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7

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

ERIE LAND LIGHTHOSE (~~Prosque Isle Lighthouse~~)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Dunn Boulevard, Lighthouse Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Erie

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

24

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE  
049

COUNTY  
Erie

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Erie

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Erie

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 16500

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Erie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Erie

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

No. Pennsylvania 517

DATE

1936

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 7. DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
\*  GOOD           RUINS  
 FAIR             UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
\*  ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

\*  ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Land Lighthouse is located on the mainland, east of the Public Docks within the Erie City limits. The present lighthouse was built in 1867 and is the third lighthouse on the site. The two early structure became defective because of sinking. Investigations found that a stream of quicksand ran below the ground on this site. In order to have a secure foundation the third lighthouse was placed on a twenty foot foundation costing nearly \$40,000. Eight courses of solid oak timbers, twenty feet in length and twelve inches thick were placed below the quicksand level. On top of the timbers, six feet of finely broken limestone was laid in portland cement.

Next solid courses of stone measuring eight feet in thickness were also laid in cement. Upon this base the 40' 10" tower and annex was constructed. Built of Berea sand stone and lined with brick, the tower tapers from approximately 19' at the base to 14' at the top. A water table extends 3'6" from the ground and extends 2½" from the tower. Six feet from the top surrounding the tower is a sandstone molding projecting approximately 6".

The tower has six windows, one in the base, one at the first platform level, one at the second level and three at the top. The top windows have a semi-circular arch and keystone. Above the top windows is a stone balcony with a diameter of 16'.

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The Land Lighthouse housed a single fixed white light which could be seen for 17 nautical miles. The lens for the mineral oil burning lantern was manufactured by L. Sauter and Son of Paris and cost \$7,000. When the lighthouse was closed the lantern was transferred to an Atlantic coast lighthouse. The cupola which housed the light has been removed and a temporary tar paper roof with a trap door openings replaces it.

The inside diameter of the lighthouse is 6 feet for its entire length. Sixty-nine cast iron steps and railing rise in a curve to two cast iron platforms. The first one is 19' above the water table and the second one 35 feet. The stairway is mortised in the wall  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in both tread and riser. The riser is bolted to the step with five  $\frac{3}{8}$ " bolts. The floor of the tower is tile.

Connected to the south of the tower is a 8'3" by 16'3" building also made of Berea sandstone. Sixteen feet high the building has one window on the east and entrance door on the west. Carved stone lintel and molding make up the door frame. The three steps and side stoops are also made of stone. The structure has wooden gable roof and the north end has been bricked in.

Connecting the tower and the annex a 5'8" long arched brick walk way and a steel door topped by a 18" high steel arch. The double steel doors have hand-forged hinges.

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The building and tower is in good condition and is being studied for restoration and educational use in the public, Lighthouse Park.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

United States Government

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Land lighthouse of Erie was the first lighthouse built by the government on the Great Lakes. General John Kelso ceded the land to the government following an act passed by congress, April 8, 1811 which specified the occupancy and use of certain land near Presque' ile, not less than two or more than four acres, for the purpose of erecting a lighthouse. The first lighthouse was built in 1818 but settling caused by unstable ground conditions damaged the structure so that a second lighthouse of Milwaukee brick was constructed in 1858. This second structure also proved defective and was replaced with the present lighthouse in 1867.

The Erie Land Lighthouse was in operation from 1818 to 1880. Following an inspection by Commander C.W. Howard, the U.S. Navy Inspector of the tenth Lighthouse District, the lighthouse was discontinued and the property sold to Myron Sanford for \$1,800. But public protest was so great that the next session of congress ordered the re-purchase of the property and the re-establishment of the light. However in 1886, it was finally discontinued and the light was last exhibited on December 26, 1899.

The Erie Land Lighthouse was an important part of the early and prosperous shipping system on the Great Lakes.

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Pennsylvania is almost a completely land-locked state making the Erie Land Light--house a very rare structure and a valuable historical and educational resource.

