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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration FormNATIONAL  
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 Bear Island Light Station

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number Bear Island, Acadia National Park (ACAD) N/A not for publicationcity, town Northeast Harbor, X vicinitystate Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04662

## 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
<u>4</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Light Stations of MaineNumber 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.

James L. Hildebrandt, SHPO  
Signature of certifying official10/30/87  
DateMaine 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.

Edmund C. Beards  
Signature of commenting or other official12/22/87  
DateCheryl Hildebrandt  
State or Federal agency and bureauNational Park Service

## 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 Schlager3/14/88

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)

Vacant

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Light Station

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Wood: Weatherboard

roof Wood-Shake

other Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Sited above a bold rock ledge, Bear Island Light Station is composed of a squat tower with an attached workroom; a detached, frame gambrel roofed keeper's house; a barn; a diminutive stone oil house; and a boathouse. Now part of Acadia National Park, this light station no longer serves as an aid to navigation.

### 1. LIGHT TOWER - CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

The light tower is constructed of brick and has a slightly tapered configuration. A pair of small window openings in the shaft provide interior illumination. Its polygonal lantern, which no longer shelters a beacon, is framed by a relatively wide circular parapet that is supported by iron brackets and bordered by a railing. The attached ancillary brick building has a single window on both side walls and a door in the gable end. This tower and workroom date to 1889 when the entire station was rebuilt.

### 2. KEEPER'S HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

A short distance to the northeast of the tower is the one-and-a-half-story keeper's quarters. The rectangular dwelling is sheathed in clapboards and wood shingles in the gambrel ends. Its three-bay front elevation is symmetrically composed with a central door flanked by window openings (since boarded over). Two small dormers punctuate the roof and a pair of brick flues rise through the ridge. There are four windows on both ends; two on each story. A small shed roofed addition with three windows and a door is attached to the rear. Above it is another dormer. The present dwelling replaces the original one-and-a-half-story stone building and its low one-story frame ell.

### 3. BARN - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Some distance to the northeast of the tower and the house is the rectangular frame barn. It has a pair of windows on its east gable end and a door on the south elevation.

### 4. OIL HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The small stone oil house is located to the southwest of the barn. It was constructed in 1905 and has a typical twentieth century configuration with its vent and door located in one gable end.

### 5. BOATHOUSE - CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Standing to the northwest of the tower is the boathouse and slip. The gable roofed frame building was constructed in 1905. It is sheathed in wood shingles, has a shed addition at the rear, and a replacement paneled door over the slip.

The first complex built at Bear Island in 1839 employed a stone dwelling surmounted by a lantern. In 1852, a brick tower was erected off one end of the dwelling, and in 1889 the entire complex was pulled down and rebuilt. This chronology of construction is an important reminder of the constant historic process of the rebuilding and upgrading of Maine's light stations.

