

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 03 1975

DATE ENTERED AUG 19 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Chambers Island Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER Northwest tip of Chambers Island; SE 1/4, Section 32, T 32 N; R 26 E

CITY, TOWN

Town of Gibraltar

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Door

CODE

029

 VICINITY OF Fish Creek

8th

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: automated light, dwelling vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME General Services Administration

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Region 5, 230 S. Dearborn Street

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois 60604

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Door County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

138 S. 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

Sturgeon Bay,

STATE

Wisconsin

54235

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chambers Island Lighthouse and keeper's dwelling is a one and one-half story structure of buff-colored brick with a three-story octagonal tower built into the northeast corner of the building. The roof is a moderately steep gable with a slight bellcast effect. A large, square, straddle ridge chimney near the rear of the house is oriented diagonally to the walls. The gable ends have angle ornamentations consisting of a pendant held in place by a cross member which attaches to the barge boards. Windows have segmentally arched lintels with radiating voussoirs of brick. At the southwest corner of the building is a later shed-roofed frame addition and on the grounds immediately behind the lighthouse is a frame outhouse and the remains of the foundations of a former frame building.

Except for the octagonal tower and other very minor details, the Chambers Island Lighthouse dwelling appears to have been built from the same plans used for the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse on the Door County Peninsula, a National Register property. Height of the focal plane was approximately 638 feet M.S.L.

The original fixed white light atop the octagonal tower has been removed. All that remains are an iron trap door and mountings. Adjacent to the lighthouse, within a thirty-foot square enclosure surrounded by a cyclone fence, is a new automated light mounted on a tall metal tower. The only other structures within the area nominated are a small outhouse and a frame boathouse on the shore northwest of the lighthouse. Though these structures remain, they are not considered of significance.

The nomination contains 40.04 acres. Of this, all but the thirty-foot square enclosure and an easement to it are to be disposed of by the federal government. The automated light tower comprises a detrimental visual effect upon the historic lighthouse, and its future removal would be welcome.

The lighthouse has been vacated by the Coast Guard. For some time it has been leased for an insignificant sum to an adjacent property owner, Mr. Edwin Fitzgerald, who uses it occasionally as a summer retreat. The building is structurally very sound, and needs only interior plastering and painting, and restoration of the original light, to return it to its original condition. Additionally, the later frame shed addition, which is unoriginal, is not held to be significant.

In the late 1950's, this end of Chambers Island was swept by a forest fire, resulting in the destruction of earlier nearby frame structures and the decimation of the surrounding forest. Fire-scarred trees still survive, however, though the clearing in which the lighthouse is located was enlarged. The circle of trees to the south of the building begins about 75 yards away.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When the first steamship, the "Walk-in-the-Water," successfully navigated through the Great Lakes in the summer of 1818, this event "...heralded the approach of Great Lakes shipping as a commercial venture, and focused attention upon the need for navigational aids." 1

To assist with these navigational aids, the Chambers Island Lighthouse was erected in 1868 "...to mark the west passage of Green Bay."2 A fully automated light continues this service.

During daylight hours the lighthouse serves as a vital landmark for navigators and ship captains. At night the light aids them in plotting their courses through potentially treacherous shoals off Chambers Island.

1 Frank Cretin, "Lighthouses: Sentinels of the Inland Seas," in Wisconsin Tales and Trails, 7:23-24, Autumn, 1966.

2 Hjalmar R. Holand, History of Door County Wisconsin, Chicago, 1917, 259.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cretin, Frank. "Lighthouses: Sentinels of the Inland Seas," Wisconsin Tales and Trails, 7:22-27, Autumn, 1966.

Holand, Hjalmar R. History of Door County Wisconsin, 2 vols., Chicago, 1917. p.259.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40.04

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	47,134,0	5,005,610	B	1,6	47,176,0	5,004,880
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	47,119,0	5,005,020	D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southern boundary of the Chambers Island Lighthouse nomination starts at a point along the shore on the east side of the lighthouse peninsula 132 feet north of its intersection with the southern border of Section 32, T 32 N, R 26 E, and proceeds from there on a heading of 283.5° to the west shore of the peninsula. North of this line, the entire peninsula is included.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Allan T. Heninger, Planning Analyst, Historic Preservation Office

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Madison,

DATE

5 May, 1975

TELEPHONE

608/262-2971

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

SHPO SIGNATURE

*James Mott Smith*

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

6/24/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/19/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

AUG 18 1975