147

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 24 1989
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Peck Ledge Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON
Peck Ledge Lighthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Long Island Sound, southeast of Norwalk Harbor and northeast of Goose Island

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

X VICINITY OF Norwalk

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Connecticut

CODE

COUNTY Fairfield

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	X TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)* U.S. Coast Guard Third District
Governors Island

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
New York

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
New York 10004

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC U.S. Coast Guard Third District, Legal Department
Governors Island

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
New York

STATE
New York 10004

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE see thematic form

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Peck Ledge Lighthouse (Light List #1172), established in 1906, stands at the northeast end of the Norwalk Islands chain near the coast of Connecticut in Long Island Sound. It stands in seven feet of water, marking two hazards in the approach to Norwalk Harbor from the east: Peck Ledge to the southwest, and a shoal extending north from Goose Island. The site includes only a protective ring of riprap around the foundation; no breakwater or dock provides a sheltered approach. The structure consists of a large conical, cast-iron tower which rests on a cast-iron cylindrical foundation. Presently, the foundation is painted black, while the tower is white with a wide brown band in the middle.

The foundation is constructed of curved cast-iron plates, bolted together through flanges cast on the edges of the inner surface. Assembled on land near the proposed location of the lighthouse, the foundation was transported to the prepared site, sunk and leveled, then filled with 250 bags of concrete. Space was left at the top center for a basement containing cisterns for the storage of rainwater.

Covering the foundation and supporting the superstructure is a circular deck, also constructed of bolted-together cast-iron plates. The deck, supported by colossal cast-iron brackets with open triangular centers, extends beyond the outside walls of the foundation, forming a gallery. A roof, presently removed, originally covered the gallery, while metal stanchions, designed for a triple hand rail, remain, anchored through sleeves on the outward projection of the brackets by cast-iron pendants. The tower, measuring 54 feet high above mean high water at the focal plane, is constructed of curved cast-iron plates in the form of a truncated cone, brick-lined for stability and insulation. Contained within are three stories of living space, surmounted by a circular watchroom and circular lantern.

Opening onto the east side of the gallery is a flat topped doorway flanked by stylized cast-iron detail: tapered pilasters resting on simple plinths, topped by a simple segmentally arched and eared lintel with ogee consoles. .Window surrounds have a similar appearance; however, here plinths are replaced with projecting sills below wood window frames with flat tops. Three windows on the two lower stories are asymmetrically arranged to accommodate the interior layout. The third story is lighted by five bullseye windows at the level of the molded joint between the top two cast-iron plates. Each bullseye window

See Continuation Sheet

is flanked by brackets similar to, but smaller in scale than, the colossal ones supporting the watchroom gallery. A triple railing edges the watchroom gallery supported by cylindrical stanchions topped with spherical knobs. Plain round stanchions, supporting a cylindrical handrail, are anchored into the molded edge of the lantern deck, marking the joints of cast-iron deck segments. The lantern and watchroom galleries are connected on the exterior by a metal ladder.

On the interior, a peripheral cast-iron winding stair connects the first, second and third floors. The outer ends of the treads and risers are attached to the brick lining of the superstructure. A curved sheet metal wall on each level supports the inner end of the treads and risers. Storage space is created above and below the steps in the stairwell on each level in the form of a closet and a cupboard. A curved ship's ladder on the third and fourth levels provides access to the watchroom and the lantern above through hatchways fitted with double leafed metal doors. The brick-lined basement is reached by a flight of steep peripheral stairs. A central cast-iron column rises from the cellar level to the watchroom, supporting the cast-iron floors of the four stories above. Narrow board wood flooring covers the wedge-shaped sections of the cast-iron floor on the first and second stories. Much of the interior detailing remains, including molded panels above the basement stairs and kitchen closet, vertical beaded board sheathing, and moldings around window and door openings.

The cylindrical watchroom is sheathed with narrow wood beaded boards on walls and ceiling. An eight light wood sash window in the watchroom has been sealed with plywood. In the cylindrical lantern, diagonal brass channels divide the curved glass panes which fill the top half of the cast-iron walls. Each pane measures 36 inches on the diagonal. Vertical board sheathing remains in the lantern, although the original lighting apparatus has been removed. A Dutch door opens onto the lantern deck. An eight-sectioned, conical cast-iron roof, lined with galvanized sheet metal, tops the lantern and supports the modern 250 mm. battery-powered light, which flashes green every 4 seconds.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	X ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES built 1906 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Peck Ledge Lighthouse, established in 1906, is significant as a typical example of the prefabricated, cast-iron conical lighthouses and foundations developed by the U.S. Lighthouse Board to reduce costs of design, production, and installation for the difficult sites which remained unmarked by the end of the nineteenth century. These sites included wave-washed shoals, reefs, ledges and newly created breakwaters. The lighthouse is also significant as a component of the late nineteenth century improvements to the approaches to Norwalk Harbor. Larger ships of deeper draft were in jeopardy from underwater hazards which had previously gone unmarked by eight station.

The archipeligo of the Norwalk Islands forms both a protection and an obstacle for the harbor at Norwalk, Connecticut. When the desire for increased commercial traffic in the late nineteenth century brought dredging and improvement in aids to navigation to the Norwalk Harbor area, the old lighthouse on Sheffield Island in the Norwalk Group was felt to be inadequate for guiding boat traffic around the east and west ends of the island chain into Norwalk Harbor.

Lobbying efforts were undertaken in 1896 for appropriations for two lighthouses, each to mark an underwater rock ledge at either end of the Norwalk Islands. A pre-fabricated, cast-iron lighthouse on a tubular cast-iron foundation was approved for Greens Ledge at the western location in 1899. It was completed in 1902 for the sum of $60,000.00.

Peck Ledge, at the eastern end of the archipelago, was the other site selected for a new lighthouse. Beginning in 1896, repeated requests for an appropriation were voiced until 1901, when an appropriation for $10,000 was made. A decision to include accommodations for two keepers in the design led to requests for an additional $29,000.00 appropriation. By the beginning of 1905, contracts were let for the construction and fabrication of metal for the lighthouse. That summer the materials were delivered, and the foundation cylinder was assembled, leveled up and sunk. Two hundred fifty bags of concrete were used to fill the foundation. Construction was halted in July 1905 due to delay in the delivery of the metal parts. By March 1906 assembly of the first and second story plates of the shell had begun. Both foundation and superstructure were composed of curved cast-iron sections assembled on site and bolted together with flanges molded around each section.

See Continuation Sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1501 square feet

UTM REFERENCES see location map

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see site plan

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

see thematic form

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Dorothy B. Templeton/Historian

ORGANIZATION
John Milner Associates, Inc.

DATE
October 22, 1985

STREET & NUMBER
309 North Matlack Street

TELEPHONE
(215) 436-9000

CITY OR TOWN
West Chester

STATE
PA 19380

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X NO ___ NONE ___

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Beth L. Savage

DATE 5-29-90

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

~~ATTEST:~~

DATE

For KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 899-214

The U.S. Lighthouse Board had developed this construction method in 1873 for the Hunting Island, S.C., lighthouse, where the problem of erosion necessitated a lighthouse which could be disassembled and moved. By 1876 the Board employed such cast-iron plates to construct tubular lighthouse foundations for northern lighthouses where ice floes threatened the stability of screwpile lighthouses on waterbound sites. The use of similar construction techniques for the superstructure led to the design of the round-plan, truncated cone cast-iron lighthouse which could be adapted to a variety of heights and dimensions to suit individual sites. It was widely used by the U.S. Lighthouse Board between 1880 and ca.1910.

Peck Ledge exemplifies this lighthouse design. Window and door detail place it in the second period of cast-iron cone lighthouse design, as the deeply molded, peaked window hoods and arch-topped sash of the first iron cones (ca.1878-1895) were superceded by the flat-topped windows and simplified classical trim of later structures (ca.1885-1906). Pecks Ledge is a late example of the second phase. By 1909 a new phase had emerged, exemplified by Miah Maull lighthouse in Delaware Bay. Larger in diameter, with molded cornices replacing brackets and multiple windows around each story, and a roofed gallery surrounding the first level, Miah Maull recalls the silhouette of a tiered wedding cake.

Civil Engineering Blueprints, (microfilm), Reel 5, United States Coast Guard Academy Library. Pecks Ledge: 21 drawings.

Description of Pecks Ledge Light Station, 1928, National Archives Record Group 26, Box 2, 10 E2-13-5-2.

Norwalk City Planning Commission, The Norwalk Islands, 1970.

