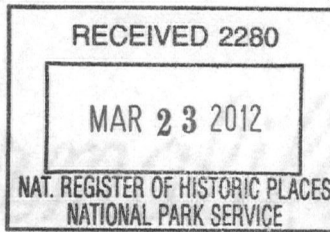


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



254

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights  
other names/site number Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Range Lights

### 2. Location

street & number West pier at the entry to Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge  not for publication  
city or town Burt Township  vicinity  
state Michigan code MI county Alger code 003 zip code 49839

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

[Signature], FEDERAL PRESERVATION OFFICER, 22 DEC '11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

United States Coast Guard  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
[Signature] 3/1/12  
Signature of commenting official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

[Signature] other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5/2/2012

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights

Alger County, MI  
County and State

Name of Property

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
		Site
2	1	structure
		Object
2	1	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Light Stations of the United States

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation

Water-related

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation

Water-related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: steel skeletal tower lighthouse

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Metal

walls: Metal

roof: Metal

other:

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights  
Name of Property

Alger County, MI  
County and State

---

## Narrative Description

---

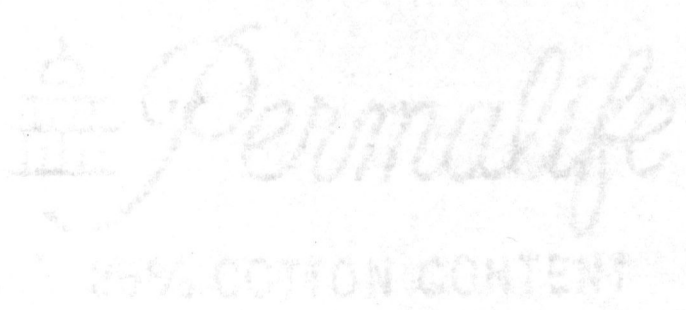
### Summary Paragraph

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights form a range aligning with the entry to the Harbor of Refuge at Grand Marais in Burt Township, Alger County, Michigan. They sit atop the southern and northern ends of the harbor's west pier, respectively, separated by a distance of 2,610 feet. Both of these lighthouses are skeletal tower structures supporting a beacon. They are owned by the U.S. Coast Guard and operated as automated Federal aids to navigation. This property consists of two contributing resources and one non-contributing resource. The Inner Light was built in 1898 and is identified as number 14560 on the regional Light List. It is 55 feet tall and includes a rectangular pyramidal steel skeletal tower, enclosed service room, and a lantern. It is painted white with a red roof. The Inner Light is equipped with a fifth order Fresnel lens having a focal plane 54 feet above the water that signals a fixed white light visible for 16 miles in clear weather. The Outer Light was constructed in 1927 and is 34 feet tall. It is identified as number 14550 on the Great Lakes regional light list. The Outer Light includes a rectangular pyramidal steel skeletal tower and enclosed service room with a flat roof. It is painted white. The Outer Light is equipped with an automated modern beacon mounted on an open-air table atop the service room's roof. This beacon has a focal plane 40 feet above the water and signals a flashing white light visible for 9 miles in clear weather. The property's non-contributing resource is the Harbor of Refuge west pier upon which the lights stand. It is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The west pier was originally constructed during the 1880s and has been improved and extended through time. The west pier has been evaluated as not eligible for listing in the National Register by both the USACE and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer. The pier's existing configuration was built in 1960 to 1961 and is constructed of concrete and steel sheet piles. All three of this property's resources are accessible by land. The Inner and Outer Lights are not open for public visitation.

---

## Narrative Description

(see continuation sheets)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Section number 7, continued Page 1

Narrative Description

Contributing Resource: Inner Light

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner Light is a 55-foot tall, steel pyramidal skeletal tower lighthouse built in 1898. It is owned by U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and identified as number 14560 in the Great Lakes Light List. This lighthouse operates in tandem with the Harbor of Refuge Outer Light to form a range marking the entry to Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge. The Inner Light sits atop the south end of the harbor's west pier. It includes a skeletal tower, enclosed service room, and a lantern. The Inner Light is painted white with a red roof. It is accessible on foot and is not open for public visitation.

The Inner Light's foundation is the west pier's concrete deck, which was constructed in 1960 to 1961. The lighthouse's base is square and made with 10-inch tall by 20-foot long steel I-beams bolted to the pier's concrete deck. This base supports the skeletal tower's four legs, which are 18 feet from one another and form the corners of a square in plan. The skeletal tower rises from the base in three stages. Each stage includes four upright steel beams that incline inward slightly in pyramidal fashion, four horizontal beams arranged in a square connecting with the upright beams, and diagonal crosstie bracing forming an X on all four sides. The tower's first stage is 12 feet tall and 18 feet long on each side at its base. The second stage is 11 feet, 8 inches tall and 15 feet, 6 inches long on each side at its base. The skeletal tower's third stage is 9 feet tall and 13 feet, 6 inches long on each side at its base. The third stage supports the light tower's enclosed service room. A 23-step double-rung steel ladder extends from the tower's base to a small landing at the third stage. A second double-rung steel ladder oriented 90 degrees from the lower ladder extends upward from the landing to a trapdoor in the service room's floor, approximately 33 feet above the west pier's concrete deck.

The service room is 9.5 feet tall, rectangular in plan, and pyramidal in elevation. Each side is 12 feet long on each side at the base and 10.5 feet long at the top. The sides are clad with sheets of corrugated metal. The room's interior floor measures 11 feet, 4 inches long on each side. The trapdoor providing access from below is near the western wall. A simple steel pipe railing borders the trapdoor opening's south and east sides. When open, the trapdoor leans against the western wall. The service room's four walls are paneled with horizontal tongue-in-groove pine boards. The room's corners have quarter-round molding running floor to ceiling and around the floors and ceiling. The ceiling is 7.5 feet above the floor and is also finished with tongue-and-groove pine paneling.

The service room is lighted with two 24.5-inch wide by 45-inch tall rectangular windows, one on the north side and one on the east side. The north wall's window is fitted with 4-over-4 double-hung sash and a 2-over-2 storm window. A 2-foot wide wooden work shelf 30 inches above the floor extends along the north wall below the window. Its eastern end supports a built-in 2-foot deep by 3-foot wide wooden storage cabinet. A smaller built-in wooden cabinet sits on the floor next to the eastern wall in the room's southeastern corner. It measures 7.5 inches deep by 40 inches long by 36 inches tall. A small electrical panel box hangs on the room's north wall. A double-rung iron ladder rises from the center of the service room to a trapezoidal trapdoor opening in the ceiling. The opening is 11 inches tall with the lower half paneled with bead board. A metal trapdoor with its outer edge curved covers the opening.

The service room supports a rectangular platform that is approximately 11 feet long on each side. It is made with steel plates. The platform's top surface has an embossed miniature diamond pattern to improve traction. The light tower's octagonal lantern sits centered atop this platform. It is surrounded by an outdoor gallery bounded by a railing 36 inches tall made with steel pipe.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property
Alger County, Michigan
County and State
Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Section number 7, continued Page 2

The lantern room's interior diameter is 6.5 feet. The floor, walls, and ceiling are painted white. The lantern room's surrounding parapet wall is approximately 3 feet tall and made with eight cast iron panels. The parapet's north, east, south, and west panels are each pierced with a circular vent. The southeast panel is pierced with a two-leaf iron door measuring 22.5 inches wide by 26.5 inches tall that is painted black on the interior and white on the exterior. It provides access to the open-air lantern gallery. The parapet wall supports vertical mullions that hold the lantern's glazing. There are six rectangular glass panes that measure 33 inches wide by 3 feet tall. The two window openings on the lantern's west and southwest sides are covered with metal plates in place of glazing. A pedestal in the center of the lantern room floor supports the lighthouse's optic, a classical fifth order Fresnel lens with a focal plane 54 feet above water level. It is lighted with an electric lamp using commercial power. This beacon signals a fixed white light that is visible for 16 miles in clear weather. The lantern's roof springs from a soffit above the glazing. It is made with eight triangular iron panels inclined upward to meet at an apex which is topped with a vent ball and lightning rod. A vent opening in the lantern room ceiling exhausts through the vent ball. The lantern's roof and vent ball are painted red.

#### Contributing Resource: Outer Light

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Outer Light is a 34-foot tall pyramidal steel structure built in 1927. It sits atop the northern end of the harbor's west pier in Lake Superior. The Outer Light is located 2,610 feet north of the Inner Light. It operates in tandem with the Inner Light to form a range marking the entry to Grand Marais harbor. This lighthouse includes a skeletal tower, service room, and beacon. It is painted white. The Outer Light is owned by the USCG and is identified as number 14550 in the USCG Great Lakes regional light list. It is accessible on foot along the Harbor of Refuge west pier and is not open to public visitation.

The Outer Light's foundation is the concrete-filled, steel sheet pile circular crib at the west pier's northern, offshore end. The lighthouse's base is a rectangle of four horizontal 6-inch wide steel I-beams that measures 14 feet, 4 inches on each side. The beams are fastened together and to the west pier's concrete deck with bolts. The skeletal tower includes one stage that is 29 feet, 6 inches tall. It is fastened with rivets. The tower's four legs are made of 8-inch wide steel beams that are oriented upright and incline inward slightly in pyramidal fashion. The base of each leg is 13 feet from its neighboring legs and is bolted to a corner of the rectangular base. Each skeletal tower leg is tied to its neighbor on left and right by a pair of crossed 4-inch wide steel beams that form an X on each side of the tower. Steel plates with riveted fastenings secure the cross beams together at the center, and to the top and bottom of each tower leg. A steel ladder on the tower's south elevation provides access to the lighthouse's second stage service room. This ladder leads to a trapdoor opening at the eastern end of the open-air gallery on the service room's south side.

The service room sits atop the skeletal tower and is 24 feet, 9 inches above the west pier's deck. It is rectangular, pyramidal, and made of steel plates fastened with rivets. The service room's floor is made with steel plates supported by horizontal steel beams underneath. A rectangular open-air gallery 2 feet, 6 inches wide adjoins the service room's southern elevation. It is made of steel plates and extends across the service room's 9-foot, 8-inch width. It is bounded on three sides by a railing made with 1.25-inch diameter steel pipe. An arched doorway 31 inches wide by 90 inches tall, made with riveted steel plates, is near the gallery's western end. It provides access to the service room's interior. An 8-rung ladder made with steel pipe rises from the gallery's middle to the light tower's flat roof. The service room's exterior includes a cornice on each side at the top. This cornice curves outward approximately one foot and supports the roof.

