

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 Burnt Coat Harbor Light Station  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Hockamock Head  not for publication  
city, town Swans Island,  vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04685

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.

Earl S. Patterson SHPO 10/30/87  
Signature of certifying official Date  
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.

John H. Carr 12/7/87  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
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. Richard B. [Signature] Entered in the National Register 1-21-88  
 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

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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 (Tower)

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Vacant

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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

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walls Brick

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~~Wood~~ Weatherboard

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roof Asphalt

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other

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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The Burnt Coat Harbor Light Station, like a number of others built or rebuilt in the early 1870s, consists of a square tapered brick tower connected to an L-shaped keeper's house that is sheathed in clapboards. A bell house and oil house also survive.

**1. LIGHT TOWER - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE**

The tower, which rises to a height of thirty-two feet from its base to the middle of the lantern, is capped by a square iron walkway with railing. It was built in 1872. A spherical ventilator crowns the ten-sided lantern. There are two twenty-eight pane casement windows on the west face of the tower and a door at the base on the north elevation. The latter was formerly covered by a passageway which linked the tower to the house.

When first built, the station had a range light system employing a pair of widely spaced towers. The second light stood near the site of the present bell house and a covered passageway, built in 1881, connected the two structures. The front range light was discontinued in 1884 and subsequently removed.

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

Facing west, the one-and-a-half-story keeper's dwelling has a three-bay gable front main block and a south projecting ell. The ell has an engaged porch along its west wall behind which is a doorway and two windows. A door and window opening punctuate the north end. There are six windows (all of them now boarded shut) framed by the gable of the main block. Two more are located on the north elevation.

**3. BELL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

Standing to the south of the light tower is the diminutive bell house. This unusually shaped building, which was erected in 1911, has a rectangular plan whose ends taper inward. A shallow gable roof covers the bell house, and a short walkway leads to a door in one end.

**4. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

The brick oil house, which was built in 1895, has a door in one gable end and a small ventilator atop the ridge.

**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

1872-1937

Significant Dates

1872

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.

The Burnt Coat Harbor Light Station was established in 1872 as a guide to Burnt Coat Harbor on Swan's Island. It meets all requirements for registration as outlined and described in the multiple property submission entitled "Light Stations of Maine." In its design, materials, setting and association the station maintains significance as evaluated in the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

The 1871 edition of the Annual Report of the Light-House Board states that the range light at Burnt Coat Harbor was erected as a guide to this harbor of refuge. It further commented that "this harbor is commodious and safe, and is a distant 36 miles from the nearest place of safe anchorage on that coast." The virtually intact exterior features of the dwelling and tower are important examples of the form which these components took in the early 1870s.

Burnt Coat Harbor Light was automated in 1975 by the Coast Guard. The dwelling is currently unoccupied but the tower continues to house an aid to navigation.

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 embodies light station design and construction of the 1870s.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Maine State Year Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: Hoyt, Fogg and donham, various dates.

**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

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Approximately 3

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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5	4	4	1	7	5
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4	8	8	16	7	10	10
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See attached sketch map.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Burnt Coat Harbor Light Station embraces the buildings and immediate physical setting historically associated with this complex.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

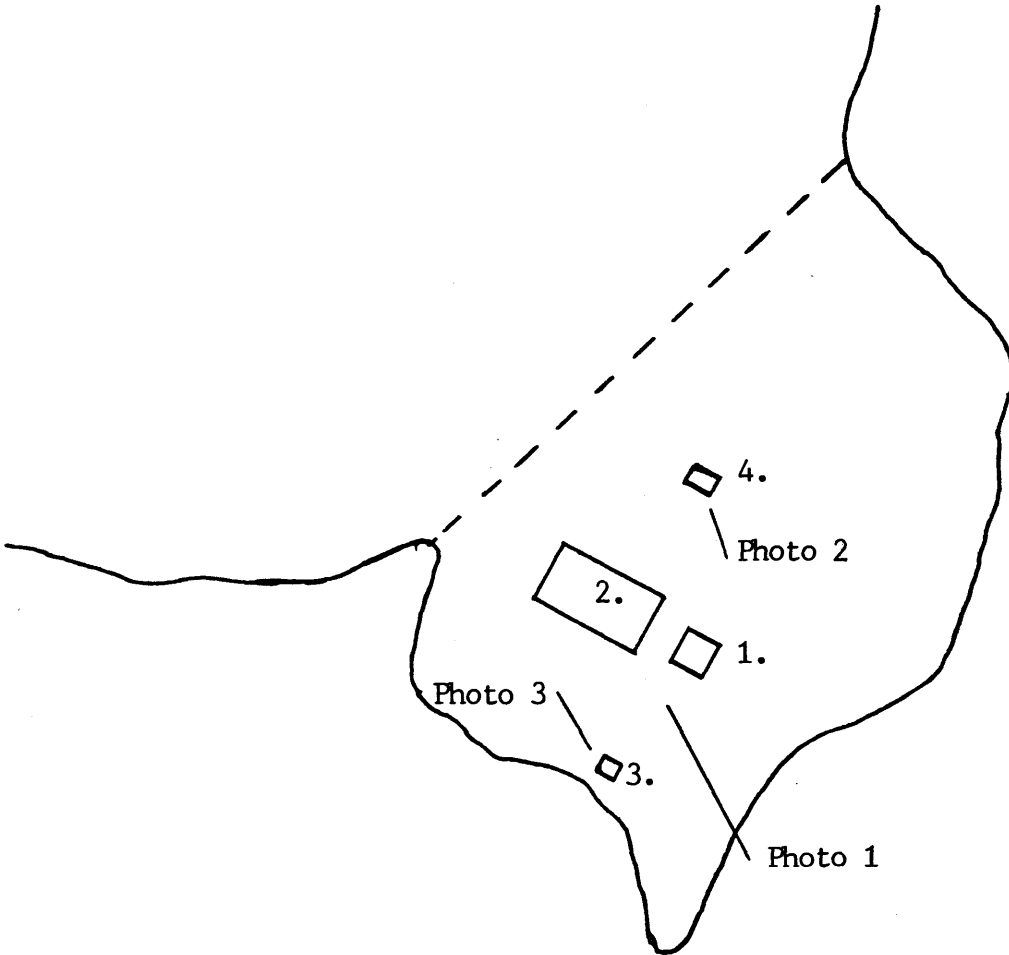
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

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Scale: 1" = 200'  
Buildings not to scale

Sketch Map

Burnt Coat Harbor Light Station  
Swans Island Vic., Maine