Tulin, Bud, "Norwalk Islands, Our National Heritage," Norwalk News, May 14, 1981.

United States Lighthouse Board, Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board, 1896-1902, 1905-1907, 1909.

Williams, Dick, The Historic Norwalk Islands (Darien, Ct: Pictorial Association, 1978).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

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see site plan

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

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FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

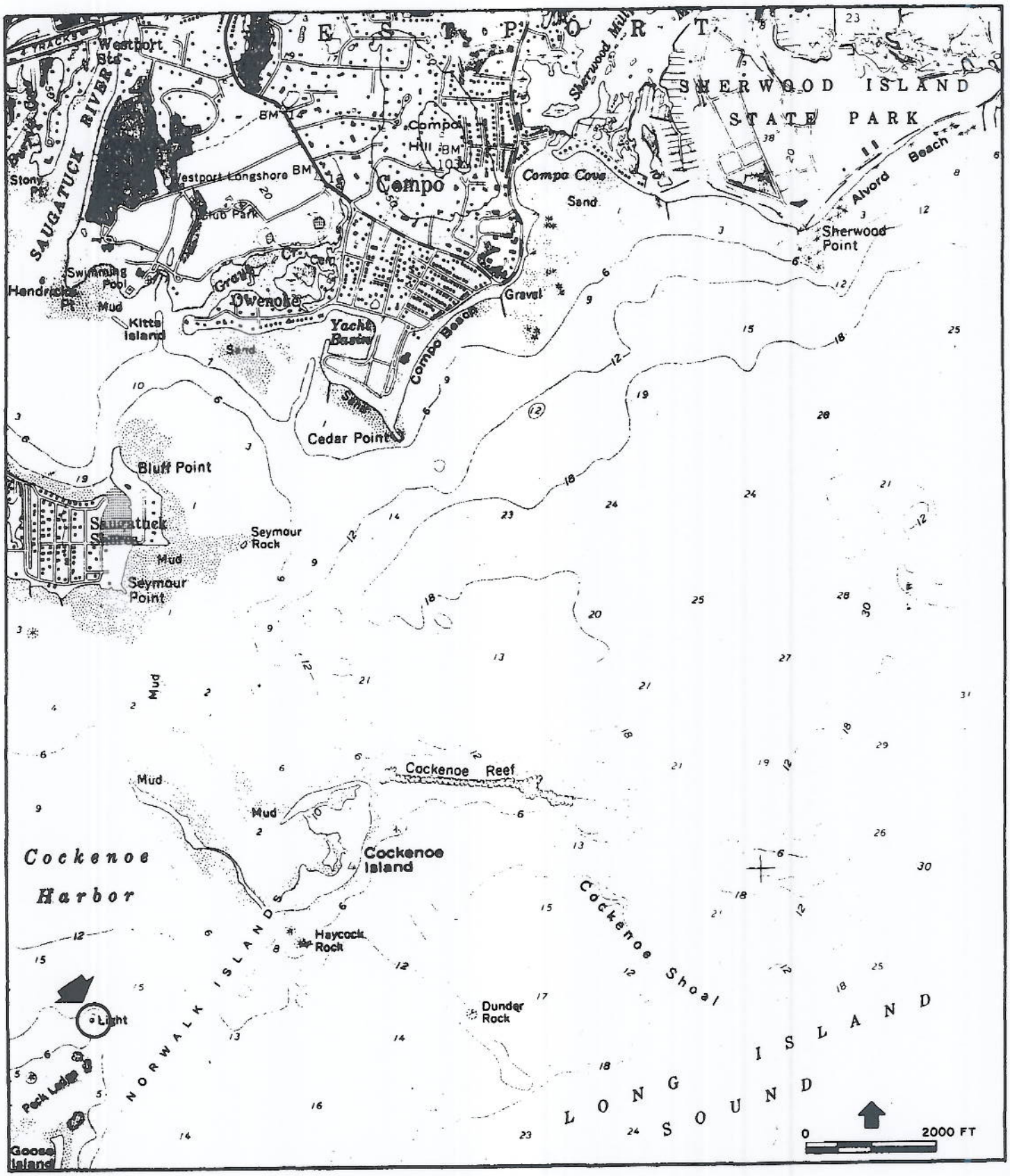
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

