

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 10 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 20 1977

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 ******
Hereford Lighthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Central Avenue
CITY, TOWN
North Wildwood
STATE
New Jersey
VICINITY OF
2nd
COUNTY
Cape May
CODE
009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
State of New Jersey Bureau of Marine Police
STREET & NUMBER
Labor & Industry Building
CITY, TOWN
Trenton
STATE
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
New Jersey Bureau of Marine Police
STREET & NUMBER
Labor and Industry Bldg.
CITY, TOWN
Trenton
STATE
N. J.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory
DATE
1976
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Labor & Industry Building
CITY, TOWN
Trenton
STATE
New Jersey
_FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

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

The Hereford Lighthouse is a stick style frame building, located near the beach at Hereford Inlet. The lighthouse is constructed in 2 block parts, which intersect at right angles. On the south side, a 2 story section is surmounted by a shallow pitch roof with a forward facing gable. On the north side a one story section is surmounted by a similar pitch roof, whose gable faces the side (north). There is also a 4 story tower, which grows out of the one story south section. It occurs at the point where the one story portion adjoins the 2 story (south) portion. The tower actually abuts the south portion, near the rear of the building. The entire lighthouse building rests upon a high basement.

The rear (east side) of the building has a one story porch which runs the entire length of the building. It is contiguous with the roof of the north one story section. Running its length, it also cuts the southern section in two, separating the upper story from the lower story. The front (west) facade is modified with the following condition. To the left of the southern 2 story section is a lateral shed roof addition, which extends the left eave of the frontal gable down to the level of the roof of the north one story section. Just left of this addition is the main entrance. There is also a small forward extension on the front of the south section.

The tower has 3 exposed stories. The bottom story is surmounted by a wide molding. The top 2 stories have windows on all sides, except for the west. The tower is surmounted by a platform on brackets, with a modern railing and a beacon mounted in a metal cylinder with open sides.

The windows, most of which are covered over, are arranged as follows. The gabled front and rear walls of the south 2 story portion have a double window on each floor. The north 1 story portion has 4 bays. The south end gable of the north portion has a central chimney with a window either side. There is also a chimney at the south end of the building. The detailing is worthy of note. The eaves are supported by exposed and cleanly articulated rafters. The roofs project forward of the gables and are supported by simple brackets with framing principals. The aforementioned rear porch is particularly fine, with turned Eastlake columns with 45 degree angle struts near the top. Beneath these strut brackets the columns have block capitols with rosettes. The columns are doubled up either side of the 2 story south portion. These pairs of columns frame the north portion forming one large bay. These doubled columns have one additional embellishment. Between each pair of columns, in the area above the capitols, (where struts would normally occur), there is a pair of struts forming an "X" shape. Other decorative embellishments include, tie beams near the tops of the gables, and wide vertical boarding in each gable, which contrasts with the narrow gauge clapboarding of the rest of the exterior. Finally each window or door is surmounted by a flat wooden hood on struts.

The interiors are the result of some remodeling and are not noteworthy.

The Lighthouse is situated in an open field near a more modern Marine Police station. It is no longer directly adjacent to the sea owing to subsequent landfill.

The only major alteration to the exterior is the small frontal extension to the north section. Otherwise the exterior retains its original bracketing, sheathing, chimneys, and other decorative woodwork.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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 1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is a clear delineation of roof and wall, which is seen in the broad roof projection, and in the way in which the roof projections cut sharply away from the walls. There is an honest statement of structure in the brackets, the porch posts, and the exposed rafters under the eaves. The porch posts and struts are decoratively garnished and multiplied. These features mark the Hereford Lighthouse as a good example of the stick style of architecture. Moreover, the tower, set between a pair of block masses with tall chimneys, renders a degree of picturesqueness which is typical of the Mid-Victorian Era.

The Hereford Lighthouse was part of a nationwide system of aids to navigation, which grew out of the era of transport by sailing ships and steamboats. The building is a fine example of a mid 19th Century lighthouse, and stands as a visually evocative reminder of this much romanticized era.

The need for aids to navigation has long been recognized. At the beginning of the 19th century, the principles of lighthouse illumination were in an undeveloped condition, and it was not until the investigations of Fresnel and Arago, in France, and the labors of Smeaton and the elder Stephenson, in Great Britain, that they were brought into a strictly scientific condition.

