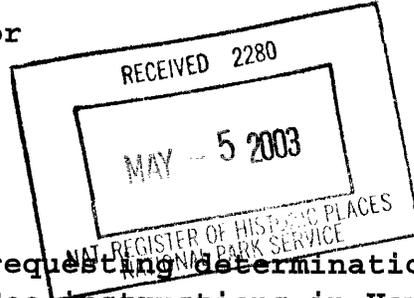


529

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Point Retreat Light Station

other names/site number Point Retreat Lighthouse  
AHRS Site No. JUN-00084

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number on the Mansfield Peninsula at the northern end of  
Admiralty Island, near the junction of Lynn Canal and  
Stephens Passage

not for publication n/a

city or town Juneau vicinity X

state Alaska code AK county Juneau code 110

zip code 99801

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  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  X  meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant   nationally  X  statewide   locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Bittner  
Signature of certifying official

May 2, 2003  
Date

Alaska  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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
- determined not eligible for the  
    National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**Entered in the  
National Register**

6/19/03

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Point Retreat Light Station

Juneau, Alaska

=====  
5. Classification  
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  4  </u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  2  </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>  7  </u>	<u>  2  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   Light Stations of the United States

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation Sub: water-related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation Sub: water-related

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Art Moderne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, wood piling  
roof concrete, asphalt  
walls concrete, wood  
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Point Retreat Light Station is located on the Mansfield Peninsula at the northern end of Admiralty Island near the junction of Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage, an important intersection for ships and boats travelling through the Inside Passage. The original lighthouse, a hexagonal wood tower topped by a hexagonal lantern, was built in 1904, and later replaced by an acetylene light atop a wood pedestal. The U.S. Lighthouse Service replaced this light with an Art Moderne influenced reinforced concrete building in 1924. The new building occupies the site of the original lighthouse. Other buildings at the site include a boat house, an assistant keeper's quarters, and an oil house. These and the wood dock were built in 1923-1924. Also on site are a water tank and a platform for fuel drum storage. The lighthouse and associated buildings are situated more or less in a row along a north-south axis. Between 1924 and 1953, the period of significance, the light station also had a tramway and a keeper's house. The U.S. Coast Guard removed the keeper's house when it built the helicopter pad in the 1960s. At that time, it is believed the tramway was replaced with a concrete walkway. A communications tower stood between the oil house and the assistant keeper's house between the 1960s and 1980s.

Contributing buildings and structures

*Lighthouse.* Constructed in 1924, the combination light and fog signal building is an Art Moderne influenced concrete building characterized by recessed panels on all elevations which create multiple, uneven bays into

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

Page 5

which doors and windows are set. The building measures 34' x 20', sits on a concrete foundation, and is capped by a simple projecting cornice. An 8' x 8' square tower, also displaying recessed panels, rises eighteen feet from the center of the slightly sloped roof. In the 1950s an eight-foot high concrete block surmounted by a double-ended airways beacon, showing alternate flashing white and red, replaced the standard cupola/lantern room that housed a fourth-order lens. A simple metal railing now tops the tower. Today the light system is fully automated. Existing optics consist of a 300 mm lantern powered by a 35 watt solar panel and eight 100 AH batteries mounted where the cupola once was. A gallery with a simple metal rail wraps around the middle of the tower.

Centered on the façade of the building is a projecting entry vestibule with a five-panel door. The tower on this side has a 1/1 window below the gallery. The east elevation has a centrally located double door with two single light fixed windows above the doorway, and multi-light fixed sash windows on either side of the doorway. The tower on this elevation has a window below the gallery, a small paneled door that provides access to the gallery, and a ladder from the gallery to the top of the tower. The north elevation window openings have been covered with boards. The west elevation has three multi-light fixed windows across the elevation--the central window is approximately half the width of the two side windows. The building has a machine and equipment room. A one thousand gallon capacity water cistern is located beneath the building.

*Oil house.* Located 28 feet south of the lighthouse, this is a 25' x 12' unadorned concrete building with a modestly overhanging hipped roof. It has small fixed windows located slightly below the roofline centered on the east, north, and west elevations, and a large double door centered on the south elevation.

*Assistant keeper's quarters.* Located 150 feet south of the lighthouse, this is a one and a half story cottage style wood frame building. It has a kitchen, living room, two bedrooms, pantry, bathroom, and basement with a laundry room, water pump and treatment system, furnace, shop, and storage space. It is 36' x 26', on a concrete foundation, and measures 29' to the peak of the gable roof. The building is wood shingled and the roof is asphalt shingled with projecting rafters and brackets.

The front of the house faces east and has a centrally placed partially enclosed shed roofed porch approximately ten feet wide. The sloped porch roof is supported by four posts, two on each side. Five steps lead to a paneled door with 1/1 single hung windows on both sides. Set into the foundation on the façade is a metal coal chute to the north of the porch and a three light window to the south of the porch. The other sides of the building have similar windows set into the foundation. A bracketed dormer is centrally placed on the roof; it features a pair of 1/1 single hung windows. The north elevation of the building has two 1/1 single hung windows on the first story, and a pair of 1/1 single hung windows in the gable. The west elevation has a pair of 1/1 single hung windows on the

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

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right side, a shorter 1/1 window in the center, and a 1/1 single hung window on the left side. A dormer, similar to the one on the façade, is centrally placed on the roof. Centered on the south elevation is an enclosed projecting entry vestibule with shed roof. The door is accessed from the east by a flight of four steps. A fixed 9 light window is located on the south side of the vestibule. Storm cellar doors are located behind this side entrance. There are pairs of 1/1 windows on either side of the entry, those to the west of the entry are shorter than those to the east. A pair of 1/1 single hung windows are set into the gable. A chimney rises from the center of the roof peak. An underground 12,900 gallon capacity water cistern is located southwest of the assistant keeper's quarters.

*Boat house.* Located 32 feet southeast of the assistant keeper's quarters, the wood boathouse measures 36' x 18' and has an asphalt shingled slightly overhanging hipped roof with exposed rafters. The south, west, and north elevations have square 2/2 fixed windows, the north elevation has a door located at the west end, and the east elevation has two large doors that extend from the base to the roof line and open onto the dock.

*Dock.* The 64' x 48' dock is made of wood and is enclosed by a two-tiered wood railing. It sits on wood pilings set in concrete footings. The deck is approximately 45 feet above high water. There is a concrete pad and base for a boat hoist on the north side. The hoist house is no longer extant. On the south side of the dock, a set of stairs descends to a small boat landing area.

*Water tank.* The 10,000 gallon water tank stands to the south of the helicopter pad. It is in a state of deterioration.

*Fuel storage platform.* The wooden fuel storage platform is south of the helicopter pad and east of the water tank. The fuel tanks have been removed and gas drums are no longer stored on the platform.

**Noncontributing structures**

*Helicopter pad.* In 1966 the southernmost of the two keeper's quarters was removed to make room for a helicopter pad. The pad is octagonal in shape and constructed of wood planks. The foundation of the keeper's quarters is visible under the pad.

*Tramway.* The tramway extended north-south from the lighthouse to the fuel tanks with a spur to the dock. The only evidence of it is the route. Today a concrete sidewalk is where the track used to be.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

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8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) n/a

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Maritime history  
Architecture  
Transportation

Period of Significance 1924-1953

Significant Dates 1924

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder U.S. Lighthouse Service

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

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=====  
**Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**

Point Retreat Light Station is one of sixteen staffed navigational lights established by the U.S. Government in Alaska. Lighted on September 15, 1904, it has been part of a system of navigational aids to safely guide commercial and recreational vessels through the dangerous and heavily traveled southeast Alaska waterway known as the Inside Passage. It is located a short distance north of the City of Juneau and is accessible only by water or air. The U.S. Lighthouse Service constructed the existing light tower and support buildings and structures in 1924. One of the first concrete lighthouses built in Alaska during the 1920s, often to replace older wood frame buildings, Point Retreat's architecture is influenced by the Art Moderne. Keepers sought assignment to Point Retreat because they could bring their families with them and because of the station's close proximity to the cities of Juneau and Douglas. In 1973, the U.S. Coast Guard automated Point Retreat Light Station and removed the remaining staff. Although the light continues to guide commercial and recreation vessels through Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage, the period of significance ends in 1953, fifty years ago.

**Historic background**

The discovery of rich gold deposits in upper Yukon River tributaries at the close of the nineteenth century prompted a huge increase in the number of ships navigating Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage, a safer route for ships to travel than the open unprotected ocean route to the west. In the late 1890s, watercraft of every description converged upon the Pacific Northwest ports to sail north. Once they passed British Columbia waters, there were few guides. Fog, rain, strong tides, and a rocky shoreline made the Inside Passage particularly difficult, especially for large steamers overloaded with prospectors and freight. Over three hundred accidents in Inside Passage waters were reported in 1898. Although Alaska's governors had been urging the U.S. Government to mark navigation hazards along Alaska's coasts for over a decade, only a few markers and buoys had been installed. In 1901, President William McKinley issued executive orders reserving land specifically for lighthouse purposes in Alaska.

