

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JAN 29 1988

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 Saddleback Ledge Light Station
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Saddleback Ledge, Isle Au Haut Bay N/A not for publication
city, town Vinalhaven, vicinity
state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04863

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.

[Signature] 12/17/87
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.

[Signature] 1/25/88
Signature of commenting or other official Date
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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:)

[Signature] Entered in the National Register 3/14/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)Transportation: Water-Related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)Transportation: Water-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)foundation Stone: Granite

walls Stone: Granite

roof Other: Cast Iron Deck and Lantern

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Standing resolutely on a bold rock outcropping the Saddleback Ledge Light Station consists only of a conical granite tower. This structure dates to 1839 when the station was established. It was connected to a one-story rectangular frame building whose basement served as a boathouse. This building was a later addition to the complex although the date of construction has not been ascertained. The tower itself contains the keeper's quarters, kitchen and water cistern. The broad base of the tower quickly tapers to a projecting granite cap that supports the iron walkway and railing. Vertical rows of three small openings punctuate the tower's east and west faces. A door and one window are located in the north side. The ten sided lantern is covered by a polygonal roof and spherical ventilator. The center of the lantern is located thirty-six feet above the base of the structure. Both the lantern and deck were put here in 1883 in replacement of the original features.

Documentary photographs show that the station also had a landing derrick and a pyramidal bell house elevated above the rock on a skeletal tower.

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

1839-1937

Significant Dates

1839

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Parris, Alexander, Architect/Engineer

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

Established in 1839 on a precarious rock outcropping, Saddleback Ledge Light Station marks an eastward approach to Penobscot Bay. The station 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 the structure has been evaluated with respect to the associated historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

Saddleback Ledge light was the second such complex built to guide maritime traffic into and out of Penobscot Bay. Eventually it was one of six principal navigational aids built along this important waterway. However, it was the only one of these six to have been classified as a secondary sea-coast light. The station was automated in 1954.

The tower at Saddleback Ledge was designed by Alexander Parris (1780-1852) and is similar in its overall form to the tower he designed two years earlier at Mount Desert Light Station. Saddleback clearly shows a proficiency in the use of granite as a material for construction, a characteristic for which the architect was well known. It is one of five known extant Parris designed towers or keeper's dwellings in Maine. A sixth, the tower at Whitehead Light Station, is also attributed to him.

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 the work of a master and reflects an unusual design for a light station in the first half of the nineteenth century.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report(s) 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 # ME-79
- 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:

National Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 2

UTM References

A

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

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of approximately two acres contains the entire rock outcropping known as Saddleback Ledge and referenced in the Maine Coastal Island Registry as 63-237.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Saddleback Ledge Light Station embraces the light tower and rock ledge historically associated with this station.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987

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city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333