Form No.	10-306	(Rev.	10-74



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## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT \_\_GOOD .\_\_DETERIORATED \_\_\_RUINS \_\_\_UNEXPOSED UNALTERED

X\_ALTERED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Peck Ledge Lighthouse (Light List #1172), established in 1906, stands at the northeast end of the Norwalk Islands chain near the coast of Connecticut in Long Island Sound. It stands in seven feet of water, marking two hazards in the approach to Norwalk Harbor from the east: Peck Ledge to the southwest, and a shoal extending north from Goose Island. The site includes only a protective ring of riprap around the foundation; no breakwater or dock provides a sheltered approach. The structure consists of a large conical, cast-iron tower which rests on a cast-iron cylindrical foundation. Presently, the foundation is painted black, while the tower is white with a wide brown band in the middle.

The foundation is constructed of curved cast-iron plates, bolted together through flanges cast on the edges of the inner surface. Assembled on land near the proposed location of the lighthouse, the foundation was transported to the prepared site, sunk and leveled, then filled with 250 bags of concrete. Space was left at the top center for a basement containing cisterns for the storage of rainwater.

Covering the foundation and supporting the superstructure is a circular deck, also constructed of bolted-together cast-iron plates. The deck, supported by colossal cast-iron brackets with open triangular centers, extends beyond the outside walls of the foundation, forming a gallery. A roof, presently removed, originally covered the gallery, while metal stanchions, designed for a triple hand rail, remain, anchored through sleeves on the outward projection of the brackets by cast-iron pendants. The tower, measuring 54 feet high above mean high water at the focal plane, is constructed of curved cast-iron plates in the form of a truncated cone, brick-lined for stability and insulation. Contained within are three stories of living space, surmounted by a circular watchroom and circular lantern.

Opening onto the east side of the gallery is a flat topped doorway flanked by stylized cast-iron detail: tapered pilasters resting on simple plinths, topped by a simple segmentally arched and eared lintel with ogee consoles. .Window surrounds have a similar appearance; however, here plinths are replaced with projecting sills below wood window frames with flat tops. Three windows on the two lower stories are asymmetrically arranged to accommodate the interior layout. The third story is lighted by five bullseye windows at the level of the molded joint between the top two cast-iron plates. Each bullseye window

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

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Peck Ledge Lighthouse

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 7	PAGE	1

is flanked by brackets similar to, but smaller in scale than, the colossal ones supporting the watchroom gallery. A triple railing edges the watchroom gallery supported by cylindrical stanchions topped with spherical knobs. Plain round stanchions, supporting a cylindrical handrail, are anchored into the molded edge of the lantern deck, marking the joints of cast-iron deck segments. The lantern and watchroom galleries are connected on the exterior by a metal ladder.

On the interior, a peripheral cast-iron winding stair connects the first, second and third floors. The outer ends of the treads and risers are attached to the brick lining of the superstructure. A curved sheet metal wall on each level supports the inner end of the treads and risers. Storage space is created above and below the steps in the stairwell on each level in the form of a closet and a cupboard. A curved ship's ladder on the third and fourth levels provides access to the watchroom and the lantern above through hatchways fitted with double leafed metal doors. The brick-lined basement is reached by a flight of steep peripheral stairs. A central cast-iron column rises from the cellar level to the watchroom, supporting the cast-iron floors of the four stories above. Narrow board wood flooring covers the wedge-shaped sections of the cast-iron floor on the first and second stories. Much of the interior detailing remains, including molded panels above the basement stairs and kitchen closet, vertical beaded board sheathing, and moldings around window and door openings.

The cylindrical watchroom is sheathed with narrow wood beaded boards on walls and ceiling. An eight light wood sash window in the watchroom has been sealed with plywood. In the cylindrical lantern, diagonal brass channels divide the curved glass panes which fill the top half of the cast-iron walls. Each pane measures 36 inches on the diagonal. Vertical board sheathing remains in the lantern, although the original lighting apparatus has been removed. A Dutch door opens onto the lantern deck. An eight-sectioned, conical cast-iron roof, lined with galvanized sheet metal, tops the lantern and supports the modern 250 mm. battery-powered light, which flashes green every 4 seconds.

## **8** SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	XENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	-OTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES built 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Peck Ledge Lighthouse, established in 1906, is significant as a typical example of the prefabricated, cast-iron conical lighthouses and foundations developed by the U.S. Lighthouse Board to reduce costs of design, production, and installation for the difficult sites which remained unmarked by the end of the nineteenth century. These sites included wave-washed shoals, reefs, ledges and newly created breakwaters. The lighthouse is also significant as a component of the late nineteenth century improvements to the approaches to Norwalk Harbor. Larger ships of deeper draft were in jeopardy from underwater hazards which had previously gone unmarked by eight station.

The archipeligo of the Norwalk Islands forms both a protection and an obstacle for the harbor at Norwalk, Connecticut. When the desire for increased commercial traffic in the late nineteenth century brought dredging and improvement in aids to navigation to the Norwalk Harbor area, the old lighthouse on Sheffield Island in the Norwalk Group was felt to be inadequate for guiding boat traffic around the east and west ends of the island chain into Norwalk Harbor.

Lobbying efforts were undertaken in 1896 for appropriations for two lighthouses, each to mark an underwater rock ledge at either end of the Norwalk Islands. A pre-fabricated, cast-iron lighthouse on a tubular cast-iron foundation was approved for Greens Ledge at the western location in 1899. It was completed in 1902 for the sum of \$60,000.00.

Peck Ledge, at the eastern end of the archipelago, was the other site selected for a new lighthouse. Beginning in 1896, repeated requests for an appropriation were voiced until 1901, when an appropriation for \$10,000 was made. A decision to include accommodations for two keepers in the design led to requests for an additional \$29,000.00 appropriation. By the beginning of 1905, contracts were let for the construction and fabrication of metal for the lighthouse. That summer the materials were delivered, and the foundation cylinder was assembled, leveled up and sunk. Two hundred fifty bags of concrete were used to fill the foundation. Construction was halted in July 1905 due to delay in the delivery of the metal parts. By March 1906 assembly of the first and second story plates of the shell had begun. Both foundation and superstructure were composed of curved cast-iron sections assembled on site and bolted together with flanges molded around each section.

See Continuation Sheet

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Peck Ledge Lighthouse

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE <sup>1</sup>	

The U.S. Lighthouse Board had developed this construction method in 1873 for the Hunting Island, S.C., lighthouse, where the problem of erosion necessitated a lighthouse which could be disassembled and moved. By 1876 the Board employed such cast-iron plates to construct tubular lighthouse foundations for northern lighthouses where ice floes threatened the stability of screwpile lighthouses on waterbound sites. The use of similar construction techniques for the superstructure led to the design of the round-plan, truncated cone cast-iron lighthouse which could be adapted to a variety of heights and dimensions to suit individual sites. It was widely used by the U.S. Lighthouse Board between 1880 and ca.1910.

Peck Ledge exemplifies this lighthouse design. Window and door detail place it in the second period of cast-iron cone lighthouse design, as the deeply molded, peaked window hoods and arch-topped sash of the first iron cones (ca.1878-1895) were superceded by the flat-topped windows and simplified classical trim of later structures (ca.1885-1906). Pecks Ledge is a late example of the second phase. By 1909 a new phase had emerged, exemplified by Miah Maull lighthouse in Delaware Bay. Larger in diameter, with molded cornices replacing brackets and multiple windows around each story, and a roofed gallery surrounding the first level, Miah Maull recalls the silhouette of a tiered wedding cake.

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Peck Ledge Lighthouse

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE	1
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<u>Civil Engineering Blueprints</u>, (microfilm), Reel 5, United States Coast Guard Academy Library. Pecks Ledge: 21 drawings.

Description of Pecks Ledge Light Station, 1928, National Archives Record Group 26, Box 2, 10 E2-13-5-2.

Norwalk City Planning Commission, The Norwalk Islands, 1970.

Tulin, Bud, "Norwalk Islands, Our National Heritage," <u>Norwalk News</u>, May 14, 1981.

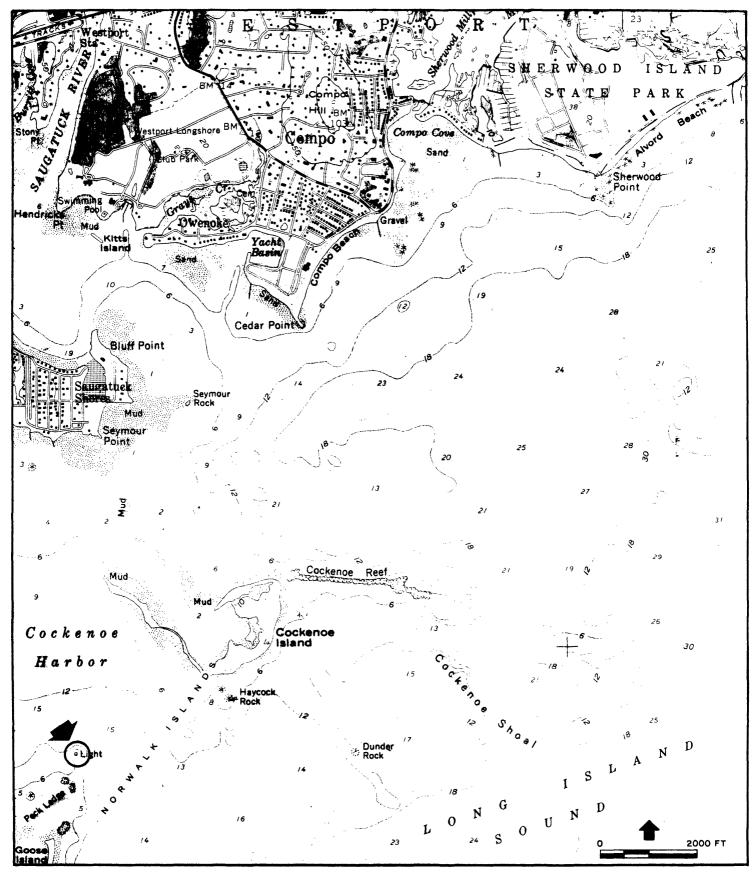
United States Lighthouse Board, <u>Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board</u>, 1896-1902, 1905-1907, 1909.

Williams, Dick, <u>The Historic Norwalk Islands</u> (Darien, Ct: Pictorial Association, 1978).

# **9** MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

<b>OGEOGRAPHICA</b> ACREAGE OF NOMINATED F	ALDATA PROPERTY 1501 Square fe	eet	
UTM REFERENCES	see location map		
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	see site plan		
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<b>11</b> FORM PREPAR NAME / TITLE Dorothy B. Temple ORGANIZATION			DATE
John Milner Assoc	iates, Inc.	(	October 22, 1985
STREET & NUMBER 309 North Matlack	Street		TELEPHONE (215) 436-9000
West Chester			PATE 19380
-	ON OF NOMINATIONS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATI	ION OFFICER RECOMMENDAT	10N
	YES NO.	NONE	
	- <u> </u>		RIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE
Historic Preservation Office	r has been allowed 90 days in w e evaluated level of significance i	which to present the nomination	Register, certifying that the State to the State Review Board and to Local.
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OR NPS USE ONLY			
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	THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED		DATE
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT	THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED	RESERVATION	DATE

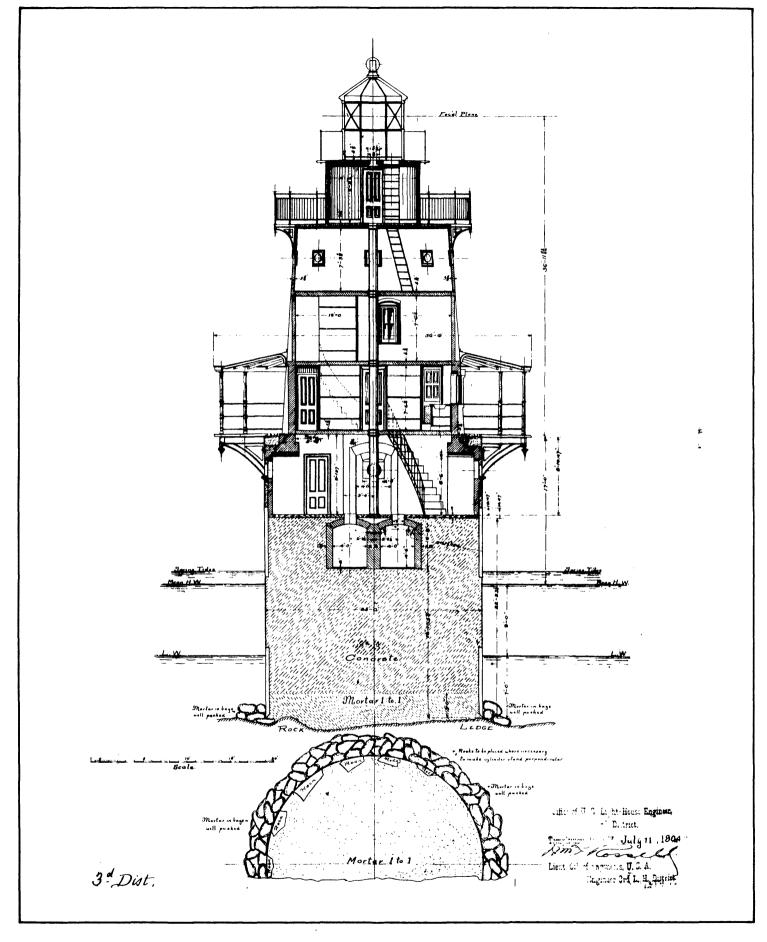




PECK LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE Fairfield County, Connecticut

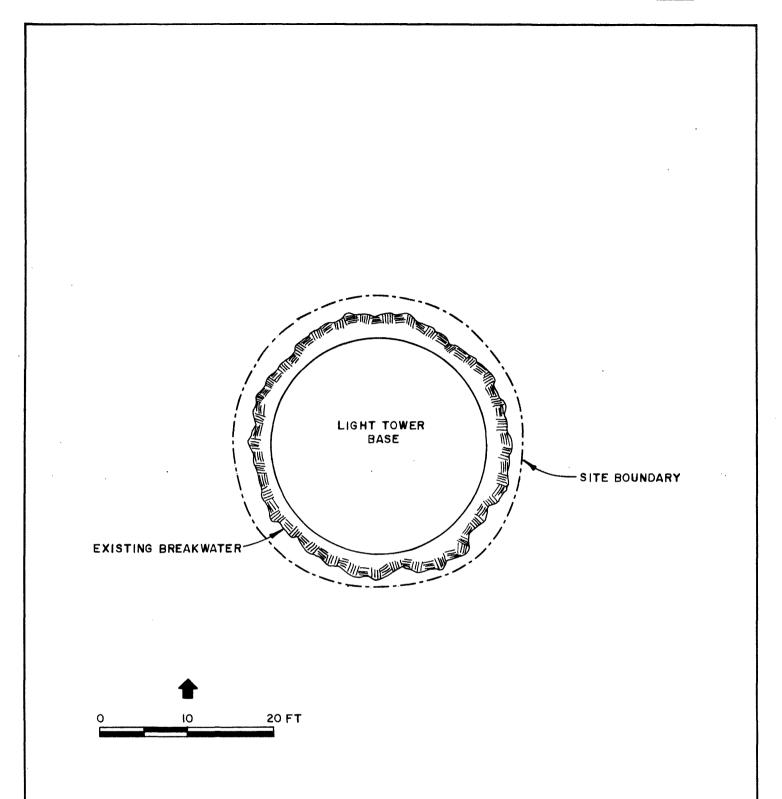
Sherwood Point, Connecticut Quadrangle, 1960 1:24000

UTM References: 18.636900.4548400



PLAN AND SECTION (1904)

PECK LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE Fairfield County, Connecticut (U.S. Coast Guard Third District, Civil Engineering Branch)



### SITE PLAN

PECK LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE Fairfield County, Connecticut United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

#### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number:	89001472	Date Listed:	<u>05/29/90</u>	
<u>Peck Ledge Lighthouse</u> <b>Property Name</b>	·	Fairfield County		<u>CT</u> State

Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

05/29/90 lignatur Date of Action the 

Amended Items in Nomination:

### 8. Statement of Significance: Level of Significance

All properties included in the multiple property nomination Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut were considered to meet the criteria within a statewide context.

#### 10. Geographical Data: Acreage

The acreage is <1.

This information has been confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without attachment) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page <u>Amendment</u>

Pecks Ledge Lighthouse Norwalk, CT

Description (continued):

In 1989, Pecks Ledge Lighthouse was re-photographed and examined in the field in order to bring the National Register documentation fully up to date. Following are the features or characteristics of the lighthouse that differ from its condition and appearance as described in the National Register Inventory/Nomination form prepared in 1985.

All the windows are sealed with plywood; most if the sash and interior surrounds remain in place with their glass removed.

In May 1989, the modern illumination apparatus mounted on the lantern roof was being replaced by a smaller lighting system mounted inside the cupola.

Pecks Ledge Lighthouse still retains the requisite degree of integrity for National Register eligibility.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page Amendment

Pecks Ledge Lighthouse Norwalk, CT

All photographs:

- 1. PECKS LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE
- 2. Norwalk, CT
- 3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
- 4. May 1989
- 5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT

Caisson and tower, camera facing southeast Photograph 1 of 6

Typical exterior window treatment, camera facing northwest Photograph 2 of 6

Brackets under lantern gallery, camera facing east Photograph 3 of 6

Interior, peripheral stairway Photograph 4 of 6

Interior, typical window treatment Photograph 5 of 6

Interior of watchroom Photograph 6 of 6



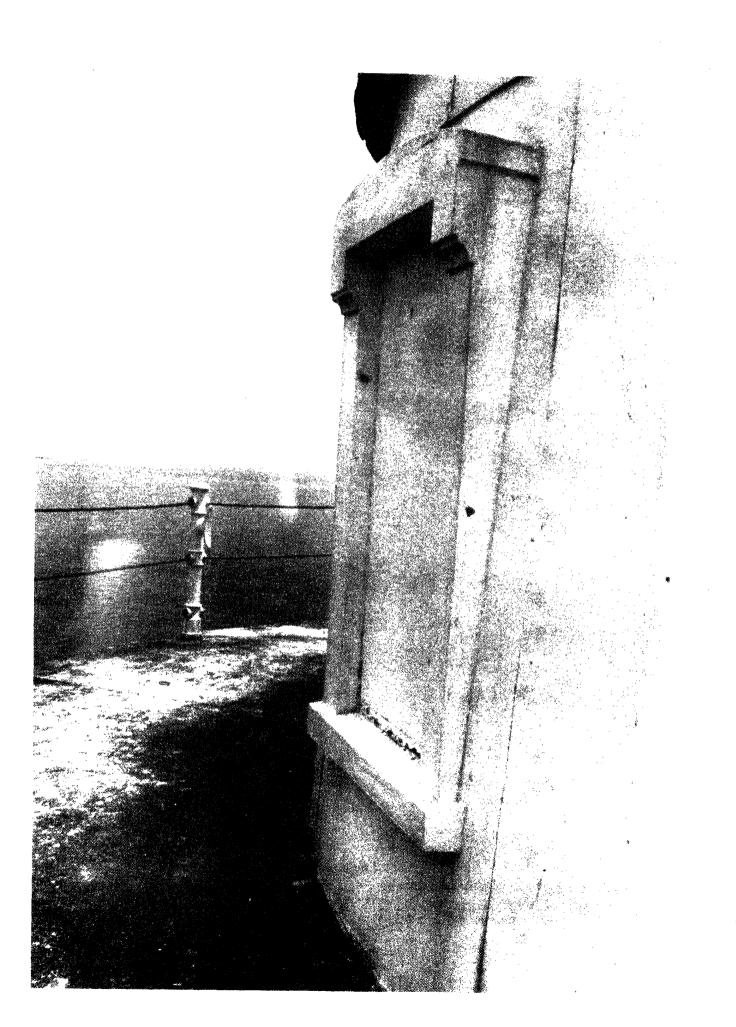
NAME OF PROPERTY: Peck Ledge Lighthouse COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985 NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc. LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc. 309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: South elevation. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 1