9 MAJOR BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Chicago: Warner Beer & Co., 1864.

Nelson's Biographical Dictionary of Historical Reference Book of Erie County. Erie: S.B. Nelson, Publisher, 1896, page 130.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	5, 77, 4, 20	4, 4, 6, 99, 4, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania 17120

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 9/13/77

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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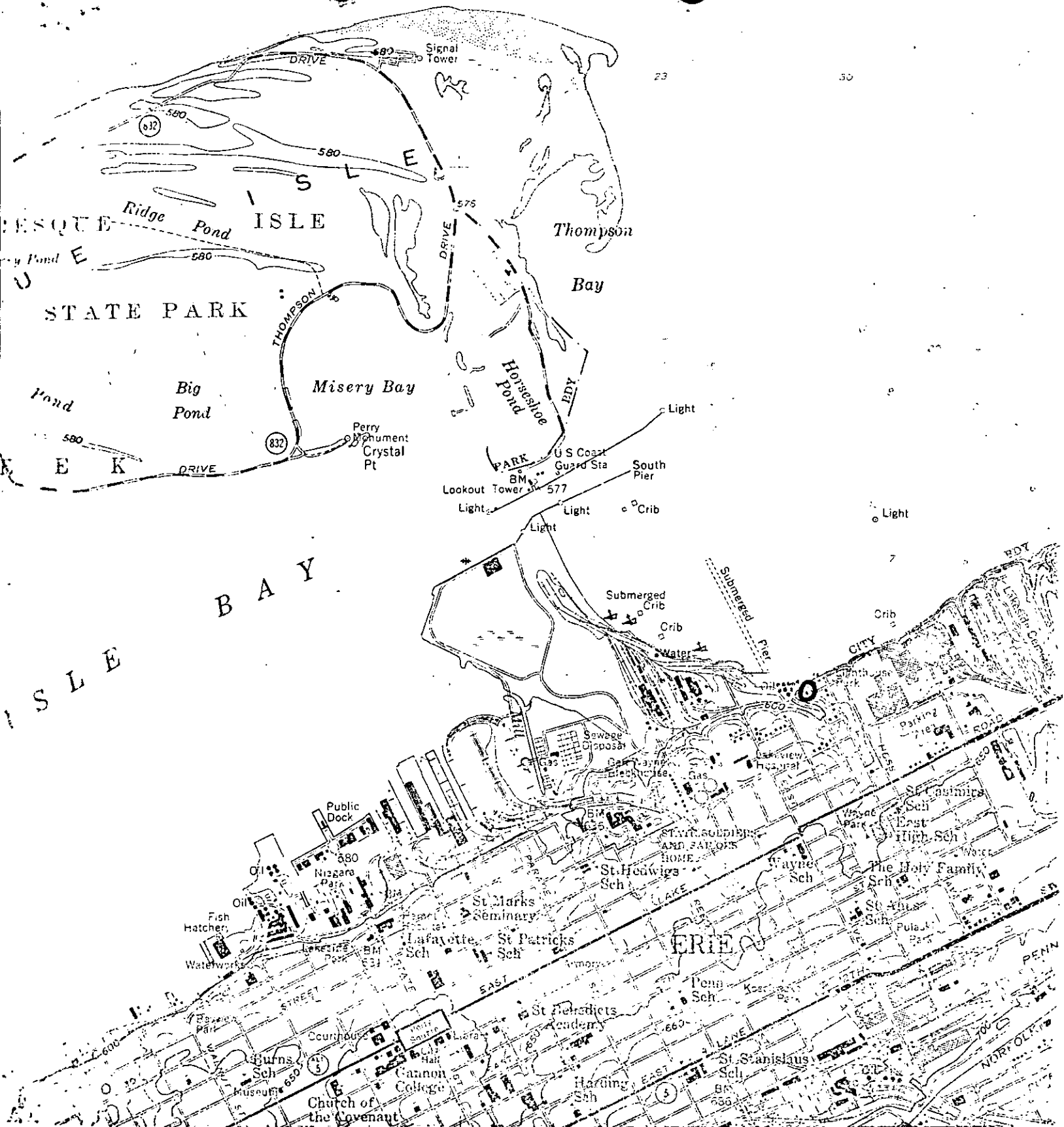
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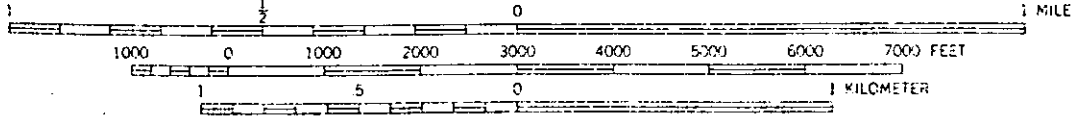
Reed. John Elmer: History of Erie County, Pennsylvania.  
Topeka: Historical Publishing Company, 1925.  
Vol. I.  
Historic American Buildings Survey No. Pennsylvania 517,  
1936.





74 1 MI. TO PA. S 575 576 PRESQUE ISLE (P.O.) 5.1 MI. (ERIE SOUTH) 4968 II SE 578 SWAN

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL.

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 570.5 FEET