The service room's interior measures 9 feet, 5 inches long on each side at the base. The walls and ceiling are painted white. The walls, ceiling, and floor are made of steel plates fastened with rivets. There are two 18-inch wide by 26-inch tall rectangular window openings, one each on the east and west elevations. The western window opening is covered with a metal plate. The eastern window opening is fitted with 2-over-2 metal framed sash. The eastern end of the service room's north wall is pierced with a rectangular opening approximately 14 inches wide by 20 inches tall that is covered with a metal plate. A modern metal pedestal affixed to the floor stands next to this covered opening.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property
Alger County, Michigan
County and State
Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Section number 7, continued Page 3

A second metal pedestal that is not affixed to the floor stands nearby. A modern metal cabinet attached to the middle of the north wall is marked with a "NOAA" (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) decal. A wooden board attached to the west wall supports electrical controls.

The Outer Light's roof is an open-air flat deck atop the service room. It measures 12 feet, 6 inches long on each side. The deck is made with steel plates embossed with a miniature diamond pattern to improve traction. It is surrounded by a steel pipe railing 36 inches tall that is painted white. A rectangular, four-legged steel table 42 inches tall with rivet fastenings is bolted to the steel deck's center. The table supports the lighthouse's optic, a modern automated SABIK FA-350 beacon with a focal plane 40 feet above water level. It is lighted with commercial power. This beacon signals a white light that flashes every 2.5 seconds and is visible for 9 miles in clear weather. Automated NOAA weather equipment and a modern automated fog signal are also mounted on the rooftop deck. The fog signal is attached to the deck's northern side and sounds a 2-second blast every 15 seconds. It operates from May to October.

Non-Contributing Resource: Harbor of Refuge West Pier

The Harbor of Refuge west pier is oriented north-south and is approximately 2,650 feet long. It was constructed in 1960 to 1961. This pier extends along the eastern end of a peninsula named "Coast Guard Point" and stabilizes the western side of the navigation channel leading to Grand Marais harbor. The harbor's east pier stabilizes the channel's eastern side. The Harbor of Refuge east and west piers are Federal navigation structures owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The west pier includes a northern and a southern section. The northern section extends northward into Lake Superior from the shore of Coast Guard Point and is approximately 1,450 feet long. It includes a segment made with sheet pile and riprap that connects with a series of circular sheet pile cofferdams filled with concrete. The pier's deck is approximately 6 feet above the water. The west pier's southern section is approximately 1,300 feet long. It extends from the pier's northern section to the south shore of Coast Guard Point in Grand Marais harbor. The southern section is built of reinforced concrete. The Harbor of Refuge west pier is accessible on foot and is open to public visitation.

Changes in Physical Appearance and Integrity Issues

Changes to the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights have been largely limited to their equipment, day mark coloration, and location. The basic structural appearance of these lighthouses remains unchanged from when they were built. The Harbor of Refuge west pier was originally constructed during the late nineteenth century. It was rebuilt in 1960 to 1961. That construction activity replaced the earlier pier structure and degraded its historic integrity.

When originally established in 1898, the Inner Light's day mark coloration was a white tower with a black lantern. This was changed to the existing white color with a red roof circa 1940. The characteristic of the Inner Light's beacon has also changed through time. It was originally a fixed white light. This was changed to a fixed red light circa 1905 and remained that way for five decades. The beacon was changed back to fixed white in 1957. The lighthouse's beacon was originally lighted with an oil lamp for which fuel was stored in the service room. The beacon's illumination was upgraded to an electric lamp with commercial power circa the 1930s. The lighthouse optic was automated by the early 1980s when USCG Station Grand Marais shut down. Changes made to the Inner Light's service room include replacing operational supplies and equipment with upgraded materials through time. This material was not needed after the lighthouse was automated and was removed by the time that USCG Station Grand Marais was deactivated.

*Permalink*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Section number 7, continued Page 4

The Harbor of Refuge Outer Light was originally established at the northern, offshore end of the harbor's west pier in 1895. It included a wooden skeletal tower supporting a service room painted white and a lantern painted black. The existing lighthouse was constructed at the west pier's northern end in 1927. When the west pier was built and extended in 1960 to 1961, the Outer Light was relocated to the new head of the extended pier. The horizontal rectangular steel beam base upon which the lighthouse's skeletal tower rests appears to have been fabricated in conjunction with the Outer Light's 1961 relocation.

The Outer Light's original beacon in 1927 was a 375-millimeter Fresnel drum lens lighted with an electric lamp using commercial power. It signaled a red light that flashed every two seconds. The Outer Light was also equipped with a diaphragm air horn fog signal. The lighthouse's 375-mm lens was replaced with a modern automated SABIK FA-350 two-tiered LED beacon circa 2009. A battery power source recharged using a solar array was also installed at that time. The original fog signal was also upgraded when better technology became available. The existing fog signal is an automated horn powered by electricity. Automated NOAA weather equipment was also installed on the structure's rooftop deck subsequent to the property's period of historical significance. These changes have not modified the lighthouse's basis structure and are reversible.

The Harbor of Refuge west pier was originally constructed by the USACE circa 1895. It was approximately 1,250 feet long and consisted of timber cribs filled with rock. The harbor's east pier was originally built then, as well. The west pier was extended in 1904 to approximately 1,770 feet long as part of a navigation structure project that included extending the east pier and constructing a timber pile breakwall that sheltered the eastern half of Grand Marais harbor.

The USACE rebuilt the Harbor of Refuge west pier and east pier using reinforced concrete and steel sheet piling in 1960 to 1961. This project extended the west pier's overall length an additional 840 feet farther from shore and increased its overall length to approximately 2,650 feet. The Harbor of Refuge west pier today dates to that construction episode. The existing pier does not appear to retain integrity from its original late nineteenth century construction or pre-1960 improvements.

Today, the significant character-defining features of the Harbor of Refuge Inner Light and Outer Light are largely unaltered. The structure and appearance of these two lighthouses remain intact from their period of historical significance. Features that are missing, changed or degraded have had limited impacts on the property's integrity and are largely reversible.

In 1981, USCG Station Grand Marais was decommissioned and its facilities closed down except for the Inner and Outer Lights which were automated and continued operating. The Coast Guard Station facilities included the Grand Marais Lighthouse Keeper's Dwelling which was built in 1908, and the main USCG Station Building which was constructed in 1938. Ownership of these buildings was transferred to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) in 1984. The 1908 Lighthouse Keeper's Dwelling is located approximately 50 feet west of the Harbor of Refuge west pier and approximately 300 feet north of the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner Light. It is currently leased by the NPS to the Grand Marais Historic Society which operates it as the *Lightkeepers House Museum*. The 1938 USCG Station Building is located approximately 0.1 mile west of the west Pier and 650 feet northwest of the Inner Light. It is used today as a National Park Service ranger station.

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights

Alger County, MI

Name of Property

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The property's period of significance starts with the establishment of Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner Light in 1898 and continues to 1961, the most recent year of the Harbor of Refuge range lights' operation 50 years before the present.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Maritime History

Transportation

Engineering

**Period of Significance**

1898 to 1961

**Significant Dates**

1898, 1927

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Office of the Superintendent of Lighthouses,

11<sup>th</sup> Lighthouse District, Detroit, MI

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property
Alger County, Michigan
County and State
Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights are prominent landmarks in Alger County, Michigan, and are historically significant on the local level. They embody the locality's maritime heritage and continue to serve as an important guide for waterborne traffic. These two lights form a range marking the entry to the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge. The Inner Light was built in 1898. The Outer Light was constructed in 1927 and replaced an earlier wooden tower lighthouse built in 1895. The Inner and Outer Lights were positioned in their current locations in 1961 when the Harbor of Refuge west pier was rebuilt in its existing configuration. The property's period of historical significance begins in 1898 and ends in 1961, the most recent year of its operation 50 years before the present. This property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is significant in terms of Criterion A for its association with the Federal government's long-term program to establish an integrated system of navigational aids to promote safe maritime transport. The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights exemplify how this program was manifested in the Alger County locality. This property is also significant under Criterion C because it represents and embodies lighthouse architecture and engineering from the late nineteenth century to the third decade of the twentieth century. It exemplifies design, construction methods, and materials used during that period for building range lights atop piers at the entry to Great Lakes harbors. The existing integrity of these two structures attests to the lasting value of their design, high quality of materials, and construction. The character and appearance of the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights are largely unchanged from the property's period of historical significance. Changes that have been made since then include replacing the Outer Lights' original beacon and fog signal with modern technology, and removing equipment and furnishings associated with the lighthouses' operation by resident keepers. These changes are largely reversible. The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights possess their original location, setting, and design, and embody qualities of integrity in materials, workmanship, feeling and association. These range lights have been an operating Federal aid to navigation for more than 100 years and continue to guide vessels navigating Michigan's Lake Superior waters. They are a prominent feature of Alger County's cultural heritage and exemplify the locality's maritime history. The Harbor of Refuge range lights also evoke feelings recalling the dedication to duty that has characterized United States lighthouse keepers throughout the country's history.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

(see continuation sheets)

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

(see continuation sheets)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Section number 8, continued Page 1

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

##### Significance under Criterion A

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its association with local events in Alger County related to Federal efforts to provide for an integrated system of navigational aids throughout the United States. These lighthouses exemplify how this government program was manifested in Michigan state waters. The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge range lights have been important to Great Lakes maritime trade since they were established as aids to navigation in the 1890s. The Inner Light has guided mariners and enhanced navigational safety in eastern Lake Superior for more than 110 years. The Outer Light, which replaced an earlier wooden tower lighthouse, has fulfilled its role for more than 80 years. These lighthouses have assisted in the safe passage for thousands of ships and remain operating Federal aids to navigation today. They are historically significant because of their contribution to the broad historical patterns of maritime transportation and commerce in the Grand Marais vicinity, and are widely recognized in Alger County as historical landmarks.

##### Significance under Criterion C

This property also qualifies for NRHP listing under Criterion C. The Inner Light and Outer Light embody and exemplify distinctive aspects of architectural design and engineering characteristic of skeletal tower lighthouses built on crib and pier foundations in the Great Lakes from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. These structures retain integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. Their state of preservation attests to the durable and weather-resistant character of the materials used and construction methods, as well as the lasting success of their design and appropriateness to this natural setting. The appearance and character of the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights remain essentially the same as during the property's period of historical significance. Changes made to these lighthouses have been limited and are largely related to equipment upgrading resulting from advancements in technology. These changes are largely reversible and do not significantly detract from the property's historical character.

##### Regional and Local Historical Context

This NRHP registration form is submitted as an individual listing under the overarching *Light Stations of the United States* multiple property documentation form (MPDF). The specific historic contexts that apply are *Establishment of the U.S. Lighthouse Board (1852-1910)*, *Bureau of Lighthouses and the U.S. Lighthouse Service (1910-1939)*, and *Lighthouses under the U.S. Coast Guard (1939-present)*. The property type sections of the MPDF relating to this registration are *U.S. Lighthouse Construction Type – Skeletal Tower*, and *Foundation Type – Crib Foundation*. Information and historic contexts available in the *Light Stations of the United States* MPDF are not repeated here. This submission emphasizes facts and details supporting the historical significance of the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights as an individual property.

