

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 Ram Island Ledge Light Station

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Ram Island Ledge, Portland Harbor

not for publication

city, town Cape Elizabeth,

vicinity

state Maine code ME

county Cumberland code 005

zip code 04107

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|------------------|
| _____ | _____ buildings |
| _____ | _____ sites |
| <u>1</u> | _____ structures |
| _____ | _____ objects |
| <u>1</u> | <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.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

12/17/87
Date

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]
Signature of commenting or other official

1/25/88
Date

U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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:)

[Signature]

Entered in the
National Register

3/14/88

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)

Transportation: Water-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granitewalls Stone: Granite

roof Other: Iron Deck and Lanternother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Standing on a rock outcropping that is barely visible at high tide, the Ram Island Ledge Light Station, built in 1905, consists of a conical granite tower and an attached skeleton pier. The keeper's quarters and storage facilities are located within the tower wall. This tower rises to a height of seventy-seven feet from its base to the middle of the round lantern. A door reached by a ladder rising from the pier is located in the west face below a small square window. A pair of windows punctuate the south side and one is located in the east face. A wide molded granite walkway caps the tower base. It is framed by an iron railing. The unusual round lantern features an iron base and diamond pane windows sheltering the modern beacon. A spherical ventilator surmounts the roof. The pier extends from the west side of the structure. Originally a bell house was located at the far end of this structure.

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)

Engineering

Transportation

Period of Significance

1905-1937

Significant Dates

1905

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.

Ram Island Ledge Light Station was established in 1905 to mark the hazardous and oftentimes submerged shoals that populate the northern side of the entrance to Portland Harbor. The station maintains integrity of design, setting and association, and meets the requirements for registration as described in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". Its significance has been evaluated with respect to the associated historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

In 1902 Congress appropriated \$83,000 toward a projected estimate of \$166,000 for the construction of a light station on Ram Island Ledge. This action was taken after the steamship California ran aground on the ledge in 1900. Work had not begun, however, before the British schooner Glenrosa struck the reef during a heavy fog on September 22, 1902. She was followed to her demise less than three months later by the fishing schooner Cora and Lillian. These three mishaps clearly illustrated the need for a light and fog signal at this location in the busy shipping lanes near Portland. The light was exhibited for the first time on April 10, 1905. Sixty years later it was automated.

Ram Island Ledge 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 illustrates one of the many forms of early twentieth 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.

Bachelor, Peter Dow. Lighthouses of Casco Bay. Portland: Breakwater Press, 1975.

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 Less than 1

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre embraces the entire rock out-cropping known as Ram Island Ledge.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of Ram Island Ledge Light Station includes the light structure and entire rock ledge, defined at the mean high water mark, historically associated with this site.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987

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city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

