

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 23 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Block Island North Light
AND/OR HISTORIC: Sandy Point Light

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Sandy Point (off north end of Corn Neck Road)			
CITY OR TOWN: New Shoreham		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #2 -- Tiernan	
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44	COUNTY: Washington	CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife		
STREET AND NUMBER: United States Department of the Interior		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11

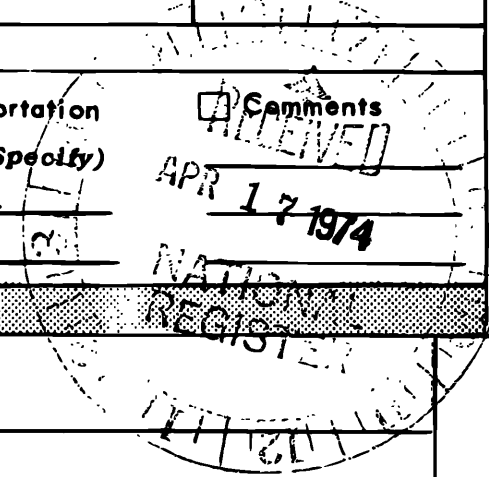
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: New Shoreham Town Hall		
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Town Road		
CITY OR TOWN: New Shoreham	STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Record Group 26, Records of United States Coast Guard			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Archives and Records Service			
STREET AND NUMBER: General Services Administration			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE: MAY 23 1974
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

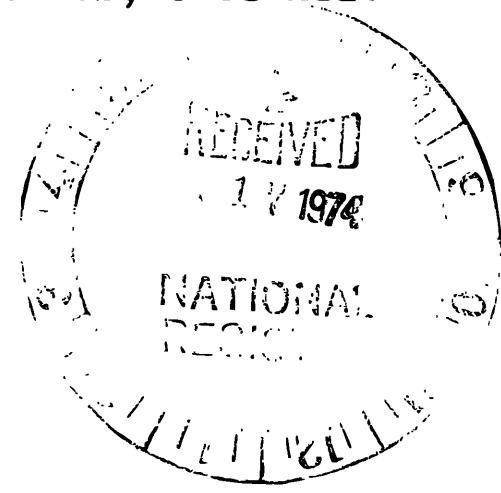
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present lighthouse on Sandy Point, the northern extremity of Block Island not quite five miles from Old Harbor, was erected in 1867, and though now the oldest lighthouse on the island, it was built on the site of three previous structures which over a thirty-eight year period had all been rendered useless by storms and shifting sands. Well built of stone and better protected than its predecessors, it served for over a hundred years until 1970 when it was abandoned as an active light station. A rescue station was also maintained at the Point, and the small frame building located today to the north of the lighthouse was the "Skipper's quarters" for the rescue station.

When raised in 1867, the light was located some 700 yards back from the end of Sandy Point. The two-and-one-half-story main block of the building, 30' by 33', is constructed of 18-inch granite, with handsomely proportioned heavy Italianate masonry window and entrance treatment typical of institutional building of the time. A single-story kitchen ell is to the rear of the building. Dominating the northern gable over the central entrance, the fireproof tower is built of 3/4-inch iron. The building was apparently similar to other contemporary lighthouses constructed by the Government, for one near Norwalk in Connecticut was erected the following year in a fashion essentially identical to North Light.

The light was fixed white, 61 feet above sea level, and is said to have been visible for thirteen and one-half miles. The lantern itself, of the kerosene Fresnel type, was built in Paris and was comprised of a complex set of prismatic lenses standing several feet high and shaped like an egg. More recently, during the 1940's, the light was electrified, and during the 1950's, a flasher was installed. Thus, while the French lenses remain, the original clock mechanism, turntable, and burner have been removed; their reinstallation is to be a project of the North Light Commission, to whom the responsibility of restoring the lighthouse has been given.

Located presently on a 28-acre tract of land maintained as a wild-life refuge and bird sanctuary by the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the lighthouse is structurally sound but in need of extensive renovation. Much of the woodwork including the roof needs to be rebuilt, and new facilities are needed. The grounds, once neat and orderly, have been largely overgrown.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(see Continuation Sheet #1)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1867

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering <i>STRUGLE 7/13</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Maritime</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce <i>STRUGLE 7/13</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications <i>STRUGLE 7/13</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Strategically located near the entrance of Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay, Block Island has been the scene of perhaps a hundred recorded shipping disasters, and indeed of the supposed thousand wrecks along the southern New England coast during the last two centuries, nearly half, it has been said, have been at Block Island. This region is moreover noted for its fogs and treacherous tides, and Sandy Point itself (which continues several miles as a sand bar) was particularly dangerous; for here, quoting an account of 1884, "the swift currents that sweep both shores meet, and struggle for supremacy, the bar in terrible combat being alternatively laid bare, and swept by seas towering 50 feet above its surface". Until recently, North Light was one of four major lighthouses -- others were the Block Island South East Light, the Montauk Point Light, and the Point Judith Light -- that marked the entrances to Long Island sound.

To mark this entrance, and to warn of the long sand bar at Sandy Point, a lighthouse was first erected here in 1827. It was 45 feet high and visible for 12 miles, but in ten years shifting sands had necessitated a new structure. This was located at a point a quarter mile further inland, at a spot known as the "blow hole". Fifty feet high and with two towers at either end, it was built of granite but survived only two decades. The third structure here was located as far out as the first had been and in ten years it too had been rendered useless by storms. While the location of the first lighthouse is now offshore, today the foundations of the next two can be seen on Sandy Point.

The present structure of 1867, a substantial granite building, was apparently better protected, for though the shifting sands of the Point still demanded attention, it stands today 107 years later. Originally known as Sandy Point Light, its name was changed to North Light in 1875 upon completion of the South East Light at the other end of Block Island. Hiram D. Ball, brother of the Hon. Nicholas Ball who had been largely responsible for the promotion of Block Island as a Victorian resort, was appointed keeper of the light station on Sandy Point by President Lincoln in 1861; retaining his position for thirty years, he was thus the first keeper of the present edifice. During this time, the light, reachable by way of the Neck Road from both Old and New Harbors, was a favorite resort of visitors to the island. By 1900

(See continuation sheet #2)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pettee, Edward E., Block Island, Rhode Island, Boston, 1884
 Pratt, Karson Eugene, & Downie, Robert, A Brief History of the North Light Originally Known as Sandy Point Light, North Light Commission, 1974
 Snow, Edward Rowe, Famous New England Lighthouses, Boston, 1945

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 13' 39.23"	71° 34' 34.27"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James Gibbs

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **March 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **44**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Frederick Williams*
 Title: **State Historic Preservation Officer**

Date: **APR 12 1974**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AP Warkentin
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *5/23/74*

ATTEST:
Wm. Mumford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *5.22.74*

VTM
 19/289070
 4/22/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet) - 2

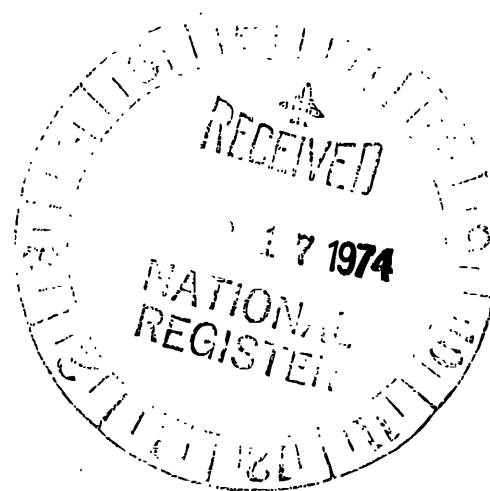
STATE		Rhode Island
COUNTY		Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
		MAY 23 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance cont.

three life saving stations were also being maintained on Block Island, one each at Old Harbor and the West Side, and one here on Sandy Point.

Manned by civilians until World War II, the light station was afterwards maintained by the Coast Guard until 1955, when the structure was automated. It has been abandoned since 1970. The North Light Commission has been appointed by the Town of New Shoreham to restore and preserve the structure as a multi-use facility, as an outpost for the refuge and hopefully including a maritime museum. The preservation of this fine example of mid-Victorian architecture, as a reminder of a passing concept of lighthouses, is well worth the effort.