This property's Great Lakes regional setting includes Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, along with their connecting waters and the St. Lawrence River. This is one of the largest concentrations of fresh water on earth. It encompasses a waterway system having a total shore length of approximately 11,000 statute miles and a total water surface area of about 95,000 square miles. Grand Marais is situated on the Lake Superior shore of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). This setting is characterized by features important to nineteenth century commercial development and maritime trade. They include the location of Grand Marais approximately midway along a 90-mile section of the Lake Superior shoreline where it is the only natural harbor, as well as commercially valuable timber and fish natural resources in the vicinity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Section number 8, continued Page 2

The historical context of Grand Marais and vicinity was characterized by the absence of United States settlement and commercial development until after the middle nineteenth century. Before then, local settlement consisted of intermittent occupation by bands of Native American Indians whose contact and trading with people of European descent was limited. The earliest European visitors along Lake Superior's southern shore were seventeenth century French colonial voyagers and missionaries. The natural harbor at this location provided a haven for trading canoes along an otherwise inhospitable stretch of lakeshore. This led to its being named and recorded on early maps. While the origin of *Grand Marais* as a place name is unclear, it may be translated as "Great Marsh" or "Great Swamp." As part of the 1763 treaty concluding the Seven Years War, French colonial administration over the western Great Lakes region was transferred to Great Britain. Twenty years later, the 1783 Treaty of Paris following the American Revolution included British cession to the United States of a large portion of the Great Lakes region known as the Northwest Territory. This included the southern shore of Lake Superior, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the Grand Marais vicinity.

The 1836 Treaty of Washington between the U.S. government and Chippewa and Ottawa Native Americans in Michigan transferred ownership of a vast area, including the Upper Peninsula (U.P.), to the Federal government. The 1840s discovery in the U.P. of rich iron ore deposits in the Marquette Range and the beginning of the U.P.'s copper mining industry in the Keweenaw Peninsula began a sustained period of settlement expansion and economic development in lands west of Grand Marais. The only reliable means for the mass transport of people and goods in the Lake Superior region during those times was aboard vessels navigating between Sault Sainte Marie at the eastern end of the U.P. and ports to the west. This maritime traffic expanded through time. The St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal (the Soo Locks) at Sault Ste. Marie opened in 1855. This allowed vessels to navigate between Lake Huron and Lake Superior, and completed one of the last major links in the Great Lakes maritime transportation system. It also spurred increasing development of the U.P.'s abundant forest resources. From the second half of the nineteenth century to the middle twentieth century, the Lake Superior region was characterized by substantial growth in commerce and population. The lumber industry accounted for a major part of the early development and expansion of marine traffic. In addition, the large-scale development of iron ore production in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, northern Wisconsin, and Minnesota, as well as grain from farms and flour from mills in the Midwest and northern Great Plains, furnished cargoes carried aboard vessels bound for the lower Great Lakes. These shipments corresponded with the heavy up-bound movement of coal and manufactured goods from ports in the lower lakes.

By 1910, the amount of goods shipped annually on the Great Lakes increased to 80 million tons. Most of this was bulk cargo such as iron ore and coal. Shipped freight tonnage reached a record of 217 million tons in 1948. The combined movement of lumber, grain, flour, iron ore and coal, together with limestone cargoes from the Lake Michigan area to centers of steel production, resulted in the greatest bulk freight marine commerce the world had ever seen. With the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959, the industrial and agricultural heartland of North America became accessible to deep-draft oceangoing vessels navigating the Great Lakes. In addition, barge and small craft traffic reaches the Great Lakes from the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi River and the Illinois Waterway, as well as from the Hudson River by way of the New York State Barge Canal System.

The need for aids to navigation on the Great Lakes increased with the expansion of shipping relating to the growth of settlement and commerce. Seven lighthouses were built in the region between 1818 and 1822, and 32 were completed during the 1830s. From 1841 to 1852, the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment added 33 new lights. Between 1852 and 1860, the total number of Great Lakes aids to navigation increased from 76 to 102. Au Sable Light, approximately 10 miles west of Grand Marais, was established in 1874. Several more Great Lakes lighthouses were built in the 1890s, including the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the Great Lakes had 334 major lighted aids, 67 fog signals, and 563 buoys.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Section number 8, continued      Page 3**

Several distinct designs or types of lighthouses were constructed in the Great Lakes region during the nineteenth century. Until 1870 or so, the most common design consisted of a wood, stone, or brick keeper's dwelling that exhibited the lighthouse's optic in a lantern on the roof or atop an attached square tower. By the 1870s, taller towers that were connected to a keeper's dwelling by an enclosed passageway became popular. From 1870 to around 1910, lighthouse engineers practiced and perfected the construction of light stations built on isolated islands and atop submerged reefs and shoals.

The wooden crib design concept was used for the construction of lighthouses on submerged land in the Great Lakes region from the middle nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. This included lights built on piers that extended into the lakes from shore, as well as offshore lights. Piers needed to be marked with lights to show their location to mariners and provide a reference to allow safe passage between them. The crib type of construction involved assembling a massive wooden box (crib) onshore using heavy timbers. These were tall enough to reach the water's surface at the designated offshore location. The cribs included several open-top compartments. When completed, a crib was towed to its designated location and sunk using ballast. Additional ballast and concrete were added to stabilize and strengthen the structure.

The superstructures of lighthouses built on piers in the Great Lakes region also went through an evolution in design and technology. The earlier ones were built of wood, but this material deteriorated over time. Cast iron came into widespread use for building U.S. lighthouses during the middle nineteenth century. Cast iron lighthouse structures were commonly built from parts prefabricated to specification at a foundry and sent to the designated site as a kit for onsite assembly. Steel products to build structures became available for lighthouse construction during the late nineteenth century. The expansion of mass production steel mills in the United States through time led to a decline in the cost of steel as a building material. By the 1920s, the cost versus benefit ratio for fabricating a structure using steel instead of cast iron led to the adoption of steel as the preferred building material for pier and offshore lighthouses.

**History of the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights**

Permanent settlement at Grand Marais began in 1861 with the establishment of a small fur trading post. The community that developed there was originally within the boundaries of Michigan's Schoolcraft County, established in 1843 and organized in 1871. Through time, the advantages of Grand Marais as a natural port and its proximity to fishery resources and vast forests with valuable timber attracted additional settlers. The area's lumber industry began to expand substantially after the first sawmill in Grand Marais began operating in 1879.

During the period from the 1860s to 1900, economic activity and population along the Lake Superior shore of Michigan's U.P., Wisconsin, and Minnesota grew rapidly. The amount of commercial shipping on Lake Superior increased accordingly, as did incidents of shipwreck and stranding including several in the Grand Marais area. This prompted governmental activity in the locality to promote maritime safety. One aspect of this was the Federal government's 1880 designation of Grand Marais as a Harbor of Refuge. The port's sheltered anchorage provides the only safe harbor for vessels along a 90-mile stretch of lakeshore between Grand Island approximately 40 miles west of Grand Marais and Whitefish Point approximately 50 miles east.

In March 1882, the Michigan Legislature established Burt Township, where Grand Marais is located. It was named after Wellington Burt, a prominent businessman in the state's lumber industry who owned a controlling share of the main lumber mill in Grand Marais at that time. In 1885, Schoolcraft County's northern portion was separated from the rest to form Alger County. This included Burt Township and Grand Marais.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

#### Section number 8, continued Page 4

Local economic activity in Grand Marais during the late nineteenth century is reflected in the amount of harbor tonnage recorded in government reports. In 1887, this amounted to 1,900 tons. Maritime traffic was restricted by shallow water at the port's entrance, which meant that it could be used only by vessels drawing less than nine feet. In 1893, a rail line was completed between Grand Marais and the inland community of Seney, 25 miles to the south. This provided an efficient means for transporting lumber from interior forests to Grand Marais for transshipment aboard vessels, and stimulated industrial development there.

Local economic growth and the status of Grand Marais as an official Harbor of Refuge led to Congressional appropriations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to improve the harbor. Work was undertaken by the USACE in the early 1890s to dredge a new navigation channel and construct piers on either side to stabilize it. By the time this project was completed, the harbor's west pier had been built to a length of 1,406 feet and the east pier to a length of 853 feet. These piers were 300 feet apart with a navigation channel between them 150 feet wide and 17 feet deep. The harbor entry's piers were constructed of rectangular wooden cribs filled with rock that were positioned end-to-end. Wooden pile dikes stabilized the shoreline along the piers' landward ends.

The U.S. Lighthouse Board decided to establish a lighthouse to mark the Grand Marais west pier and requested a Congressional appropriation. Funding was obtained in March 1895. Several months later materials for building this structure were delivered by ship and assembled. The lighthouse was a wooden structure consisting of three stages: a wooden skeletal tower, an enclosed service room painted white, and a cast iron lantern painted black. It was erected at the west pier's offshore end and officially established on December 10, 1895. The lighthouse's beacon was a sixth order Fresnel lens that signaled a fixed white light visible for approximately 13 miles in clear weather. A fog bell was hung outside the service room. This fog signal was mechanically operated and sounded at 30-second intervals. A dwelling for the lighthouse keeper constructed with Lighthouse Board funding was completed in October 1895, but its quality proved to be unsatisfactory.

Federally-funded navigation improvements at Grand Marais spurred its development as a thriving commercial center. The port's total reported cargo exports and imports in 1897 amounted to 142,500 tons, consisting largely of products from the area's lumber and fishing industries. The population of Grand Marais grew rapidly during the late 1890s and peaked at approximately 3,000 by the early 1910s.

Increases in maritime traffic at Grand Marais led the Lighthouse Board to decide that the Harbor of Refuge merited a set of range lights to guide vessels seeking to enter the port. This range was to consist of the existing pierhead light and a second lighthouse to be built. Unspent funds from the Outer Light's 1895 construction were available and the Lighthouse Board requested authorization to use this money to build the Inner Light. Congress approved this change in June 1897 and plans for the structure were prepared by August. The Harbor of Refuge Inner Light was constructed near the west pier's southern end in 1898, 1,220 feet from the Outer Light. It was 55 feet tall and included five stages: a 3-stage steel skeletal tower, an enclosed service room clad with corrugated metal, and a cast iron lantern. The skeletal tower and service room were painted white. The lantern was painted black. The new lighthouse was equipped with a fifth order Fresnel lens with a focal plane 54 feet above the water. It signaled a fixed white light visible for approximately 16 miles in clear weather. The Harbor of Refuge Inner Light was officially established in July 1898.