Wood and coal were at first used as fuel for lights. They were burned as beacon-fires on headlands, and afterward, as the necessity for increased elevation was felt, they were placed on the tops of towers.

In the United States, the first lighthouses were illuminated by tallow candles and solid-wick lamps suspended by iron chains from the dome of the lantern. The Argand burners and reflectors were adopted in 1812, and were used until the organization of the Lighthouse Board, shortly after which they were superseded by the Fresnel apparatus.

Prior to 1851 lighthouses and other aids to navigation of the United States were under the charge of one of the Auditors of the Treasurer Department, and the furnishing of plans and the constructing of lighthouses were intrusted to temporary agents.

In 1845, a commission was sent to Europe to inquire into the most improved lighthouse system; the chairman of which, Lieutenant Jenkins of the United States Navy, made an exhaustive report on the subject, which was the basis of an improved system later introduced.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Reports of the Lighthouse Board of the United States, 1871-75, 1879, 1883, 1886, 1891, 1897

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	518-000 517000	4317 340	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see address

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

New Jersey Historic Sites Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Labor & Industry Building

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

TELEPHONE

609-292-2024

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

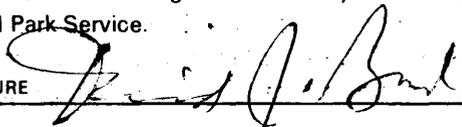
NATIONAL

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



TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

Dec. 15 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: 
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/20/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 9-19-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	JAN 10 1977
DATE ENTERED	SEP 20 1977

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

Hereford Lighthouse
Cape May, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

In 1851, a provisional board was appointed by the Government to investigate the condition of the American lighthouse system. In accordance with this organization, the whole coast of the United States was divided into districts, to each of which was assigned an officer of the Navy and an officer of Engineers. The duty of the first was to inspect, at stated periods, the conditions of the lights, buoys, &c., to furnish supplies, and to give information as to the necessity for repairs. The duty of the second, was to make repairs, and to furnish information as to new sites and designs for new structures.

By the 1870's the Lighthouse Board had jurisdiction over some 608 lighthouses and beacons, nationwide. In 1871 the Report of the Lighthouse Board recommended that a relatively small lighthouse, "of the fourth order" be built at the entrance to Hereford Inlet, "a good harbor of refuge for small coasting vessels". It was felt that this would be important to the coal trade, as well as small steamers navigating the Delaware River Bay. The following year Congress appropriated the necessary \$25,000 for acquisition of the property and construction. In 1873 the location was selected and the New Jersey Legislature granted jurisdiction of the property to the Federal Government. The lighthouse was actually built in 1874 along with facilities for a boat. In 1875 the lighthouse keeper John March drowned when his boat capsized.

Most of the major changes, over the years, involved ground regrading. There were however a few changes to the building itself. In 1897 the fixed white light was changed to a flashing red and white light. In 1899 a flagstaff was erected, and a telephone was installed.

HEREFORD LIGHTHOUSE

When the Life Saving Service was started in 1849, installing men and boats on the county beaches, Hereford Inlet, Station #36, was one of the most active. The dangerous waters and shoals between Seven Mile Beach and Five Mile Beach were the scene of many tragic and costly wrecks.

This service developed a hardy breed of men, some of whom made their homes in Anglesea. In 1874 the Hereford Lighthouse was built.

The history of Anglesea (North Wildwood) has always been tied closely with to that of Hereford Inlet. In its early days, traffic through this Inlet was its principal source of economic existence. Lighthouses of the area were serviced from this point, a job that required weekly trips transporting personnel and supplies.

The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse is located on Central Avenue, between First and Chestnut Avenues in North Wildwood. The Lighthouse is 55 feet high, and the light is 53 feet above water. The light with a one million candlepower (white) and 320,00 (red sector), is visible 13 miles at sea. The characteristic flashes are flash 0.3 seconds, eclipse 3.4 seconds, flash 0.3 seconds, eclipse 11 seconds, red west of 266 degrees.

Its light list number is 1476. The structure is of wood and placed in a grove, the tower surmounts the dwelling. The lighthouse is located 10 3/4 nautical miles north of Cape May Point Lighthouse.

The white water off the inlet makes the need of the lighthouse and lifeboat station obvious. There are sections of the inlet that

2.

are only two feet deep. It was hard to bring in the old sailing vessels against the wind. There is a record of one that was driven off 15 times between December 25, 1787 and February 6, 1788, before it was able to get into Hereford Inlet safely.