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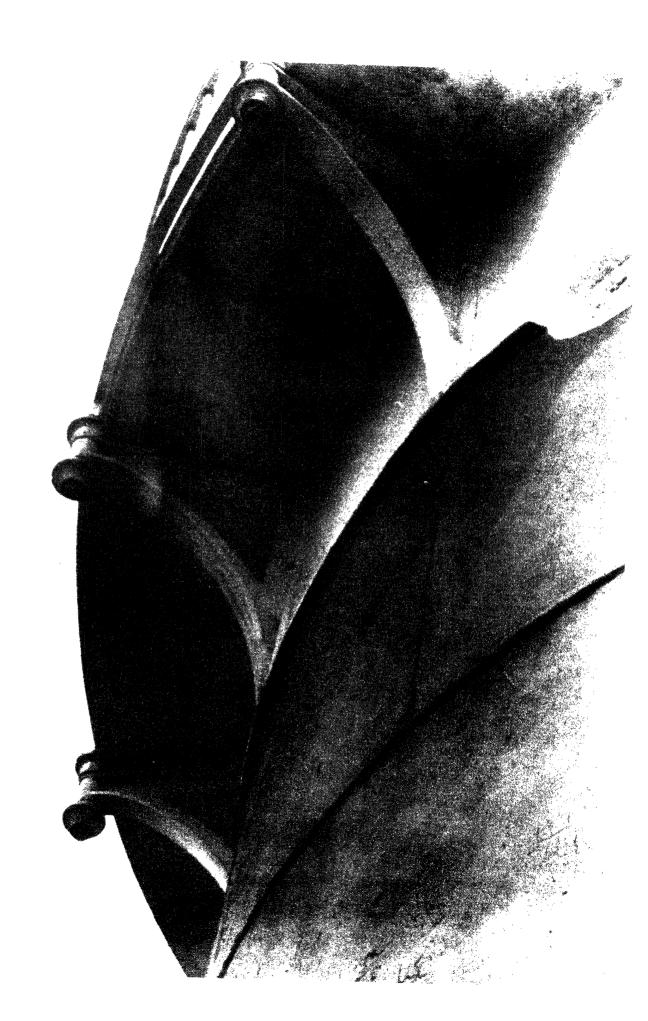


COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985 NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc. LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc. 309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Entrance, view from south. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 2

NAME OF PROPERTY: Peck Ledge Lighthouse



NAME OF PROPERTY: Peck Ledge Lighthouse COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985 NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc. LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc. 309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Window, first level, view from south. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 3



NAME OF PROPERTY: Peck Ledge Lighthouse COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985 NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc. LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc. 309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Brackets beneath watchroom gallery. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 4



NAME OF PROPERTY: Peck Ledge Lighthouse COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985 NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc. LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc. 309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Kitchen cupboard, above stairs to cellar. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 5

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NAME OF PROPERTY: Peck Ledge Lighthouse COUNTY WHERE LOCATED: Fairfield County, CT DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1985 NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: John Milner Associates, Inc. LOCATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE: John Milner Associates, Inc. 309 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW: Kitchen closet, below stairs to second level. Note molding. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 6