

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 30 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 28 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC HECETA HEAD LIGHTHOUSE & ~~LIGHTHOUSE~~ KEEPERS QUARTERS

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. ROUTE #101

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Oregon

CODE

041

COUNTY

Lane

CODE

039

**CLASSIFICATION**

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

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U. S. Forest Service

Commander, 13th Coast Guard District (flp) / Suislaw National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

915 Second Avenue / P.O. Box 1148  
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Seattle

— VICINITY OF

Washington 98174

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Eugene

STATE

Oregon

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1970

— FEDERAL — STATE  — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Parks and Recreational Branch, State Highway Division

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The lighthouse is a three part structure comprised of workroom, passage and tower. It was built about the same time as the Umpqua Lighthouse 28 miles to the south, apparently using the same drawings and specifications.

The tower is a conical stuccoed brick masonry structure with sandstone trim at the base, window enframements and cornice. The diameters of the tower are 24' - 6" at the ground, 19' - 6" above the base and 15' - 6" below the cornice. The height of the masonry tower is 42 feet from the floor of the tower to the floor of the lantern.

The lantern has sixteen sides and is glazed with rectangular panes in three tiers. A simple wrought iron railing surrounds the lantern above the stone cornice of the tower. The lantern is topped with a metal ball ventilator 2' - 6" in diameter.

The cast iron stairway was lighted by two large windows, the lower facing South and the upper North. These windows have been infilled with brick masonry as a preservation measure. The watchroom below the lantern is lighted by four windows (1/1D.H.) alternating with recessed panels.

The small passage, masonry walled, is 6' - 8" wide (ext.-ext.). It was lighted by one window (4/4 D.H.) on each side.

The exterior dimensions of the masonry workroom are 12'-2" (N-S) by 16'-2" (E-W). Access from the exterior is gained up masonry steps through a door on the North side. Light was provided by two windows (4/4D.H.) on the opposite side. A fireplace occupied the East wall.

The exterior of the structure is well executed and endowed with interesting details. The tower rises from a nine foot high base formed by two belts of cut stone work separated by a stuccoed drum. A band of large moulded modillions terminates the masonry below the lantern. The workroom walls rise above a stone base and terminate in sloped stone-capped parapets at the gables. Keystones and rusticated window sills add interest to the openings.

The first order lens with eight bullseyes was illuminated originally by a five wick coal oil lamp to generate 80,000 candle power. The oil lamp was superceded by a gas burner in 1910, which, in turn, gave way to electric power. The present source of illumination is a 500 watt bulb generating a beam of 1,000,000 candle power which is visible 21 miles.

Paint Colors: red (roof); dark green (lantern); white (walls)

The two oil houses are of brick masonry construction of dimensions 12'X16'. The gables are enriched with stepped, corbelled trim. Access is provided by a metal door on one end and a window (now sealed) is located on the other. The cornice was originally sheet metal and the roof corrugated iron; however, modifications through the years have altered this.

The quarters originally comprised a single dwelling for the keeper and a double for two assistants. The designs were identical and provided three rooms on each of two floors, a full basement, an attic, a front porch and a woodshed and storage ell to the rear. The drawings called for such amenities as a hot air furnace and a kitchen sink equipped with a pump. Water was

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{LIGHTHOUSE}

CONTINUATION SHEET

HECETA HEAD

ITEM NUMBER 7

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provided from a filtering cistern 14' in diameter and 11' high (1 per unit).

The exterior of the quarters, of wood frame construction, is sheathed in rustic siding below the second floor line and wood shingles above. Major decorative features are the moulded window enframements and the railings and other wood trim on the front porch.

Extensive modifications were made to the quarters buildings in the 1930's.

Windows in the double dwelling were altered and the woodshed ells were removed. The single dwelling was razed. The quarters are now under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Forest Service.

The area being nominated contains two separate parcels: one containing the lighthouse and two oil houses under U. S. Coast Guard jurisdiction; the other containing the keeper's quarters under U. S. Forest Service jurisdiction.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1892-1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The lighthouse and its location in name memorialize Captain Don Bruno De Heceta of the Spanish Royal Navy who commanded an expedition of exploration in the Pacific Northwest in 1775. This once remote headland, located about midway between Umpqua River and Yaquina Bay, became the location of the last major coastal light established in Oregon. It is also the most powerful beacon along the Oregon Seacoast.

Construction of the Station, commenced in 1892, was completed in 1894 after a total expenditure of \$180,000. It has been reported that the brick masonry materials were freighted by sailing vessel from San Francisco to Florence, reloaded onto barges and towed by the Tug Quillian to the mouth of the Siuslaw, then off-loaded and hauled by team and wagon to the site.

The first order lens, installed in 1893, is of British manufacture by Chance Brothers. More often used in U.S. Lighthouses were those produced by optical specialists in Paris, thus this lens is rare.

Although the buildings have undergone alterations from time to time, the site remains relatively intact and recognizable as a light station. The last resident keeper, Oswald Allik, left in 1963 when the light was automated. The quarters building is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Currently the quarters are used for an environmental education center by Lane Community College under a Special Use Permit granted by the Forest Service.

Together with its twin, Umpqua River Light, this structure is among the most architecturally impressive of lighthouses on the West Coast. It was designed at a time when great attention was devoted to decorative detail of Utilitarian Buildings. The sensitive juxtaposition of textures of the stucco and the cut and rusticated stone has not been disguised by numerous coats of paint.

The siting of the light structure is spectacular. Because of the high visibility to travellers northbound on US 101, this is probably Oregon's most photographed coastal light. It is certainly the central element in a scene long to be remembered.

Heceta Head is now operated as a fully automated, unmanned station.

Construction drawings for the lighthouse and associated structures are on file at the Thirteenth Coast Guard District Office.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gibbs, James A., Sentinels of the North Pacific Portland, OR.: Binford & Mort, 1955

Gibbs, James A., West Coast Lighthouses Seattle: Superior Publishing Co., 1974

Official Records, Thirteenth Coast Guard District, Seattle, Washington

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Lighthouse 1.0 acre, Quarters 2.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	409850	4887550	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

U.S.G.S. Maps, Heceta Head Ore. - 1956

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Oregon		Lane	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

LCDR N.P. Neblett/LT R.J. Williamson

ORGANIZATION

13th Coast Guard District

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

915 Second Ave.

TELEPHONE

(206) 442-5620

CITY OR TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*[Signature]*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

TITLE

E.O. 11593 Federal Representative (DOT)

DATE

12/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-28-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*  
W. Ray Luce



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC HECETA HEAD LIGHTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN ROOSEVELT BEACH XX VICINITY OF FLORENCE COUNTY OREGON STATE

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT THIRTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT DATE OF PHOTO AUG 74

NEGATIVE FILED AT THIRTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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

PHOTO NO

VIEW LOOKING NORTHEASTERLY

08077407





Duplex for Lighthouse Keeper's Assistants  
Heceta Head Lighthouse  
1957 Looking northwesterly  
Oregon State Highway Division Photo #6110  
Transportation Building, Salem OR 97310

NOV 28 1978

Dec 30, 1977