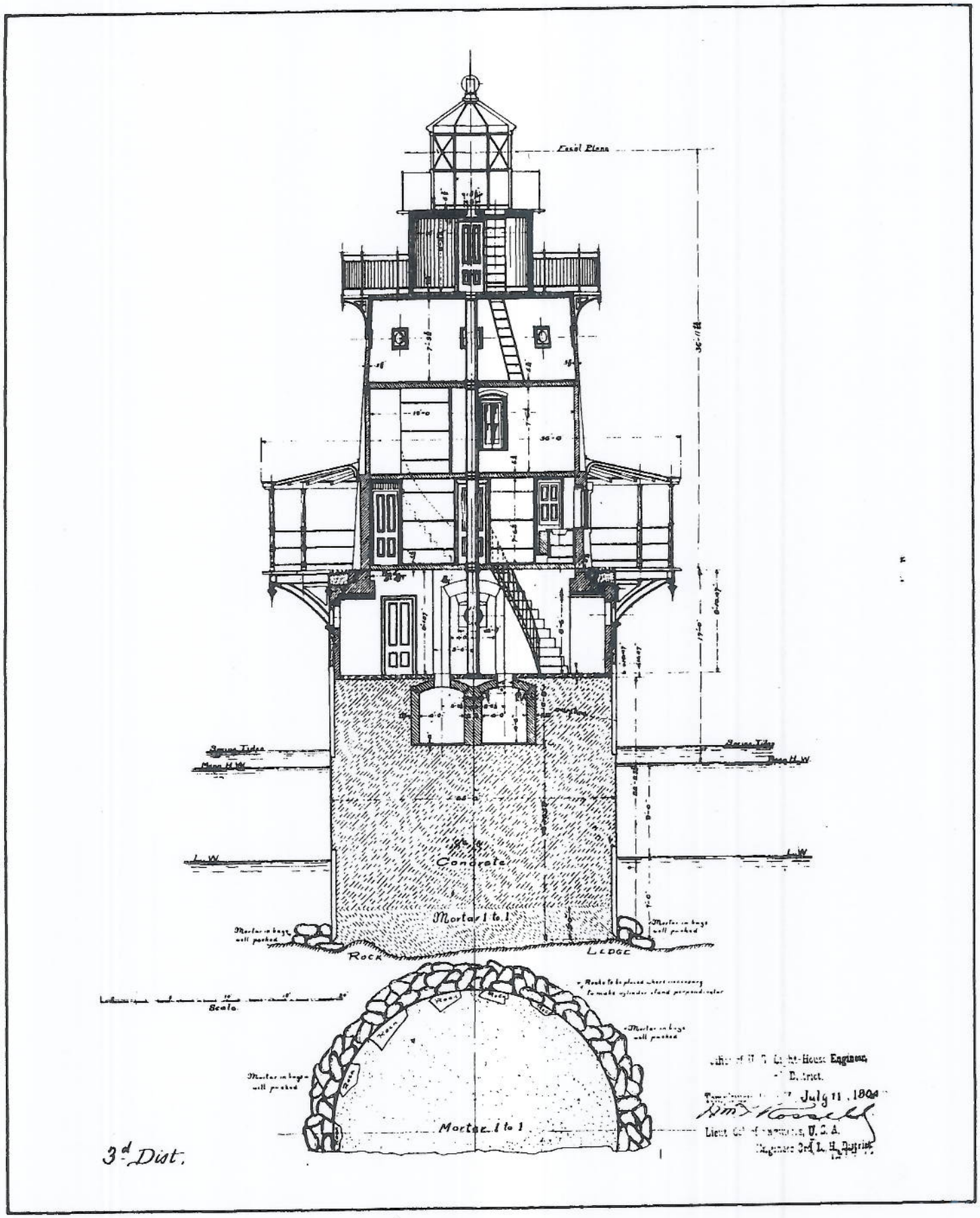


QUADRANGLE LOCATION

PECK LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE
Fairfield County, Connecticut

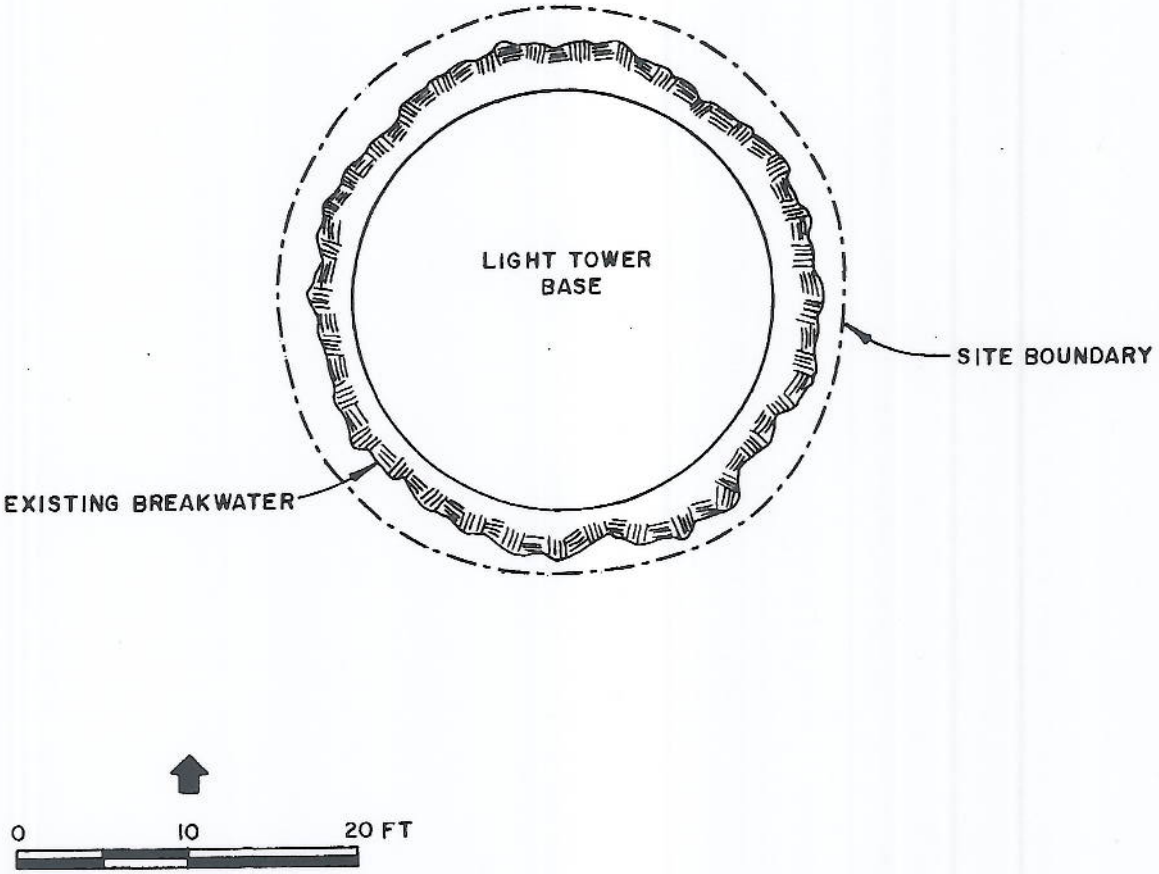
Sherwood Point, Connecticut Quadrangle, 1960
1:24000

UTM References:
18.636900.4548400



PLAN AND SECTION (1904)

PECK LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE
Fairfield County, Connecticut
(U.S. Coast Guard Third District, Civil Engineering Branch)



SITE PLAN

PECK LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE
Fairfield County, Connecticut

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001472 Date Listed: 05/29/90

Peck Ledge Lighthouse
Property Name

Fairfield
County

CT
State

Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut
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.

for Beth G. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

05/29/90
Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Level of Significance

All properties included in the multiple property nomination Operating Lighthouses in Connecticut were considered to meet the criteria within a statewide context.

10. Geographical Data: Acreage

The acreage is <1.

This information has been confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

Description (continued):

In 1989, Pecks Ledge Lighthouse was re-photographed and examined in the field in order to bring the National Register documentation fully up to date. Following are the features or characteristics of the lighthouse that differ from its condition and appearance as described in the National Register Inventory/Nomination form prepared in 1985.

All the windows are sealed with plywood; most if the sash and interior surrounds remain in place with their glass removed.

In May 1989, the modern illumination apparatus mounted on the lantern roof was being replaced by a smaller lighting system mounted inside the cupola.

Pecks Ledge Lighthouse still retains the requisite degree of integrity for National Register eligibility.