

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DEC 7 1987

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 Perkins Island Light Station other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Perkins Island city, town Georgetown state Maine code ME county Sagadahoc code 023 zip code 04548

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal, building(s), district, site, structure, object, and counts for contributing and noncontributing resources.

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: [Signature] SHPO Date: 10/30/87 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. 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: [Signature] Date of Action: 1/21/88

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related
Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Other: Light Station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granitewalls Wood: ShingleWood: Weatherboard

roof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated along the east bank of the Kennebec River, the Perkins Island Light Station is composed of a tapered octagonal frame light tower, a two-story L-shaped keeper's house, a pyramidal bell tower, a brick oil house, and a detached barn. The buildings stand on a rock ledge.

1. LIGHT TOWER - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

Like the tower erected upriver at Squirrel Point Light Station, the Perkins Island light, which was built in 1898, is a short (seventeen feet from base to center of the lantern) frame structure sheathed in wood shingles. It rests on a stone foundation. A door located on the east elevation opens into the tower and the interior stair. This leads to a wooden exterior gallery added in 1899 that is supported by brackets and located below the lantern. The eight large red panes of glass in the lantern are capped by an octagonal roof surmounted by a spherical ventilator.

2. KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Standing to the south of the tower is the dwelling, also constructed in 1898. Covered in wood shingles, the house's two-story ell faces the river. It extends from the southwest corner of the main block and is flanked by a screened hip roofed porch on the north side and a one-room hip roofed shed with an engaged porch on the south elevation. There are three window openings (all boarded shut) in the ell's west gable and, a window in the south end of the main block and a trio of windows in the north gable end. Additional openings are located on the east elevation. A brick flue rises through the roof at the intersection of the ridges.

3. BARN - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

To the north of the house is the small wood shingled barn with its attached shed. It has a gable roof and was built in 1898.

4. BELL TOWER - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The pyramidal frame bell tower stands to the south. Although somewhat deteriorated, it is nevertheless one of the few extant examples of the type in Maine. It was erected in 1902.

5. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Like many of its contemporaries, the oil house is a small gable roofed brick building with a door and vent in one end and a slate roof. It was erected in 1906.

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

1898-1937

Significant Dates

1898

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.

Occupying a bold rock ledge on the west side of Perkins Island, the Perkins Island Light Station is the southernmost of the four stations erected in 1898 along the Kennebec River. The relatively intact complex meets the requirements for registration as outlined in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". The integrity of the station's design, materials, setting, and association continue to illustrate its significance with respect to the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

The Perkins Island Light Station, like its sister lights, was built in response to the need for Federally operated and maintained aids to navigation along this important commercial waterway. In its Annual Report of 1892, the Lighthouse Board described the nature and amount of traffic on the Kennebec and requested funding for the construction of four stations. Congressional action was delayed on the request until 1895 when \$17,000 was appropriated for the undertaking. In 1898 the system was completed and placed in operation. The station was automated in 1959 and the buildings transferred to the State of Maine in the 1960s.

Perkins Island 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 reflects a specialized design solution to a turn-of-the-century light station.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- 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:
U. S. Coast Guard

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 7

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of approximately 7 acres occupies the Town of Georgetown Tax Map R-6, Lot 12. It also includes the 900 square feet reserved by the U. S. Government that surrounds the light tower.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Perkins Island Light Station embraces the buildings and immediate setting that now comprise the property held, with the exception of the tower, by the State of Maine. This is a portion of the island, the remainder of which does not reflect the historic use of the light station. The light tower, still maintained by the Coast Guard, is also included in the boundary.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Sketch Map

Perkins Island Light Station
Georgetown Vic., Maine

Not to Scale

