

established by Congress in 1789. Montauk Point Lighthouse was the most important landfall light for ships bound for New York from Europe during the period when the importation of European manufactured goods into New York constituted a major part of America's foreign trade.

Integrity:

- The Montauk Point Lighthouse retains a high degree of integrity that conveys its association with the period of national significance spanning from 1797 to 1870, despite the loss of some structures from the period of national significance, and the addition of a few others after 1870. The location at the eastern tip of Long Island; the intact setting on the distinct headland of turtle Hill with the Atlantic Ocean to the east; and the intact building complex of the lighthouse tower, oil house, and keeper's dwelling are the elements essential to the property's integrity.
- The extant resources that post-date the period of national significance, an oil house and a fog signal house (both dating from ca. 1900), a World War II-era fire control tower, and a 2004 visitors center, do not undermine the property's overall high degree of historic integrity.
- As part of a program to raise the standards of the nation's primary seacoast lighthouses, modifications were made to the masonry tower in 1860. These improvements, such as increasing the tower's height from 80' to 94', were undertaken during the period of national significance and therefore do not impair the integrity of the lighthouse.
- Modifications made to the tower after the period of national significance were minor, and do not diminish the tower's integrity. In 1900, a brown band was painted midway up the tower to make it more distinguishable as a daymark. As is common with nearly every extant lighthouse, the first-order Fresnel lens was replaced in the early twentieth century. This was later replaced with a more modern lens in the late twentieth century.

Owner of Property: Montauk Historical Society

Acreage of Property: 3.61 acres

Origins of Nomination: The property owner initiated this study and contracted with a historian to prepare the nomination.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- NHL designation is expected to bring additional public recognition and visitation to this historic property, and will enhance the Montauk Historical Society's ongoing efforts to interpret this property to the visiting public and compete for funds to preserve the Montauk Lighthouse.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:



Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 5/11/11):

Robert Schorr, Board of Directors, Montauk Point Lighthouse, New York
The Honorable Fred W. Thiele, Jr., Assemblyman, State of New York
Lorraine Coyle, Sag Harbor, New York
Tim Bishop, U.S. Representative, New York
The Honorable Kenneth P. LaValle, New York State Senator
Elizabeth L. White, President, Montauk Historical Society, New York (owner)
Mark Peckham, Director, Historic Preservation, Field Services Bureau, New York
Eleanor Ehrhardt, Member, Montauk Point Lighthouse Committee, New York
Capt. Ivan T. Luke, USCG (Ret.), Associate Professor of Operations, U.S. Naval War College,
Rhode Island
The Honorable William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer, Suffolk County Legislature, New York

Advisory Board Recommendation: