

**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 How to 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 any 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 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE.

other names/site number N/A, FMSF#8GU25

2. Location

street & number 200 Miss Zola's Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Port St. Joe vicinity

state Florida code FL county Gulf code 045 zip code 32456

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.)

Missi Law ^{JSHPO} 3/13/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or 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 or 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
 - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000208

Date Listed: 5/7/2015

Property Name: Cape San Blas Lighthouse at Port St. Joe

County: Gulf

State: FL

This property is listed 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

5/7/2015

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5: Category of Property

“Structure” is hereby deleted as a category.

Section 8: Significant Dates

1919 is hereby deleted as a significant date.

The nomination does not specifically address Criteria Consideration B. The tower and keeper’s quarters are significant as examples of their design and type in engineering and architecture. The light station itself was moved a number of times in its history; this last move was to protect it from an eroding shoreline. The move, across the bay to Port St. Joe, nonetheless respects the orientation and proximity to navigable waters. Great care was used in retaining the historic fabric and the overall design concept of the light station in its new location. Nominated under Criterion C, the resources still retain the character defining features of a skeletal tower, and standardized governmental quarters. The complex retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

The Florida State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Miss Shaw 3/13/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Joe Baker

5-7-2015

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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(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/Lighthouse
 DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

METAL FRAME TOWER
 FRAME VERNACULAR
 MASONRY BUILDING

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete Posts
 walls Wood
 roof Asphalt Shingle
 other

Narrative Description

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

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

(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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENGINEERING

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1885

1905

Significant Dates

1885

1905

1919

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Unknown

Blder: Unknown

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 36) 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
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 apprx

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	6	6	3	6	3	5	3	2	9	9	2	5	4	3											
	Zone	Easting						Northing						Zone	Easting						Northing					
2															4											

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 W. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 2014

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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 Ms. Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk, City of Port St. Joe

street & number P.O. Box 278 telephone (850) 229-8261

city or town Port St. Joe state Florida zip code 32457

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 amend 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 Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse at Port St. Joe consists of the iron skeleton lighthouse tower, the pair of two-story wood frame dwellings, and the oil house that were all relocated on July 15, 2014 from their original site on Cape San Blas 12.3 miles west of the city of Port St. Joe to George Core Park at 200 Miss Zola's Drive, a location overlooking St. Joe Bay that was laid out especially to preserve them for public enjoyment in a setting similar to their historic location. The park was dedicated in May 2011 and extends from the shoreline of St. Joe Bay to Miss Zola's Drive. The property is bounded by Harborview Drive on the north, Miss Zola's Drive on the East, Captain Fred's Place on the south and St. Joe Bay on the west (Photo 1). The tower and keepers quarters had previously stood on Cape San Blas from 1885 until its move to George Core Park. The lighthouse has been completely restored and is open to the public who are permitted to ascend the stairway to the first balcony located just beneath the lantern. The keeper's residences at this time are still in need of some restoration work, including reconstruction of the wooden entrance steps and wooden handicap ramps. The property still requires the construction of walkways and addition of landscaping to make the site more attractive; however, a large paved parking area for vehicles has already been completed.

DESCRIPTION

The Lighthouse Tower

The 96-foot high, 60-ton structure has an approximately 30-foot column spread at its square base (Photo 2). The main construction members are eight wrought iron pipe columns held together by pipe beams that are reinforced by 1¼-inch metal tension rods. The skeletal framework supports the lantern and enclosed stair cylinder. Access from the ground is gained by a metal stairway that leads to a landing at the base of the cylinder (Photo 3). The landing is surrounded by a metal balustrade. The interior of the stair cylinder containing a spiral metal stairway is illuminated by a small window found half way from the base of the lantern. The circular lantern is located approximately 91 feet above the ground and is composed of a base made from cast iron panels, glass panes with metal mullions, and a conical metal roof (Photo 4). Two metal balconies surround the lantern, the lower one found at its base while the upper one encircles the glass storm panes. The current lighthouse lens has two possible origins (Photo 5). During its history, the lantern had a third order 1859 Fresnel lens, which contained a 200,000 power 3½ order electric light fixture that could be seen 16 miles at sea as it flashed white for one second every twenty seconds. Other documentation suggests that the lens might have been last replaced in 1906 via crew aboard the lighthouse tender Arbutus with a c.1905 third order lens produced by French-manufacturers Barbier, Benard & Turenne.¹ As for the remaining structure, the skeletal tower and stair cylinder have been painted white, while the lantern has been painted black.

¹ Per conversation with Heather Farley, Collections Manager for the United States Coast Guard, March 13, 2015. Source: AR06, p. 92, 93

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
DESCRIPTION

Keeper's Quarters

The two wood frame keeper's cottages (Photos 6-10) are two stories in height, have clapboard siding and rest on wood pier foundations. Both houses feature one-story hipped roof verandas on the front and side elevations that are supported by round columns and bordered by stick balustrades. Before their move to George Core Park, access to the verandas was gained by a flight of wooden steps flanked by balustrades. A second set of steps was originally found near the rear of the side elevations of both cottages. Like the facade steps, these secondary entrance steps have been stored on-site. Each cottage has a brick chimney that straddles the center of the ridge second story roof. Each cottage also has a short brick chimney that surmounts the roof of the one-story rear kitchen ell. The three-bay facades of the first story are divided into two window bays and a door bay containing the main entrance. The second story of the main facades of the cottages feature three windows, the side elevations have two window bays, and the gables of the main facades exhibit lunette windows. The main fenestration of the cottages is 6/6-light double-hung wood sash windows flanked by board shutters on cottage #1 on the east and louvered blinds on cottage #2 on the west.

The interior of each residence (Photos 11- 15, CAD Map Sheet 2) contains two main rooms on each floor. Originally, all of the main surfaces and finishes of the interior were of wood, but in the 1950 modifications were made to the living spaces to meet the minimum habitability standards established for such facilities by the U.S. Coast Guard. This included the installation of suspended ceilings, the covering of floors with linoleum or vinyl tile, and the surfacing of bathroom walls with ceramic tiles. Extensive restoration work was carried out on the exterior of both residences in the 1970s to preserve the character of the architecture. Although the interior of both buildings has seen significant alterations, the basic room plans and hallway configurations remain intact.

Oil House

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse retains its obsolete oil house, which was also transported to George Core Park and located near the lighthouse tower (Photos 16-17). Originally, whale oil was used with wicks as the source of light for lighthouses in the United States. During the early days, oil was stored in an underground vault with a shed built above it. Some lighthouse towers were constructed with an attached oil room, others with detached structures that were generally one-story and constructed of masonry. Kerosene became popular in the 1870s and electricity and carbide (acetylene gas) started to replace kerosene around the turn of the 20th century. The first electrified lighthouse in the U.S. was the Navesink Lighthouse in Highlands, New Jersey, which was electrified in March 1909. Still, by 1890, all except a few lighthouses in the United States were using kerosene. The Coast Guard continued to use kerosene for the Cape San Blas light until the 1940s when the light was powered by electricity.²

² Panhandle Beacon (Apalachicola), March 1999.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
DESCRIPTION

George Core Park

Dedicated in May 2011, this downtown bay front park extends from the sandy shoreline of St. Joe Bay to Baltzell Avenue. Shaded on the east and west ends by stately pines, and anchored by a beautiful small lake and wooden performance stage, the George Core Park has become the ideal venue for Port St. Joe's Florida Scallop & Music Festival celebrated each summer. The calm, shallow bay waters and natural sea bed extends for hundreds of feet into the bay at the park's west end, offering an excellent spot for adults and children to play, fish, or just cool off on a hot afternoon. The park also offers a bayside covered picnic table where visitors can enjoy a refreshing lunch in the shade. Bay Walk Trail winds its way through the park, connecting north to Jetty Park and south through Maddox Park to end at the ever-popular boat ramp located at Frank Pate Park.

The park is named for George Y. Core who was born in Apalachicola on February 12, 1917. He graduated from Chapman High School in 1935 and moved to Port St. Joe in 1937, which was then a booming small town. George worked with the St. Joe Paper Company in the accounting and personnel departments until December 1942, when he joined the Army. He served in the 206th AAA Battalion, which was part of an amphibious assault group that saw service in Saipan and was part of the forces poised to invade Japan when the war ended. After the war, Core returned to Port St. Joe.

In November 1948, he was appointed as Clerk of the Circuit Court, which was then located in Wewahitchka. Six months after moving to Wewahitchka, he knew every family in town. Core lived in Wewahitchka for 17 years until the county seat was moved to Port St. Joe. Core retired as Clerk of the Circuit Court on January 1, 1980, and remained a resident of Port St. Joe for the rest of his life. He loved the outdoors and was an outstanding fisherman and expert turkey hunter. He was a member of the Rotary Club and the First United Methodist Church. Above all, he loved people and was known as "Uncle George" to many of the residents of Gulf County.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse, Keeper's Quarters, and Oil House are significant at the local level under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Engineering. The tower is a late 19th century example of a screw pile metal frame lighthouse, a type first used in Great Britain around 1838.³ The current Cape San Blas Lighthouse was erected in 1885 following the construction of three masonry predecessors built between 1847 and 1856, all of which were destroyed by hurricanes. The Cape San Blas Lighthouse represents efforts in the late 19th century to design lighthouses that could be easily and economically positioned along the sandy coastline of Florida and remain capable of withstanding violent storms. Given that this resource has historically moved locations to avoid eroding shorelines, the Cape San Blas lighthouse satisfies Special Criterion Consideration B for Moved Properties, as its current location closely matches its historic placement, setting, and function and it retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The two wood frame keeper's residences, constructed in 1905, are rare surviving examples of such buildings which in Florida have been the victims of storms and decay. As light stations were automated in the 20th century, keepers were no longer needed to run and maintain the facilities, and such residences were abandoned, moved, or demolished. The lighthouse was last moved to its coastal Cape San Blas location in 1919 when its former site was covered with water. The two wood frame keeper's quarters were moved at the same time. In 1996 the lighthouse was deactivated. The City of Port St. Joe and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners both applied for ownership of the structures. The National Park Service sent a letter on December 21, 2012 announcing that the city had been awarded the lighthouse, but notification was not received until the 27th. The city created George Core Park as the new home for the lighthouse and keeper's quarters. The lighthouse opened to the public on Friday, September 12, 2014.⁴

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Ships passing along the northern Gulf coast of Florida in the 19th century had to contend with a dangerous shoal that extended five or six miles from Cape San Blas (pronounced "blass"), named by the Spanish for the martyred bishop of Sabaste in Armenia. The cape at the southern point of the Saint Joseph peninsula is found about 14 miles southwest of the town of Port St. Joe. In 1820, on the eve of Florida becoming a Territory of the United States, the Congress reorganized the Lighthouse Service, taking it out of the direct supervision of the secretary of the treasury and placing it in the fifth auditor's office of the Treasury Department and funding appropriations. A professional auditor and federal career service employee, Stephen Pleasonton, headed the fifth auditor's office between 1817 and 1855. Coinciding closely with Florida's territorial period (1821-1845), in

³ Cape San Blas Light, Coast Guard Lighthouses, <http://www.uscg.mil/history/web/lighthouses/LHFL.asp>.

⁴ The Star (Port St. Joe), September 11, 2014.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
SIGNIFICANCE

the interval of supervision by the fifth auditor's office twenty-three lighthouses were built in Florida.⁵ Completed in 1839, the St. Joseph Point Lighthouse stood for less than a decade. A yellow fever epidemic devastated the population in 1841 and a series of storms buffeted the settlement. The following year, a plan unfolded to build a new tower at Cape San Blas.⁶ Despite the obvious need for some navigational aid to mark the shoals off Cape San Blas, Captain L. Rousseau of the Revenue Cutter Woodbury, however, stated that the construction of a new lighthouse at Cape San Blas "would a useless expense."⁷ This caused the delay of the construction of a new lighthouse for nine years.

Local people persisted in demanding a light at Cape San Blas that would help mariners avoid the treacherous shoals. Permission was granted in 1847 to build a lighthouse at the cape's elbow on the condition that St. Joseph Bay Lighthouse would be discontinued, dismantled, and used to build the new lighthouse. A site that was "deemed to be entirely secure from overflow or inundation" was selected for the construction of an eighty-five-foot tower using \$8,000 that Congress had appropriated on March 3, 1847. Edward Bowden from nearby Franklin County was awarded the contract for the tower, while the revolving lighting apparatus, which employed ten lamps and fifteen-inch reflectors, was supplied by Winslow Lewis, a Boston contractor who constructed the first St. Marks Lighthouse in the late 1820s.⁸ Completed in April of 1848, Cape San Blas Lighthouse collapsed during a gale on August 22-23 of 1851. The same storm also destroyed neighboring lighthouses at Cape St. George and Dog Island.⁹

A year after the loss of the first lighthouse, Congress appropriated \$12,000 for a second brick tower for the cape. Due to an outbreak of yellow fever and delays in obtaining the lantern and Fresnel lens, the tower was not lit until November 1855, when Keeper Joseph Ridler was transferred from Dog Island. Ten months later, on August 30, 1856, another hurricane struck Cape San Blas. A Lighthouse Board report described the destruction inflicted on the station: "The sea rose so high at that place that the waves struck the floor of the keeper's dwelling, elevated eight feet above the ground, and about fourteen feet above the ordinary tides. A lagoon now occupies the site of that lighthouse."¹⁰ On March 3, 1857, Congress allocated \$20,000 for a third brick tower, which was equipped with a third-order Fresnel lens and first lit on May 1, 1859 (Photo 19). A two-story dwelling was attached to the east side of the lighthouse, and the light, which flashed every ninety seconds, was

⁵ Florida's Historic Lighthouses, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Sidney Johnston, Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation, 2002, Section E, Page 5.