One of the reserves was of 1,505 acres at the northern end of Admiralty Island known as Point Retreat, near the junction of Stephens Passage and Lynn Canal. The original lighthouse built at the site was a white hexagonal wood tower topped by a black hexagonal lantern. Beginning operation September 15, 1904, the site did not initially house a fog-signal as would many Alaskan light stations. Other site buildings included a one and one-half story dwelling south of the light tower and a boathouse east of the dwelling. Prior to 1917, the station was not staffed and reduced to a minor light. A new acetylene light was established on site. Annual light reports from 1920-1923 indicate that the light was found extinguished at each visit.

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

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The growth of the fishing and timber industries in Southeast Alaska in the early 1900s led to a sustained increase in maritime traffic in the area. The U.S. Lighthouse Service saw the need to once again upgrade the light at Point Retreat because it marked a hazardous, heavily traveled intersection. In 1924 the agency replaced the acetylene light with a reinforced concrete lighthouse and fog signal building and added new keepers' quarters, support buildings, a dock and a tram at a cost of \$58,242. The station was later improved with a radio beacon.

Keepers coveted assignment to Point Retreat because it was one of the few Alaska stations where their families could accompany them. In addition, the station was close to the cities of Juneau and Douglas. Charles E. McLeod served as keeper from 1926 to 1930.

With the transfer of lighthouse administration to the U.S. Coast Guard in 1939, lighthouse staffing changed from keepers with families to single men. An inspection report dated April 14, 1944, indicates that there were ten men, including an Officer in Charge, on site and that the keepers' dwellings were in poor condition. In 1966, with improved technology and less need for permanent staff, the U.S. Coast Guard removed one of the keeper's quarters and installed a helicopter pad over the foundation of the house. The U.S. Coast Guard automated the station in 1973, discontinued the radio beacon, and removed the remaining staff. A light continues to operate at the station, flashing white every six seconds with a range of nine miles. The Alaska Lighthouse Association, a non-profit organization, leased the buildings in 1997 from the U.S. Coast Guard and became the owners in 2002.

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Brown, C.M. *Lighthouses and Other Aids to Navigation in Alaska History*. Juneau, Alaska: U.S. Coast Guard, 1990.

Gibbs, James A. *Sentinels of the North Pacific*. Portland, Oregon: Binford & Mort, 1955.

Hunt, Bill. "Lighting the Maritime Trail," *Alaska Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 10 (October 1990):46-50.

Lowry, Shannon. "Alaska Lighthouse Tales," *Alaska Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 10 (October 1990):30-45.

Lowry, Shannon and Jeff Schultz. *Northern Lights*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 1992.

U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau Division. Files of the Offices of Aids to Navigation, Civil Engineering, and Public Affairs.

Wheeler, Wayne. "Northern Lights: Lighthouse Development in the Alaska Territory," *The Keeper's Log*, Vol. VI, No. 3 (Spring 1990):2-13.

Previous documentation on file (NPS) n/a

- 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 #

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: U.S. Coast Guard Archives, Washington, D.C.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>08</u>	<u>502746</u>	<u>6474268</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Point Retreat Light Station is located in the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 11, Township 40 South, Range 64 East, Copper River Meridian.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Point Retreat Light Station is located at the northernmost end of the 1,505 acre Point Retreat Light Station Reserve established by Executive Order in 1901. The boundaries, shown on the attached site plan, include the light station buildings and structures associated with the light station during the period of significance that maintain physical integrity.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title David Benton, President

organization Alaska Lighthouse Association

date May 1, 2003

street & number P.O. Box 240149

telephone 907-364-2410

city or town Douglas state AK zip code 99824-0149

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Point Retreat Light Station

Juneau, Alaska

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Alaska Lighthouse Association

street & number P.O. Box 240149

telephone 907-354-2410

city or town Douglas state AK zip code 99824-0149

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska

=====  
**Section Photograph identification**  
=====

1. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking northeast at the light and fog signal station
2. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking southwest at the light and fog signal station
3. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking northeast at the light station on left, oil house, and  
keeper's quarters
4. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking west at the keeper's quarters
5. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking northeast at the oil house
6. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking west at the boat house
7. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking south at the boat house

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Point Retreat Light Station

Juneau, Alaska

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=====  
**Section Photograph identification**  
=====

8. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
Lori Telfer  
May 2001  
Alaska Lighthouse Association, 2116-B Second Street, Douglas, AK 99824  
Looking south at the dock
9. Point Retreat Light Station  
Juneau, Alaska  
U.S. Coast Guard  
circa 1974  
U.S. Coast Guard, 17<sup>th</sup> District, Juneau, AK 99801  
Looking northwest at the light station; the tower in the photograph  
was installed in 1959 and has since been removed, the fuel storage  
tanks on the left have been removed although the platform remains, and  
the area south of the helicopter pad is covered with trees and shrubs

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

=====

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 03000529

Date Listed: 6/19/2003

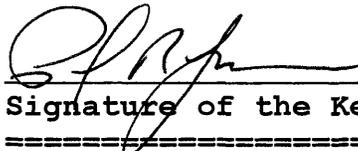
Point Retreat Light Station  
Property Name

Juneau  
County

AK  
State

Light Stations of the United States MPS  
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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

6/19/03  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Ownership:**

The correct ownership category is: *private*.