The U.P.'s geographic configuration and Lake Superior shipping routes combined to increase the amount of maritime traffic offshore of Grand Marais through time during the late nineteenth century. It also resulted in a number of shipwreck and stranding incidents in the vicinity. In 1899, the U.S. Life-Saving Service (USLSS) established a station at Grand Marais. The USLSS station was located on the harbor shore several hundred feet west of the Harbor of Refuge Inner Light. Its facilities included a substantial building with living quarters, boat house, and watch tower.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer  
Lights

Name of Property

Alger County, Michigan

County and State

Light Stations of the United States MPDF

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Section number 8, continued Page 5**

Waves washing over the west pier during periods of inclement weather made it difficult for the light keeper to access the Harbor of Refuge Outer Light. To alleviate this problem, a wooden elevated walkway 810 feet long was built from shore along the west pier to the Outer Light circa 1901.

A project for major improvements to the Harbor of Refuge was undertaken by the USACE in 1904. This included extending the west pier an additional 612 feet into Lake Superior. The east pier was extended, also. The improvement project included building a 5,770-foot long breakwall to shelter the harbor from Lake Superior. This breakwall was built of two parallel alignments of wood pilings and horizontal timbers with the space between them filled with rock. It was oriented east-west across the mouth of Grand Marais harbor from the east pier's southern end to the harbor's eastern end. The interior of Grand Marais harbor was also dredged to make it accessible to the largest vessels navigating Lake Superior. The USACE maintained the breakwall until 1943. Deterioration since then has largely destroyed it, leading to sand deposition that has reduced the depth of Grand Marais harbor from 50 feet to 25 feet.

Following the west pier's 1904 extension, the Outer Light was relocated to the new pier head. This increased the distance between the Inner and Outer Lights to 1,770 feet. In addition, the wooden elevated walkway's length was extended to 1,360 feet. Circa 1905, the beacon color characteristic of the Inner and Outer Lights was changed from white to red. This reduced the Inner Light's visible range to approximately 10 miles and the Outer Light's visibility to approximately 8 miles. In 1908, a 35-foot by 20-foot, 2-story brick and wood frame dwelling was constructed for the keeper of the Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights. It cost \$5,000 to build and is located near the Inner Light. This building is a duplicate of the dwelling constructed that same year for the keeper of the Munising Range Lights. In 1910, the U.S. Bureau of Lighthouses was established to replace the Lighthouse Board. The keeper of Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights continued working as a member of the U.S. Lighthouse Service.

During the early 1900s, forest resources in the Grand Marais area became depleted. This led to a serious collapse of the local lumber industry circa 1910. With no timber to transport, the railroad line between Grand Marais and Seney was shut down soon after. Economic activity in Grand Marais area dropped precipitously between 1910 and 1920, though commercial fishing continued as a local industry. Commercial fishing continued to be important economically until the 1950s when it collapsed due to the destruction of Lake Superior fish populations by sea lamprey. The population of Grand Marais declined to approximately 200 persons by 1915 and poor roadway conditions exacerbated the community's isolation. The State of Michigan opened Michigan Route 77 (M-77) between Seney and Grand Marais in the 1920s. This led to improvement in the local economy as the number of seasonal visitors, vacationers, and sportsmen increased through time. In addition, lands in the area cleared by the lumber industry provided habitat for wild blueberries, leading to commercial export of this local product.

Federal government reorganization in 1915 merged the USLSS with the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service to form the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). As a result, the Grand Marais Life-Saving Station was re-designated as a Coast Guard station. The USCG station was located on the peninsula that adjoined the Harbor of Refuge west pier and the Inner and Outer Lights. This peninsula came to be called "Coast Guard Point," and is still known by that name today.

The Harbor of Refuge Outer Light's wooden structure and elevated walkway deteriorated over time, leading to their demolition in 1927. A new 34-foot tall steel lighthouse was built. It included three stages: a skeletal tower, enclosed service room, and a beacon. The steel deck atop its service room supported a steel table upon which the lighthouse's beacon was mounted. This table has the same type of rivet fasteners as are used elsewhere in lighthouse. The new Outer Light was equipped with a 375-millimeter drum lens lighted with an electric lamp. This beacon's focal plane was 40 feet above the water. It signaled a red light that flashed at two second intervals and was visible for 10 miles in clear weather. The fog signal installed in the new lighthouse was a diaphragm horn operated with an air compressor. It sounded a two second blast followed by 13 seconds of silence. The beacon and fog signal used commercial power and were operated from shore.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Section number 8, continued      Page 6**

The USCG Station's 1899 building remained in use until a new station building was built nearby in 1938. In 1939, the Bureau of Lighthouses was merged with the USCG and ceased existence as a separate Federal agency. As a result, responsibility for maintaining the Inner and Outer Lights shifted to the USCG, which also took over the 1908 keeper's dwelling. The 1899 station building was no longer needed after 1938 and was demolished circa 1940.

The Harbor of Refuge Inner Light was repainted to all white with a red roof circa 1940, also. In 1957, the Harbor of Refuge range lights' beacon coloration was changed from red to white. From then to the present, the Inner Light has signaled a fixed white light and the Outer Light has signaled a white light that flashes at 2.5 second intervals.

In 1960 to 1961, the USACE undertook a major project to rebuild the entry to the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge. This work involved replacing deteriorated wooden crib structures of the east and west piers with new navigation structures constructed using steel sheet piling and reinforced concrete. The Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights were moved to temporary locations while the work was performed and then repositioned at the south and north ends of the new west pier.

In 1966, a Federal law took effect that established Pictured Rocks National Seashore as a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). Grand Marais became the park's eastern gateway and the NPS became a permanent presence in the community. In 1981, USCG Station Grand Marais was decommissioned and its facilities closed down except for the Inner and Outer Lights which were automated and continued operating. Ownership of the USCG Station Building built in 1938 and the Grand Marais Lighthouse Keeper's Dwelling built in 1908 were transferred to the National Park Service in 1984.

The Inner and Outer Lights are presently operated as automated aids to navigation. The Outer Light's original beacon was replaced circa 2009 with a modern automated SABIK FA-350 two-tiered LED beacon. It is powered by batteries recharged using a solar array mounted on the south side of the Outer Light's second stage landing. This new beacon is visible for 9 miles in clear weather. The Inner Light continues in automated operation with its original fifth order Fresnel lens illuminated with an electric lamp connected to commercial power. It is visible for 16 miles in clear weather.

Today, the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights remain standing in their historical locations atop the southern and northern ends of the harbor's west pier. Their basic structure, appearance, and setting remain essentially unchanged from the property's 1898 to 1961 period of historical significance. These lighthouses continue to fulfill their original role of aiding mariners on Lake Superior by marking a range to enter Grand Marais harbor. The Inner and Outer Lights are widely recognized as prominent historical landmarks in Alger County. They serve as a lasting reminder of the role that Grand Marais has played in the development of Lake Superior maritime commerce, and evoke feelings that recall the dedication to duty characteristic of lighthouse keepers in American history.

*Permalife*  
COTTON CONTENT

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property
Alger County, Michigan
County and State
Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

(see continuation sheet)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of repository: USCG Civil Engineering Unit (CEU) Cleveland, Cleveland, OH; USCG Historian's Office, Washington, DC; U.S. National Archives.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>578615</u>	<u>5170540</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>578690</u>	<u>5169755</u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The lighthouse property's boundary is the exterior limit of the Inner Light's tower base and the exterior limit of the Outer Light's tower base. Both light towers sit atop the concrete deck of the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge west pier, which is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The west pier's boundary is the footprint of its base.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property's boundary encompasses the footprint of the two light tower structures and the west pier.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Bibliography

Browning, Robert. 2009. Lighthouse evolution and typology. U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office website. Available online at <http://www.uscg.mil/history/web/lighthouses/LHevolution.asp>.

Clifford, Candace. 1994. *Inventory of historic light stations*. Washington, DC: National Park Service.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2002. Light Stations of the United States, Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places. On file at the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. National Park Service, Washington, DC.

Hyde, Charles K. 1996. *The northern lights: lighthouses of the Upper Great Lakes*. Reprint. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

Munger, Pat. 2005. Grand Marais: nature in abundance. *Michigan History* March/April 2005: 5-9.

National Park Service, Maritime Heritage Program. 2011. Inventory of historic light stations, Michigan lighthouses, Grand Marais Harbor Range Lights. Available online at <http://www.nps.gov/history/maritime/light/marais.htm>

Pepper, Terry. 2005. Seeing the light – Grand Marais Light. Available online at <http://www.terrypepper.com/lights/superior/gdmarais-mi/gdmarais.htm>

Roberts, Bruce, and Ray Jones. 2001. *Western Great Lakes lighthouses: Michigan and Superior*. Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press.

United States Army, Corps of Engineers. 1892. Annual report of the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, to the Secretary of War for the year 1892. Washington: Government Printing Office.

United States Coast Guard. 1955. Aids to navigation operation request, 24 October 1955.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1960. Aids to navigation operation request, 23 April 1960.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1966. Aids to navigation operation request, 7 March 1966.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2010. Historic light station information and photography – Michigan. U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office website. Available online at <http://www.uscg.mil/history/web/lighthouses/LHMI.asp>.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2011. Light list, volume VII, Great Lakes. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office.

United States Department of the Interior. n.d. *Grand Marais U. S. Coast Guard* (pamphlet). Pictured Rocks National Seashore, National Park Service.

\_\_\_\_\_. n.d. *Grand Marais U. S. Life Saving Service* (pamphlet). Pictured Rocks National Seashore, National Park Service.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Koski-Karell, Ph. D., USCG Office of Environmental Management, and Jayne Aaron, e2M, Inc.  
organization United States Coast Guard (COMDT CG-47) date 20 December 2011  
street & number 2100 Second Street SW – STOP 7901 telephone 202.475.5683  
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20593-7901  
e-mail Daniel.A.Koski-Karell@uscg.dhs.gov

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Map:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** Photographs

### Property Owner:

Name United States Coast Guard  
street & number 2100 Second Street SW telephone 202.267.1587  
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20593

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

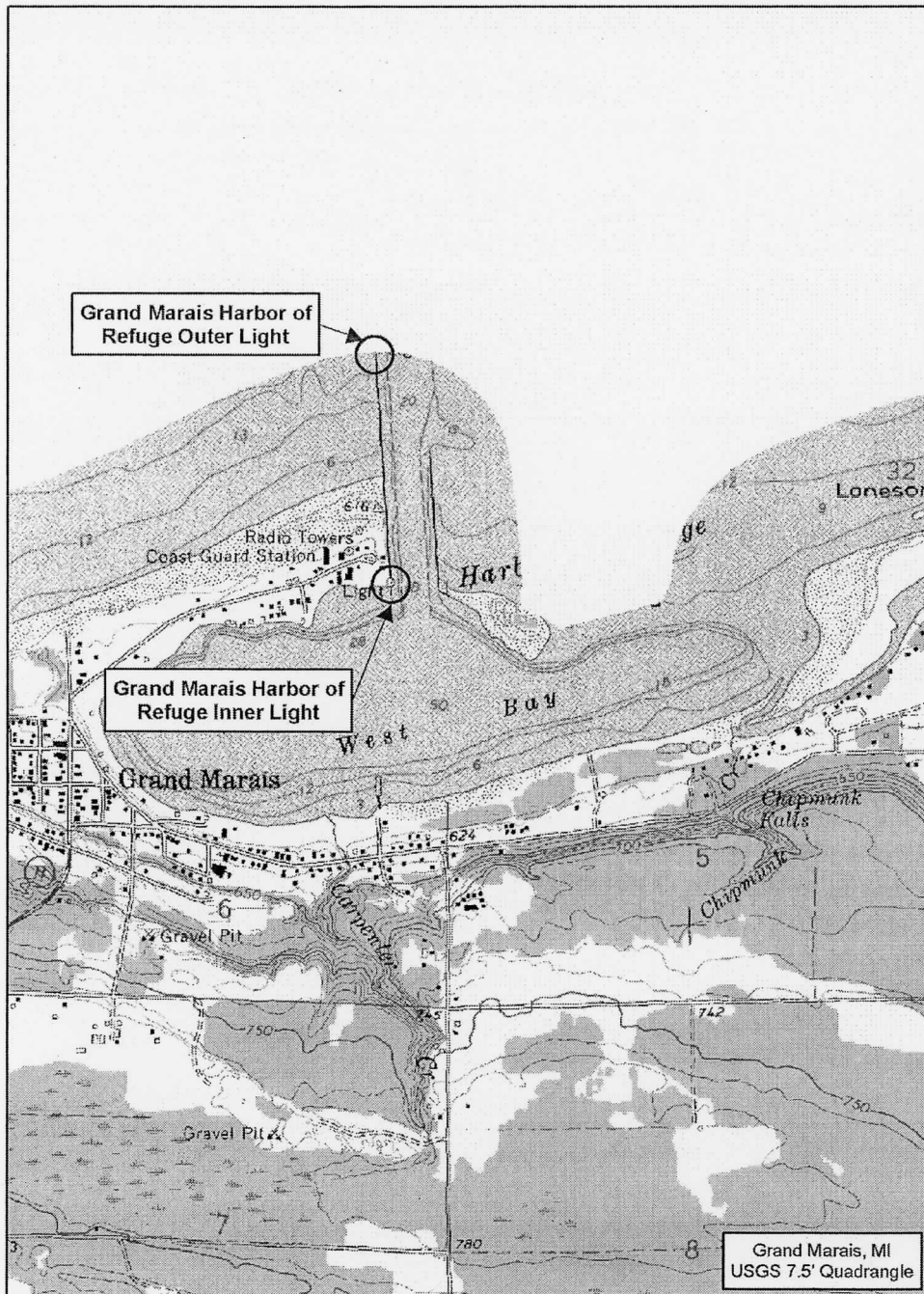
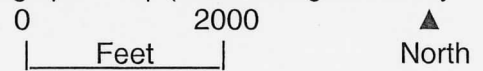
Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property
Alger County, Michigan
County and State
Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

### Location Map

This is part of the *Grand Marais, Mich.* 7.5 minute series quadrangle topographic map (U.S. Geological Survey 1968).



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
Name of Property Alger County, Michigan
County and State Light Stations of the United States MPDF
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Photographs**

The following information is common to these photographs:

Name of Property: Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights  
 Location: Alger County, Michigan  
 Photographer: Timothy McGrath  
 Date: August 2007  
 Location of original negative: U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office,  
 U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC.

Photograph  
Number

Description

1. Left to right: Inner Light, West Pier, and Outer Light, looking northwest.
2. Inner Light north and west elevations, looking southeast.
3. Inner Light service room, looking east.
4. Inner Light lantern and optic, looking north.
5. Outer Light, south and east elevations, looking northwest.
6. Outer Light service room, looking northeast.
7. Outer Light rooftop deck and optic, looking southwest.
8. Outer Light rooftop deck and Harbor of Refuge west pier, looking south.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer  
Lights

Name of Property  
Alger County, Michigan

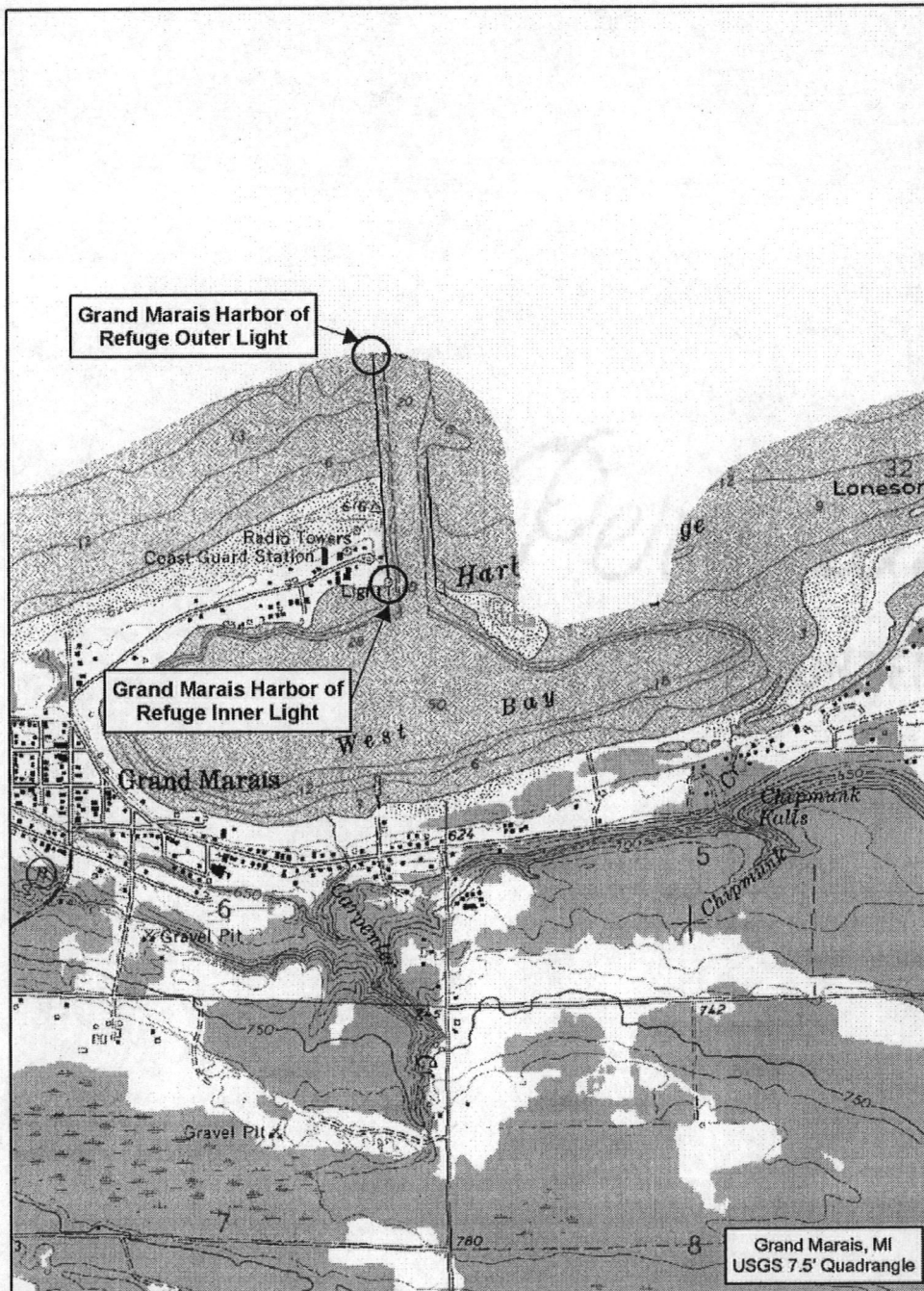
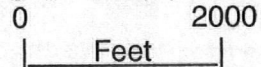
County and State  
Light Stations of the United States MPDF

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

### Location Map

This is part of the *Grand Marais, Mich.* 7.5 minute series quadrangle topographic map (U.S. Geological Survey 1968).



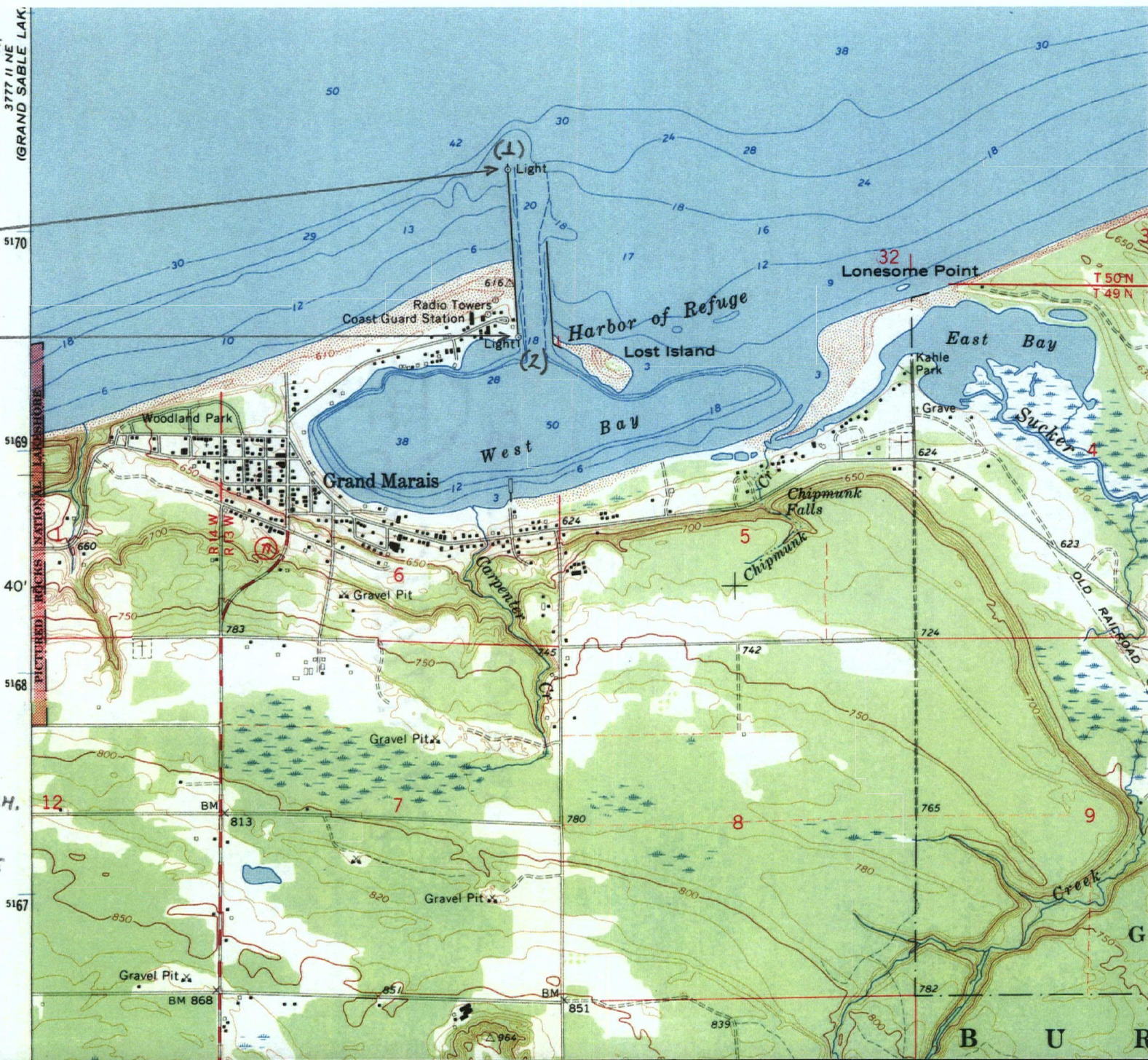
Grand Marais, MI  
USGS 7.5' Quadrangle

GRAND MARAIS  
HARBOR OF REFUGE  
INNER AND  
OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER CO., MI

UTM ZONE 16  
(1) OUTER LIGHT  
E 578615  
N 5170540

(2) INNER LIGHT  
E 578690  
N 5169755

PART OF  
GRAND MARAIS, MICH.  
1968  
7.5' QUADRANGLE  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL  
SURVEY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights

MULTIPLE NAME: Light Stations of the United States MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Alger

DATE RECEIVED: 3/23/12      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/13/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/30/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/09/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000254

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5/2/2012 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Meets Registration Requirements of MPS*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER J. Gibbon      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER COUNTY, MI

PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY McGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE,  
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, DC

LEFT TO RIGHT: INNER LIGHT, WEST PIER, AND OUTER LIGHT,  
LOOKING NORTHWEST.

PHOTO # 1



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER COUNTY, MI

PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY MCGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE  
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, DC

INNER LIGHT NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS,  
LOOKING SOUTHEAST.

PHOTO # 2



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS

ALGER COUNTY, MI

PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY McGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, DC

INNER LIGHT SERVICE ROOM, LOOKING EAST.

PHOTO #3



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS

ALGER COUNTY, MI

PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY McGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, DC

INNER LIGHT LANTERN AND OPTIC,

LOOKING NORTH.

PHOTO # 4



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS

ALGER COUNTY, MI

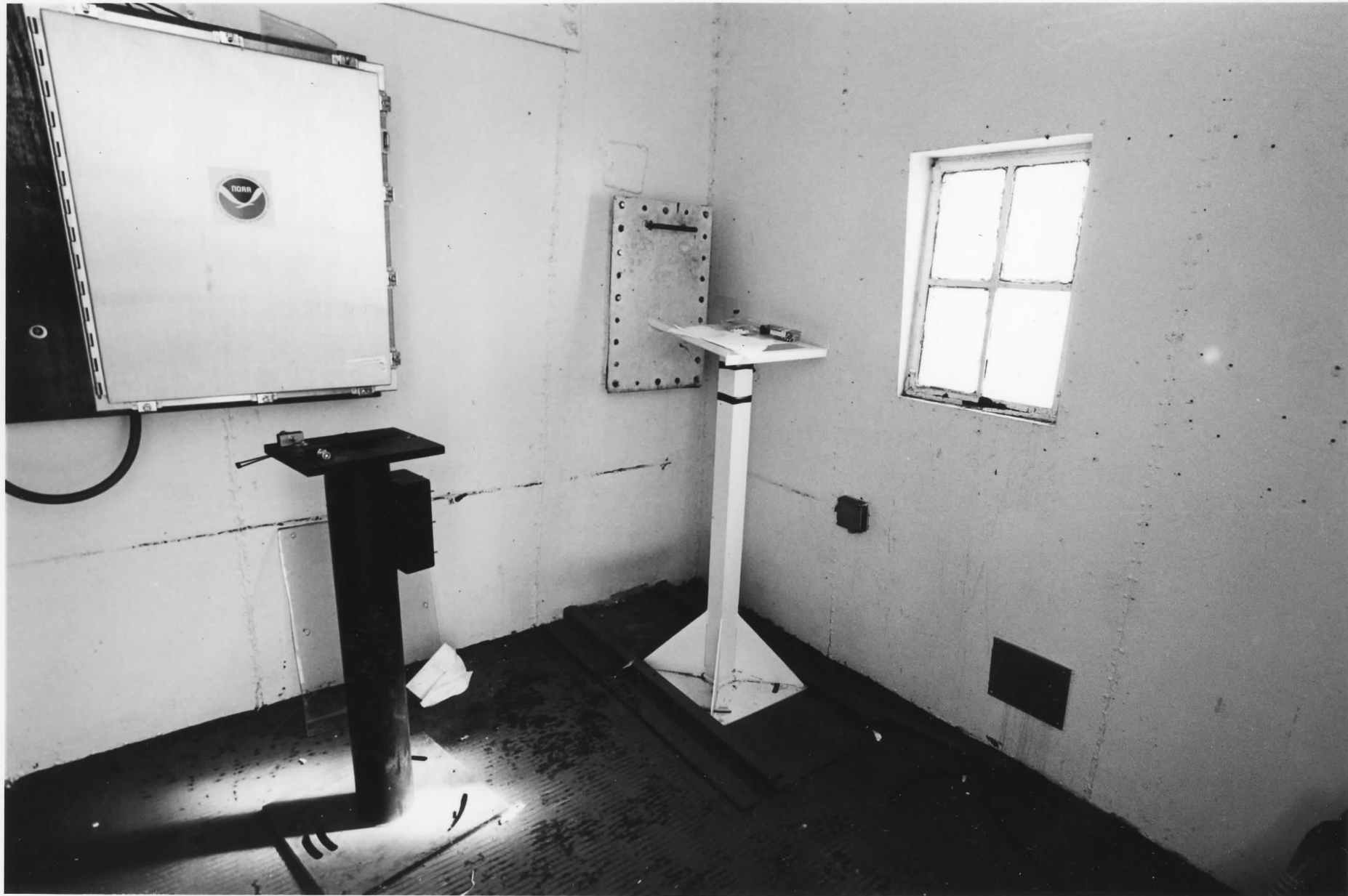
PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY McGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE  
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, DC

OUTER LIGHT SOUTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS,  
LOOKING NORTHWEST.

PHOTO #5



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER COUNTY, MI

PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY McGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE  
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, DC

OUTER LIGHT SERVICE ROOM, LOOKING NORTHEAST,

PHOTO #6



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER COUNTY, MI

PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY MCGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE  
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, DC

OUTER LIGHT ROOFTOP DECK AND OPTIC  
LOOKING SOUTHWEST

PHOTO # 7



GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER COUNTY, MI

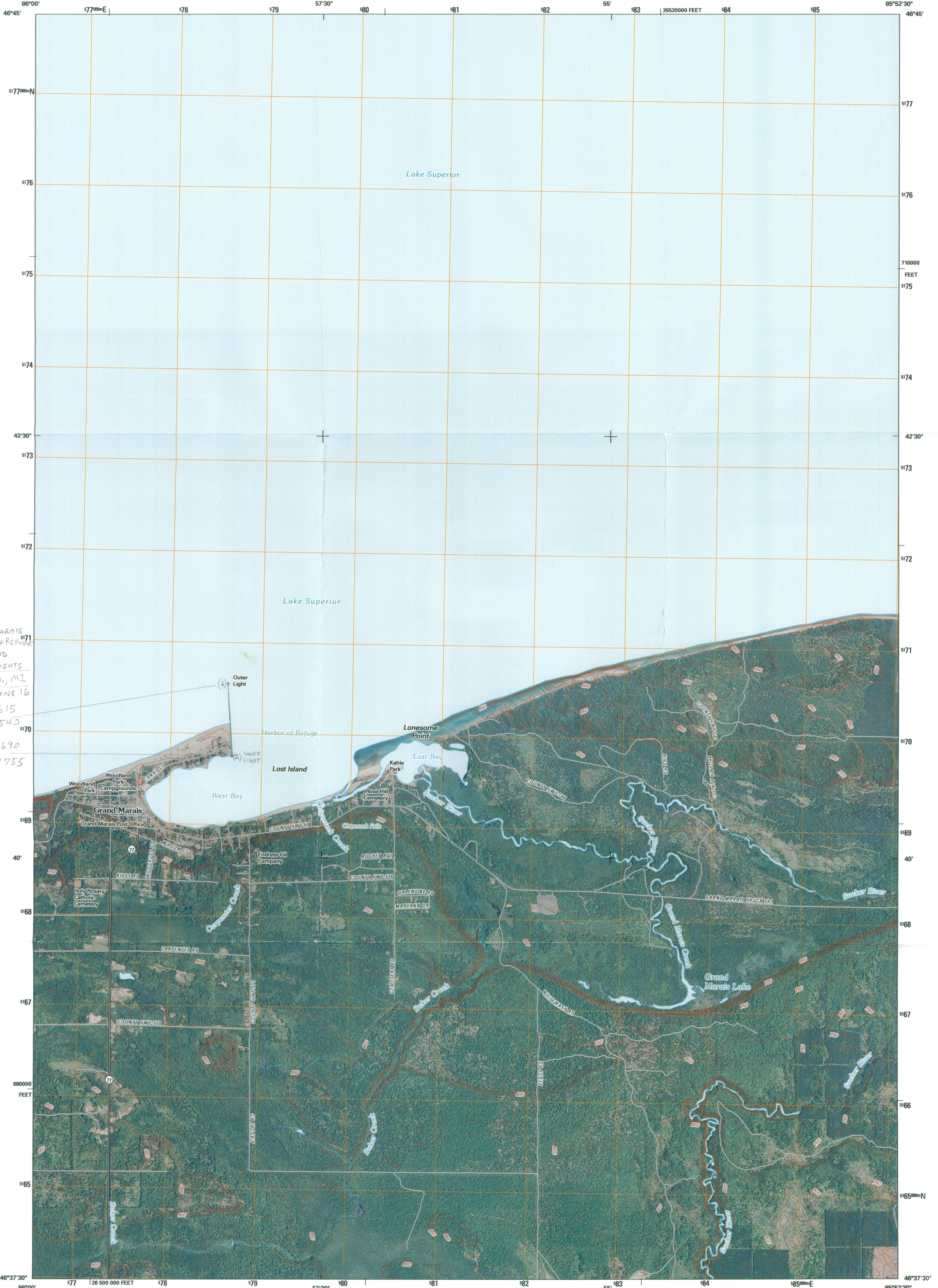
PHOTOGRAPHER: TIMOTHY McGRATH

DATE: AUGUST 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: U.S. COAST GUARD HISTORIAN'S OFFICE  
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, DC

OUTER LIGHT ROOFTOP DECK AND HARBOR OF REFUGE  
WEST PIER, LOOKING SOUTH.