⁶ Ibid., Section E, Page 34.

⁷ Report of Captain L. Rousseau. Public Documents and Abstracts from Reports and Papers Relating to Light-Houses, Light Vessels and Illuminating Apparatus, and to Beacons, Buoys and Fog Signals, 1789-1871. U.S Light-House Establishment, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1871, p. 243.

⁸ Mike McLafferty, "Lighting the Way," Tallahassee Magazine (May-June 2008), <http://www.tallahasseejournal.com/May-June-2008/Lighting-The-Way/>.

⁹ Florida's Historic Lighthouses, Section E, Page 34.

¹⁰ Cape San Blas Lighthouse, <http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=591>.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
SIGNIFICANCE

displayed at a focal plane of ninety-six feet. Following the outbreak of the Civil War, the Confederate lighthouse superintendent had the lens removed from Cape San Blas Lighthouse before Union forces could claim it.¹¹

The light station sustained serious damage at the hands of Southern troops during the Civil War. The keeper's dwelling was completely destroyed and the door frames and sashes of the tower were torn or burnt out. Repairs were made, a new illuminating apparatus was provided, and the light was re-exhibited on July 23, 1865. The lighthouse returned to operation on July 23, 1866, after repairs had been made and a new lens was supplied. Congress did not provide funds for a new dwelling until July 15, 1870, when \$10,000 was appropriated, so in the interim, the keeper was forced to live in the tower's watch room.¹²

By 1869, the beach in front of the lighthouse had mostly disappeared, and the Gulf was starting to threaten the tower. The Lighthouse Board requested \$5,000 to build a jetty to stabilize the beach, but a sum of only \$2,000 was granted. That amount was deemed insufficient for any kind of protective measure, and no action was taken. The report of the Lighthouse Board in 1881 details the dire condition of the tower: "The sea has been encroaching on this tower until its base is in the water. Brush mattresses were made, pinned down to the sand with small iron screw piles, covered with sand and occasionally blocks of concrete, to further check such encroachment, but the almost constant surf, beating against the mattresses, tore them to pieces. An appropriation for a new tower, further inland is much needed. It is recommended that a skeleton iron tower be erected; then if the sea again encroaches, it could be taken down and re-erected."¹³

The brick lighthouse lost the battle with the sea on July 3, 1882, when the "handsome brick tower became undermined, leaned, then cracked" and eventually fell. At this point, the tower was standing in eight feet of water about 200 feet out in the gulf. When it became unsafe to enter the tower, the lens and illuminating apparatus were removed, and a sixth-order light was displayed from a ninety-foot spar erected on the beach. To make matters worse, the station's dwelling was destroyed by a hurricane just two months after the tower collapsed.¹⁴

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Francis Ross Holland, Jr. (*America's Lighthouses: an Illustrated History*. New York: Dover Publications, 1988), p. 140.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Present Historic Lighthouse Erected on Cape San Blas

In 1883, \$35,000 was granted to build an iron skeleton tower as requested by the Lighthouse Board. The tower was fabricated in the North, and then loaded on a ship for its journey to the cape. En route, the ship went down along Florida's west coast, but fortunately the wreck was in shallow water, and most of the material was salvageable. Work on the two keeper's dwellings and the lighthouse began in September 1884 and was completed the following February, except for the installation of the lens and illuminating apparatus. The tower's third-order Fresnel lens was first lit on June 30, 1885 (Photo 20), showing alternate red and white flashes spaced by thirty seconds.¹⁵

The new skeleton lighthouse had four iron legs that ran the length of the tower and were tied together with a network of braces. The central column, which housed the spiral staircase, was different from most used at other lighthouses as it did not extend all the way from the lantern room to the ground. Instead, it stopped twenty feet from the ground, and an external metal stairway was used to access the door to the tower. This arrangement would hopefully keep the entrance to the tower above any waters that might encroach on the station. The bottom portion of the tower was also supported by four additional legs that extended midway up the tower. The ninety-six-foot tower was originally placed 1,500 feet from the shoreline, but 300 feet of this buffer was lost by 1887, and by 1890 only 144 feet of sand separated the tower from the breaking waves. The tower obviously had to be moved or it too would be lost. Congress provided \$20,000 for the task. Originally, the new site was going to be a point on the inside of the cape, about 1.5 miles from where the tower stood. However, obtaining title to the property proved difficult, and on October 8-9 of 1894, a powerful gale destroyed the keeper's dwellings, damaged the iron tower, and left it standing in water.¹⁶

The decision was then reached to move the tower to Black's Island, located a few miles north of the cape in St. Joseph Bay. Work on preparing the island and dismantling the lighthouse started in early 1896, but after a couple of weeks of work, funds ran out. Before work recommenced, the Lighthouse Board again changed its mind and decided the lighthouse should just be moved farther north on the cape. Before any action was taken, the beach started to build up around the iron tower, and it was decided to just leave the light where it was. In 1904, the Lighthouse Board was granted permission to use \$7,000 of the \$20,000 appropriation for relocating the station to construct two new keeper's dwellings.¹⁷

¹⁵ United States Coast Guard, "Historic Light Station Information and Photography—Cape San Blas Light," <http://www.uscg.mil/history/web/lighthouses/LHFL.asp>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
SIGNIFICANCE

The tower was safe until a hurricane in 1916 stripped away the beach protecting the lighthouse, and another one the following year left the tower 120 feet offshore. Plans were again made to relocate the tower farther inland, and in 1918 the tower was moved a quarter of a mile from the shore. The light was temporarily discontinued on April 30, 1918 and then shown from its new location for the first time on January 22, 1919.¹⁸

Life on the cape was obviously difficult for a lighthouse, and it was not much easier for the keepers and their families. The station was quite isolated, with a trip to the nearest settlement requiring a one-way trek of twenty-three miles. Keeper James Ray Linton found "the lonely vigil and wide expanse of the Gulf too great a burden," and in 1933, he took his own life.¹⁹

In 1952, a LORAN radio station was installed near Cape San Blas Lighthouse. Later that decade, the Air Force established Test Site D-3 on the majority of the rest of the cape to provide radar tracking capabilities for over-water test and training missions. Steve Barnold spent a year at Cape San Blas as an ET2 (Electronics Technician Second Class) starting in October of 1977. Barnold was responsible for maintaining and repairing the LORAN transmitter and protecting the station from curious civilians. In 1981, after the LORAN station was deactivated and the lighthouse was automated by the Coast Guard, the Air Force received a five-year permit to use and maintain the lighthouse property. When the permit expired, negotiations were entered into for an extended twenty-five-year agreement. Apparently there was some question over who would care for the keeper's dwellings, and they were excluded from the agreement.²⁰

