

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 Little River Light Station  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Little River Island N/A not for publication  
city, town Cutler, X vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04626

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>4</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
			<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 Wood - WeatherboardMetal - Cast Ironroof Asphaltother Iron Deck and Lantern on Tower

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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The Little River Light Station is composed of a tapered cylindrical iron light tower, a detached two-story frame keeper's house, a boathouse, and an oil house. A skeleton tower at the rock ledge now carries the beacon placed here when the station was automated.

**1. LIGHT TOWER CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE**

One of only a handful of iron light towers in Maine, this handsome example, which was erected in 1876, is constructed of four distinct sections supported by a steel and brick frame. The tower reaches a height of thirty-five feet from its base to the center of the octagonal lantern. A door is located in the tower's north face and a segmentally arched two-over-two double hung sash window is framed by a bracketed, gabled hood. A small bullseye window is positioned below the wide overhang of the parapet. This deck is supported by handsome brackets with pendants and is framed by a railing with ornamental iron posts. The lantern has a typical late nineteenth century configuration with a paneled iron base and a polygonal roof surmounted by a spherical ventilator. A small addition has been made to the tower's southeast face.

**2. KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

The keeper's house at Little River is an L-shaped wooden frame building that rests on a stone foundation. It was built in 1888 to replace the original 1847 stone dwelling. Its front (north) elevation contains a shed roofed porch that shelters a door and flanking window openings (all window openings have been boarded shut at this station). Both gable ends contain a window on each story, one above the other. The short ell, which projects toward the tower, features a pair of openings on each level. A short shed roofed porch carries across the west elevation of this ell. Behind it is a second entrance.

**3. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

A short distance to the west of the dwelling is the oil house. This diminutive brick building was constructed in 1905. It has a gable roof and a door and ventilator in one end.

**4. BOATHOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

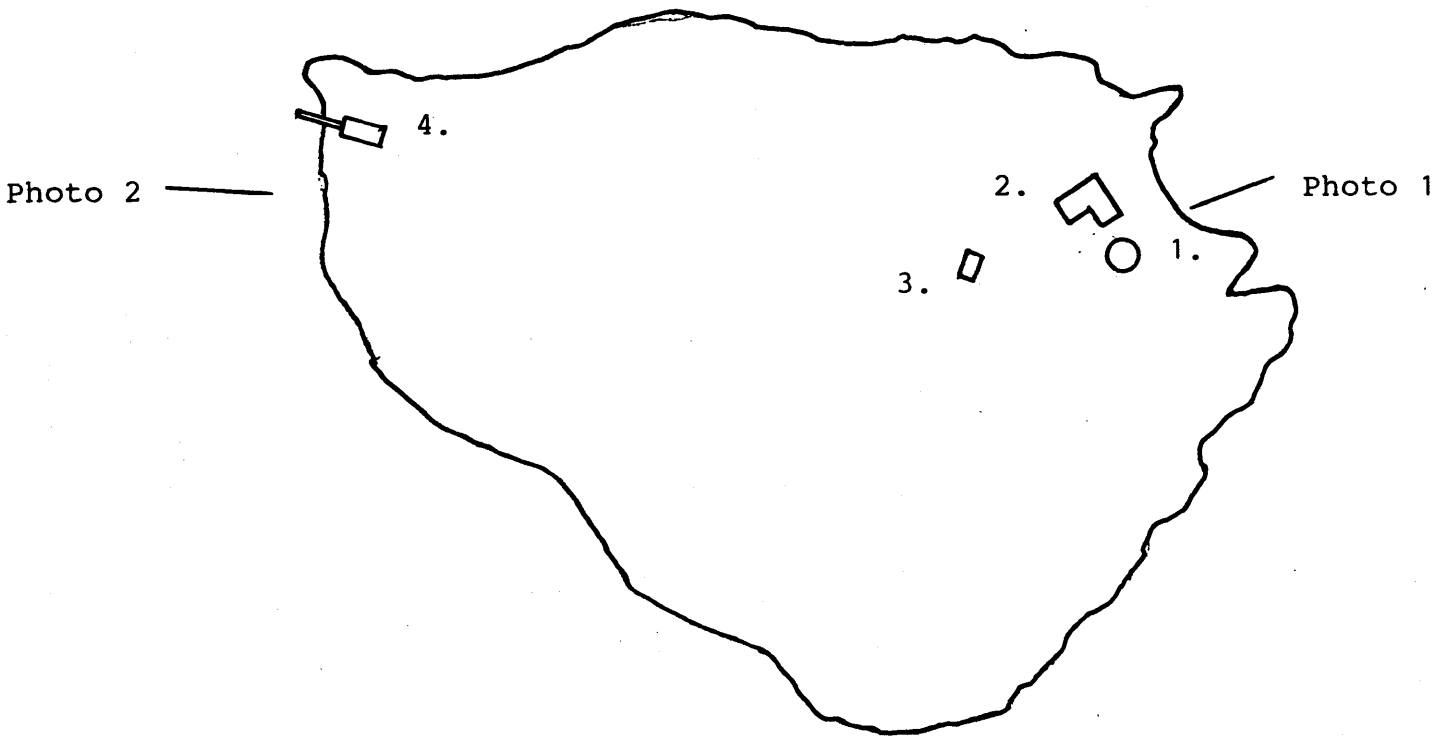
The rectangular frame boathouse, which was built in 1881, is located at the far western end of the island. A long wooden walkway leads from the boathouse to the dwelling passing the oil house on the way.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Sketch Map

