

GOOD-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Grosse Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 2535 Sheridan Road

CITY, TOWN

Evanston

VICINITY OF

10th

STATE

Illinois

CODE

COUNTY

Cook

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of Evanston (Lessee: North East Park Dist. of Evanston)

STREET & NUMBER § Superintendent, 2535 Sheridan Road

CITY, TOWN

Evanston

VICINITY OF

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cook County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Clark and Dearborn Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Illinois Historic Sites Survey

DATE 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Preservation Services, Ill. Dept. of Conservation, 901 S. Spring

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

# 7 DESCRIPTION

**CONDITION**  
 EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**  
 UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**  
 ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The lighthouse, as completed in 1873, was of brick, steel, and glass construction and approximately 90 feet in height. The tower, with the adjoining duplex residence for the captain and his assistant, cost \$35,000. The reflectors and lighting apparatus cost \$13,000 more. A fog horn was installed on one of the buildings on the cliff with a sound radius of ten miles. In 1914 the brick walls of the tower had eroded so that a concrete coating of three and one-half inches was added.

The first illumination was provided by a three-wick kerosene lamp, which, on clear nights, could be seen for 17 miles. The entire reflector was rotated slowly by a gear mechanism powered by a weight which descended to the ground floor of the lighthouse. This mechanism can still be seen. When the mechanism revolved the reflector it was possible to obscure the light for a few seconds to make a signal which identified the light as the Grosse Point Light. There was no other way to make a kerosene light flash on and off.

In addition to the lighthouse and the residence, there are also two small brick buildings which were built to accommodate the steam fog sirens in 1880. These fog signals were removed in 1922, but the houses remain.

The iron fence along Sheridan Road was erected in 1900.

In 1935 the light was converted to electricity and made automatic, thus making the presence of a lighthouse keeper no longer required. Restoration of the buildings and area began in 1973.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1873 BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grosse Point Lighthouse was built by the United States Government in 1873 after several shipwrecks had demonstrated its need. The Point had been a landmark ever since French fur traders had named the promontory upon which the buildings sit.

By 1870, over 12,000 ships entered and left the port of Chicago annually. Lake shipping used to follow the shoreline and the shoals off the Point were dangerous.

Several disasters resulted in the citizens of Evanston petitioning the government for a light during the Civil War, but the war delayed the project. (The light reflector is a Civil War veteran: during the war the reflector was being sent from Paris to Louisiana but never reached its destination. It was buried on a beach in Florida, recovered after the war, and brought to Evanston. Scratches made by the sand are still visible).

On June 30, 1873 the lighthouse was finished and commenced operation in March, 1874 and shut down in 1941 as an air raid precaution. In 1935 all the buildings and grounds were turned over to the city of Evanston by the federal government. In 1941 the city received the tower and light as well. The light and grounds are now operated by the North East Park District of Evanston. The light is now maintained to aid small craft and as an historical landmark.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

North East Park District of Evanston, "Grosse Point Light," (n.d.)  
Evanston Historical Society, "Historical Summary of Grosse Point Lighthouse",  
in Historical Society files.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.5

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 4442010 | 461561860 |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Area includes all the land of the Park District from Sheridan Road  
on the west to the lakeshore on the east. The north and south boundaries  
are delineated by the wrought iron fence.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Theodore Hild

ORGANIZATION

National Register Assistant  
Illinois Office of Preservation Services

DATE

19 Feb 1976

STREET & NUMBER

839 1/2 North Eleventh Street

TELEPHONE

(815) 758-4993

CITY OR TOWN

De Kalb

STATE

Illinois

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Grosse Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Evanston

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Cook

COUNTY

Illinois

STATE

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT North East Park District of Evanston

DATE OF PHOTO ca. 1900

NEGATIVE FILED AT 2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Ill

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Looking east towards the lake from Sheridan Road.

INT: 2983-75

*Research on Survey conducted by [unclear]*

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

(WR)

200705

114; 23-4-5

1. Name of Site: Grossepoint Lighthouse (the way it is spelled in the Government Light list)

Common  
Historic x

2. Location:

<u>Street and Number</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
Sheridan Rd. at Central St.	Evanston	
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>1/4 Section</u>
Evanston	60201	
<u>County</u>	Cook	

3. Classification:

Category (check one)	Integrity (check one)
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	

4. Ownership:

<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	lighthouse keeper's hou
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	occupied by sup't of
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Northeast Park Dist
		Half of lighthouse keeper's house--A nature Museum

Access to Public

Yes  Restricted  Unrestricted  No  
 Unrestricted as far as exterior is concerned. Interior open certain hours between April and Nov. 1.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	still in use as a lighthouse

5. Ownership of Property:

<u>Owner's Name</u>	City of Evanston	<u>Phone Number</u>	Gr-5-3100
<u>Street and Number</u>	Municipal Building	Oak Ave.	
<u>City or Town</u>	Evanston		
<u>State</u>	Illinois	<u>County</u>	Cook
		<u>Zip Code</u>	60201 SEE OVER

6. Description:

Leased at present however to Northeast Park District President, Edwin Bates 6 Milbourn Park, Evanston Un-4-0036 FOR EXPLANATION OF OWNERSHIP.

Condition:

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  
 Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?  Yes  No

Lighthouse keeper's office restored in 1973 as part of celebration of the Lighthouse's centennial. There is need for much more work, however.

ENGINEERING ; TRANSPORTATION

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle x (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late x (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: Built 1873 by U.S. Government

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |  |

Significant as the oldest

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates) lighthouse structure still standing on Illinois  
 Use additional sheets if necessary.

Oldest lighthouse <sup>structure</sup> still standing in Illinois. sec over

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: Ms. Lawrence B. Perkins Date June 11, 1974

Organization: Evanston Historical Society Phone: Gr-5-3410

Street and number: 225 Greenwood St.

City or Town: Evanston County: Cook Zip Code: 60201

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Considerable material, including material from the U.S. Government archives, gathered in 1873 by Historical Society Curator, at Evanston Historical Society U.S. Government Light List. Numerous photos available from time of construction to present.

In 194 turned over to City of Evanston by U.S. Government, although there is a reservation in the lease which gives the Federal Government the right to take it back, if needed for government purposes. The City of Evanston leases the site to the Northeast Park District of Evanston, which maintains the Lighthouse. Supt; of park District lives in half of the Lighthouse keeper's quarters. Rest of lighthouse keeper's quarters used by Lighthouse Nature Center as museum and classroom, part of the Evanston Environmental Association. One of Evanston's public beaches fronts on the lighthouse. Lighthouse Landing Park is the name of the site. Wild Flower Garden, maintained by the Garden Club of Evanston is adjacent to the lighthouse.

Open weekends during summer months, afternoons. Guides.

For hours call Historical Society or Russel Watts, 2535 Sheridan Rd., 328,6961.

Nature Center Museum. Donn P. Werling, director. Un-9-8030

and overnight state  
Site is also one of the legenday sites of landing of Marquette on his trip in late Nov-December down the west side of Lake Michigan to visit the Illinois Indians. 1674 No historical proof.





