

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 Whitehead Light Station

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number East Side, Whitehead Island

not for publication

city, town Tenants Harbor,

vicinity

state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04860

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</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 of certifying official

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

12/17/87

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

Signature of commenting or other official

U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

1/25/88

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.

Amy Schlager

3/14/88

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

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 - GraniteWood - Weatherboard/Shingleroof Asphaltother Iron Deck and Lantern on Tower

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Whitehead Light Station is a complex of six detached structures and buildings consisting of a conical granite light tower, a brick oil house, a detached frame keepers' house, one shed and a fog signal building.

**1. LIGHT TOWER - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE**

Standing to the east of the keepers' quarters is the light tower, an 1852 replacement of the original structure. Its curved granite blocks, punctuated by four small windows that illuminate the stair, rise in coursed levels to a narrow walkway that is ringed by a simple iron balustrade. The sixteen sided lantern, which houses a modern beacon, has an iron base and conical roof crowned by a spherical ventilator. Projecting from the east side of the tower is a small gable roofed brick service room. Added in 1891, it has a door framed by the gable and a single fifteen pane casement window on the south wall.

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

The keeper's house is a one-and-a-half-story T-shaped frame building sheathed in clapboards on the first story and wood shingles in the half story. It was built in 1891 on the foundation of the original stone dwelling. Its six-bay front (south) elevation features engaged porches flanking a central pavillion. Each of the recessed walls sheltered by the porch are punctuated by two window openings (these openings, like most of those throughout the complex have been boarded over). Documentary photographs show that the windows have six-over-six double-hung sash. A pair of square posts linked by a slat balustrade support the roof. Centrally located on the roof is a broad gable roofed dormer containing a pair of windows. Behind this are two brick flues rising through the roof ridge. Both side walls are punctuated by three windows on the first story and two in the gable ends. The broad ell has shed roofed vestibules and a window on the side elevations and four windows on the rear, two on each level. A third brick flue is located on the ridge. The entire house rests on a granite foundation.

**3. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

Some distance to the north of the light tower is the small brick oil house. This gable roofed building, erected in 1891, features a narrow door surmounted by a transom and a ventilator on the roof ridge. A wooden walkway bridges the marsh that separates the rocky ledge from this building.

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4. FOG SIGNAL BUILDING - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The fog signal building is a square one-story brick structure covered by a hip roof. It appears to have been erected in 1888 when the Annual Report of the Light-House Board mentioned the construction of a new boilerhouse and cistern. The building features an interior chimney and windows or doors in each of its four walls.

5. SHED - NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Standing between the fog signal building and the 1891 keeper's house is a modern gable roofed shed.

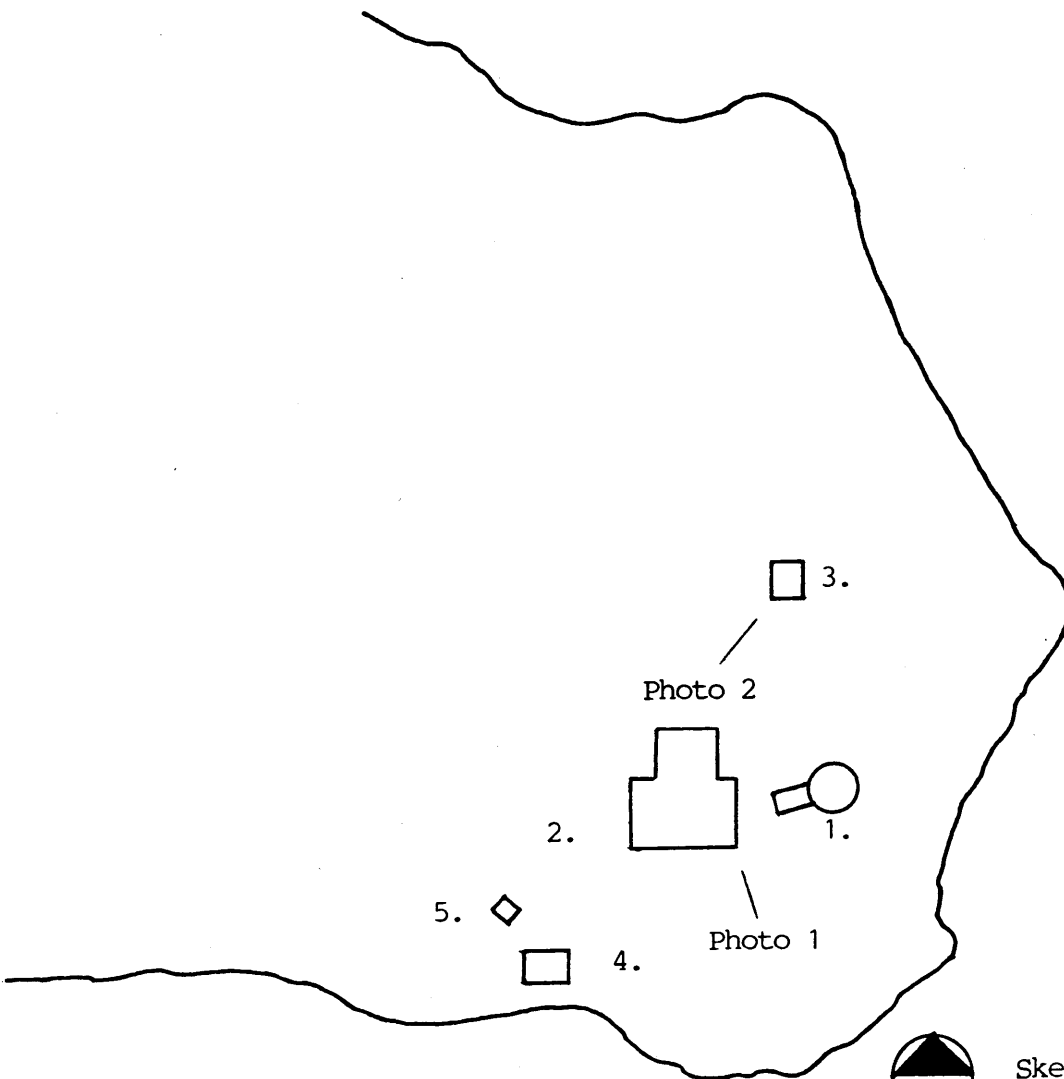
The original configuration of this light station is not positively known. However, it is clearly stated in the 1891 Annual Report that the first dwelling was constructed of rubble stone. This was a typical material employed in such buildings during the period before 1852. The shape of the tower has also not been identified but it was most likely a conical stone structure. At one time this station also featured a rain shed, a covered way between the tower and dwelling and a stone fog signal building.

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Sketch Map

Whitehead Light Station  
Tenants Harbor 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

1804-1937

Significant Dates

1852  
1891

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer  
except for tower

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

The Whitehead Light Station, which occupies Whitehead Island and marks the west entrance to Penobscot Bay, was established in 1804. It is the third oldest station in Maine, although its present components date from the mid to late nineteenth century. This complex maintains integrity of design, setting and association that meet the requirements for registration as outlined in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". The significance of the station has been evaluated with respect to the associated historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

Whitehead light occupies a strategic location along the shipping routes of the mid coast. Sited at the west side of Penobscot Bay it guides shipping toward the approach to the important coastal communities of Rockland, Camden, Belfast, and Searsport. During the nineteenth century these were busy commercial ports whose economic livelihood was for many decades virtually dependent on maritime transportation. The significance of this station is further demonstrated by its secondary sea-coast light classification and the fact that a steam powered fog signal was erected here in 1869-70. The station was automated in 1982.

Although documentary proof has not as yet been located, the design of the tower is nevertheless attributed to Alexander Parris (1780-1852). This conjecture is supported by the uncanny resemblance of this structure to the 1851 tower at Monhegan which the architect is known to have designed. Furthermore, the highly sophisticated nature of the granite structure typifies Parris's work at other Maine lights including Mount Desert and Saddleback Ledge.

This light station 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 reflects a combination of mid and late nineteenth century light station design and features.

See continuation sheet

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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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:**

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

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property 11.1

**UTM References**

A            
Zone Easting Northing

C

B            
Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property of 11.1 acres includes the eastern tip of Whitehead Island and the U. S. Coast Guard reservation located there.

See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Whitehead Light Station embraces the structures, buildings and immediate physical setting historically associated with the complex.

See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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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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The boundary of the Whitehead Light Station falls on two adjoining  $7\frac{1}{2}'$  topographic maps: Hewitt Island Quadrangle and Tenants Harbor Quadrangle. Points A and B of the boundary are located on Hewitt Island, whereas C and D are situated on Tenants Harbor. The UTM coordinates are:

- A. 19/490090/4869620
- B. 19/490140/4869170
- C. 19/489920/4869160
- D. 19/489770/4869630

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Whitehead Light Station  
Tenants Harbor Vic., Maine

This continuation sheet is being submitted to redefine the period of significance of the Whitehead Light Station, Tenants Harbor 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 Whitehead Light Station should be 1852-1937, the date of construction of the earliest surviving building and/or structure.