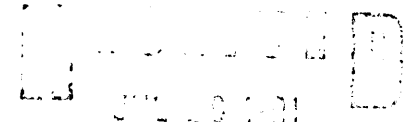


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Southwest Reef Lighthouse
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bellevue Front St. and Canton St. N/A not for publication
city, town Berwick N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county St. Mary code 101 zip code 70342

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input 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:
N/A

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.

Leslie P. Tassin July 29, 1991
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism Date
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 9/12/91
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/water-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Exotic Revival (Egyptian Revival)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation cast-ironwalls iron

roof ironother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Southwest Reef Lighthouse (1858) is a three story iron tower on a platform located in Berwick adjacent to Berwick Bay, which is actually part of the Atchafalaya River (see USGS map). The tower is in the Egyptian Revival style. Despite a move and the fact that part of its platform is detached, the structure retains its National Register eligibility under Criterion C.

Southwest Reef was built as a fourth order light in the Gulf of Mexico approximately fifteen nautical miles off the coast of St. Mary Parish. It was elevated ten feet above the water surface on a platform with cast-iron screw-pile legs. In 1987, the lighthouse was moved about twenty-two nautical miles to Berwick in St. Mary Parish. It remained in a warehouse until April of 1991, when it was moved to its present location.

The move was necessary to save the lighthouse. It had been abandoned by the Coast Guard and would certainly have fallen victim to one storm or another within a few years. It was essential to move the lighthouse to a place where it could be maintained and protected. The tower was moved intact, with only the platform having to be reassembled. The tower is the same distance off the ground as it was off the water. (The platform was cut off at water level.) A complete restoration of the structure is slated to occur over the next year or two. It will be part of a maritime museum facility proposed by the City of Berwick.

Southwest Reef's tapering iron tower resembles an Egyptian Revival pylon. This Egyptian appearance is enhanced by a massive cove cornice surmounting the third story. The exterior is sheathed in iron panels which are fastened by multiple rows of rivets. Each story is lit by openings cut into the sloping sides of the structure. (The window frames themselves are presently in storage.) Fastened to the first story is a pair of davit cranes which were used for hoisting dinghies out of the water. These davits appear on an 1858 rendering of the lighthouse. The third story is surmounted by an iron railing with lozenge shapes forming the balustrade. This design was originally intended for the railing around the platform as well, but the present platform railing is of a simpler design. It is not known when this railing was installed, but it is known to have existed as of 1915. The original cupola and lens are missing as are a few portions of the rooftop balustrade and some of the platform balustrade. Also, at present the side section of the platform (which originally had nothing built upon it) is on site about 40 feet from the lighthouse tower. Although it has been re-assembled, it has not yet been moved up and attached to the main platform (see photo #2).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SOUTHWEST REEF LIGHTHOUSE, BERWICK, ST. MARY PARISH, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

Despite the foregoing, Southwest Reef still strongly conveys its historic identity as a lighthouse and its Egyptian Revival architectural character. It easily portrays its architectural significance as a utilitarian building styled in the Egyptian Revival mode. None of the changes involve architecturally significant elements. Although the side platform has not yet been attached, Southwest Reef is still obviously a lighthouse in the Egyptian Revival style. The character-defining elements, the pylon tower, the huge cove cornice and the molding capping the first story, are all intact.

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

Period of Significance
1858

Significant Dates
1858

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Southwest Reef Lighthouse is of regional and state significance under Criterion C because of its unusual Egyptian Revival styling.

The lighthouse is of regional significance as an important example of a type. According to the Coast Guard inventory, its Egyptian pylon looking design is unique among lighthouses of the Gulf Coast region, most of the others being round brick towers. It had a post-Civil War twin, the Calcasieu River Light, but this has since been dynamited, leaving Southwest Reef as the sole example. It survives to illustrate how the wide range of revival styles popular in the mid-nineteenth century was adapted for functional structures such as lighthouses.

The lighthouse is of state significance as a rare example of the Egyptian Revival taste within Louisiana. Of course, the Egyptian Revival was never as popular as the other less exotic revival styles (for example, Gothic Revival). Louisiana's examples are confined to above ground tombs with the exception of the badly mutilated old Jefferson Parish Courthouse, papyrus leaf capitals on the U. S. Custom House, and the Southwest Reef Lighthouse. In one respect the lighthouse is more significant than any of the others, being a far more unusual use of the style. In this it exemplifies the eclecticism endemic to mid-nineteenth century American architecture.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Holland, Francis Ross, Jr. America's Lighthouses: Their Illustrated History Since 1716.
Brattleboro, Vermont: The Stephen Green Press, 1972.

United States Coast Guard. Lighthouses and Lightships of the Northern Gulf of Mexico.
This is an inventory of lighthouses with text and photos. No publication date given.

See continuation sheet

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 (see designated a National Historic Landmark attached letter)
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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 less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1 5 | 6 7 2 | 5 8 0 | 3 2 | 8 6 | 0 0 0

Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the lighthouse and to ensure that the side platform section, once re-erected, will be within the nominated area. Since this is a moved structure, there was no historic setting to recognize.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1991

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

SOUTHWEST REEF
LIGHTHOUSE
ST. MARY PARISH, LA.

BOUNDARY
SCALE 1" = 10'



BERWICK BAY

MEAN LOW WATER LINE