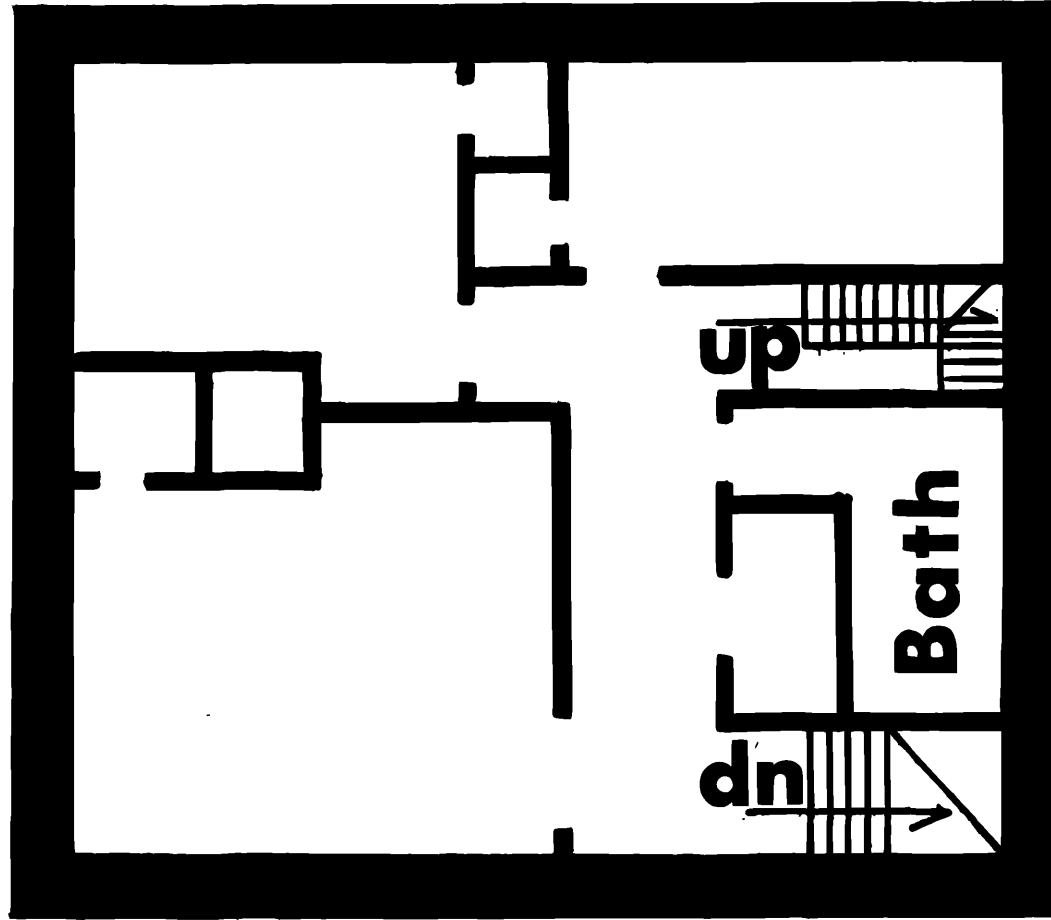
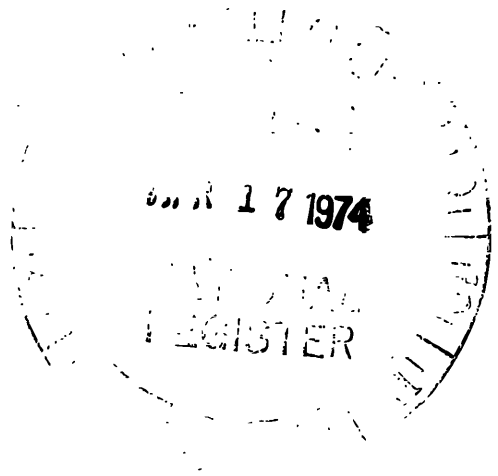
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) - 1