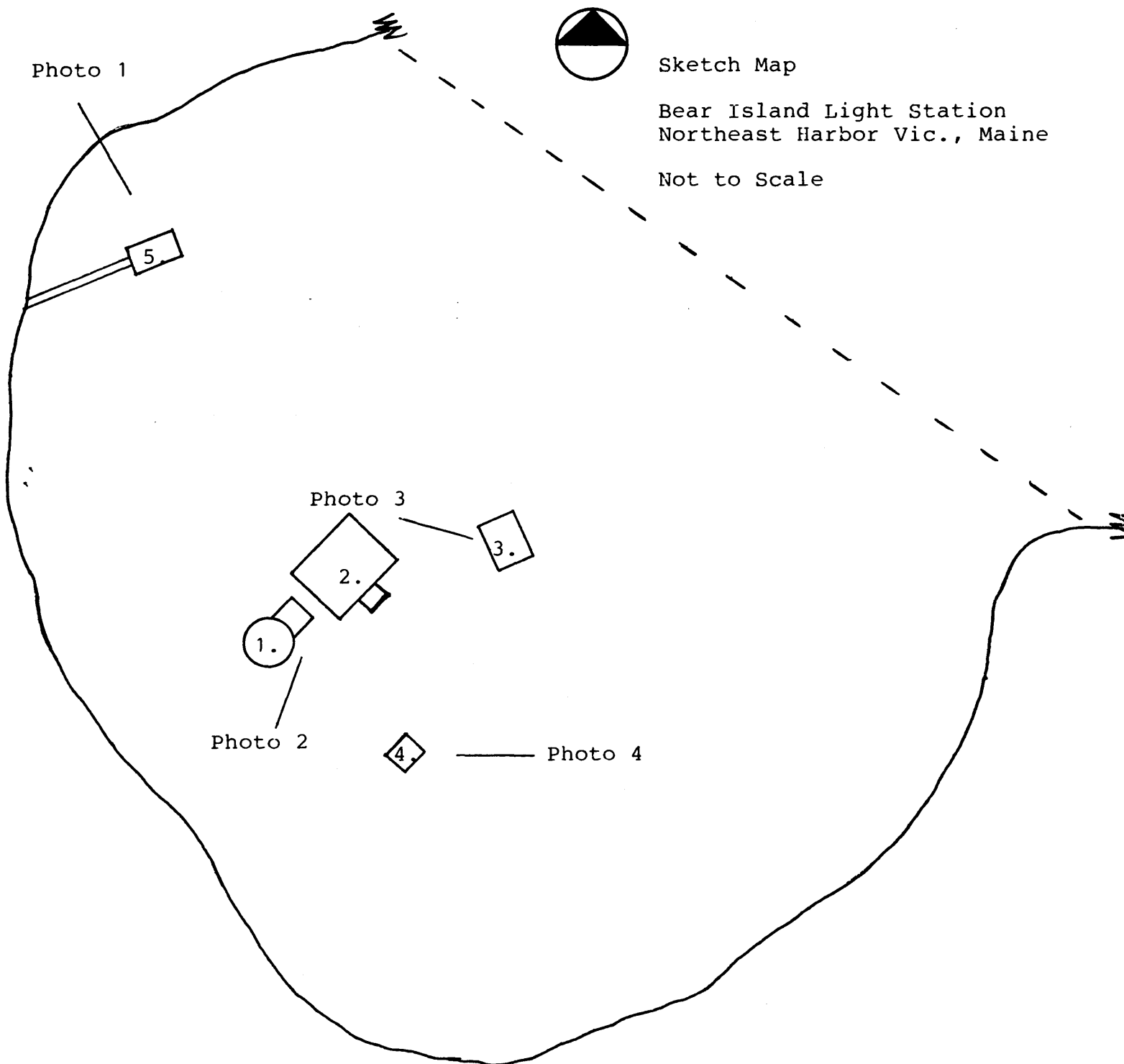
See continuation sheet

1/5/88

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2



## 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)

Architecture  
Engineering  
Transportation

Period of Significance

1889-1937

Significant Dates

1889

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Designer

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

Bear Island Light Station was established in 1839 as a guide to Northeast Harbor on Mount Desert Island. Prominently located at the summit and western end of Bear Island, the station meets registration requirements as set forth in the multiple property submission "Light Stations of Maine". It retains integrity of setting, design, materials, and association evaluated under the historic contexts Maritime Transportation in Maine: ca. 1600-1917 and Federal Lighthouse Management: 1789-1939.

The Bear Island light 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 principally embodies light station design and construction of the 1870s.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Maine State Year Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: G. M. Donham, 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:

National Park Service

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2

### UTM References

A 19 558200 4903380  
Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
Zone Easting Northing

D         

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Cranberry Isles, Tax Map 31, Lot 4.

☐ See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Bear Island Light Station embraces the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with the 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



~~BAKER~~ ISLAND LIGHT STATION  
NORTHEAST HARBOR VIC., MAINE  
DEBORAH WADE

8/1987

MHPC

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST  
PHOTO 1



LIGHT TOWER + KEEPER'S HOUSE,  
136 M  
BAKER ISLAND LIGHT STATION  
NORTHEAST HARBOR VIC., MAINE  
KIRK F. MOHNEY

7/1987

MHPC

VIEW FROM SOUTH

PHOTO 2



BARN, <sup>BEAN</sup> BAKER ISLAND  
LIGHT STATION

NORTHEAST HARBOR VIC., MAINE

KIRK F. MOHNEY

9/1987

MHPC

VIEW FROM WEST

PHOTO 3



<sup>REFN</sup>  
OIL HOUSE, ~~BAKER~~ ISLAND  
LIGHT STATION

NORTHEAST HARBOR VIC., MAINE  
KIRK F. MOHNEY

9/1987

MHPC

VIEW FROM EAST

PHOTO 4