The dwellings were left unattended for several years, and they began to deteriorate. In 1996 the lighthouse was deactivated, and two years later, the dwelling that was closest to the shore received considerable damage from Hurricane Earl. In 1999, after the Air Force finally assumed responsibility for the keeper's dwellings, the two structures were moved from their position on the shore to a site next to the tower. The dwelling that was in the best condition was restored at that time, while the second dwelling had to wait until 2005 for its turn. The restored keeper's dwellings are evidence of what an attractive piece of history a lighthouse and dwellings can be when proper care were afforded them. The coastline at Cape San Blas continued to lose its battle with the Gulf of Mexico, necessitating another relocation of the lighthouse and dwellings.²¹

Hurricane Isaac, which struck the Gulf Coast in August, 2012, caused significant erosion at Cape San Blas, leaving just a fifty-foot buffer between the dwellings and the gulf. Operations at the lighthouse were shut down on October 14, 2012, so preparations for moving the tower and two dwellings by the Air Force, which still

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Timothy Harrison, "Cape San Blas Lighthouse Added to Doomsday List," *Lighthouse Digest* (July-August 2012), p. 40.; State of Florida. *Florida Death Index, 1877-1998*. Florida: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, 1998.

²⁰ Cape San Blas Lighthouse, <http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=591>.

²¹ Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
SIGNIFICANCE

owned the property, could begin. In early December, Stone's House Movers relocated the two keeper's dwellings and the oil house 100 feet inland, as a temporary measure. The City of Port St. Joe and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners both applied for ownership of the structures. The National Park Service sent a letter on December 21, 2012 announcing that the city had been awarded the lighthouse. The city undertook a plan to create a public park and recreation area as a new home for the lighthouse. The General Services Administration still had to make the actual transfer.

In January 2014, the lens was removed from Cape San Blas Lighthouse in preparation for the relocation of the tower. On April 15, 2014, Port St. Joe Commissioners selected GAC Contracting to relocate the lighthouse and keeper's dwellings at a cost of \$510,450, which was the lowest bid received for the project. This does not include an estimated expense of \$170,000 that will be needed to lower and raise power lines during the move. After the tower had been placed on its side and the two dwellings jacked up, the three structures and an oil house were moved roughly twelve miles from the cape to Port St. Joe on July 15, 2014. Hundreds of people lined the road sides to cheer, applaud and snap pictures as the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, the 2 keeper's quarters and the oil house moved to its new home site (Photos 21-22). Crews worked quickly ahead of and behind the slow-moving convoy to take down and then raise power lines along the route. The lighthouse tower was raised from its side to its rightful stature standing sentinel in George Core Park as three cranes and more than a dozen workers skillfully and without event put the lighthouse on its new foundation within sight of the waterfront of St. Joe Bay in the city of Port St. Joe. Spectators came with lawn chairs and towels to sit on and folks ringed the park as the lighthouse was carefully raised to stand on its four legs (Photo 23). The lighthouse opened to the public on Friday, September 12, 2014.²²

²² The Star, September 11, 2014.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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National Archives. Plan of Cape San Blas Lighthouse, 1883, Record Group 26, Cape San Blas #21.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Legal Description

S 2 T 8 R 11 BEING PARCEL E, F ORB 397/456 FR THE ST JOE CO MAP 50B

Parcel Number 04595-010R

Section Township Range: 2-8S-11W

10.4 Acres

Boundary Justification

The footprints of the lighthouse and keeper's quarters occupy less than one acre of the above described property.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Cape San Blas Lighthouse Historic District
2. George Core Park, Port St. Joe (Gulf County), Florida
3. Friends of Cape San Blas Lighthouse
4. September 2014
5. Friends of Cape San Blas Lighthouse
6. Aerial View of Property, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 1 of 23

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photo unless otherwise indicated.

6. Aerial View of Property, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 2 of 23

6. Lighthouse Framework and Stairway, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 3 of 23

6. Lighthouse Lantern and Balcony, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 4 of 23

6. Detail View of Lighthouse Lens, Looking Vertically
7. Photo 5 of 23

3. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist
4. December 11, 2014
5. Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation
6. Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 6 of 23

Numbers 3-5 are the same for the remaining photo unless otherwise indicated.

6. Main (Southeast) Facade, Keepers' Quarters #2, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 7 of 23

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. Main (Southeast) Facade, Keepers' Quarters #2, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 7 of 23

- 6. Main (Southeast) Facade and Northeast Elevation, Keepers' Quarters #2, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 8 of 23

- 6. Southwest and Northwest Elevations, Keepers' Quarters #1, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 9 of 23

- 6. Keeper's Cottage #2, Southwest Elevation, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 10 of 23

- 6. Keeper's Cottage #1, Interior, Stairs Looking toward 2nd Floor
- 7. Photo 11 of 23

- 6. Keeper's Cottage #1, Interior, Stairs Looking toward 1st Floor
- 7. Photo 12 of 23

- 6. Keeper's Cottage #1, Interior, Stair Landing Looking toward Bedroom
- 7. Photo 13 of 23

- 6. Keeper's Cottage #1, Interior, First Floor, Living Room, Looking toward Kitchen
- 7. Photo 14 of 23

- 6. Keeper's Cottage #1, Interior, First Floor, View of Kitchen
- 7. Photo 15 of 23

- 6. Oil House, Main (East) Facade, Looking West
- 7. Photo 16 of 23

- 6. Oil House, Rear (West) Facade, Looking East
- 7. Photo 17 of 23

- 6. Aerial View of George Core Park, Looking East from St. Joe Bay
- 7. Photo 18 of 23

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 3 CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
GULF COUNTY
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Cape San Blas Lighthouse
2. Cape San Blas (Gulf County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1859?
5. State Library of Florida Photo Collection, Image Number RC03154
6. View Uncertain, Looking North?
7. Photo 19 of 23

1. Cape San Blas Lighthouse
2. Cape San Blas (Gulf County), Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1885?
5. State Library of Florida Photo Collection
6. View Uncertain, Looking North?
7. Photo 20 of 23

1. Cape San Blas Lighthouse Historic District
2. George Core Park, Port St. Joe (Gulf County), Florida
3. Friends of Cape San Blas Lighthouse
4. September 2014
5. Friends of Cape San Blas Lighthouse
6. View of the Moving of the Lighthouse and Keepers' Quarters
7. Photo 21 of 23

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photo unless otherwise indicated

