE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NJNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Photo Page 1 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Photographs:

No.	Photographer	Date	Orig. Neg.	Description of View
#1	Unknown	1913	National Archives	View from the south toward the structure's front.
#2	Unknown	Circa 1930's	Not known	View from the southeast; lighthouse still in operation.
#3	Unknown	Circa 1950's	Not known	View from the east, southeast; structure is abandoned.
#4	George Feirer	Circa 1960's	George Feirer	View from the east, southeast.
#5	Unknown	Circa 1890	Althea Sorenson; a relative	Former keeper Thomas S. Foster, attended the lighthouse 2-9-1887 to 10-20-1891.
#6	Bruce Aydelotte	3-4-95	Bruce Aydelotte	Gravestone of Thomas S. Foster at Heislerville Methodist Church.
	(this information will be the same for photos 6 through 34)			
#7				View from the beach, looking northeast.
#8				30' off the southwest corner with view of the structure's front.
#9				Closeup of the shutter-dog near the southwest corner.
#10				30' off the northwest corner with view of the west end.
#11				25' off the northwest corner with view of the structure's rear.
#12				25' off the southeast corner with view of the east end and the front.
#13				15' off the northeast corner - closeup of the footings for the kitchen addition.
#14				18' off the cellar cover near the southeast corner - closeup of the deteriorating catwalk and the lantern room.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceMAURICE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NJNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Photo Page 2 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Photographs (continued):

No.	Photographer	Date	Orig. Neg.	Description of View
#15	Bruce Aydelotte	3-4-95	Bruce Aydelotte	1st floor level; west end room, taken from the southeast corner.
	(this information will be the same for photos 6 through 34)			
#16				1st floor level; hallway, taken from front door entryway. Closed door to the cellar is in view.
#17				1st floor level; east end room, taken from the northwest corner.
#18				1st floor level; original kitchen, taken from the northeast corner.
#19				Basement level; view from midcellar toward the northeast.
#20				2nd floor level; west end room, taken from hallway door.
#21				2nd floor level hallway, view from south to north.
#22				2nd floor level; top of stairwell looking down.
#23				2nd floor level; east end room, taken from southwest corner.
#24				2nd floor level; bottom of stairwell looking up toward the attic level.
#25				Attic level near center, view of west end.
#26				Attic level near center, view of east end.
#27				Attic level, with view out east end window toward the fuel shed and cottage.
#28				Attic level at east end looking west toward stairway to lantern room.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceMAURICE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NJNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number _____ Photo _____ Page 3 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Photographs (continued):

No.	Photographer	Date	Orig. Neg.	Description of View
#29	Bruce Aydelotte	3-4-95	Bruce Aydelotte	Lantern room level; view to northwest, with view of the modern beacon light.
	(this information will be the same for photos 6 through 34)			
#30				Lantern room level; view of outside hatchway and trap door down to attic.
#31				Front view of the fuel shed from 12' to the south.
#32				View of the rear of the fuel shed from 12' to the north. Wooden door is for the attached out house.
#33				East side of the fuel shed, from 15' to the east.
#34				Frontal view of the cottage, which stands about where a barn once stood. The cottage was moved on site in the mid-1970's to help curb vandalism at the site.

Maurice River Lighthouse
Cumberland County, NJ

State of New Jersey
Dept. of Conservation and Econ. Dev.
Division of Fish and Game

East Point Light House Tract

Location: Maurice River Township,
Cumberland County, N.J.

Bearings and distances taken from
a survey by the U.S. Coast Guard
Engineers. All bearings are true.
Map Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet
7-5-1969 R.O. Bevan

