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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Tenants Harbor Light Station  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Southern Island, Tenants Harbor N/A not for publication  
city, town Tenants Harbor, X vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04860

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
			<u>1</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.  
[Signature] Date 9/23/87  
Signature of certifying official  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
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. Patrick W. Andrews 11/20/87  
 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 of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Camp

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

Wood - Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Iron Deck and Lantern on Tower

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Tenants Harbor Light Station occupies a shallow plateau located on the east side of the Southern Island and at the approach to Tenants Harbor. A bold rock ledge rings the island and a low rock wall frames three of the four components of the complex. The station is composed of a one-and-a-half-story wooden frame keeper's house joined to a circular brick tower, a detached shed, an oil house, and a pyramidal bell house (not the original structure at this site).

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

The tower and keeper's house at Tenants Harbor was built in 1857. Rising to a height of just over twenty-seven feet from its base to the center of the lantern, the cylindrical brick tower is punctuated by a pair of small windows on opposing sides and capped by an iron deck and railing. The ten-sided lantern is covered by a shallow roof with a spherical ventilator. A narrow brick workroom links the tower with the dwelling.

Like each of its contemporaries the keeper's house has not retained its original board-and-batten siding. Now sheathed in clapboards, the dwelling features a pair of twentieth century gable roofed dormers and an original gabled vestibule on the front (north) elevation. A pair of windows are located to the east of this vestibule. The short one-story wing attached to the west end of the house is an 1887 addition. This elevation also contains a later brick chimney and flue.

**2. SHED - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

The date of construction of the shed is not positively known. An 1895 reference in the Annual Report of the Light-House Board refers to the construction of a fuel house but whether that building is the present shed cannot be determined. The frame building is sheathed in wood shingles and clapboards and its walls are punctuated by a variety of door and window openings.

**3. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

Constructed in 1906, the oil house is a diminutive gable roofed brick building. It has a door and narrow rectangular ventilator in its west gable end.

**4. BELL HOUSE - NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

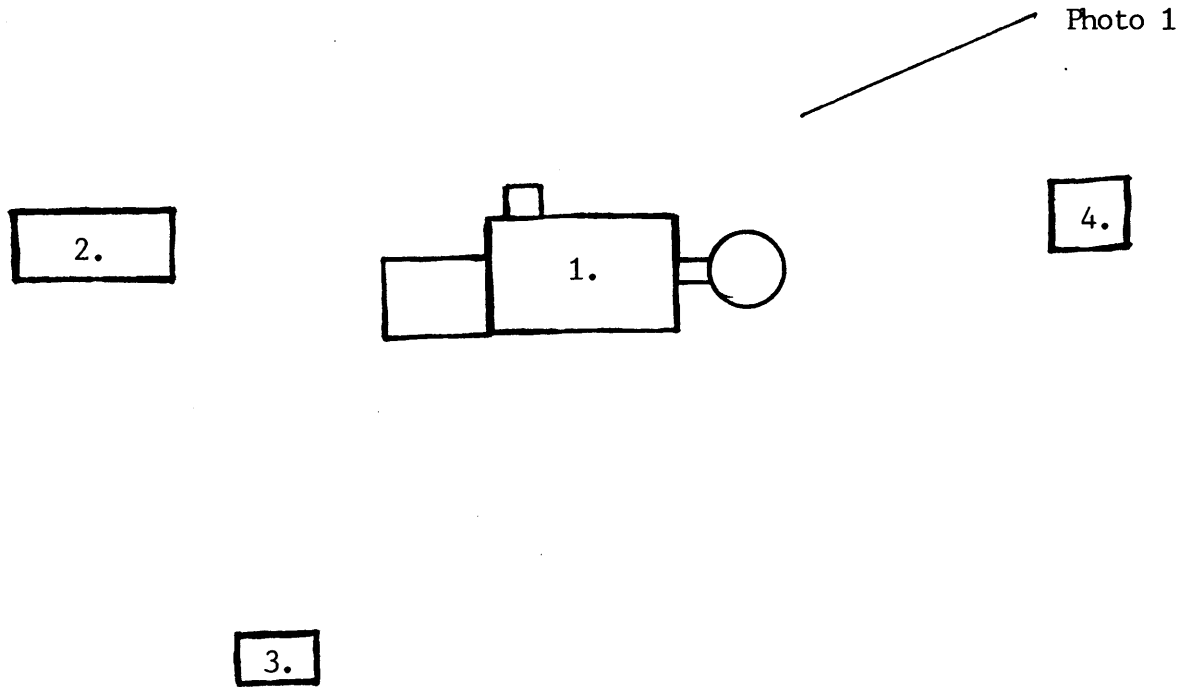
Although a bell house was historically a feature of this light station, the existing pyramidal structure was built by the current occupant. It is sheathed in wood shingles and ringed on four sides by a walkway.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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Sketch Map

Tenants Harbor Light Station  
Tenants Harbor 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  
1857-1933

Significant Dates  
1857

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer

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

Tenants Harbor Light Station is an important example of an 1850s Maine lighthouse complex that retains its integrity of design, setting and association. It is composed of a cylindrical brick light tower connected to a one-and-a-half-story keeper's house and detached shed, oil house and replica bell house. The station illustrates the importance of local maritime transportation as described in Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and the role of the Light-House Board as outlined in Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939; both historic contexts are contained in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine".

The light station at Tenants Harbor was established in 1857 in a continued effort to provide aids to navigation along the coast of Maine. Its location on the eastern side of Southern Island placed the complex at a strategic position, enabling it to guide ships through the two entrances to Tenants Harbor. The village of Tenants Harbor is the largest community in the Town of St. George, and is located at the head of a long harbor. The light station continues to emphasize the maritime heritage of the area where an active shipbuilding industry produced more than seventy schooners between 1820 and 1870. Many of these vessels were used to convey ice, stone, lime, and lumber from numerous places such as the nearby granite quarries at Long Cove and Clark's Island.

In 1933 the light station at Tenants Harbor was decommissioned and sold to a private individual.

Tenants Harbor light 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 principally embodies mid-nineteenth century light station design and construction.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 20

### UTM References

A 

1	9	4	8	4	6	7	5	4	8	6	7	7	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	9	4	8	5	3	0	0	4	8	6	7	4	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	9	4	8	5	1	3	5	4	8	6	7	1	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

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

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of approximately twenty acres occupies the Town of St. George Tax Map 8, Lot 12.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Tenants Harbor Light Station embraces the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with this complex. In this case the setting includes the entire land mass of Southern Island.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333