6. View of the Moving of the Lighthouse and Keepers' Quarters
7. Photo 23 of 23

6. View of the Erection of the Lighthouse in George Gore Park
7. Photo 23 of 23



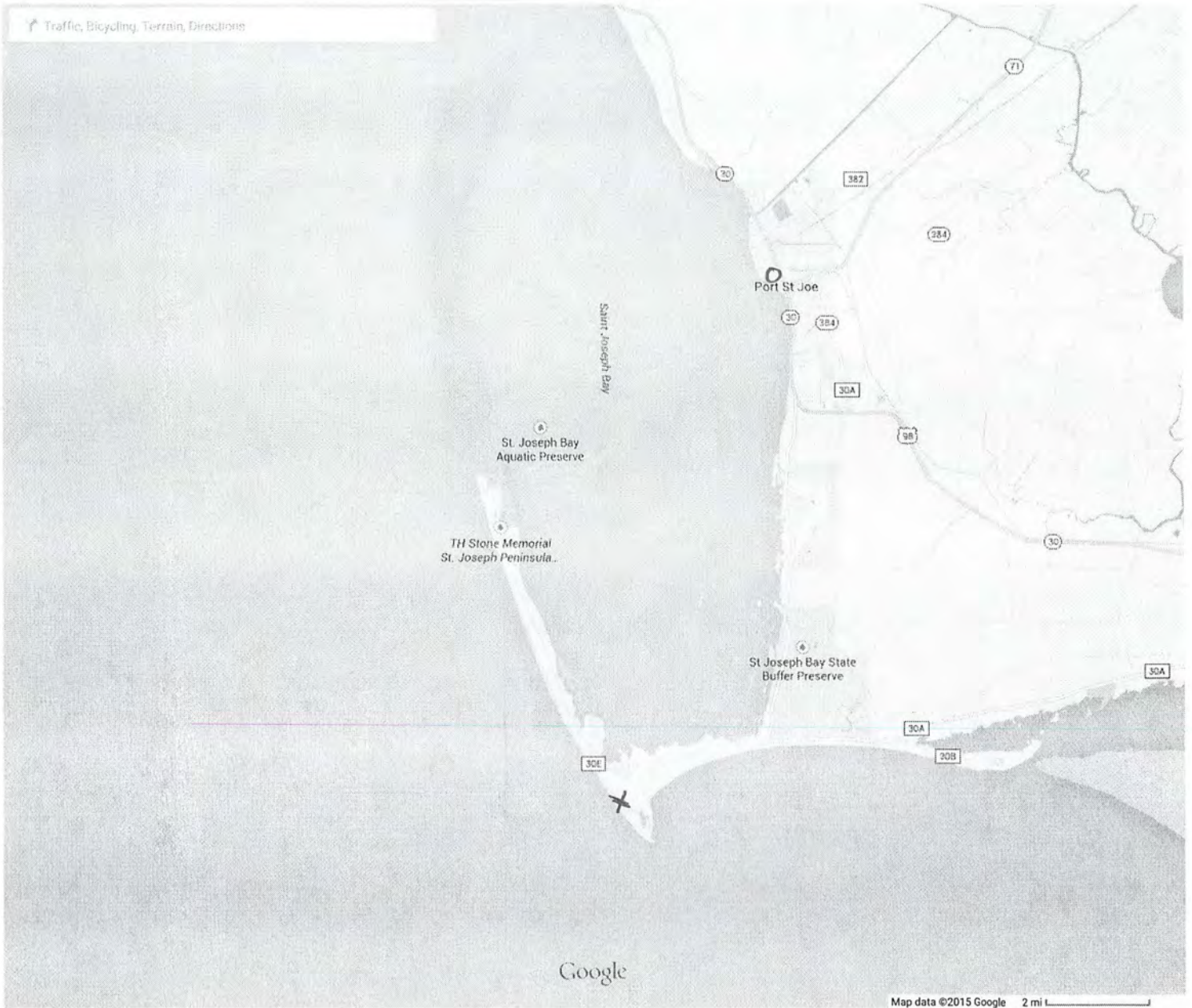
CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
200 MISS ZOLA'S DRIVE, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

