

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE COMPLEX AND LIFE-SAVING STATION HISTORICAL DISTRICT
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

n/a

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

South Manitou Island VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Michigan

26

Leelanau

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Omaha

VICINITY OF

NE

68102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Leelanau County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Leland

MI

49654

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

DATE

July 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State of Michigan, Michigan History Division

CITY, TOWN

Lansing

STATE
MI

7 DESCRIPTION

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

*HS-51123B was originally at the Lighthouse complex; now at the Life-Saving Station. Date of move unknown.

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A. Lighthouse Complex

The Lighthouse Complex is located on Sandy Point at the southeast corner of South Manitou Island. The 6.5-acre complex consists of the keeper's Residence (HS-51120A), the Walkway (HS-51120B), the Lighthouse (HS-51120C), the Magazine (HS-51120D), and the Whistle Shed (HS51120E); UTM Reference 16 571400 4984000.

1. HS-51120A, Lighthouse Keeper's Residence

The Lighthouse Keeper's Residence is a 2½-story, 30- by 32-foot rectangular building with full basement. The residence has stone masonry foundations and yellow brick masonry walls. The simple gable roof has gray slate shingles. The floors, partitions, and roof are of simple wood construction. The house, constructed in 1858, originally had a wooden light tower attached to the roof. This tower was removed in 1872, when the separate brick light tower was completed. At this time, a brick walkway was constructed, connecting the residence and the tower. Other features of the residence include 3 wooden exterior doors; double-hung windows in segmentally-arched brick masonry openings with a single corbel-coursed eyebrow topping the arch ring; a brick chimney with 2 flues that spirals through the roof rafters; 3 interior wooden staircases; and wood flooring. The condition of the exterior of the residence is good; the interior is in poor condition.

The residence housed the lighthouse keeper and his family until 1958, when the station was closed. Beginning in 1871, the station was authorized to have two assistants, who were also permitted to live in the Keeper's Residence.

The dwelling is located in the southeast corner of the island (UTM Reference 16 571400 4984000).

2. HS-51120B, South Manitou Lighthouse Walkway

The 40- by 8-foot brick walkway connects the keeper's residence with the light tower. It has a stone foundation and gabled roof with slate shingles. The walkway has four windows, two on each side. The walkway's exterior condition is fair; the interior is poor. The walkway was built in 1871-72.

3. HS-51120C, South Manitou Lighthouse

The brick light tower built in 1871-72 is 104 feet tall. Conical in shape, the exterior diameter measures 18 feet at the base and 12 feet at the parapet. There are four two-light, round-headed casement windows at quarter points below the brackets supporting the balcony, and three rectangular casement windows located randomly along the tower shaft. The projecting wrought iron balcony, which encircles the tower, is supported by cast iron brackets. The brick tower housed a third order Fresnel lens, which projected light a distance of 17-¾ miles. The light, built by Henri Lepaute of Paris, contained a plunger-type lamp that required 3 wicks. The lens appa-

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tus contained 5 panels: 4 panels of 72 degrees and 1 small prismatic panel which formed a reflector of 72 degrees. The central drum of the lens had 13 elements in each panel. Each panel above the central drum had 11 prisms. Those below the drum had 4 prisms each. The lens has been removed, and the tower is now empty. The tower's exterior is in good condition; the interior is in fair condition.

4. HS-51120D, Magazine

This 8½- by 7-foot building was once used for storage. The brick masonry structure has a standing seam metal hip roof with a metal vent and top. The magazine rests on a concrete slab. Its exterior is unfinished. The interior is painted white. The structure has a single door on the south side. The magazine is in fair condition. The magazine was probably built ca. 1875.

5. HS-51120E, Whistle Shed

The whistle shed is located 70 feet north of the tower. The original structure, built in 1875, was replaced by the existing whistle shed in 1896. The frame building has horizontal wood siding. The machinery and air compressor that operated the bad weather warning whistle were removed when the station closed in 1958. The exterior of the whistle shed is in fair condition; the interior is poor.

B. The U.S. Life-Saving Station

The lifesaving station is located on the southern tip of South Manitou Island's crescent shaped bay. It covers an area of approximately 7.2 acres, and includes the main house (HS-51123A), an oil shed (HS-51123B), the boathouse (HS-51123C), 3 sheds (HS-51123D, E, and F), the tower/flagpole (HS-51123H), the flammable storage shed (HS-51123I), and the concrete and chain fence (HS-51123G); UTM Reference 16 571400 4984300. The foundation of a Lookout Station (HS-51122), located immediately southeast of the lighthouse (UTM Reference 16 5715500 4984200) is also included. All of these structures were constructed in 1901-02.