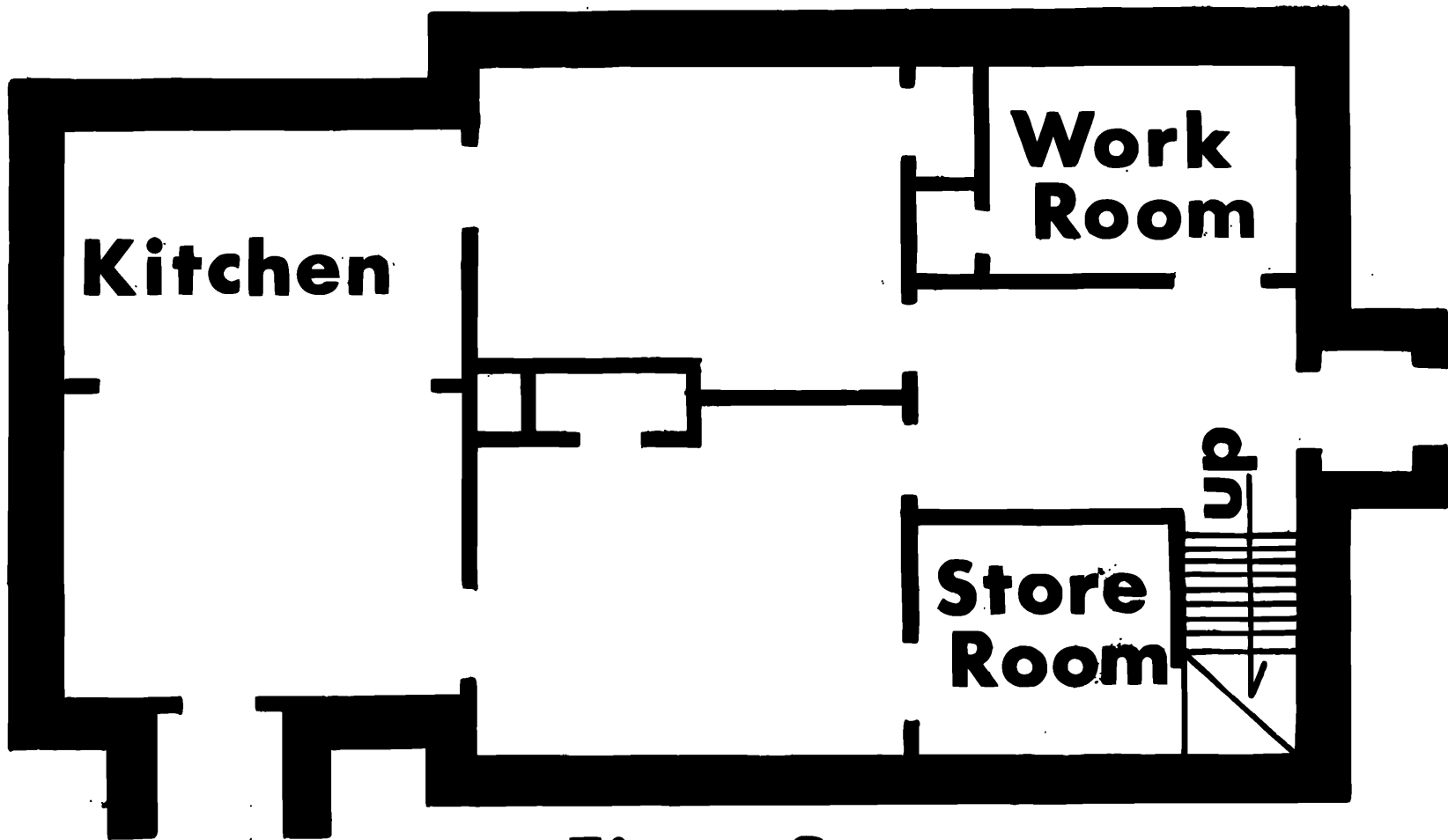
STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 23 1974

(Number all entries)

7. Description.



Second Story



First Story

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

1 SW
ONTAUG

28407

71°37'30"
41°15'

281000m.E.

282

POINT JUDITH 11 MI.

35'

284

285

286

4569000m.N.

4568

4567

NEW LONDON, CONN. 27 MI.

1010000

1011000
1012000
1013000

ISLAND

North Light
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 13' 39.23" N
Longitude: 71° 34' 34.27" W

