

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Spring Point Ledge Light Station  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Spring Point Ledge, Portland Harbor N/A not for publication  
city, town South Portland, vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04106

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Light Stations of Maine  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Earle L. Sturtevant SHPD 10/30/87  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Robert C. ... 12/7/87  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION QIT/P-14  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Ang Schlager 1/21/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-Related

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Other: Light Station

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Metal: Cast Ironroof Other: Iron Deck and Lanternother 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Spring Point Ledge Light Station is one of four similarly shaped "spark plug" structures built in Maine during the 1890s, three of which survive. This particular example is unique among the group because it retains the gallery that encircles the top of the base. It was erected in 1896-97.

This handsome structure consists of a poured concrete base encased in cast iron plates. The gallery is supported by large iron brackets with pendants and is sheltered by a shallow roof. A railing extends around the walkway. The broad second stage of the tower contains the four-level keeper's quarters and storage facilities. Its cast iron structure is punctuated by a number of window openings (all containing glass blocks) and a single door. A parapet with railing crowns the second stage. It is partially supported by iron brackets. The much narrower third stage supports the ten sided iron lantern and its encircling walkway. In 1952 a granite breakwater, 900 feet in length, was completed thereby connecting the light with the mainland.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering  
Transportation

Period of Significance

1897-1937

Significant Dates

1897

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Established in 1897 above a dangerous reef in Portland's inner harbor, the Spring Point Ledge Light Station is the most intact of Maine's three surviving "spark plug" lights. It retains integrity of design, setting and association, and meets the requirements for registration as described in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". The significance of this complex has been evaluated with respect to the associated historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

Spring Point Ledge light is one of two lights that aid navigation in Portland Harbor. The other, Portland Breakwater, was established in 1855. Throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century there was considerable local clamor for a permanent light to mark this particular section of Portland's busy harbor area. The ledge was witness to a number of wrecks and accidental groundings. After repeated requests in the Annual Report(s) of the Light-House Board beginning in 1892, Congress authorized construction of a light station at this site in 1895. it did not become operational, however, until May 24, 1897. The light was automated in 1960.

This light station derives significance under criteria A and C. Criteria A is satisfied by the association of the complex with Maine's critical reliance on maritime transportation and the aids that made navigation possible. Criteria C is met by the station's distinctive character that embodies one important turn-of-the-century variant on the design and construction of light stations.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report of the Light-House Board. Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., various dates.

Bachelor, Peter Dow. Lighthouses of Casco Bay. Portland: Breakwater Press, 1975.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

### Specify repository:

U. S. Coast Guard

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

### UTM References

A 

1	9	4	0	1	2	5	1	0	4	8	3	3	7	3	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting						Northing							

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of the light tower only, including the submerged base, but does not extend to the granite breakwater constructed after the period of significance.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property embraces the light tower only including the base and upper shaft. This includes the entire site historically associated with the station.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission

date October, 1987

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