Little River Light Station  
Cutler Vic., Maine

Not to Scale

**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)

Architecture  
Engineering  
Transportation

Period of Significance

1847-1937

Significant Dates

1876  
1888

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.**

Established in 1847 and substantially rebuilt in 1876 and 1888, the Little River Light Station is located on Little River Island at the mouth of the Little River. It was built here not only as a guide to the refuge at Cutler Harbor but also as a navigational aid between the lights at West Quoddy Head to the northeast, Libby Island to the southwest and the Canadian seacoast light at Machias Seal Island. The station retains integrity of design, materials, setting and association, and meets the requirements for registration as outlined in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". A basis on which to evaluate its significance is contained within the associated historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca.1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1787-1939.

The small community of Cutler is focused on Cutler Harbor which open out to the south. Known for its deep, ice free character and the high protective bluffs that surround it, the harbor provided an important natural resource for the development of the village. Incorporated in 1826, Cutler had a population of 820 persons in 1850. Local nineteenth century industries included fishing, ship building and a herring box manufactory.

The light station was automated in 1975 and the beacon removed from the tower to a skeletal frame.

Little River 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 embodies an important variation in light station design and construction in the 1870s.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Annual Report(s) of the Light-House Board. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., various issues.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 17.4 acres

**UTM References**

A	19	643430	4945680
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	19	642930	4945460

B	19	643425	4945245
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	19	642930	4945690

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Cutler, Tax Map 3, Lot 70. Said property includes all of Little River Island.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Little River Light Station embraces the buildings and immediate physical setting historically associated with this complex. This setting embraces the entire island of Little River Island.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987  
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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Continuation Sheet**

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Little River Light Station  
Cutler Vic., Maine

This continuation sheet is being submitted to redefine the period of significance of the Little River Light Station, Cutler Vic.

A previous National Register review of the multiple property submission for "Light Stations of Maine" and accompanying individual nomination forms determined that the period of significance of the resource must begin at a point in time that is no earlier than the oldest existing component of the complex. It is understood that while a case could be made for extending the date to that time when the light station was established, irregardless of the presence of surviving elements, the framework of the submission does not sufficiently address how this can be done. (See Review Comments dated 1/21/88.)

Based upon this finding, therefore, the period of significance of the Little River Light Station should be 1876-1937, the date of construction of the earliest surviving building and/or structure.