1. HS-51123A, Main House

The Main House is a 30- by 50-foot rectangular structure, 1½ stories tall, with a full basement. It has a 22- by 8-foot porch on the north side and a 24- by 5-foot stairwell on the east side. The frame structure is set on a 4-foot poured concrete foundation. Originally the building was on grade, but it was later raised to create the full basement. The structure has shiplap siding, painted white with green trim. The gabled roof has sawn

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wood shingles. The porch of the house has three columns which support the roof overhead, and stairs opening to the west. Other features of the structure are three exterior doors and 28 window openings. The house is in good condition.

The residence housed the lifesaving crew and the captain from 1902 to 1958, when the station was closed.

2. HS-51123B, Oil Shed

The oil shed is a cylindrical structure with a conic roof made out of metal. It sits on a concrete slab foundation. The exterior is painted white, and the interior is painted in a bright orange. The roof has a short venting stack in the center. The floor is wooden. The door is metal with vent holes. The oil shed measures 8 feet in diameter. It is in excellent condition.

The oil shed was once located in the Lighthouse complex; the date on which it was relocated to the Life-Saving Station is unknown.

3. HS-51123C, Boathouse

The boathouse, built in 1901, is a rectangular wood frame building measuring approximately 50 by 24 feet. It has a hip roof with flaired eaves and red stained cedar shingles. The board and batten siding is painted white with green painted sashes and trim. The interior has one wooden floor with attic. There are 4 doors; 2 overhead, 1 two-door swinging, and 1 plank door. The structure has 4 windows, double hung, 4 over 4 by 4 over 4. There is one chimney, brick with metal piping. Other features of the boathouse include two ramps, one concrete ramp facing landward and one wooden ramp with metal rails facing toward the lake and extending to a slip at the water's edge. The boathouse is in good condition.

The boathouse housed the lifesaving boats for the U.S. Life-Saving Station.

4. HS-51123D, Frame Shed

This shed, measuring 8'5" by 7'4", has one floor. The wooden board and batten siding is painted white on the exterior with green doors. The interior is open frame. The shed sits on a poured concrete slab foundation. The shed has a hip roof with flaired eaves. It has red asphalt shingling. Other features include 2 doors, board and batten with wooden latches and knobs, and a concrete ramp. Its condition is good.

5. HS-51123E, Work Shed

This frame work shed measures 42 by 21 feet. It is a wood frame structure with diagonal wood plank siding. The exterior is covered with cedar shingles painted white with green

(continued on next page)

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doors and trim. The open frame interior has no finish. The shed sits on a structure of concrete and timber piles and sills construction. The work shed has 1½ floors, one plank floor on the main level and a half floor loft which is located above the main floor. An L-shaped staircase connects the two. There are 2 doors, 8 windows, 1 chimney, and 1 fireplace used for heat. The building is divided into three rooms with two 2-inch tongue-in-groove partitions. The shed is in good condition.

6. HS-51123F, Wood Shed

This storage shed measures 18 by 12 feet. The walls consist of wood shiplap siding with corner boards and shingle gabled ends. The exterior siding is painted white with green trim. The concrete foundation is painted gray. The roof is a simple gable with asphalt shingles. The foundation of the shed consists of concrete blocks with narrow shiplap siding. Other features of the shed are one floor plus loft storage, a single door with diagonal boards, 6 windows, 1 brick chimney, and 1 interior partition which makes two rooms. The shed, built in approximately 1901, is in good condition.

7. HS-51123G, Fence and Posts

The posts and chain fence surrounds the main house yard. The posts are concrete pyramidal sections painted white. The chains are iron and painted black. The fence and posts are deteriorated.

8. HS-51123H, Coast Guard Station Tower and Flagpole

The 8- by 8-foot open metal frame tower tapers off to hold the flagpole. There is a ladder on the frame. The frame is diagonally braced. The tower/flagpole is in good condition.

9. HS-51123I, Flammable Storage Shed

This shed has concrete block walls. The exterior is painted white. It has a simple gabled roof with red asphalt shingles. It is in good condition.

10. HS-51122, Lookout Station Foundation

Coast Guard personnel used the lookout station, which resembled the fire tower, to watch for distressed vessels. Currently, only the foundations of the station remain. The 4 concrete pillars are 6 feet tall, 4 feet square at the base, and 2 feet square at the top. Two of the pillars are upright; the other 2 are fallen. The lookout station foundation is located immediately southeast of the light tower (UTM Reference 16 571550 4984200).

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C. Associated Residences

Located near the lifesaving station, the Johnston House (HS-51125A) and the Leinbach House (HS-51141) were traditionally inhabited by Life-Saving Service/Coast Guard personnel.

1. HS-51152A, Johnston House (UTM Reference 16 571400 4984200)

The 24- by 24-foot structure has a tall pyramidal hipped roof. A chimney is situated at the peak of the roof. There is a full porch at the entrance. The roof covering is asphalt roll. The house is sided with shiplapped horizontal boards. The Johnston House, in good condition, is located on a one-quarter acre plot. (See enclosed map for location.)

Although the exact date of construction is not available, the Johnston House was built shortly after the nearby lifesaving station (erected in 1902).

2. HS-51141, Leinbach House (UTM Reference 16 571400 4984250)

The 15- by 20-foot, 1½-story house has a porch on the front and a one-story addition to the rear. The main section has a gable roof, and the rear addition has a shed roof. Asphalt roll covers wood shingles on the roof. The house has wood clapboard siding. The residence rests on a one-half acre plot. The exterior is in good condition; the interior is poor. The date of construction is not known, although the structure is believed to have been built circa 1930.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1858-1958

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U. S. Government/unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Manitou Island Lighthouse and Life-Saving Station are significant for their contributions to the safe navigation of Lake Michigan.

Several factors contributed to the significance of South Manitou Island to commercial navigation. The island's strategic location on the heavily trafficked Manitou Passage, its large natural harbor, and the abundant supply of hardwoods made it a popular stopping place for Lake Michigan's vessels. Encouraged by these factors, shipping increased, leading to the establishment of lighthouse and lifesaving stations on the island, further increasing its importance to safe navigation of the passage.

Regular steamboat traffic on the Great Lakes began in the 1830s. The steamboats used cordwood for fuel, and frequent stops to refuel were necessary. South Manitou Island was situated on Lake Michigan's heaviest route of traffic and contained dense forests of the needed hardwoods. The island's natural bay could accommodate even the largest vessels, and South Manitou became a popular and convenient stop.

South Manitou Island's bay was extremely important during storms. It was the only harbor large enough to shelter many of the vessels following Lake Michigan's eastern route from Chicago to the Straits of Mackinac, a distance of roughly 300 miles. As a result, South Manitou was extremely important to safe commercial navigation along the Great Lakes.

The Federal Government, recognizing the importance of South Manitou's sheltered bay, established a lighthouse and fog signal bell on the island in 1839. Its impact was magnified by the fact that it was the only lighthouse in the vicinity for over one decade. A new structure, with a fog signal house to hold the station's fog bell, was built in 1858.

By 1870 the Lighthouse Service noted the South Manitou's harbor was the most frequently used refuge on the Great Lakes. Their recommendations led to the addition of a brick light tower in 1872, raising the focal plane to 100 feet above the lake surface. The new stationary third order Fresnel lens projected the light a distance of 17-3/4 miles. A steam fog system was added in 1875. Eventually, technology made the South Manitou lighthouse obsolete, and the United States Coast Guard closed the station in 1958, ending over one century of service.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 47

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| A | <u>16</u> | <u>57,130,0</u> | <u>498,450,0</u> | B | <u>16</u> | <u>57,165,0</u> | <u>498,450,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | <u>16</u> | <u>57,165,0</u> | <u>498,385,0</u> | D | <u>16</u> | <u>57,130,0</u> | <u>498,385,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See enclosed map, "South Manitou Island Lighthouse Complex and Life-Saving Station Historical District."

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

| | | | |
|----------|------|----------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| Michigan | 26 | Leelanau | 089 |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| ----- | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jill M. York, Regional Historian

June 9, 1983

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

DATE

(402) 221-3426

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Omaha

STATE

NE

68102

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Martha M. Bigelow
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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Edwin C. Brown*

TITLE

Chief Historian

DATE

9/13/83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Beth Grosvenor

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/28/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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In spite of the navigational assistance provided by the South Manitou Lighthouse and fog signal whistle, the heavy traffic through the Manitou Passage meant that shipwrecks were inevitable. Years passed while the U.S. Life-Saving Service decided on the best location for a lifesaving station, then fought to gain title to the land. The station finally opened on August 20, 1902, with a crew of 6 surfmen and a captain. The station operated until 1958 when the Coast Guard, due to the acquisition of helicopters and other new lifesaving equipment, determined that the station was no longer necessary, and it closed.

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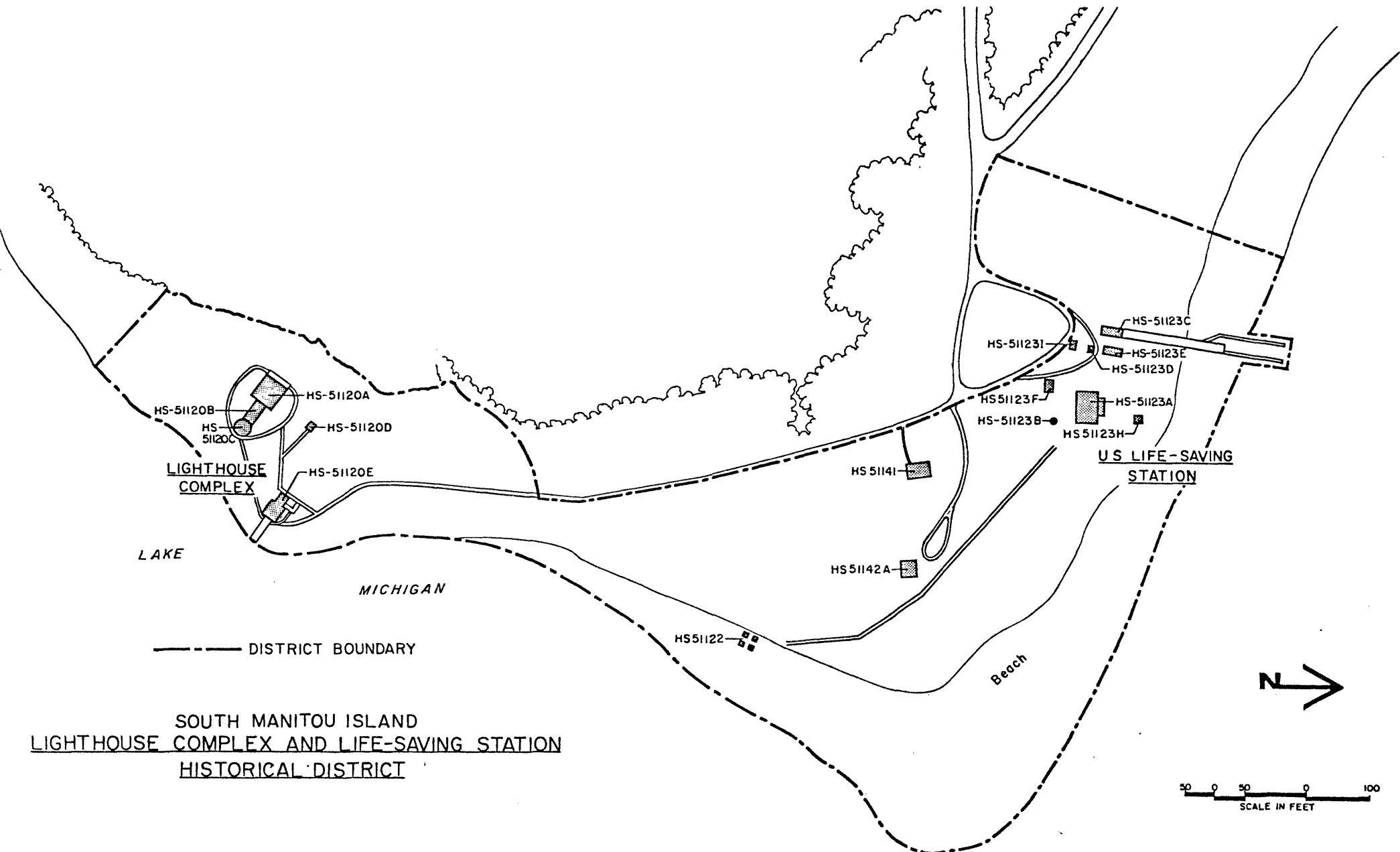
10

PAGE

1

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the historical district, as shown on the enclosed map, includes the area immediately surrounding the nominated structures and the beach area between those structures and Lake Michigan. The beach area is included because the focus of the lighthouse and lifesaving personnel was toward the water, and to exclude the beach area (just because it did not contain additional structures) would fail to recognize it as an integral part of the crews' efforts to increase safety on the Manitou Passage. The lifesaving personnel patrolled the beach, keeping a watchful eye on the Lake. For this reason, the district boundary includes both the land immediately surrounding the structures and the beach area situated between the structures and the lake.



HS-51120B
HS-51120C
HS-51120A
HS-51120D
HS-51120E

LIGHTHOUSE
COMPLEX

LAKE

MICHIGAN

----- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND
LIGHTHOUSE COMPLEX AND LIFE-SAVING STATION
HISTORICAL DISTRICT

HS-511231
HS-51123E
HS-51123D
HS-51123F
HS-51123B
HS-51123A
HS-51123C
HS-51123H

U.S. LIFE-SAVING
STATION

HS 51141

HS51142A

HS51122

Beach



50 0 50 0 100
SCALE IN FEET