NAME
HISTORIC
U. S. Coast Guard Molokai Light (Lighthouse Only)

AND/OR COMMON
Molokai Light

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Kalaupapa

STATE
Hawaii

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
_ DISTRICT
_ BUILDING(S)
_ STRUCTURE
_ SITE
_ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
X PUBLIC
_ PRIVATE
_ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
_ IN PROCESS
_ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
_ OCCUPIED
X UNOCCUPIED
_ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
X YES: RESTRICTED
_ YES: UNRESTRICTED
_ NO

PRESENT USE
_ AGRICULTURE
_ COMMERCIAL
_ PARK
_ EDUCATIONAL
_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_ EDUCATIONAL
_ RELIGIOUS
_ GOVERNMENT
_ SCIENTIFIC
_ INDUSTRIAL
_ TRANSPORTATION
X MILITARY
_ OTHER: Navigation

AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
U. S. Coast Guard

STREET & NUMBER
677 Ala Moana

CITY, TOWN
Honolulu

STATE
Hawaii

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Bureau of Conveyances

STREET & NUMBER
403 Queen Street

CITY, TOWN
Honolulu

STATE
Hawaii

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN

STATE
The present octagonal concrete tower has a conical metal roof with diamond shaped storm panes. Dimensions are 21.0 feet at base, 14.3 feet at top, 132.0 feet height above ground and 213.0 feet focal plane above sea level.

Lighting equipment consists of a 2nd order revolving, 2 flash panels at 180°, driven by an electric motor which replaced the previous mechanical clockwork. The light source is a 1000W lamp. Previous lighting equipment included an oil vapor light.

Special features include a battery operated emergency light. A local alarm signifies light failures.

The major resource of the lighthouse is the lens. The second-order Fresnel lens has two bull eyes. It is similar in shape to a clam shell and rotates making it a flashing light. The clam shell shape is unusual but not unique. The Fresnel lens produces up to 62.5 million candlepower and is one of the most brilliant in the islands.

Molokai Light exhibits an omnidirectional white flashing light and is visible for 25 nautical miles. The light operates at 10 second intervals, 10 seconds on and 10 seconds off.

The tower is divided into two unequal vertical sections. Approximately five feet above the arched entrance door is a bank of concrete which marks the first division. The remainder of the shaft comprises the second section. The second section is pierced by six openings that admit light to the 189-step spiral, concrete, stairway with brass railings to the lofty lamp room.

The 1913 dwelling is a modest one story bungalow constructed of local, unbroken volcanic rubble and mortar. It has front facing gabled roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters shingled with asbestos slate. The walls are eighteen inches thick and plastered with a gabled roof supported by tapered columns. All windows are double hung sash. This structure was renovated in 1953 with the addition of a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and dining room. The dwelling is located north of the 1950 bungalow. Due to these additions the house no longer retains its integrity and should be considered an intrusion.

The 1950 dwelling located northeast of the light is a one-story bungalow constructed of concrete hollow block wall with concrete floors and pitch and gravel roof. The interior is finished in wood stud partitions. All windows are double hung sash.

The Power Building is a one story structure constructed of wood with asbestos shingle roof. This 1934 building is adjacent to the light.
The Garage is a one story structure constructed of wood with concrete floor and asbestos shingle roof. The 1931 structure is located north of the 1913 dwelling.

There is a 8,000 gallon concrete water storage tank on ground level, 10 feet high by 12 feet diameter constructed in 1908. The tank is south of the light.

The lot is enclosed by a wall constructed of unbroken volcanic rubble built in 1916. The purpose of this wall is to define property and for control of cattle movement from the Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement.

Because of the numerous alterations, the 1913 dwelling and other structures have no historical significance.
Molokai Light was established in 1909 as a crucial guide to mariners coming to Honolulu from west coast United States or via the Panama Canal. This majestic, 138 foot classic lighthouse structure serves to lead the mariner through the narrow and tricky Kaiwi Channel between the islands of Molokai and Oahu. Its light can be seen up to 28 miles at sea.

This lighthouse, virtually unchanged since its construction, stands on the northern tip of Kalaupapa Peninsula in the proximity of the famous Hansens disease colony there. This isolated station was operated by lighthouse keepers and resident Coast Guardsmen for 57 years. Automation came to Molokai in 1966 thus ending the long and colorful history of the live-in keeper.

One such keeper, who served ten years at Molokai, was Hawaiian folk hero Fred "Robbie" Robins. Robbie spent four decades in the old lighthouse service and served most of the ancient lighthouses in the Hawaiian Islands. Robbie, along with the old Molokai structure he once tended, have sadly become obsolete in this age of ever advancing technology, but the spiritual aspects of the lonely keeper and his guiding beacon will forever remain even if the physical aspects do not.

The location of the lighthouse against the turbulent sea and cloud-covered mountains, heightens its dramatic appearance. It is an ideal location because the peninsula juts out to sea for a considerable distance from the otherwise incurving and very steep north coast of Molokai.

The related land does not contribute to the maintenance of the tower because of the contour of the surrounding land.
### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Coast Guard District 14, Aids to Navigation Historical Files
- Coast Guard District 14, Public Affairs Historical Files
- Honolulu Star Bulletin
- National Park Service, Hawaii State Office files

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D:</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>2347109.0</td>
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</table>

### ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

- A: 21° 12' 54" N 156° 58' 24" W
- B: 21° 12' 42" N 156° 58' 18" W
- C: 21° 12' 46" N 156° 58' 30" W
- D: 21° 12' 50" N 156° 58' 32" W

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Lighthouse Inspector Nineteenth District Drawing No. 685.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Code</th>
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### FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME / TITLE**
J. D. LINDGREN, LTJG, USCG and Mrs. Thelma L. Yuen, Supply Clerk

**ORGANIZATION**
14th Coast Guard District

**DATE**
12 January 1977

**TELEPHONE**
808 546-5524

**CITY OR TOWN**
Honolulu

**STATE**
Hawaii

### CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**
YES

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE**

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

**FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE**

**FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE DATE**
1/24/77

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE**
3/25/82

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC
U. S. Coast Guard Molokai Light
AND/OR COMMON
Molokai Light

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
Kaulaupapa
VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Maui
STATE
Hawaii

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT
Aids to Navigation Team
Coast Guard Base, Honolulu
DATE OF PHOTO
31 December 1979
NEGATIVE FILED AT
A/N Team, CG Base Honolulu

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1
Aerial photograph taken from the southwest showing parcel and surrounding properties.
Molokai Light FEB 7 1977
Kalaupapa, Molokai
OFFICIAL COAST GUARD PHOTOGRAPH

(IF PUBLISHED PLEASE CREDIT)

Released by
United States Coast Guard
Public Information Office
14th Coast Guard District
677 Ala Moana
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Release Date........................
Number: 14CGD-......................

01147607

MOLOKAI LIGHTHOUSE MAY 22 1980