

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wood Island Light Station  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number East Side of Wood Island N/A not for publication  
city, town Biddeford Pool, X vicinity  
state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04006

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Light Stations of Maine  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
James L. Thibodeau STHPs  
Signature of certifying official  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Date 10/30/87  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
John G. Quinn  
Signature of commenting or other official  
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION OST/P-14  
Date 12/7/87  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Delores Byrne Entered in the National Register 1/21/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granite

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walls Stone: Granite

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Metal: Aluminum

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roof Asphalt

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other Aluminum Lantern on Tower

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Wood Island Light Station consists of a conical granite light tower connected via a long narrow passageway to the two-story frame, gambrel roof keeper's house. A stone oil house also survives.

**1. LIGHT TOWER AND KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE**

Wood Island's light tower, constructed in 1808, stands at a height of forty-seven feet from its base to the lens focal plane. Its southeast face is punctuated by a trio of asymmetrically placed window openings which originally contained six-over-six double-hung sash. They illuminate the spiral interior stair. The tower supports an iron walkway with railing and a centrally placed ten-sided lantern (this lantern is a replacement of a late nineteenth century structure which was removed by the Coast Guard in 1972).

A small gable roofed frame building with a single window on its east elevation is joined to the southwest face of the tower. Its gable end meets the long, low passageway that extends to the ell of the keeper's house. This structure has two windows and a door on its east wall and a pair of windows and small gable roofed addition along the west elevation. The latter was formerly connected to a boathouse which has been pulled down.

Facing south, the keeper's house is sheathed in clapboards and has an enclosed porch across the first story of its facade in addition to a pair of widely spaced gable roofed dormers. Before twentieth century alterations, the porch featured eight coupled posts on brick piers behind which were two windows and a center door. The east gambrel end has a pair of symmetrically placed windows on both stories and three in the ell. The fenestration pattern in the main block is repeated on the west end. At the rear a shed addition with one window abuts the junction of the front block and ell. A window is located to the west of this shed and there is a window and wall dormer above. The ell contains a second story window and a pent gable end. A pair of brick flues punctuate the roof ridge of the main building and the ell respectively.

Documentary photographs of the Wood Island Light Station show that the previous keeper's house, built in 1858, was a one-and-a-half-story three-bay frame dwelling sheathed in clapboards. Its one-story ell joined the passageway which was covered in board-and-batten siding. The dimensions of this keeper's house and the placement of the two flues indicate that the present configuration was achieved by raising the roof, adding a porch and increasing the height of the ell. This appears to have been done in the 1890s.

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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### 2. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Standing a short distance to the southwest of the dwelling is the rubble stone oil house. Like many others of its type this building has a gable roof and a door surmounted by a narrow ventilator opening at one end. It was built in 1903.

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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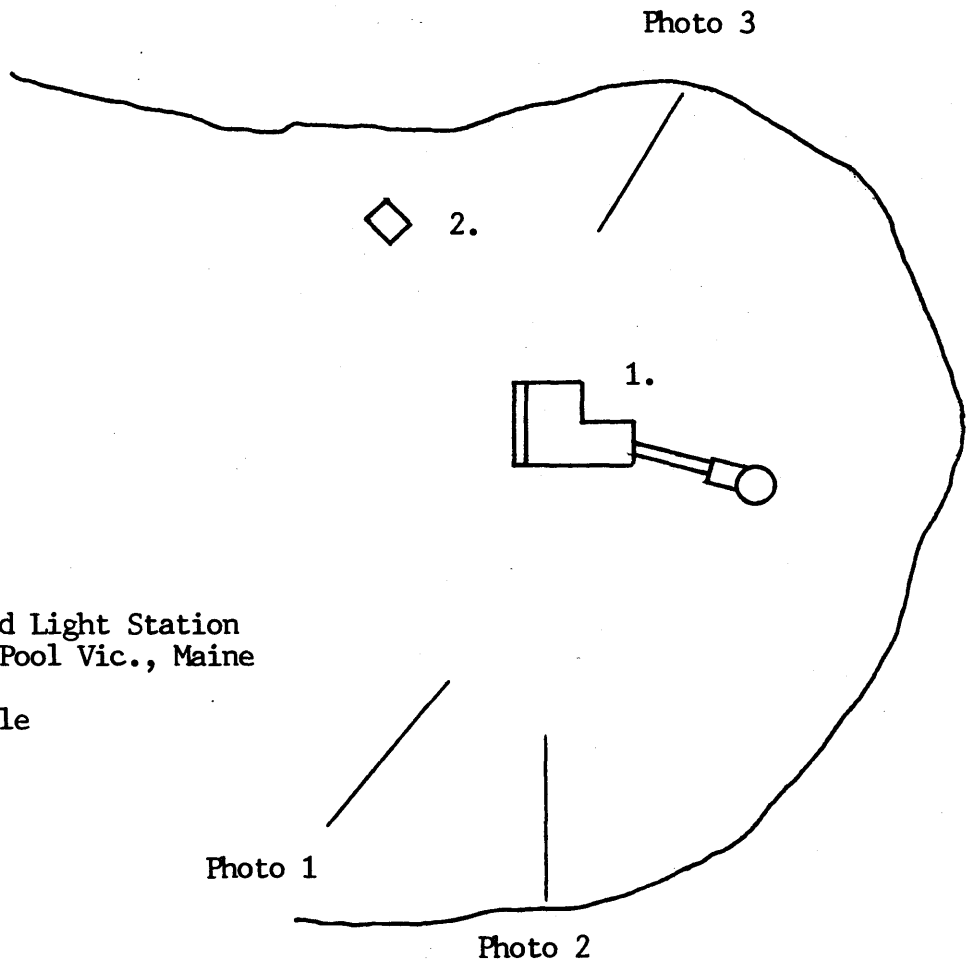
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Sketch Map

Wood Island Light Station  
Biddeford Pool Vic., Maine

Not to Scale



**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Engineering  
Transportation

Period of Significance

1808-1937

Significant Dates

1808  
1858  
c. 1890

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (House)  
Unknown (Tower)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Wood Island Light Station was one of two lights established in 1808; the other being at West Quoddy Head in eastern Maine. Of the two, it is the only one that retains the original tower. The station maintains integrity of design, setting and association, and meet the requirements for registration as described in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". The significance of the complex has been evaluated with respect to the associated historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

Wood Island light was erected on a small shallow island located at the mouth of the Saco River. This location was of particular significance due to the heavy maritime traffic in and around the commercial centers of Saco and Biddeford. Both of these communities had developed into important local trading centers during the eighteenth century, and their growth continued into the 1800s. Until the construction of Whaleback light in 1829, the station at Wood Island was the southernmost of the principle aids to navigation in Maine. (West Quoddy Head, interestingly, is the easternmost light.)

This light station derives significance under criteria A and C. Criteria A is satisfied by the association of the complex with Maine's critical reliance on maritime transportation and the aids that made navigation possible. Criteria C is met by the station's distinctive character that reflects three unique periods of nineteenth century light station design and construction.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Annual Report of the Light-House Board. Washington, D. C.: U. S. G. P. O., various issues.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

U. S. Coast Guard

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 5

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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3	9	2	4	3	0
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4	8	1	2	1	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the City of Biddeford, Tax Map 10, Lot 27.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Wood Island Light Station embraces the buildings, structures and immediate physical setting historically associated with this complex.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987  
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333