

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000153

Date Listed: 3/14/88

Boon Island Light Station  
Property Name

York  
County

ME  
State

Light Stations of Maine  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Schlegel  
Signature of the Keeper

3/14/88  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Ownership level should be "Federal."

This information was confirmed with Kirk Mohney, MESHPO, by telephone on the date of listing.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 Boon Island Light Station

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Boon Island

N/A not for publication

city, town York,

X vicinity

state Maine

code

ME

county York

code

031

zip code

03909

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
1	_____ sites
1	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
2	2 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.

Signature of certifying official

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

12/17/87  
Date

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

Signature of commenting or other official

U.S. DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

State or Federal agency and bureau

1/25/88  
Date

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:)

Amy Schlager

3/14/88

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** Stone - Granite**walls** Stone - Granite

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**roof** Iron Lantern**other** 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

At nearly 123 feet in height, the Boon Island Light Tower is the tallest such structure along the Maine coast. The handsome tapered granite tower rises between the ruins of the former keeper's house, and a modern generator shed.

**1. LIGHT TOWER - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE**

The 1855 tower is constructed of ashlar granite that is punctuated by two opposing vertical rows of seven windows each. A wide conical base supports the shaft of the tower which rises to a wide molded band situated below the protruding parapet. This narrow parapet frames a tall granite shaft that carries the lantern. A domed roof caps the lantern and its modern beacon. The interior of the tower houses the circular stair that leads to a door at the parapet. Structural reinforcement of the tower was made in 1888 following a severe storm of the previous season. This consisted of the placement of steel bars in the gallery and upper section of the shaft.

**2. FORMER KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING SITE**

The ruins of the former keeper's house include only the first story exterior granite walls. This building was constructed in 1855 and substantially remodeled in 1889 when the interior was completely rebuilt and a frame upper story added.

**3. GENERATOR SHED - NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

This rectangular block building was constructed to house the generators that supply emergency power to the station.

**4. SHED - NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

This small frame building appears to be a remnant of the boathouse that occupied this spot. Walkways lead to the shed and a boat slip runs to the shore.

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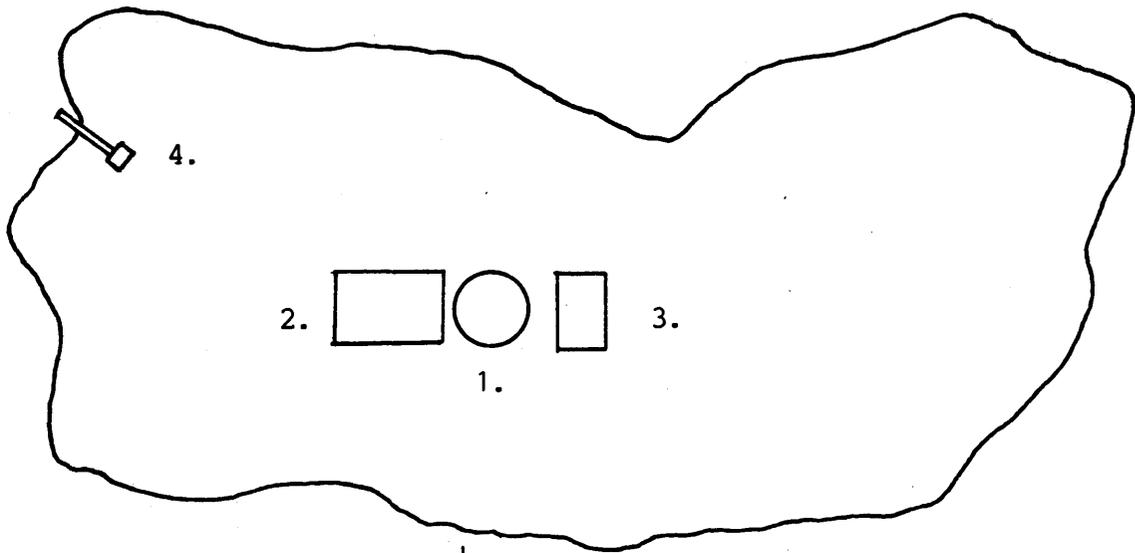


Photo 1



Sketch Map

Boon Island Light Station  
York Vic., Maine

Not to Scale

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

 nationally     statewide     locallyApplicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering  
Transportation

Period of Significance

1812-1937

Significant Dates

1855

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer

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

The Boon Island Light Station towers above this small rock island located approximately six miles off the Maine coast. It contains the tallest light tower in Maine and is the southernmost of the seacoast lights. Despite the loss of its ancillary buildings this light station meets the requirements for registration as described in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". The evaluation of its significance is made with respect to the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca.1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

Boon Island Light Station was established during the War of 1812, and is the seventh oldest station in Maine. In the 1850s, when a comprehensive classification of lights was instituted, Boon Island was ranked as a primary seacoast station, one of only six such lights in Maine in 1861. Widely spaced along the coast, these stations were crucial navigational aid in the major shipping lanes linking Maine to Europe and other United States ports. In 1978 this station was automated by the Coast Guard, and many of its outbuildings were subsequently removed.

The light tower at Boon Island is the third such structure on the site. The original tower was destroyed in 1831, subsequently rebuilt and then finally replaced by the present granite tower.

This 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 illustrates an unusual example of mid-nineteenth century light station design and construction.

 See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**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 Approximately 2

**UTM References**

A          
Zone Easting Northing

C

B          
Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies Boon Island, an area of approximately 2 acres and identified in the Maine Coastal Island Registry as 81-200.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Boon Island Light Station embraces the structure, site and immediate physical setting historically associated with this complex.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987  
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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The Boon Island Light Station is located approximately six miles out to sea from York, Maine, and therefore, does not appear on a U. S. Geological Survey topographic map. Its position on the attached nautical chart for Cape Elizabeth to Portsmouth is given below in reference to points of latitude and longitude:

Latitude: N - 43°07.3  
Longitude: W - 70°28.6

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Boon Island Light Station  
York Vic., Maine

This continuation sheet is being submitted to redefine the period of significance of the Boon Island Light Station, York Vic.

A previous National Register review of the multiple property submission for "Light Stations of Maine" and accompanying individual nomination forms determined that the period of significance of the resource must begin at a point in time that is no earlier than the oldest existing component of the complex. It is understood that while a case could be made for extending the date to that time when the light station was established, irregardless of the presence of surviving elements, the framework of the submission does not sufficiently address how this can be done. (See Review Comments dated 1/21/88.)

Based upon this finding, therefore, the period of significance of the Boon Island Light Station should be 1855-1937, the date of construction of the earliest surviving building and/or structure.