Latitude: 29.813886°
Longitude: -85.306794°

UTM References

Zone	Easting	Northing
16	663616	3299357



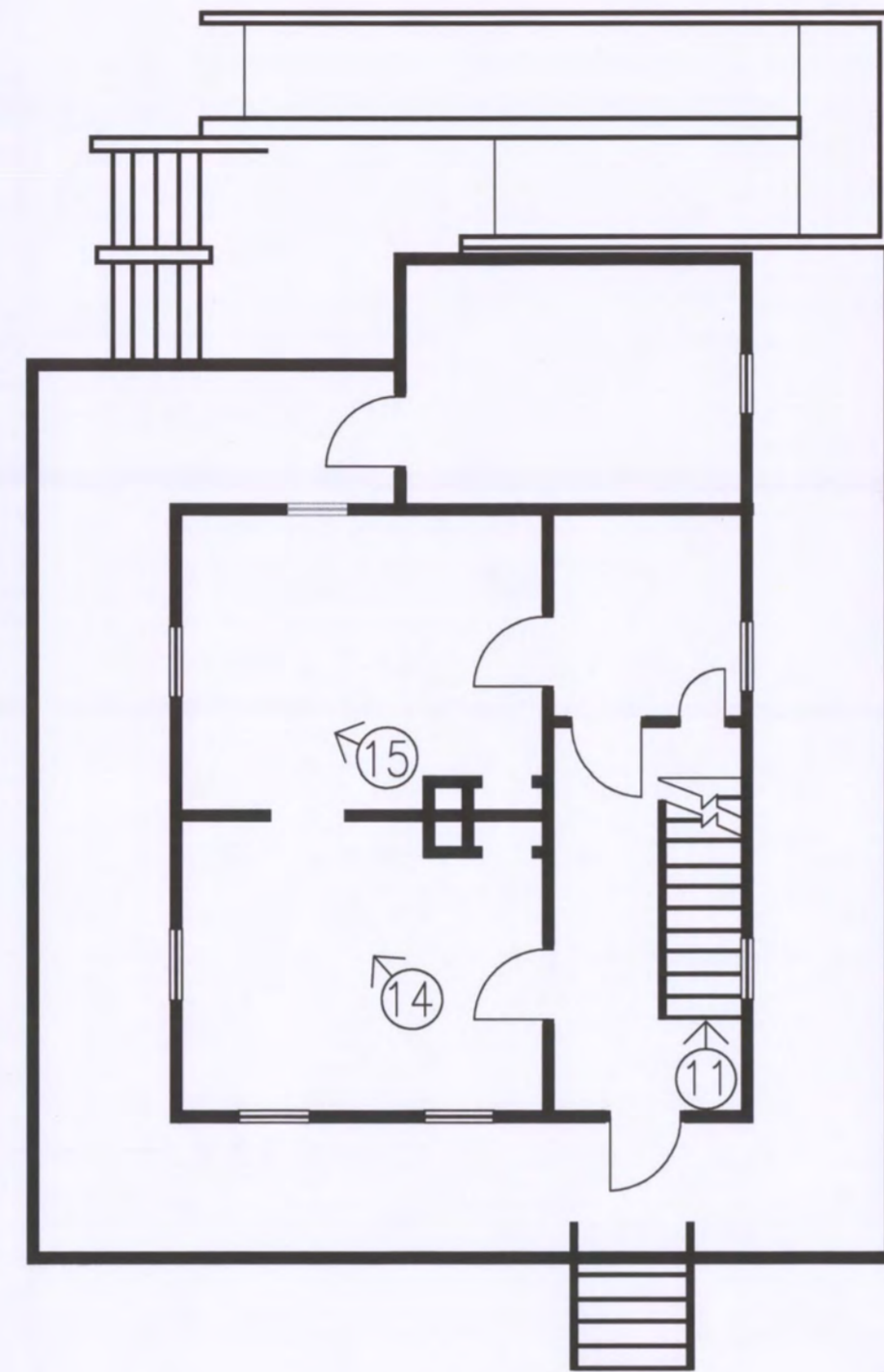


Cape San Blas Lighthouse

Gulf County, FL

X original location

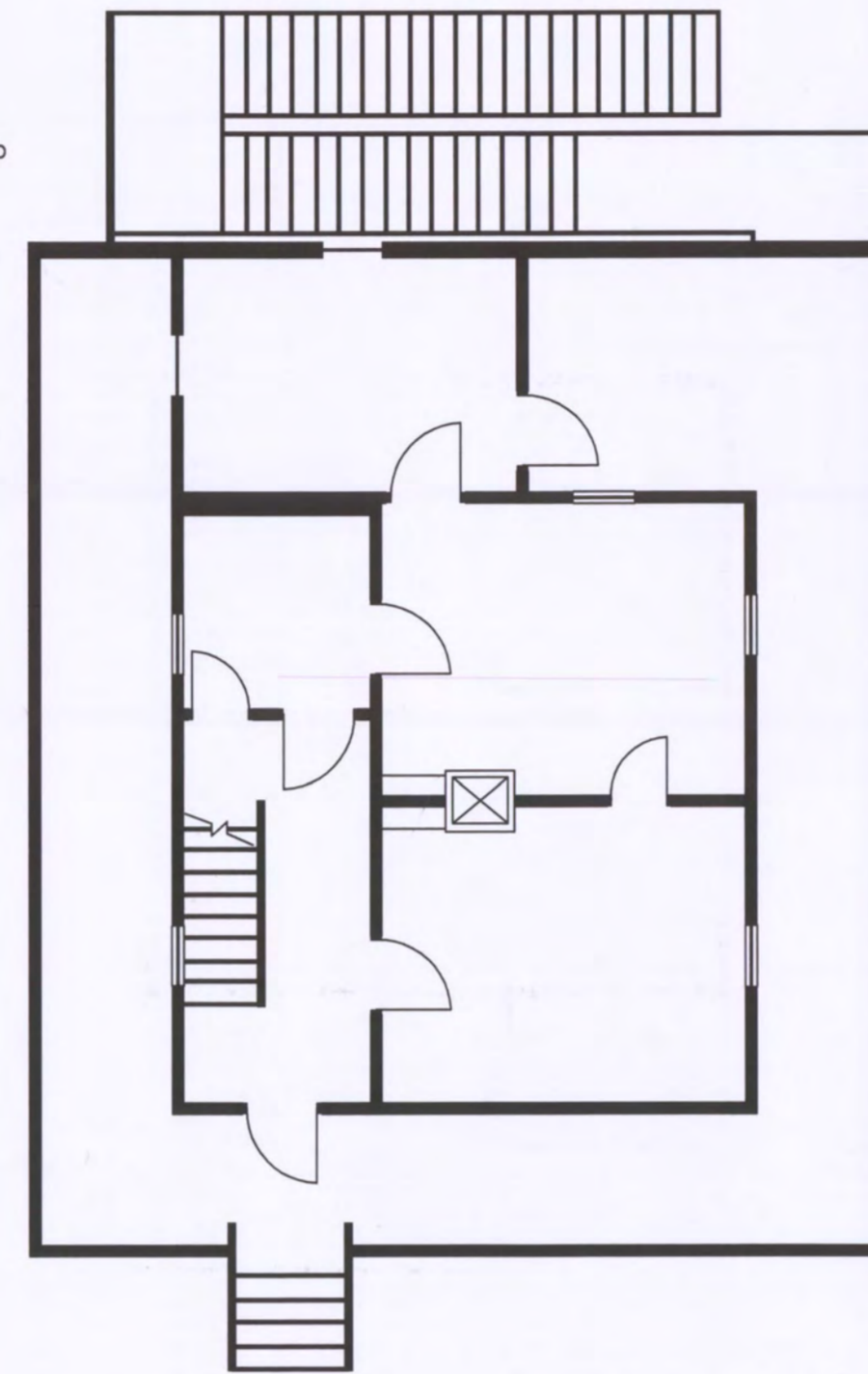
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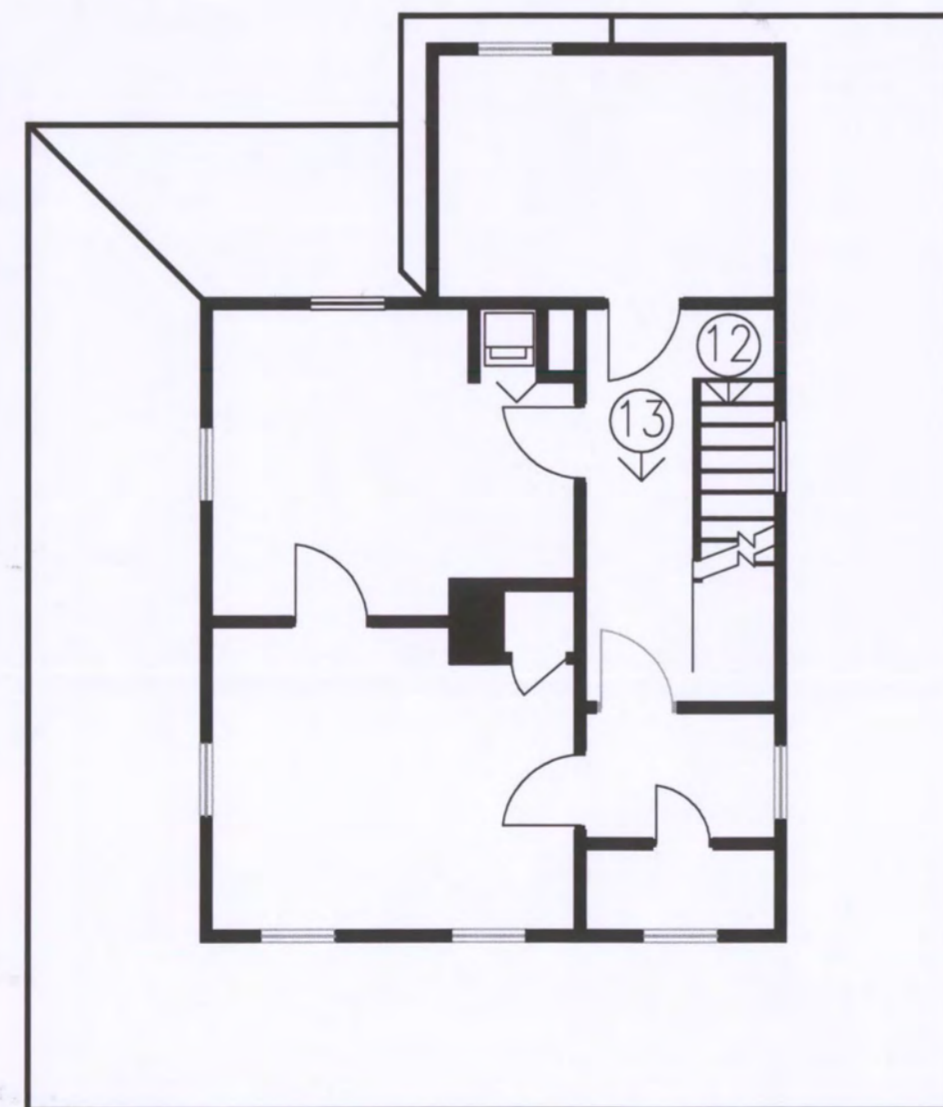
ADA ACCESSIBLE RAMPS NO LONGER ATTACHED TO KEEPERS' RESIDENCES. THEY WILL BE RE-INSTALLED OR NEW REPRODUCTIONS CONSTRUCTED AS NECESSARY IN FUTURE PHASE