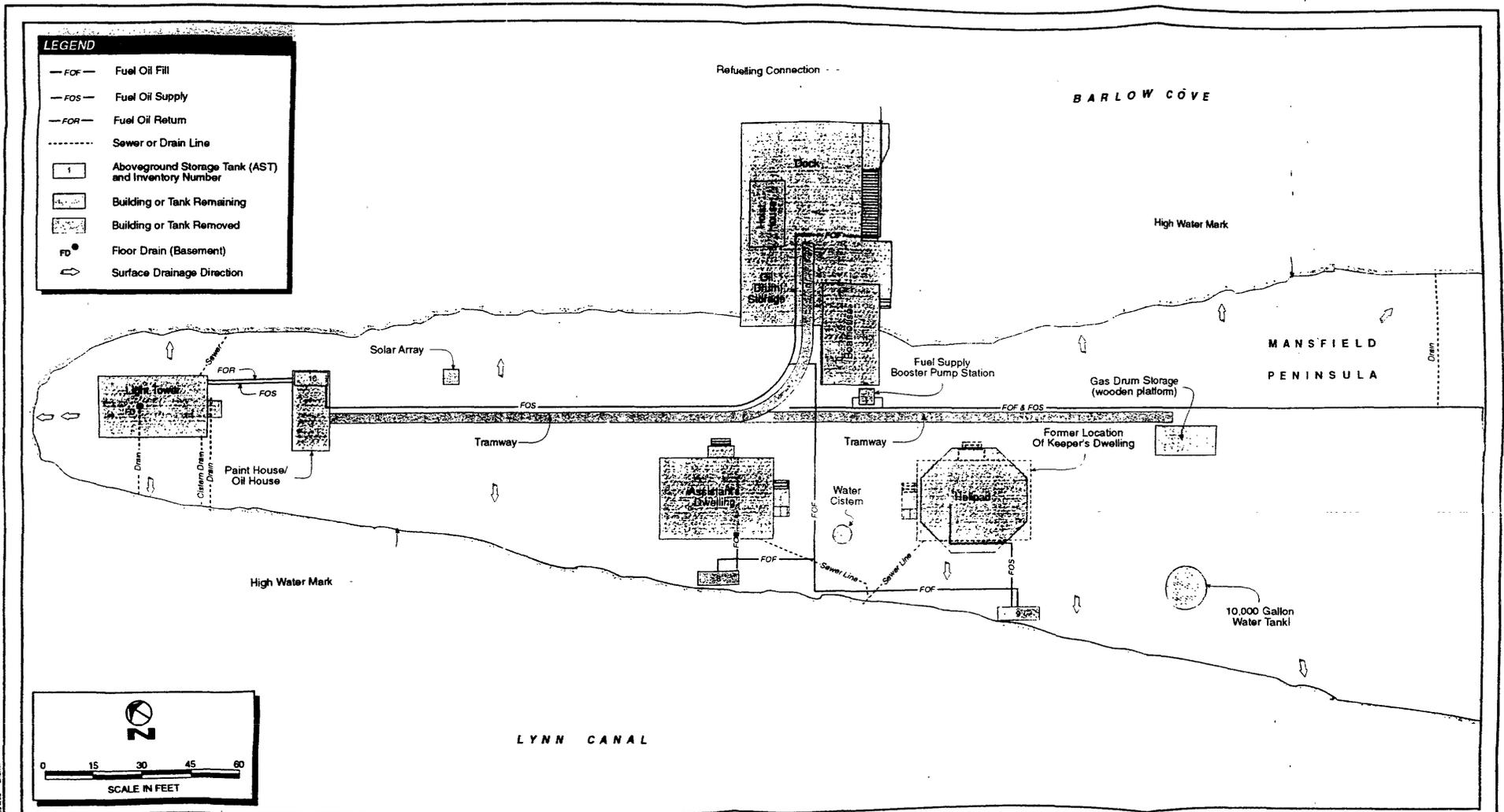
[This confirms the recent sale of the light station by the U. S. Coast Guard to the Alaska Lighthouse Association in 2002.]

These revisions were confirmed with the Alaska SHPO office.

=====

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



Sources: USCG Civil Engineering Unit, Juneau, Drawing Nos. M-732 and S-509 (39.4502)

Figure 3  
 Site Plan  
 United States Coast Guard  
 Point Retreat Light Station

















