

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Carteret
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cape Lookout Light Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On Core Banks, across Barden Inlet from Shackelford Banks

CITY OR TOWN:
Core Banks (Third Congressional District, The Hon. David H. Henderson)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Carteret CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Property Officer
U.S. Coast Guard, Fifth Coast Guard District: Charles Reeves, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
431 Crawford Street Carthage Highway, Sanford,

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth, Virginia 23705 STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Carteret County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Carteret

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cape Lookout Light Station is a complex of structures consisting of the lighthouse, the keeper's dwelling, a generator house, a coal and wood shed, and a small cement block oil house--all situated on the long narrow sandy island called Core Banks. To the west is Barden Inlet and to the south, the Atlantic Ocean.

Towering 169 feet above the sand, Cape Lookout Lighthouse is a conical brick shaft painted with a distinctive diaper pattern made up of alternating black and white lozenges. The brick is laid in one-to-five common bond. At the top occurs a necking with a wide corbel cornice above, which supports a balustraded catwalk. Elevated above that, a second catwalk encircles the cupola which contains the light. The roof is polygonal and crowned by a fish-shaped weathervane atop a spherical finial.

Each of the twelve openings in the shaft (ten windows containing six-over-six sash, and two entrances) have stone lintels and wooden sills. The thickness of the wall of the shaft decreases from about eight feet near the base to about two feet at the top. The original wooden stair was replaced by a spiral iron stair in 1867. Winders radiate from a series of fluted cast iron columns; five semicircular landings occur in between. The unit bears a plaque which reads: "L. SAUTTER & CO./CONSTRUCTEURS/A PARIS." Enclosed by vertical sheathing, the highest landing is entered through a four-panel door. On the landing two wooden cupboards with shelving above conform to the curve of the lighthouse wall. The light is a non-rotating first order classical one optic lens.

To the west is the keeper's dwelling, constructed in 1873. It is built of brick laid in one-to-seven common bond. The structure is five bays wide, with no original openings on the ends. (A door was cut in the south end.) An interior end chimney pierces the gable roof at each end. Originally the keeper's quarters had a central entrance and a one-story shed roof porch on each side; these survive only on the west side. The east entrance was moved to the southernmost bay. Two-over-two sash is consistent throughout. The plan of the first floor has been severely altered. Judging from what remains on the second floor the house had a center hall with two rooms on either side. The stair now rises in one flight toward the west. There are indications on the string that it may have turned. Balusters square in section are the only consistent feature of the stair. Both molded and rounded handrails occur and there are three various newels and posts: one square in section, a heavy turned one and a tapered Federal-style one.

Two large sand mounds spotted with granite blocks lie to the north. They are said to be the ruins of the first Cape Lookout lighthouse which is known to have been standing as late as 1868.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Lighthouse 1857-1859 Quarters 1873

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>navigation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed between 1857 and 1859, the present Cape Lookout Lighthouse became the prototype of all lighthouses to be erected on the Outer Banks. At night its beam has long warned seamen of the dangerous shoals on Core Banks, and by day its bold diagonal checker pattern is a distinctive landmark. Dominated by one of two North Carolina lighthouses built before the Civil War, Cape Lookout Light Station is an important physical and historical feature of the Outer Banks.

About midway between Cape Hatteras and Cape Fear on North Carolina's Outer Banks is Cape Lookout. From this point shoals extend seaward about ten miles, creating a great hazard to navigation. Congress authorized lighthouses for Cape Fear and Hatteras before 1797, but for some reason omitted to do so for Cape Lookout. A nautical publication for 1809 noted that "Cape Lookout is very low and cannot be seen more than three leagues in the clearest weather. . . ."

Land for a lighthouse had been purchased by the federal government in 1805. In that year, it had acquired four acres "on the west side of Cape Hills" from Joseph Fulford and Elijah Pigott. William Tatham inspected the cape two years later with instructions to find a suitable location for a lighthouse. His recommendation that one be erected atop Blind's Hill was not followed and subsequently the hill was worn away by the elements. Somewhat later, at least by 1812, the first lighthouse was put in operation at Cape Lookout. Its keeper, William Fulford, described it as "built with two towers; the inside one is brick--the outside one is a wooden framed building, boarded and shingled and painted in red and white stripes horizontally."

By 1852 drifting sand was threatening the base of the lighthouse, and in 1857 there was a recommendation that an increase in height from 93 feet to 150 feet was needed. It was decided that a new lighthouse should be built. Accordingly, the present lighthouse at Cape Lookout, 169 feet in height, was built and went into operation on November 1, 1859. The distinctive "diagonal checkers" of black and white were added in 1873, the same year the keeper's dwelling was built. During the Civil War the new tower was slightly damaged and the lens ruined by Confederate troops, but the light was put back in operation by 1863. Over the years many improvements have been made to the lighthouse such as repairs to the lens and a new iron stair (1867), but basically the structure remains as originally built.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Charles H. Blume, Jr., survey specialist; architectural description by Janet K. Seapker, survey specialist.
 Carteret County Records, Carteret County Courthouse, Beaufort, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Carteret County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Stick, David. The Outer Banks of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.
 Holland, F. Ross, Jr. A Survey History of Cape Lookout National Seashore, manuscript held by National Park Service, Washington, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	34° 37' 26"	76° 31' 37"	°	'	"	
NE	34° 37' 26"	76° 31' 26"	°	'	"	
SE	34° 37' 02"	76° 31' 26"	°	'	"	
SW	34° 37' 02"	76° 31' 37"	°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 25 acres (15 by Coast Guard, 10 by Charles Reeves)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: 12 September 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 12 September 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