PHOTO # 8



GRAND MARAIS  
HARBOR OF REFUGE  
INNER AND  
OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER Co., MI  
UTM ZONE 16  
(1) E 578615  
N 5170540  
(2) E 578690  
N 5169755

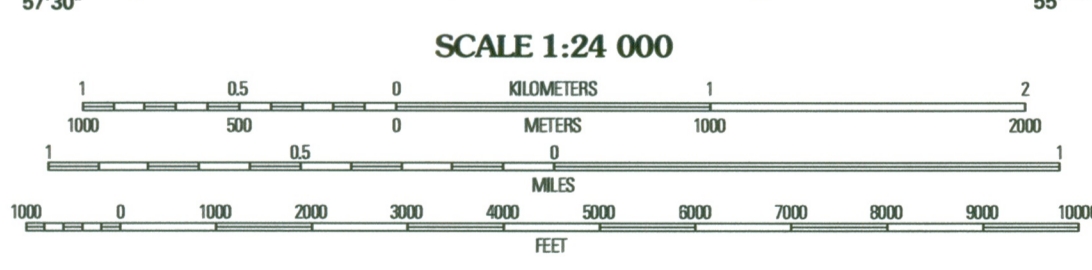
Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and  
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 16T  
10 000-foot ticks: Michigan Coordinate System of 1983  
(north zone)

Imagery.....NAIP, July 2009  
Roads.....©2006-2010 Tele Atlas  
Names.....GNIS, 2010  
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2009  
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2000  
Boundaries.....Census, IBWC, IBC, USGS, 1972 - 2010

UTM GRID AND 2011 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

U.S. National Grid  
100,000-m Square ID  
ES  
Grid Zone Designation  
16T

MN  
106 MILLS  
GN  
0° 46'  
14 MILLS



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Interstate Route State Route   
US Route Local Road   
Ramp 4WD

Interstate Route US Route State Route

Grand Sable Lake	Grand Marais	Grand Marais NE
Au Sable Point SE	Nowakawa Lake	Grand Marais SE

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10  
of the USGS US Topo Product Standard.  
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.5.16

GRAND MARAIS, MI  
2011

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street SW - STOP 7901  
Washington, DC 20593-7901  
Staff Symbol: COMDT (CG-47)  
Phone: (202) 475-5687  
Fax: (202) 475-5949

16475

Honorable Tom Casperson, Senator  
124 N. Capitol Avenue, #S1487  
Lansing, MI 48933-1342

DEC 22 2011

SUBJECT: NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF  
REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS

Dear Senator Casperson:

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights in Alger County, Michigan, are together a historic property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). We are proposing to nominate these lighthouses for official inclusion in the NRHP. A summary of the NRHP nomination is enclosed for your information (enclosure (1)). This action is being performed pursuant to the authorities contained in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and the National Park Service regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 60.9.

As part of the nomination process, the USCG is seeking your comments. Please provide any comments within 45 days from the date your office receives this letter. If we receive no response from your office within 45 days, we will assume you have no comments. We have also submitted the NRHP nomination form for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell at (202) 475-5683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. F. Wandelt".

E. F. WANDELT  
Chief  
Office of Environmental Management  
U. S. Coast Guard

Enclosure: (1) Summary of NRHP nomination for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights

Copy (w/o enclosure): J. Paul Loether, National Park Service  
COMDT (CG-0942)  
CG SILC  
CG CEU Cleveland  
CG D9 (DPW)

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street SW - STOP 7901  
Washington, DC 20593-7901  
Staff Symbol: COMDT (CG-47)  
Phone: (202) 475-5687  
Fax: (202) 475-5949

16475

Honorable Jack Hubbard, Supervisor  
Burt Township  
P.O. Box 430  
Grand Marais, MI 49839-0430

DEC 2 2 2011

SUBJECT: NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF  
REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights in Alger County, Michigan, are together a historic property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). We are proposing to nominate these lighthouses for official inclusion in the NRHP. A summary of the NRHP nomination is enclosed for your information (enclosure (1)). This action is being performed pursuant to the authorities contained in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and the National Park Service regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 60.9.

As part of the nomination process, the USCG is seeking your comments. Please provide any comments within 45 days from the date your office receives this letter. If we receive no response from your office within 45 days, we will assume you have no comments. We have also submitted the NRHP nomination form for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell at (202) 475-5683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. F. Wandelt".

E. F. WANDELT

Chief

Office of Environmental Management

U. S. Coast Guard

Enclosure: (1) Summary of NRHP nomination for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights

Copy (w/o enclosure): J. Paul Loether, National Park Service  
COMDT (CG-0942)  
CG SILC  
CG CEU Cleveland  
CG D9 (DPW)

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street SW - STOP 7901  
Washington, DC 20593-7901  
Staff Symbol: COMDT (CG-47)  
Phone: (202) 475-5687  
Fax: (202) 475-5949

16475

DEC 22 2011

Honorable Catherine A. Pullen, Chair  
Alger County Board of Commissioners  
101 Court Street  
Munising, MI 49862

SUBJECT: NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF  
REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS

Dear Ms. Pullen:

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights in Alger County, Michigan, are together a historic property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). We are proposing to nominate these lighthouses for official inclusion in the NRHP. A summary of the NRHP nomination is enclosed for your information (enclosure (1)). This action is being performed pursuant to the authorities contained in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and the National Park Service regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 60.9.

As part of the nomination process, the USCG is seeking your comments. Please provide any comments within 45 days from the date your office receives this letter. If we receive no response from your office within 45 days, we will assume you have no comments. We have also submitted the NRHP nomination form for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell at (202) 475-5683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. F. Wandelt".

E. F. WANDELT

Chief

Office of Environmental Management

U. S. Coast Guard

Enclosure: (1) Summary of NRHP nomination for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights

Copy (w/o enclosure): J. Paul Loether, National Park Service  
COMDT (CG-0942)  
CG SILC  
CG CEU Cleveland  
CG D9 (DPW)

Permalife  
25% COTTON CONTENT

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street SW - STOP 7901  
Washington, DC 20593-7901  
Staff Symbol: COMDT (CG-47)  
Phone: (202) 475-5687  
Fax: (202) 475-5949

16475

DEC 22 2011

Honorable Joseph Eitrem, Tribal Chairman  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
523 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

SUBJECT: NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF  
REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS

Dear Mr. Eitrem:

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights in Alger County, Michigan, are together a historic property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). We are proposing to nominate these lighthouses for official inclusion in the NRHP. A summary of the NRHP nomination is enclosed for your information (enclosure (1)). This action is being performed pursuant to the authorities contained in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and the National Park Service regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 60.9.

As part of the nomination process, the USCG is seeking your comments. Please provide any comments within 45 days from the date your office receives this letter. If we receive no response from your office within 45 days, we will assume you have no comments. We have also submitted the NRHP nomination form for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell at (202) 475-5683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. F. Wandelt".

E. F. WANDELT

Chief

Office of Environmental Management

U. S. Coast Guard

Enclosure: (1) Summary of NRHP nomination for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner  
and Outer Lights

Copy (w/o enclosure): J. Paul Loether, National Park Service  
COMDT (CG-0942)  
CG SILC  
CG CEU Cleveland  
CG D9 (DPW)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION  
GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS  
ALGER COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights are two lighthouses located on the west pier at the entry to Grand Marais harbor in Burt Township, Alger County, Michigan. The Harbor of Refuge west pier is situated at the eastern end of Coast Guard Point in Grand Marais. These lights are operating aids to navigation owned by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). They are positioned approximately 2,600 feet from one another. Neither structure is open for public visitation.

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner Light (Light List number 14560) was officially established as a Federal lighthouse in 1898. The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Outer Light (Light List number 14550) was established as a Federal lighthouse in 1895. The original Outer Light was wooden structure. It was demolished when the existing Outer Light, a steel structure, was built in 1927. Based on the historic character of these lights, the USCG intends to nominate this property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) (16 United States Code 470 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain a national register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Federal agencies are charged with identifying, evaluating, and nominating such properties under their control to the NRHP. The National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-355) amended the NHPA for the purpose of establishing a National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Program.

The USCG has prepared a NRHP registration form for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights. It will be sent to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment concerning the USCG position that this property is eligible for listing in the NRHP. Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations 60.9, we are notifying local elected officials who may have an interest in the property and inviting them to comment on the nomination during the 45-day comment period. The property is described below.

**Site Name and Location:**

- Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights
- Located atop the west pier at the entry to the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge in eastern Alger County, MI
- USCG Light List Number 14560 (Inner Light) and Number 14550 (Outer Light)

**Owner:**

- U.S. Coast Guard COMDT (CG-47)  
ATTN: Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell  
2100 Second Street SW – STOP 7901  
Washington, DC 20593-7901

**Summary Description:**

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner Light is a steel tower lighthouse approximately 55 feet tall that sits atop the west pier's southern end. It is painted white with a red roof. This structure includes a three-

stage skeletal tower that supports a rectangular enclosed service room clad with corrugated metal. The lighthouse's octagonal lantern sits atop the service room and is equipped with an automated fifth order Fresnel lens that signals a fixed white light.

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Outer Light is a steel tower lighthouse approximately 34 feet tall that sits atop the west pier's northern end in Lake Superior. It is painted white. This structure includes a one-stage skeletal tower that supports a rectangular enclosed service room clad with metal. The lighthouse's modern automated beacon is mounted atop a steel table affixed to the service room's rooftop deck. It signals a flashing white light. An automated fog signal and weather instrumentation are also mounted on the service room's rooftop deck.

The Harbor of Refuge west pier is included with this National Register nomination as a non-contributing (not historical) resource. It is a Federal navigation structure owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The existing west pier was constructed circa 1960 to 1961 and is built of reinforced concrete and steel sheet piling. It replaced an earlier pier structure originally built in the 1890s that was extended in subsequent improvement projects.

### **Summary Statement of Historical Significance:**

These lighthouses were constructed to mark the entry to the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge, a Federal navigation project originally constructed during the late nineteenth century. The U.S. government designated the port of Grand Marais as a Harbor of Refuge in 1880 because it provided the only sheltered anchorage for commercial shipping along a 90-mile stretch of Lake Superior shoreline between Grand Island and Whitefish Point. Improvements undertaken at Grand Marais harbor by the USACE beginning in the 1890s included piers to stabilize and shelter the port's entry channel, a breakwall extending between the east pier and the harbor's eastern end, and dredging the port's entry channel and anchorage.

