

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
OCT 8 1975
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Eldred Rock Lighthouse

**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE Alaska

VICINITY OF

Skagway and Haines, Southeast

CODE

Haines

COUNTY 100

CODE 100

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME United States Coast Guard/17th Coast Guard District

STREET & NUMBER Federal Building

CITY, TOWN

Juneau

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska

99801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. (above)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Alaska Division of Parks

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

Senators: Mike Gravel/Ted Stevens
Congressman: Don Young

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eldred Rock is located at the northerly end of Lynn Canal, Southeast Alaska. Adopting plans and specifications for a light and fog-signal station on Eldred Rock in May 1905, the Light-House Board ordered immediate construction by hired labor. The station was to be placed in operation by November 1905. However, inclement weather slowed construction, such that the station was not completed and lighted until June 1, 1906.

The Eldred Rock lighthouse was the second structure of its kind in Alaska which combined keepers' quarters with light and fog-signal apparatus. The light and fog-signal building was a pyramidal-roofed, two-story, octagonal structure on concrete foundations. The height of the structure was 56 feet; its diameter, 52 feet. The lower story of the structure was concrete; the upper, wood. Fog-signal apparatus was probably located on the first story; and keepers' quarters, on the second floor. The structure was painted white with a black roof.

From the apex of the lighthouse structure projected a wooden, octagonal, gray tower and lantern with square glass panes. Displayed 91 feet above mean high water, the fourth-order light (2,100 c.p.) was visible about 15 miles. The fog-signal was a first-class, automatic, compressed-air siren.

Other structures on Eldred Rock included a boathouse, tramway, and derrick. Located about 150 feet northerly of the lighthouse, the boathouse was a rectangular, one-story, wooden structure on concrete foundations. The tramway linked the boathouse and lighthouse.

Through the years additional structures were erected at the light station. During the 1920's and 1930's several wooden, rectangular, one-story buildings were constructed about mid-distance between the lighthouse and boathouse; these structures were probably used as storehouses and repair shops. Later, one or two of these buildings were destroyed or removed from Eldred Rock. However, one was retained, and an additional built onto it. When electrical generators were provided at the station in the late 1930's, a radio tower, fuel cylinders, and post lamps were added to the station. In more recent times, a landing pad for helicopters was constructed at short distance northerly of the boathouse.

All in all, these small structures do not detract from the historical integrity of the lighthouse. The lighthouse, tramway, and boathouse remain in their original sites, and have not been altered.

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 type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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

1906-1973

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The last of twelve manned lighthouses established by the United States Board of Light-Houses in Alaska, Eldred Rock Light Station has long served as an important aid to marine navigation. Never rebuilt, the lighthouse is also the last octagonal structure of its kind remaining in Alaska. Considering its importance in Alaska commerce and transportation, as well as its exceptional architectural features, the Eldred Rock lighthouse should be entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more than two decades following the historic Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98, the most important summer trade route to interior Alaska was through Canadian territory. Steamships from major Pacific Coast ports sailed through the Inside Passage to Skagway, where freight was then shipped over the White Pass & Yukon Railway to Whitehorse, Canada, the head of navigation on the Yukon River. Supplies, mining equipment, etc., were then loaded onto steamers traveling down the Yukon River to interior Alaska. Until the completion of the Alaska railroad in 1923, linking interior Alaska with Seward, an ice-free port, most commerce between interior Alaska and the contiguous American states was thus forced to flow through foreign territory.

In view of Skagway's commercial importance, the United States Board of Light-Houses established four manned lighthouses in Lynn Canal between the years 1902 and 1906. This was nearly half the number of light stations ever located in Southeast Alaska in the 1900's. Commissioned in 1906, Eldred Rock Light Station was the last lighthouse constructed in Lynn Canal; the second station in Alaska with light and fog-signal apparatus and keepers' quarters combined in a single structure; and the first lighthouse in Alaska constructed with concrete.

Unlike earlier lighthouses in Alaska, that on Eldred Rock was never rebuilt or temporarily abandoned. The station provided invaluable service as an aid to marine navigation to cargo ships and military transports sailing either to Skagway or to Haines, where Fort William H. Seward (Chilkoot Barracks) was located. Due to post-war inflation and technological advances, Eldred Rock Light Station was unmanned and downgraded to a minor light in 1973.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alaska Division of Parks, Aids to Navigation in Alaska History.
Anchorage: Alaska Division of Parks, 1974. (pamphlet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

rocky ridge with buildings
Approximately 1 acre of /extending lighthouse beyond landing pad

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

C. M. Brown
ORGANIZATION

Alaska Division of Parks

STREET & NUMBER

323 E. 4th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Anchorage

DATE

March 12, 1975

TELEPHONE

274-4676

STATE

Alaska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

state
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Russell Cahill

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer DATE *9/26/75*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE *12/30/91*

ATTEST:

DATE *DEC 8 1991*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER