

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received JUN 7 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Browns Head Light Station

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Browns Head N/A not for publication

city, town Vinalhaven, N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county Knox code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	Other
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 United States Government, Commander, First Coast Guard District

street & number 150 Causeway Street

city, town Boston, N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts 02114

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Knox County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Rockland, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Browns Head Light Station, dating from 1832, is a well preserved lighthouse with attached keeper's quarters located in a spectacular setting.

The lighthouse proper is a cylindrical granite tower, approximately 18 feet in height, with a hexagonal light casing above topped by a hexagonal flat hipped cap. The light is 37 feet above the water and has a range of 15 miles.

The tower is connected to the keeper's house on the northeast side by a short covered passageway which enters the gable end of this Cape Cod structure.

The house is a story-and-a-half frame building, three bays wide on the long sides and two on the ends. The entrance is on the southeast side in the center bay. A one and a half story addition was added to the northeast end of the structure in 1927. Fenestration is 6/6 throughout.

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 1832, 1857 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The light tower at Browns Head is one of the earliest designs, having been built during the year 1832 on order from President Andrew Jackson. It is the type of station in common use in the days before the Civil War. There was much shipping on Penobscot Bay when the light was erected and it became a key navigational aid particularly as a guide to the entrance of the much used Fox Islands Thoroughfare.

The keeper's house dates from 1857 when the station was rehabilitated but the tower is original.

This lighthouse has long been a mecca for summer visitors sailing their small boats on the Bay and Thoroughfare.

Browns Head is currently one of the few remaining manned lighthouses on the Maine coast.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sterling, Robert Thayer, Lighthouses of the Maine Coast. Brattleboro, Vt., 1935.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/8 0.1

Quadrangle name Vinalhaven

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

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E

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Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The property nominated is a rectangular lot approximately 60' X 90' which provides a 20 foot setback on all sides of house and tower. Subsidiary building and the boat ramp are not included since they are of later vintage and non-contributory to the significance of the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. [Signature]*

title S.H.P.O. date 6/2/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	date <u>1/27/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

East
Goose Rock

22 Δ Goose I

Webster Head

Saddle I
81

Mark I

33 Robinson Rock

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Browns Head Light Station

UTM Reference:

19/507230/4884050

Green Ledge
Medric Rock

Green

Green

Little Hurricane

