

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: Clallam	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 16 1972	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Tatoosh Island

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Off Cape Flattery on Olympic Peninsula (Honorable Lloyd Meeds)

CITY OR TOWN:  
CONG. DISTRICT # 2

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Clallam CODE: 009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Commander, 13th U. S. Coast Guard District

STREET AND NUMBER:  
618 Second Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle STATE: Washington CODE: 53

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
U.S. Land Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Spokane

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane STATE: Washington CODE: 53

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington  
COUNTY: Clallam  
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 16 1972  
DATE: MAR 16 1972  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tatoosh Island forms the nucleus of a group of isolated rocks three-quarters of a mile off Cape Flattery at the northern tip of the Olympic Peninsula. This was a summer home for some Makah Indians who grew potatoes on the island and built their houses and fish drying racks along its rocky sides.

In 1850, the U. S. Congress passed an Act to set aside \$53,140 to erect lighthouses at Cape Disappointment, Cape Flattery and New Dungeness, Washington. A U. S. Coast survey team led by George Davidson examined Tatoosh Island and found a suitable place for the structure on the highest point, 100 feet above high water. The island rises perpendicularly and has only one landing place for boats, at a narrow beach on its eastern side. Ascent to the top was by means of a path and rude steps cut in the bank until a derrick was erected by the light house construction crew to hoist materials up the cliff from the beach. Personnel and provisions also go up in the hoist.

The station was completed and in commission by December, 1857, but constant fear of the Indians caused the first keepers to quit one after another, and not until late in the following year was the light in constant use. It was 20 years before white women were permitted to live on the island.

The white conical tower rises above a grey stone building. Blocks of Bellingham stone two feet thick were used for the lower portion of the tower. Height of the tower is 64 feet which places it above sea level at 162 feet. Another building lies 72 feet to the northeast. The fog whistle is a 12 inch steam-whistle, giving a blast of eight seconds of intervals of 52 seconds. Still in use are the original Fresnel lens and fittings. A plate inscription at the base of the tower reads: "Fresnel light, first order, constructed by order of Honorable the Secretary of Treasury of the United States and the Lighthouse Board. W. A. Bartlett, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy, Special Superintendent. Louis Sautter and Co., constructors, Paris, France, 1854". Lard oil was used as an illuminate until around 1866 when kerosene lamps were installed, later replaced by acetylene lamps in 1896, and finally electricity.

All of the water the people on the island drink or use is rainwater caught from the roofs of the buildings and piped into large storage tanks.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1857**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

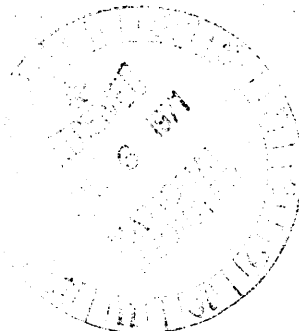
- |   |                                      |  |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On March 22, 1778, Captain James Cook discovered and named Cape Flattery. Manuel Quimper called it "Punta de Martinez" in 1790. It was also known as Cape Classet and Tutusi by the early fur traders. The original name given by Cook was retained by Vancouver on his chart in 1792. Probably no lighthouse along the Pacific Coast is more isolated than is that of Tatoosh Island. Even in present times it is necessary to drive to Neah Bay, a Makah Indian village, and from there go by boat to the island. The lighthouse on Tatoosh Island is the guiding one for ships passing Cape Flattery en route into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In early years, the light station was of supreme importance as keepers reported ships standing offshore waiting for a pilot or for tugs to tow them into the Strait. For over 100 years Tatoosh Lighthouse has stood guard over the entrance to Juan de Fuca Strait, the busiest waterway on the Pacific Northwest coast of this continent, and although it stands on United States Territory it has close associations with the early history of British Columbia, Canada. Tatoosh Lighthouse marks the end of the boundary from the 49th parallel to the Pacific Ocean, as agreed upon by the United States and Canada, as proclaimed on July 1, 1908. The point of reference is the pinnacle or culmination of the roof of the lantern. Geographic position of mark was determined by J.J. Gilbert, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1893.

Tatoosh Light is a stormy, isolated station whose welcoming light has shown from sunset to dawn every night for over a century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Report of International Boundary Commission on Boundary between the U.S. and Canada, 49th parallel to the Pacific Ocean, U.S. Dept. of State, 1921. Page 20 for Article VIII, 48-53. List of reference marks U.S.-Can. Boundary.  
 "Lights, Pacific Coast, U.S. (C.G. 162), Supt. of Documents, U.S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D.C.  
 National Archives, Washington, D.C. on Washington State Lighthouses, report.  
 "Vancouver Island's West Coast" by George Nicholson, Page 227, printed by Morriss Printing Co., Ltd., Victoria, B.C., Canada.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	48°	23'	37"	124°	44'	10"	0			0		
NE	48°	23'	37"	124°	43'	51"						
SE	48°	23'	24"	124°	43'	51"						
SW	48°	23'	24"	124°	44'	10"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **17 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Clallam County Historical Society, Mrs. I. C. Harper, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Historical Society** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: **Pioneer Memorial Museum**

CITY OR TOWN: **Port Angeles** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **53**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Charles H. Odegaard  
 Charles H. Odegaard

Title: Director - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date: July 6, 1971

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**MAR 16 1972**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William J. Mustang  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **JAN 3 1972**

NW 10/371450/5361300  
 NE 10/371850/5361300  
 SW 10/371450/5360800  
 SW 10/371850/5360800  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS