

PH 366617

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 22 1976

DATE ENTERED MAR 8 1977

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Rock Harbor Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rock Harbor

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Isle Royale National Park

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

Michigan

CODE

21

COUNTY

Keweenaw

CODE

083

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER **not in use****4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Midwest Region Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Eagle Harbor Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Eagle Harbor

STATE

Michigan

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Midwest Region  
National Park Service

DATE

August 1976

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Midwest Region, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

68102

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From a high wooded bluff, approximately 700 feet above sea level, The Rock Harbor Lighthouse overlooks the Middle Islands Passage, the main entrance to Isle Royale from Houghton, Michigan. The lighthouse was constructed in 1855 with a Congressional appropriation; a subsequent appropriation was granted in 1873 for upgrading the structure. The lighthouse consists of a one-and-a-half story, gable-roofed living quarters, 29 feet square in plan, with a 50 foot high, slightly tapered cylindrical light tower at the south elevation. The nine room quarters is built of coursed rubble stone on a stone foundation while the tower is constructed of a combination of coursed rubble stone and brick. Cement stuccoing on the exterior walls has spalled off, especially on the living quarter.

The east and west elevations of the living quarters are each three bays wide with a single clapboarded, gabled dormer, centrally located. The dormers may have been added circa 1910 by Louis O. Broadwell who resided in the lighthouse for several summers. There is a plank door to the cellar at the north end and a first story plank door at the south end of the east elevation. On the north elevation, there is a plank door capped by a wooden lintel on the first story, and two narrow window openings above in the gable end. All window openings have been closed over with exterior wooden panels. Two interior end chimneys are symmetrically spaced on the north gable elevation. The corbeled caps of these brick chimneys are deteriorated. The original wood shingled roof was sheathed with rolled asphalt in 1962.

The randomly combined stone and brick light tower has both vertical and horizontal joints between the stone and brick portions. The tower is approximately 18 feet in diameter at its base and is surmounted by a metal octagonal beacon which originally housed the light. The beacon is approximately 6 feet wide, with rectangular lights in each face except one, which is boarded shut; it is topped with a metal domed roof. A circular iron gallery surrounds the beacon. Five window openings are staggered around the tower which contains a winding wooden plank stairway consisting of risers attached to a center timber post.

In 1962 the National Park Service stabilized the tower which was built on a gravel base and was beginning to lean, by pressure grouting through the hollow interior walls to the foundation. In 1969 the tower lean was reported stable at two degrees from vertical.

The interiors of both the living quarters and tower are in a deteriorated state. In the living quarters, the hardwood tongue-and-groove floors have been covered with plywood in some areas on the ground story. The walls are of lathe and plaster, covered both with paint and wallpaper. All thirteen of the interior doors are missing. At the southeast corner of the building there is a closed wooden stair to the upper story and ~~one~~ below it to the cellar. A cobblestone fireplace in the ground floor room at the northeast corner is in good condition.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Michigan's Statewide Survey

August 1976  X  State

Michigan History Division  
Department of State  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

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According to Peter Edisen, long-time resident of Isle Royale, Louis O. Broadwell supervised much interior work on the lighthouse which was an empty shell in the early twentieth century where he first occupied it. It is probable that Broadwell had much of the flooring installed and constructed a wood frame addition which was used as a kitchen and a bedroom at the north elevation of the living quarters. Peter Edisen believes that a woodshed was originally located on this face. An 1896 photograph reveals that a one-story, shed-roofed addition of undetermined function was located on the north elevation (1). In 1962 the addition was removed and presently (1975) the decayed floor boards on a rock foundation still remain from the west half of the addition. A large area of the exterior wall, stuccoed with cement, reveals where the addition was located.

footnote (1) Rakestraw, Lawrence. Commercial Fishing on Isle Royale,  
Isle Royale Natural History Association: 1968. p.10

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1855; 1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rock Harbor Lighthouse is significant as the earliest lighthouse erected at Isle Royale and as one of the oldest remaining examples of lighthouse architecture on Lake Superior.

Furthermore, the lighthouse is significant for its role in the copper mining history of Isle Royale, guiding boats through the shoal-and island-filled water during Isle Royale's earliest period of historic mining in the 1850s, and its second phase in the 1870s. The lighthouse has continuously served Isle Royale through its nineteenth and early twentieth century development as a copper mining, commercial fishing, and tourism center.

In the 1840s, a dozen stock companies, incorporated in various states from New England to the Midwest, located mining operations on Isle Royale. The well-proportioned native stone and brick lighthouse was built in 1855 with \$5,000 appropriated by the United States Congress, to guide the increasing number of boats traveling the shoal-filled Middle Islands Passage to the Smithwick and Ransom Mines, two of Isle Royale's earliest historic mines.

However, by the late 1850s, mining activity had greatly diminished due to poor copper deposits, and the lighthouse ceased operation in 1859.

With a renewed interest in mining at Isle Royale in the 1870s, Congress appropriated an additional \$5,000 for upgrading the lighthouse, which again operated from 1874 until 1879 during Isle Royale's second copper mining boom. In 1879 it was again abandoned until the turn of the century when camping parties from the growing summer resort community on the island, chose the historic structure with its scenic surroundings, for their shelter.

From 1928 to 1939, commercial fishermen Arnold and Milford Johnson, the latter of whom presently (1975) operates a fishery at Crystal Cove, resided and fished from the lighthouse. Since 1939 the building has remained unoccupied. The National Park Service is planning restoration of this early Lake Superior lighthouse for use as a museum of Isle Royale and Lake Superior shipping.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rakestraw, Lawrence, Historic Mining on Isle Royale. Isle Royale Natural History Association: 1968.  
 Isle Royale National Park Building Folder #425.  
 National Park Service Historic Structure Worksheet, on file at the Midwest Region Office, Omaha, Nebraska

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	3 8 2 4 0 0	5 3 2 7 2 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jane A. McLuckie, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Department of Art

DATE

April 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Michigan State University 1-517-355-7610

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

East Lansing

STATE

Michigan 48824

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*[Signature]*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_ National \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Local  Regional

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

TITLE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INTERIOR

DATE

7/16/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

*[Signature]*

DATE

3/8/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

3/3/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER