

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 Doubling Point Range Lights

other names/site number Kennebec River Light Station (Preferred for Listing)

2. Location

street & number Fiddler Reach, Arrowsic Island

N/A not for publication

city, town Bath,

vicinity

state Maine code ME

county Sagadahoc

code 023

zip code 04530

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>2</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>4</u>	<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] 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.

[Signature] U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION 12/7/87
Signature of commenting or other official Date

OPT/P-14
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] entered in the National Register 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

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granitewalls Wood: ShingleWood: Weatherboardroof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The singularly unique Kennebec River Light Station consists of a pair of widely spaced octagonal frame light towers linked by walkways to a large two-story keeper's house. A brick oil house stands behind this dwelling. Formerly known as the Doubling Point Range Light, the twin towers are aligned in such a way so as to indicate the navigable channel in the Kennebec River.

1, 2. LIGHT TOWERS - 2 CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Erected in 1898, both towers have a tapered octagonal shaft that is covered by a polygonal roof. The exteriors are sheathed in woodshingles. Entrances sheltered by shed hoods are located on one elevation of each tower. A small square window is positioned below the roof on the south, river elevation, and a smaller opening is positioned in the north side. The southernmost of the two towers stands seventeen feet in height from its granite base to the middle of the lens whereas the rear light is four feet shorter. The connecting walkways are framed by simple slat handrails.

3. KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Standing to the north of the tower, and in closer proximity to the south tower, is the 1898 keeper's dwelling. Sheathed in clapboards, this L-shaped house rests on a stone foundation. Its front (east) elevation has an enclosed hip roofed porch sheltering a door and one window and a broad gable framing the second story window. The leg of the L projects from the house's southeast corner. Its south elevation has a pair of windows in the first story and two of unequal size above. A second enclosed porch is attached to the ell's west elevation and the recessed south wall of the main block. One small brick flue rises through the roof at the intersecting roof ridge.

4. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Constructed in 1902, the brick oil house is a diminutive gable roofed building. It has a centrally placed door and a narrow vent located in one gable end.

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.

Located on Arrowsic Island a short distance to the east of the Doubling Point Light Station, the Kennebec River Light Station contains the only extant range lights in Maine. One of the four complexes built in 1898 along the Kennebec River, the station retains integrity of setting, design, materials and association that meet the registration requirements set forth in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine." The station's significance is evaluated in the discussion of historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

Navigational aids along the Kennebec River had, prior to 1898, been maintained by private companies whose ships utilized the waterway. In 1892 the Annual Report of the Light-House Board recognized the need for improved, Federally operated lights. Three years later Congress appropriated \$17,000 for a system of four light stations, one of which - the Kennebec River Light Station, was to contain a pair of range lights. This was put into service in 1898. The Coast Guard continues to utilize and maintain the complex making it one of the handful of manned stations in Maine.

Kennebec 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 illustrates light station design and construction along the Kennebec River at the turn of the century.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report of the Light-House Board. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.B.O.P, 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 occupies the Town of Arrowsic, Tax Map 4, Lot 25.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Kennebec River Light Station surrounds the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with the complex.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987
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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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