

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 27 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Cana Island Lighthouse *nr*
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *NE of Baileys Harbor on*
East side of Cana Island; SE 1/4, Section 12, T 30 N; R 28 E.

CITY, TOWN *Town of Baileys Harbor* VICINITY OF Baileys Harbor 8th
STATE Wisconsin CODE 55 COUNTY Door CODE 029

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 checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Automated

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME U.S. Coast Guard
STREET & NUMBER 400 Seventh Street, S.W.
CITY, TOWN Washington, VICINITY OF District of Columbia STATE 20024

light; dwelling
vacant.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Door County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 138 South 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 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY 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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Originally built in 1869 of yellow brick, the conical tower of the Cana Island light was encased in a steel shell in 1901 and painted white. It rises some 27 meters above the ground and has a focal plane of 203.6 meters M.S.L. Inside the decagonal lantern house is an automated flashing white light which has a range of about 30 kilometers. The deck of the lantern house is well supported by metal brackets and is itself encircled by a protective iron handrail. The tower is free-standing and is attached to the keeper's dwelling by a small, brick, gable-roofed passageway. The 1 1/2-story brick keeper's dwelling measures 18.3 x 8.4 meters and is crowned with a red asphalt-shingled gable roof. At the west end is a straddle ridge chimney topped with three Robinson chimney caps.

On a cleared portion of land southwest of the tower and keeper's dwelling are three outbuildings: a small, single-story pentagonal stone building that was once used for storing oil; a red gable-roofed brick outhouse; and a frame storage shed located some distance from the other buildings. All three have been painted white.

For many years the 3.6 hectare island could only be reached by boat, but a gravel causeway built from the mainland ca. 1917¹ now makes the island accessible by foot except in time of high water.

There is no evidence of archeological potential, either historic or prehistoric.

1. Holand, History of Door County, p. 259.

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 checked="" 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 1869; 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As long as mariners have sailed the Great Lakes, they have had to contend with sudden, severe storms as well as serious hazards to navigation, especially near rugged shorelines. Great Lakes seamen, particularly those involved in transporting great quantities of lumber from Wisconsin's once abundant forests to the great lumber ports of Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland and Buffalo, soon learned to fear and respect "the sudden gales of Green Bay, the treacherous squalls of 'the Door' and the big storms of Lake Michigan."¹

When commercial navigation on Lake Michigan began to increase by the middle of the 19th century, it was apparent that more navigational aids were essential. Long before the completion in 1881 of the Sturgeon Bay-Lake Michigan Ship Canal, which eliminated the necessity of having to sail through "Death's Door," several lighthouses were built along and off the eastern and western shorelines of the Door Peninsula, long known for its "reefs and headlands" as well as "...scores of hidden shoals and dangerous passages."²

In 1869 the federal government erected a lighthouse on Cana Island that was strategically situated between two good natural harbors, North and Moonlight bays, where ships in peril could readily find refuge from Lake Michigan storms. On October 16, 1880, the Cana Island Lighthouse survived one of the worst storms ever to hit the peninsula. According to Holand, "The waves ran so high that at the... lighthouse the sea frequently broke over the house. The Lantern at a height of 88 feet [27 meters] was at times completely covered with spray from the huge waves."³

The Cana Island light has been fittingly described as "...one of the most picturesque on the Great Lakes."⁴ Because of its particularly strategic location, it is perhaps one of the most important lights along the Door Peninsula's east coast as well.

1. Holand, Old Peninsula Days, p. 245.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., p. 246.
4. Cetin., p. 24.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Holand, Hjalmar R. Old Peninsula Days. Ephraim, Wisconsin, 1925.

_____. History of Door County, Wisconsin; The County Beautiful (Chicago, 1917) 254-259.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 496200 4992550
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D _____
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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, Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

April 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608-262-2971

CITY OR TOWN

Madison,

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James Norton Smith 5/21/76

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/21/76

ATTEST:

Charles A. Smith

DATE

11.15.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting