

RECORDED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 2 1988

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 Halfway Rock Light Station  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Casco Bay, Off Bailey Island  not for publication  
city, town South Harpswell,  vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04079

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ 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] Date 12/17/87  
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] Date 1/25/88  
Signature of commenting or other official  
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:)

Amy Schlager 3/14/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granitewalls Stone: Granite

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roof Metal: Cast Ironother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Standing on a rock outcropping in Casco Bay, the Halfway Rock Light Station, built in 1871, is composed of a tall tapered granite tower connected to a boathouse. The complex formerly had a skeleton fog horn tower, an elevated pyramidal oil house, a second boathouse, and a fog signal.

The Halfway Rock light tower rises to a height of nearly sixty-six feet from its base to the middle of its prominent lantern. Its quarry faced granite shaft is punctuated by a vertical row of four windows on both the north and south faces, and a single window in the west side. The base is crowned by a molded granite cornice that is capped by a steel deck and railing. The interior stair leads into the cast iron base that supports the lantern. A door opens off of this base onto the deck surmounting the tower. From here a ladder rises to the narrow walkway which enframes the twelve-sided lantern and its dome shaped iron roof. The tower contains within its walls the keeper's house and storage facilities.

Projecting from the north face of the tower the boathouse is a rectangular brick building. Small windows punctuate each side elevation and a door, formerly sheltered by a narrow shed roofed vestibule, is positioned on the west elevation. A boat slip extends from the gable end of the building.

**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

1871-1937  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1871  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

Halfway Rock Light Station, which occupies a shallow rock ledge in Casco Bay, was established in 1871 to mark this dangerous position in a very heavily trafficked approach to Portland. The station maintains its integrity of design, materials, setting and association, and meets the requirements for registration as described in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". Evaluation of significance has been made in association with the related historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca.1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

The 1867 Report of the Light-House Board states that "...an estimate of appropriation required to mark with a light-house this dangerous rock was submitted to Congress at its last session...." It was not until 1869, however, that construction of the light was authorized and an appropriation of \$50,000 made for it. The station was made operational in August 15, 1871, by which time the boathouse and slip were completed. In 1888 a pyramidal skeleton bell tower was added to the site; in 1889 a new boathouse was built. An oil house was constructed on a pyramidal skeleton frame in 1890; and a fog signal was established prior to 1905. The light was automated in 1975.

Halfway rock 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 clearly reflecting one variation of light station design and construction in the 1870s.

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:

U. S. Coast Guard \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.0 Acres

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of two acres occupies the shallow rock outcropping of Halfway Rock and referenced in the Maine Coastal Island Registry as 55-5c-502.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Halfway Rock Light Station embraces the light structure and the immediate setting of Halfway Rock; the area historically associated with this station.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987

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