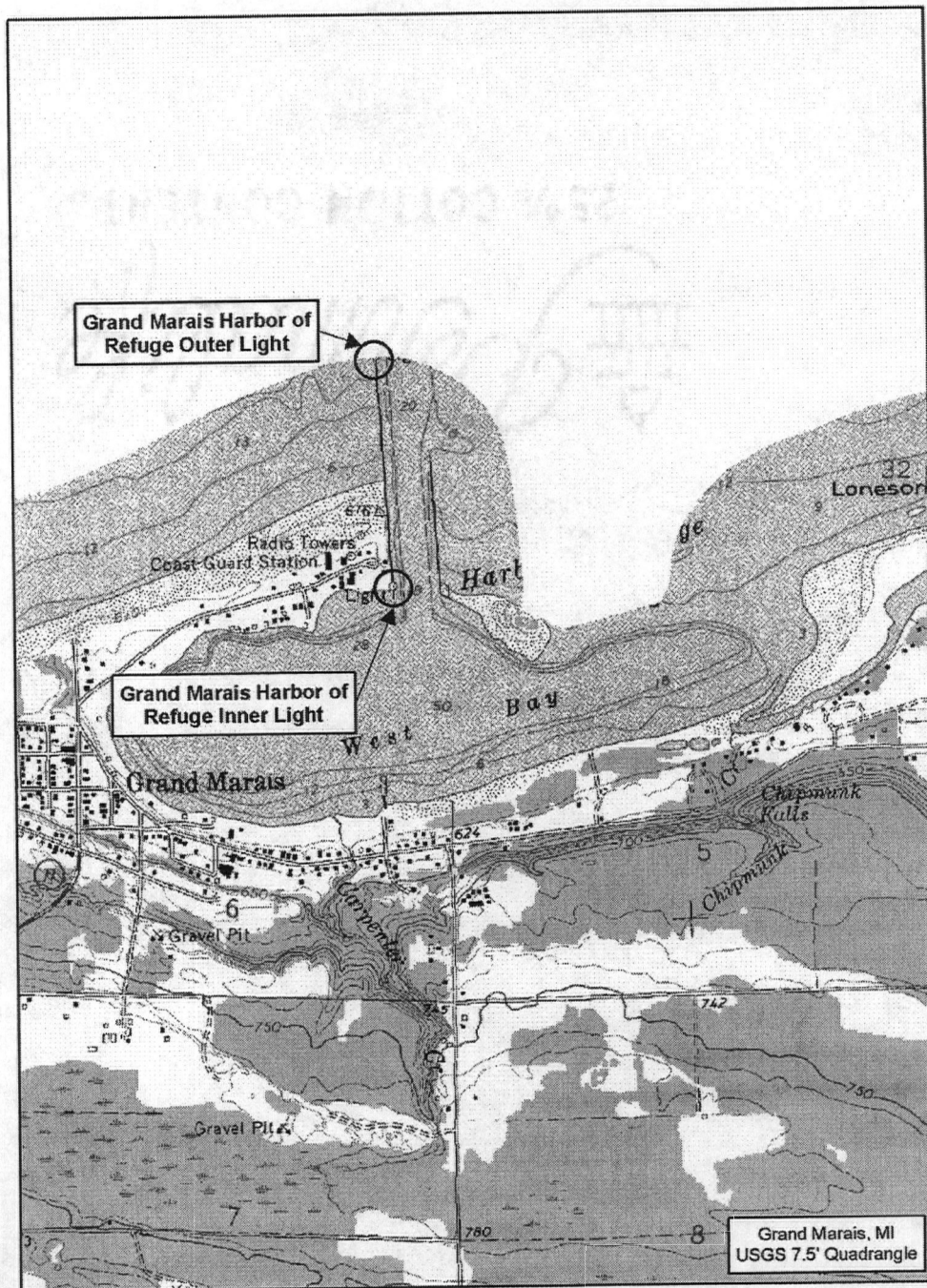
The Harbor of Refuge Outer Light was established in 1895 to mark the northern, offshore end of the harbor's west pier. The Inner Light was established in 1898 atop the west pier's southern end to form a two-light range with the Outer Light. Together, they marked the west pier's alignment. This range provided a guide for approaching vessels seeking to line up with the navigation channel in order to enter Grand Marais harbor.

The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights are significant in the history of Alger County. They are eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing under Criterion A for their association with the maritime history of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This property exemplifies a local manifestation of the Federal government's program to establish a nationwide system of aids to navigation in order to promote maritime safety and commerce. The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights are also eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C for their architectural and engineering significance. They exemplify how late nineteenth century and 1920s lighthouse architecture and engineering were applied to the need to mark the entry to the port of Grand Marais for vessels navigating Lake Superior. The qualities of these structures' design, materials, and construction methods were applied to overcome difficulties relating to building lighthouses atop a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation structure in an area subject to harsh winter weather and storms. The Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights retain substantial integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. Together, they are a well-known landmark in Grand Marais and Alger County.

### **Map and Photograph:**

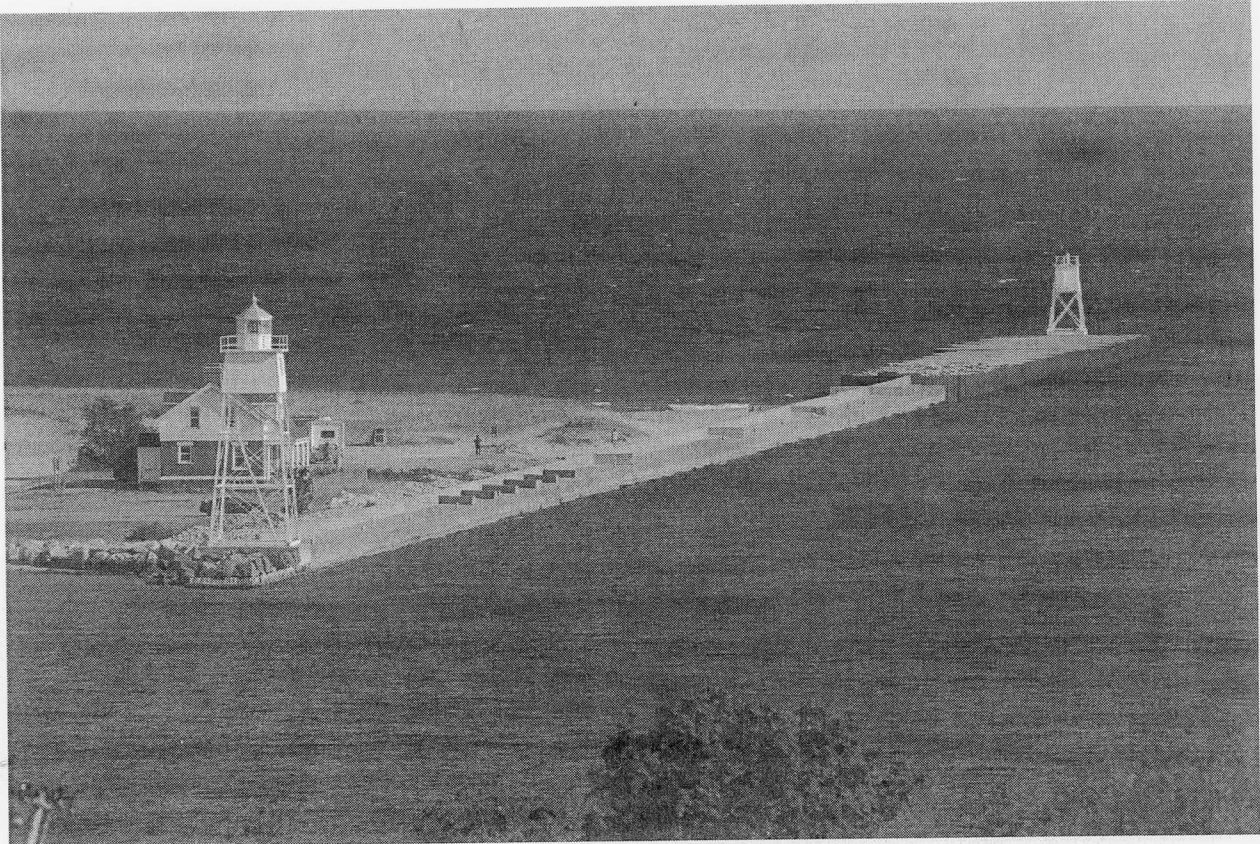
- Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights location map.
- Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights, view looking northwest.

# Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights location map



Part of the "Grand Marais, Michigan," 7.5 minute topographic map, Scale 1:24,000  
(U.S. Geological Survey 1968)

Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights, view looking northwest





THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

**TOM CASPERSON**

38TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-7840

FAX: (517) 373-3932

sencasperson@senate.michigan.gov

February 3, 2012

E. F. Wandelt, Chief  
Office Environmental Management  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2100 Second Street SW – STOP 7901  
Washington, DC 20593-791

Dear Chief Wandelt:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the recommendation to place the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Having worked with the community of Grand Marais on their need for a new breakwall to save their harbor of refuge, I can assure you that the harbor and its rich history is the lifeblood that keeps their community alive. As you are well aware, the lighthouses play a key role in boat activity in and around the harbor which is so vital for safety, tourism and recreational activity.

As a strong proponent for enjoying our natural resources, I support any designations, recognitions or improvements that will serve to promote the use of the harbor for continued recreation, commercial activity in the future and tourism for the area.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tom Casperson  
State Senator – 38<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Jack Hubbard, Burt Township – Grand Marais

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard



2100 Second Street SW, STOP 7901  
Washington, DC 20593-7901  
Staff Symbol: COMDT (CG-47)  
Phone: (202) 475-5687  
Fax: (202) 475-5949

16475

MAR 21 2012

## MEMORANDUM

From: *E. F. Wandelt*  
E. F. Wandelt, Chief  
COMDT (CG-47)

Reply to Dr. Daniel Koski-Karell  
Attn of: (202) 475-5683

To: Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW (Stop 2280)  
Washington, DC 20240

Subj: GRAND MARAIS HARBOR OF REFUGE INNER AND OUTER LIGHTS,  
ALGER COUTY, MICHIGAN

Ref: (a) National Historic Preservation Act Section 110, 16 U.S.C. 470h-2  
(b) Programmatic Agreement Regarding Outgranting of Historic Lighthouse Properties

1. The Coast Guard nominates the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights in Alger County, MI, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The nomination package is enclosed (Enclosure (1)).
2. The Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer's comments on this NRHP nomination were requested and received. They have been incorporated into this property's NRHP registration form where deemed appropriate.
3. Comments from appropriate local officials were solicited and one letter supporting the nomination was received. Copies of this correspondence are included in the enclosure.

#

Enclosure: (1) NRHP nomination package for the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Inner and Outer Lights

Copy: CG SILC (with encl)  
CG CEU Cleveland (with encl)  
CG D9(DPW) (with encl)