

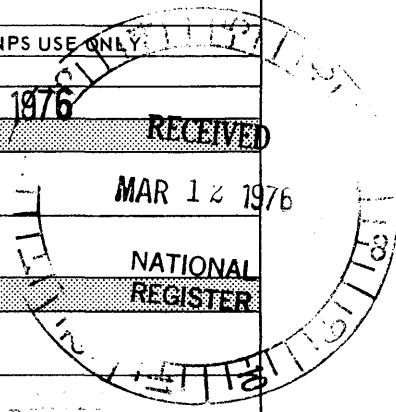
DATA SHEET

~~PH0022250~~

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	FLORIDA
COUNTY:	DUVAL
FOR NPS USE ONLY:	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 3 1976



1. NAME

COMMON: **Old St. Johns Lighthouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Old St. Johns Lighthouse**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **U. S. Naval Station - Building No. 302**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mayport** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Third, Charles E. Bennett**

STATE: **Florida 32228** CODE: **09** COUNTY: **Duval** CODE: **031**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Unused <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. AGENCY

U. S. NAVY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) **Naval Station**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mayport** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **09**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Duval County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **330 E. Bay Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jacksonville** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **09**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Unknown**

DATE OF SURVEY: **Unknown** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Duval County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **330 E. Bay Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jacksonville** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **09**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

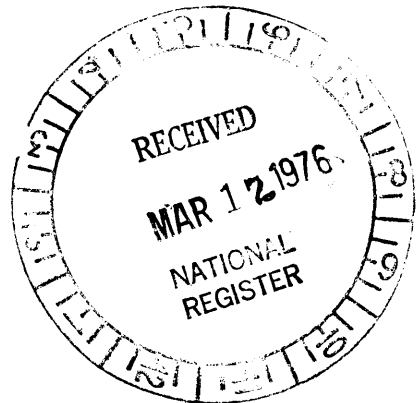
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The tower is constructed of curved red brick and mortar having 3 foot thick walls. The internal spiral stairway utilizes granite steps which are built into the exterior wall and an internal center column of brick which is 1.5 feet in diameter. The height of the tower is 81 feet and has a base diameter of 16 feet. The diameter of the tower at the 55 foot level is 12 feet. The upper or observation section is 15 feet in diameter having a 2.5 foot wide platform. Access to the observation level is provided by an 8 foot steel bar ladder. The roof is dome shaped copper material providing weather protection.

The spiral stairway descends 10 feet below ground level and the tower is supported by a 10 foot thick concrete foundation. A ground level entrance had been sealed to restrict the public from using the tower. Four openings (each 2.5 feet x 4 feet) in the exterior wall allow passage of light. The observation level has two openings.

The present site



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1800, 1828

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>NAVIGATION</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY OF LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE MAYPORT, FLORIDA

On May 23, 1828 Congress appropriated \$6,500 for the construction of a Lighthouse at the mouth of the St. Johns River in the Territory of Florida. On March 2, 1829 another \$7,500 was appropriated. \$10,500 was expended in 1830. This site may have been on or near the exact landing of Jean Ribault in 1565.

As the St. Johns River, at this time, came down to the ocean it fanned out into many inlets. There were no jetties at this time to keep the Channel in the same place. Due to Northeasters and other strong winds the Channel was forever changing. These conditions lead to the conclusion that the first lighthouse was built too close to the waters edge and consequently undermined. No records available.

On June 30, 1834 Congress appropriated \$10,500 to rebuild the lighthouse; another \$10,000 on August 31, 1852 to try to make the lighthouse more secure. Shifting sands and erosion was taking its toll, causing the lighthouse and property to depreciate rapidly.

In 1853 site of the lighthouse was in danger of being entirely destroyed. Ships were complaining as to the effectiveness of the light. Sand dunes had shifted and keepers house was almost covered. The light was behind the sand dunes and could not be seen when ships got close to the beach.

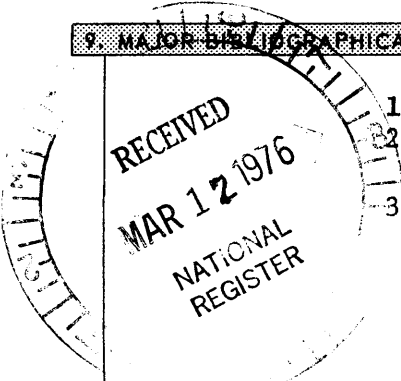
As a result of these findings, Congress appropriated \$15,000 on August 3, 1854 for erection of a light and beacon light to serve as a range for the channel. They were located across the bar from the existing lighthouse. This led to the construction of the present lighthouse, completed January 1, 1859.

Nothing appears in the Coast Guard records until June 30, 1864 during the War Between the States. The lighthouse was used to mark the changeable and narrow channel for Yankee gunboats. Light was extinguished in 1867 by Rebels. Extensive repairs were needed (new lens and lantern). This report certifies story of old timers who credit John Daniels, caretaker before the War, with defying Yankee gunboats by shooting out the light in the tower. Lanterns were used after the War until the light was repaired.

Light was raised in 1887, fifteen feet to present height; was almost lost in 1889 when recommended 1st order Lighthouse be built on Fort George Island. Congress never acted on recommendation. In 1912 light candle watt increased 15x.

Lighthouse was abandoned January 15, 1929, replaced by St. Johns Lightship which was anchored about eight miles off shore, manned by Coast Guard, to guide shipping into mouth of St. Johns River.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. On site inspection.
2. Coast Guard Records, Commandant, Fifth Coast Guard District
3. Duval County Courthouse, Jacksonville, Florida
No known existing surveys. Records prior to 1901 were destroyed by fire.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	30°	23'	35"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	81°	25'	34"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	<i>zone 17 459-050-E</i>		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	3362-260-N		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *less than 1/40 of an acre ENR*

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
NA		NA	
NA		NA	
NA		NA	
NA		NA	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *R. D. DONNELLY, JR.
Captain, USN
Commanding Officer* DATE: *12/23/74*

BUSINESS ADDRESS: *P. O. Box 265*

STREET AND NUMBER: *Naval Station Mayport* PHONE: *246-5201*

CITY OR TOWN: *Jacksonville,* STATE: *Florida 32228* CODE: *09*

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

[Signature]
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State

Local

[Signature] *2/24/76*
Federal Representative Signature Date

Director, Real Property
and Natural Resources

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *6/3/76*

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: *6-2-76* *RBR for WJM* *6-2-76*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		FLORIDA
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	JUN 3 1976	

(Number all entries)

Block 8. Statement of Significance cont.

The present lighthouse structure conformed to the shape and style as was recommended by the International Marine Conference of 1889. The solid red brick structure aided daylight navigation and a lens-light system was used during periods of darkness.

The brickwork is a common header bond type with a running bond course every fourth row. The brick joints have flush cement mortar.



ENCLOSURE (2)