FRONT AND SECONDARY STEPS NO LONGER ATTACHED TO THE KEEPERS' QUARTERS. NEW REPRODUCTIONS CONSTRUCTED AS NECESSARY IN FUTURE PHASE

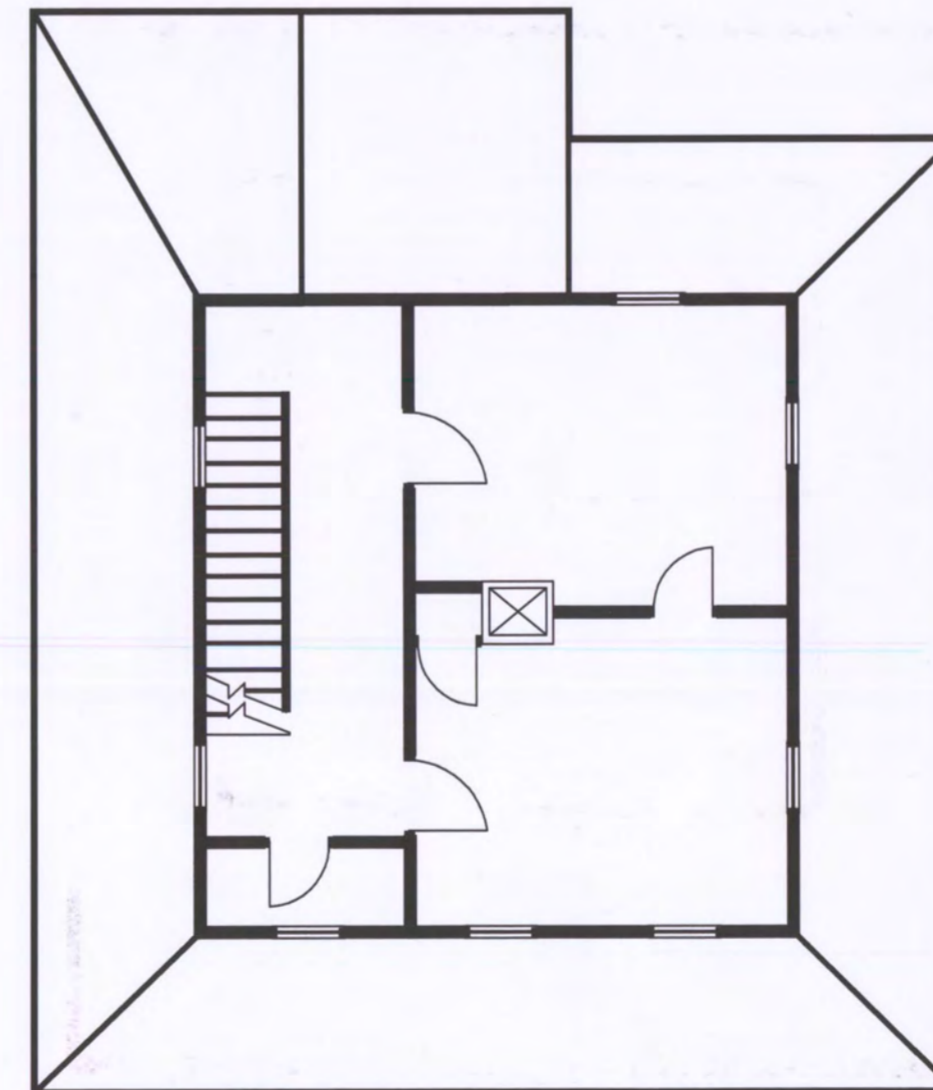
KEEPER'S QUARTERS 1 - EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN



KEEPER'S QUARTERS 2 - EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN



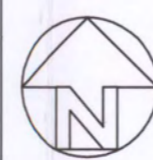
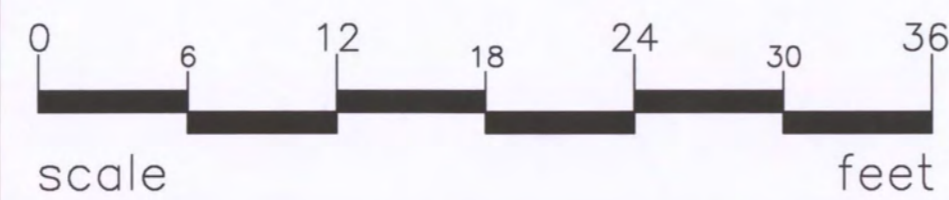
KEEPER'S QUARTERS 1 - EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN



KEEPER'S QUARTERS 2 - EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

PHOTOS = Ⓜ13

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
200 MISS ZOLA'S DRIVE, PORT ST. JOE (GULF COUNTY), FLORIDA



ORIGINAL HARD COPY MAP PROVIDED BY:
MLD Architects, Inc.
211 John Knox Road, Suite 105
Tallahassee, Florida 32303-3033 PARK AVENUE
Telephone: (850) 385-9200
Email: mld@midarchitects.com

National Register Proposal Prepared By:
Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk
Post Office Box 278
Port St. Joe, Florida 32457
Phone: (850) 229-8261

DRAWN BY: W. CARL SHIVER
DRAWING DATE: JANUARY 2015

THE CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE SITE AND FLOOR PLANS WERE IN AUTOCAD USING A THE LINE DRAWINGS PREPARED MLD ARCHITECTS, INC. WHICH WAS THE PLATFORM FOR INDICATING THE NUMBER AND DIRECTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THE LIGHTHOUSE, KEEPERS' QUARTERS, OIL HOUSE AND SURROUNDING SITE. THE SCALE OF THE SITE AND INTERIOR PLANS WERE DRAWN TO APPROXIMATE SCALE.

DRAWING NUMBER SHEET NO. 2 OF 2
N/A

MAP REVIEWED BY: CARL SHIVER
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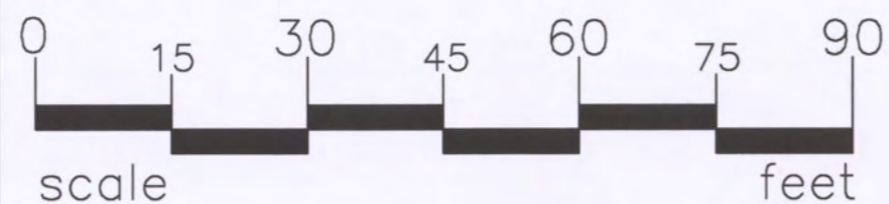


LEGEND

HISTORIC BOUNDARIES	
PHOTO NUMBERS	

SITE PLAN

CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE AT PORT ST. JOE
 200 MISS ZOLA'S DRIVE, PORT ST. JOE (GULF COUNTY), FLORIDA



ORIGINAL HARD COPY MAP PROVIDED BY:
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National Register Proposal Prepared By:
 Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk
 Post Office Box 278
 Port St. Joe, Florida 32457
 Phone: (850) 229-8261

DRAWN BY: W. CARL SHIVER
 DRAWING DATE: JANUARY 2015

DRAWING NUMBER SHEET NO. 1 OF 2
 N/A

THE CAPE SAN BLAS LIGHTHOUSE SITE AND FLOOR PLANS WERE IN AUTOCAD USING A THE LINE DRAWINGS PREPARED MLD ARCHITECTS, INC. WHICH WAS THE PLATFORM FOR INDICATING THE NUMBER AND DIRECTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THE LIGHTHOUSE, KEEPERS' QUARTERS, OIL HOUSE AND SURROUNDING SITE. THE SCALE OF THE SITE AND INTERIOR PLANS WERE DRAWN TO APPROXIMATE SCALE.

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Lightning Bolt
Pole - 6' x 6"
K-175
100' x 100'

















GREAT VALUE
DISTILLED WATER



1900















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Cape San Blas Lighthouse at Port St. Joe

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Gulf

DATE RECEIVED: 3/27/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/20/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/12/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000208

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-7-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Moved.

Retains integrity of Design. Materials, workmanship, & feeling.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Gabbard DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Survey Log Sheet

Electronic Version 1.1.0

Survey # 9541
Entry Date 5/17/2004

IDENTIFICATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Survey Project (name and project phase) Florida's Historic Lighthouses

Report Title (exactly as on title page) Florida's Historic Lighthouses

Report Author (last name first)

>> Johnston, Sidney

Publication Date (year) 2002 Total Number of Pages in Report (not including site forms) 88

Publication Information (use the style of American Antiquity) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, Florida, Submitted to United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Supervisor(s) of Fieldwork (whether or not the same as author(s); last name first; add state for cities outside of Florida)

Name: >> Johnston, Sidney;Other;Tallahassee
Organization: >>
City: >>

Key Words/Phrases

>> _____

Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, or person who is directly paying for fieldwork)

Name: National Park Service
Address/Phone: Unspecified
Organization: National Park Service, Interagency Arch.

Recorder Name (last name first) Heiker, Jeremy Date Log Sheet Completed 5/17/2004

Is this survey or project a continuation of a previous project? Yes If yes, list previous survey #(s) _____

MAPPING

County(s)

>> Dade

USGS 7.5' Series Map(s)

Map Name _____ Publication Date _____ >> _____

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY AREA

Dates for Fieldwork: Start 12/26/2002 End 12/26/2002 Total Area Surveyed (fill in one) _____ hectares _____ acres

Number of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed -1

If Project is a Corridor, Complete the Following (fill in one for each): Corridor Width: _____ meters _____ feet
Corridor Length: _____ kilometers _____ miles

ATTACH PLOT OF SURVEY AREA ON PHOTOCOPIES OF USGS 1:24,000 MAP(S)

Survey Log Sheet

RESEARCH AND FIELD METHODS

Types of Survey (select as many as apply)

_____ >>

Other, Unlisted Survey Types (describe): _____

Preliminary Research Methods (select as many as apply)

_____ >>

Archaeological Methods (describe the proportion of sites at which method was used, select as many methods as apply)

Method Used	Proportion
_____	_____ >> <input type="text"/>

Historical Architectural Methods (describe the proportion of properties at which method was used, select as many methods as apply)

Method Used	Proportion
_____	_____ >> <input type="text"/>

Notes on Field Methods (e.g., scope, intensity, procedures) _____

SURVEY RESULTS (cultural resources recorded)

Site Significance Evaluated? UNSP **Site Counts:** Previously Recorded Sites 0 Newly Recorded Sites 0

Previously Recorded Site #s with Site File Update Forms (List site #'s without "8") _____

Newly Recorded Site #s (Make sure all are originals and not updates. List site #'s without "8") _____

Type of Site Form Used: _____ >>

***** MASTER SITE FILE USE ONLY *****

FMSF Staffer: Jeremy M. Heiker Electronic Form Used: M110

Origin of Survey Report: _____ >>

1A-32 Permit # _____

Type of Document (select as many as apply)

_____ >>

Other Document Type: _____

*Note: Do NOT plot document types marked with an asterisk

Document Destination: Background, Useful

Plotability(1): NO, Project is Not a Field Survey

Plotability(2): _____



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor



KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

March 13, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Cape San Blas Lighthouse (FMSF #8GU25), in Gulf County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Desiree Estabrook
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation



Division of Historical Resources
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Promoting Florida's History and Culture VivaFlorida.org

