

Small Scale Features

The small scale features at Outer Island Light Station include concrete walks, two flag poles, a cistern, signs, fencing and other small site elements. The small scale features range in condition from poor to good. The following describes the contributing small scale features that are important to the light station's history of navigation. They are the features that convey the development of navigational technology at the light station and influenced the manner in which the station operated. At the Outer Island Light Station, these notable features include concrete walks, flagpoles and the ladder stand. Descriptions of the remaining individual features, many of which are contributing, and their respective condition are included in table OI-2.

The addition of concrete walks relates to the evolution of the light station grounds and contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape. In addition to these features, there are signs, a solar panel, and other site features that have been added to the site outside of the period of significance.

Concrete Walks

Existing Condition. The concrete walks on the grounds were installed during the Light Station period (1901–1938) many of them following the previous layout of wood planks as was typical of the Apostle Islands. Typical to several of the Apostle Islands light stations, the walks appear to be constructed of precast units 2.5'×4'×4" thick with some small units also installed. The units have a fine aggregate finish and tooled edges. Historic photographs indicate that the concrete units may have been placed on top of the ground surface rather than excavated and placed. This practice is also found at other Apostle Island light stations. Other portions of the concrete walks appear to have been poured in place to infill odd shapes and address building edges. Overall the concrete walks are in good condition with only a few slabs requiring replacement due to excessive cracking. Vegetation has encroached, in places, into the joints between slabs.

Analysis. The concrete walks are important to the cultural landscape because their installation occurred during the period when the light station was at its most vibrant and they are closely related to the new technology and buildings that were developed at that same time. The walks are also important because of their production and installation as precast units was common to the other light stations. This construction character helps to depict the stories of each light station and more importantly how they are interrelated. The walks also represent the locations of nonextant wood plank walkways. The concrete walks are important contributing features.

Flagpoles

Existing Condition. There are two flagpoles on the light station grounds, the original flagpole and the second flagpole. The original flagpole is near the top of the tramway, approximately 45' west of the light station's main entrance. Historic photographs indicated flagpoles have been located in this area but have been removed or lost due to harsh climatic conditions on the bluff edge. The extant original flagpole remains from the Light Station period (1901-1938) and is constructed of a single wood mast pole, mounted between two shorter wood base columns, with through bolt connections. The center pole is broken, and stands approximately 10' tall. The two columns are approximately 8" in diameter and mounted in a concrete footing. The original flagpole is in poor condition.

The second flagpole is located centrally between the Fog Signal Building and the Tower and Keepers Quarters along the west side of the concrete walk. The second flagpole dates to the Coast Guard Period (1939-1960) and is notable for the compass rose engraved on its square concrete footing which is 3'x3'.

The pole is steel and stands approximately 30' high. It appears that it was painted white, but now is heavily rusted. The flagpole is in good condition.

Analysis. The flagpoles are important features because they were part of historic use, operation and management of the light station at a time when the stations were manned by light keepers and the USCG. Flagpoles are an element common to all of the light stations in the Apostle Islands and have been historically used to convey information to passing ships. The original flagpole at the Outer Island is of a similar design to the extant flagpole (second) at the Michigan Island Light Station. The flagpoles are contributing features.

Fog Signal Cistern

Existing Condition. The fog signal cistern is located south of the Fog Signal Building, approximately 10' in from the building's southwest corner. The northern portion of the fog signal cistern is 3.5'x 6', bordered by a concrete curb with remnant white paint, 6" wide and 1' tall. This portion is filled with soil and vegetation. The southern portion is a nonsecure, unpainted wooden lid, approximately 18"x24". The depth of the cistern is unknown. The fog signal cistern is in poor condition.

Analysis. The fog signal cistern is significant to the Outer Island Light Station because it was present during the earliest years of the light station. Brown's 1910 annotation of H. Bamber's 1893 map (Site Image OI-09) indicates a cistern in the same location where the fog signal cistern exists today. Site Image OI-12 shows the fog signal cistern once had a hand pump. The fog signal cistern is a contributing feature.

Ladder Stand

Existing Condition. The wooden ladder stand is located approximately 60' south of the Oil Storage. It is approximately 30' long and 5' wide. The ladder stand has three wood posts and a triangular roof made of wood panels approximately 30"x6". The feature has remnant white paint, two remnant ladders, and is in collapsed and poor condition.

Analysis. Lighthouse Keeper A.G. Carpenter built the ladder rack in July of 1939, noting the work in his keeper's log. The feature represents the end of lighthouse keepers and their families occupying the station, built just before the USCG took over the operation of the Outer Island Light Station. The ladder stand is a contributing feature and one that is unique to Outer Island.

1 **Table OI-2: Small Scale Features**

| Feature | Site Image # | Description | Condition | Contributing? /Rationale |
|--|---------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| Concrete Walks (1901-1938) | OI-45 | 2 – 2.5' x 4' concrete panels. Vegetation encroaching on many panels. | Fair | Contributing; See text |
| Original Flagpole (1901-1938) | OI-48 | Wood flagpole northwest of Propane Tanks. | Poor | Contributing; See text |
| Second Flagpole (1939-1960) | OI-45, OI-46, OI-47 | 3' x 3' decorative base with metal pole located between Tower and Fog Signal Building. Rust evident. | Fair | Contributing; See text |
| Fog Signal Cistern (1873-1900) | OI-49 | 3.5' x 6' concrete foundation, 1' tall, and 6 inches wide with 1.5' x 2' covered well opening south of the Fog Signal Building | Good | Contributing; Historic photographs and drawings indicate Cistern was present during the Early Light Station and Light Station periods and modified during the Coast Guard period. The photographs indicate the cistern had a historic hand pump, which is nonextant today. |
| Ladder Stand (c. 1939) | OI-50 | 20' x 5' collapsed wood structure south of Oil Storage c. 1939 | Poor | Contributing; See text |
| Tramway Guard Railing (1934) | OI-51 | Steel pipe railing attached to the east side of the tramway. | Fair | Contributing |
| Park Sign (1970 - present) | OI-52 | Contemporary "Outer Island" park sign | Good | Noncontributing, Compatible |
| Interpretive Sign (1970 - present) | OI-53 | Contemporary park sign with a brief history of Outer Island | Fair | Noncontributing – contemporary, Compatible |
| Wood Fence and Warning Sign (1970 - present) | OI-54 | Contemporary park sign and painted wood fence | Fair | Noncontributing – contemporary, Compatible |
| USGS Marker (c. 1978) | OI-55 | Metal marker located centrally on the Tram Tracks between the Tramway and Fog Signal Building. | Good | Noncontributing – contemporary, Compatible |
| Propane Tanks (2) (1970 - present) | OI-56 | Metal Tanks 2' x 7' at the northwest corner of site. | Good | Noncontributing – contemporary, Compatible |
| Concrete Foundation and Wall (1901-1938) | OI-57 | 12' x 12' concrete foundation, 1' tall, 6" wide and (2) 2.5' tall, 6' long, 1' wide walls west of Fog Signal Building. Wood planks sit atop the walls. Historic photographs indicate this area was used for chopped wood and oil storage. | Concrete: Good Wood: Poor | Contributing; Historic photographs indicate this area was present during the Light Station period and modified during the Coast Guard Period |
| Wood Structure at Fog Signal Building | OI-58 | 2.5' x 10' Wood Structure at 2' tall south of Fog Signal | Fair | Contributing; from the period of significance |

| Feature | Site Image # | Description | Condition | Contributing? /Rationale |
|---|--------------|--|-----------|--|
| (1939-1960) | | Building | | |
| Fuel Tank (1939-1960) | OI-59 | 15' x 6' painted metal tank with metal pipe extending north 4' from north end of tank. | Good | Contributing; from the period of significance |
| Solar Panel (1970 - present) | OI-60, OI-61 | Contemporary solar panel, approximately 15' tall located south of Keepers Quarters | Good | Noncontributing-contemporary; Could be Compatible with appropriate siting. |
| Fiberglass Battery Vault (1970 - present) | OI-60, OI-61 | Adjacent to solar panel, 3.5' x 3.5' x 1' tall concrete structure. | Fair | Noncontributing-contemporary; Could be Compatible with appropriate siting. |
| Wood Planks (2) (1970 - present) | OI-60, OI-62 | (2) 3' x 6" wood planks located southeast of solar panel, marking location of the original well | Fair | Noncontributing – contemporary, Compatible |
| Concrete Footing (date unknown) | OI-60, OI-63 | Circular concrete footing with 2' diameter. | Good | Noncontributing, safety hazard |
| Trail Sign (1970 - present) | OI-64 | Contemporary park sign | Good | Noncontributing-contemporary, Compatible |
| Restrooms Sign (1970 - present) | OI-64 | Contemporary park sign | Good | Noncontributing-contemporary, Compatible |
| Horseshoe Pegs (2) (1939-1960) | OI-65 | (2) 1' tall metal horseshoe pegs with north/south orientation located between collapsed ladder stand and fire pit | Fair | Contributing, Compatible |
| Fire Pit (1970 - present) | OI-66 | 2'9" diameter contemporary fire pit located northwest of Privy | Good | Noncontributing-contemporary; Noncompatible |
| Weather Gauge (1970 - present) | OI-67 | 5'9" tall painted wood post with thermometer north of fire pit. | Poor | Noncontributing, Noncompatible |
| Remnant Post (date unknown) | OI-68 | 2'4" tall wood post west of weather gauge | Poor | Noncontributing, Noncompatible |
| Clothesline (date unknown) | OI-69 | Approximately 70' long extending from White Birch near the collapsed ladder stand to the Mountain Ash near the Oil Storage | Fair | Noncontributing, Compatible |

1 ***Small Scale Feature Photographs***



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3 *Site Image OI-45: Concrete sidewalk viewed from west side of the Keepers Quarters northwest to Fog Signal Building. Fuel*
4 *tank and second flagpole at left and center, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010949.JPG)*
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7 *Site Image OI-46: Second flagpole in foreground at right of image. Outer Light Tower and Keepers Quarters viewed from*
8 *the northwest, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010934.JPG)*
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Site Image OI-47: Second flagpole base and compass rose, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010935.JPG)



Site Image OI-48: Original flagpole, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010916.JPG)



Site Image OI-49: Fog signal cistern foundation, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010929.JPG)

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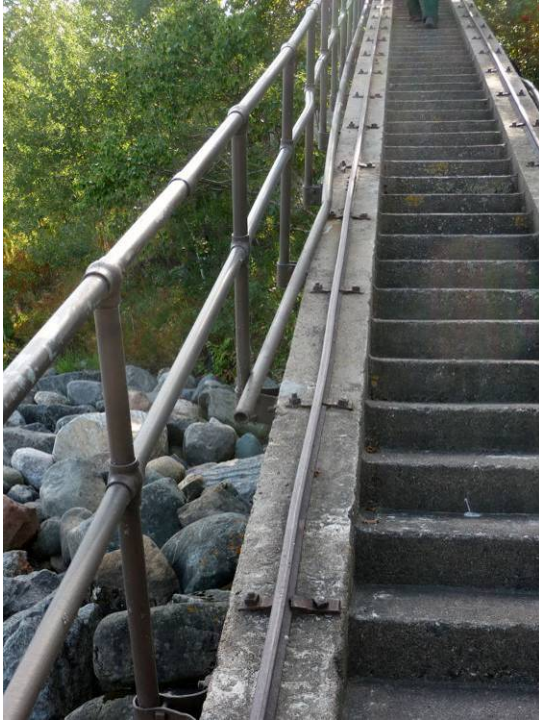


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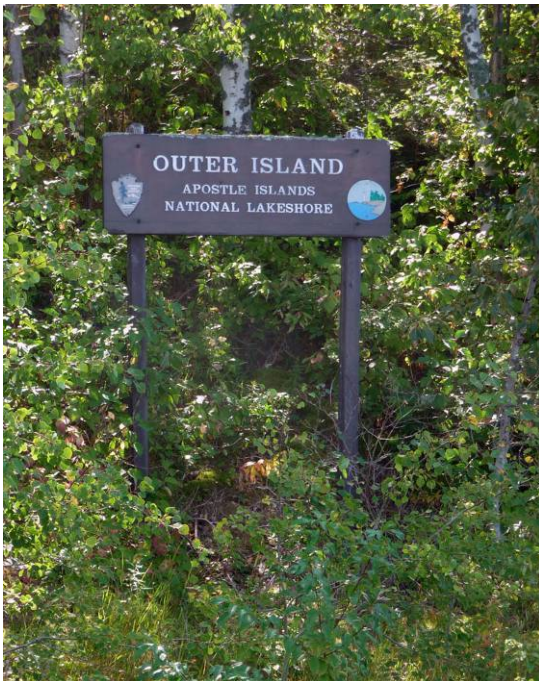


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Site Image OI-50: Collapsed ladder stand (c. 1939), above: c. 1980 (Source: NPS APIS Archives); below: c. 2009 (Source: MBD P1010984.JPG)



Site Image OI-51: Concrete tramway pipe railing, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010867.JPG)



Site Image OI-52: Park sign, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010842.JPG)



Site Image OI-53: Interpretive sign, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010904.JPG)



Site Image OI-54: Wood fence and warning sign, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010903.JPG)



Site Image OI-55: USGS marker, 2009 (Source: MBD P1020006.JPG)



Site Image OI-56: Propane tanks (2) and original flagpole, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010905.JPG)



Site Image OI-57: Concrete foundation and wall, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010925.JPG)



Site Image OI-58: Wood structure, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010930.JPG)



Site Image OI-59: Fuel tank, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010937.JPG)



Site Image OI-60: Solar panel and fiberglass battery storage unit at the south side of the Keepers Quarters, wood planks at right, and concrete footing in foreground, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010960.JPG)



Site Image OI-61: Solar panel and fiberglass battery storage unit, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010954.JPG)



Site Image OI-62: Wood planks marking site of original well, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010958.JPG)



Site Image OI-63: Concrete footing, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010962.JPG)



Site Image OI-64: Restroom and trail sign, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010966.JPG)



Site Image OI-65: Horseshoe peg, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010976.JPG)



Site Image OI-66: Fire pit, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010986.JPG)



Site Image OI-67: Weather gauge, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010972.JPG)



Site Image OI-68: Remnant post in foreground and collapsed ladder stand in background, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010974.JPG)



Site Image OI-69: Clothesline. Oil Storage and Fog Signal Building in background, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010979.JPG)

Vegetation

Existing Condition. Vegetation at Outer Island includes natural forested areas, cleared and maintained areas, and domestic plantings. The forest area is a mixed northern hardwood forest and is the predominant landscape of the island. The light station grounds also include historically cleared areas that have been infiltrated by the adjacent forest and are now brush landscape types. The core of the light station is a maintained lawn of mown grasses. Domestic plantings exist near the Fog Signal Building and the Oil Storage, and at the south end of the site, near the Privy. These plantings include: lilac (*Syringa* sp.), serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.), juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), maples (*Acer* sp.) and mountain ash (*Sorbus* sp). Trees at the south end of the site, near the Privy include: dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), white birch (*Alnus tenuifolia*), and poplar (*Populus* sp). The condition of the vegetation on the light station grounds varies from good to poor. The cleared area of the light station is in poor condition.

Analysis. The cleared area of the light station is an important contributing feature. Historic drawings and photographs indicate that a significantly larger cleared area on the reservation existed than that which exists today. Since the early Coast Guard period (1939-1960), the cleared area of the light station has continued to decline from approximately 9.5 acres to 1.6 acres in 2009. During the period of significance the light station grounds were maintained as lawn or other low vegetation. The cleared area immediately adjacent to the light station grounds were maintained as open fields by seasonal burning. Today, a large portion of these open fields have been filled by encroaching forest and the field vegetation type is missing from the landscape.

During the Early Light Station period, the light station grounds were maintained as lawn or low vegetation. According to the keeper's log, the first keeper in 1874 brought currant and raspberry bushes, planting them near the Keepers Quarters. Historic photos show plantings along the east side of the Keepers Quarters as late as 1939. The keeper's log also has several references to planting potatoes, and the setting out of trees. Siblings Walter Daniels and Isabel Daniels Cassidy revisited their childhood home (1917-1937) and remembered gardens with corn, potatoes, and vegetables located between the house and the privy. There is little evidence of vegetable garden plantings at the light station remaining from the Early Light Station and Light Station periods. Garden and landscape plantings made a substantial contribution to the cultural landscape of Outer Island; however, because information on the precise location of the gardens does not exist, it is inappropriate at this time to designate the vegetable gardens as contributing features.

Today, there are areas near the Fog Signal Building and Oil Storage with mature plantings. The mountain ash tree and lilacs east of the Oil Storage as well as the lilac east of the Fog Signal Building are contributing features and can be seen in Site Image OI-21. The lilac east of the Fog Signal Building is the latest blooming lilac in the state of Wisconsin.

Based on historic photographs, the plantings south of the Fog Signal Building appear to have been planted after the period of significance although no documentation exists as to the precise date they were planted. Vegetation features present on the site are described in Table OI-03 and their condition is stated.

The trees at the south end of the site, near the Privy, appear to be encroaching forest vegetation. These trees are noncontributing features, but compatible, as they do not interrupt the views between the light station grounds and Lake Superior.

The relationship between the extent of the cleared area and forest vegetation on the reservation has changed significantly since the period of significance. The extensive encroachment of forest vegetation has diminished the integrity of the light station.

1 **Table OI-3: Vegetation**

| Feature | Site Image # | Description | Condition | Contributing? /Rationale |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Lawn Area | OI-70 | Maintained lawn area of light station grounds | Fair | Contributing; See text |
| Domestic Plantings Near Fog Signal Building | OI-71 | Junipers, service berry, and maple near southeast corner of Fog Signal Building | Good | Noncontributing, Noncompatible |
| Lilac at Fog Signal Building | OI-72 | Lilac near southeast corner of Fog Signal Building | Good | Contributing; See text |
| Domestic Plantings Near Oil Storage | OI-73 | Mountain ash and lilacs east of Oil Storage | Good | Contributing; See text |
| Trees near Privy | OI-74 | White birch, dogwood, and poplar, encroaching forest | Fair to Poor | Noncontributing, Compatible |
| Slope Vegetation | OI-26 | Encroaching vegetation on light station's embankments | Good | Noncontributing, Noncompatible |

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1 ***Vegetation Photographs***



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3 *Site Image OI-70: Lawn area, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010952.jpg)*



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6 *Site Image OI-71: Domestic plantings near Fog Signal Building (Serviceberry, Juniper, and Maple), 2009 (Source: MBD*
7 *P1010940.JPG)*



Site Image OI-72: Lilac near Fog Signal Building, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010933.JPG)

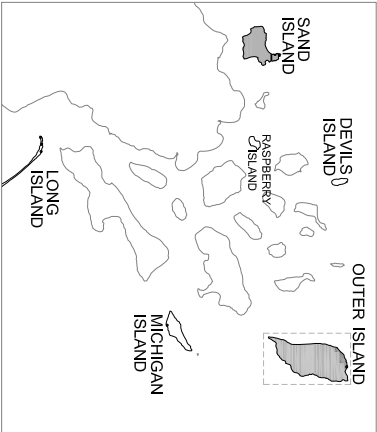


Site Image OI-73: Mountain Ash and Lilacs near Oil Storage, 2009 (Source: MBD P1010988.jpg)

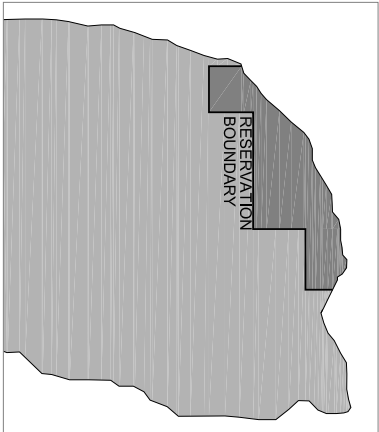


Site Image OI-74: Encroaching forest near Privy, 2009 (Source: MBD DSC00620.JPG)

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ISLAND KEY



OUTER ISLAND

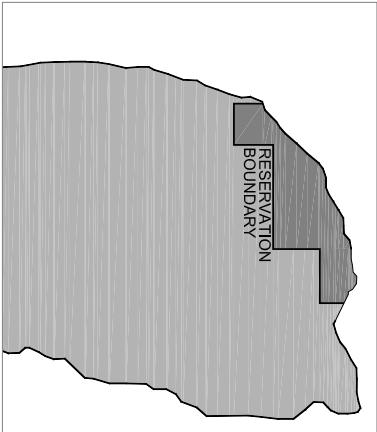
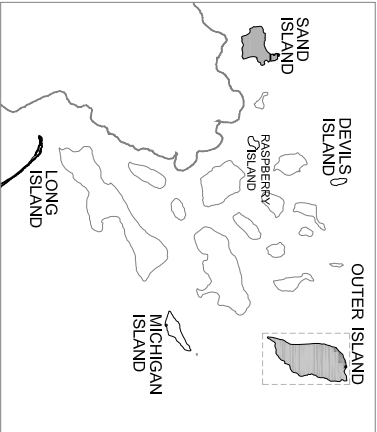
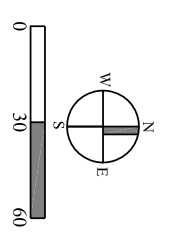
LEGEND

- Forest
- Forest Encroachment
- Lawn
- Shoreline Zone
- Reservation Boundary
- Lake Edge
- Top of Embankment



SITE IMAGE 01-75

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE OF PROJECT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT | |
| TITLE OF DRAWING EXISTING CONDITIONS | |
| UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE | OUTER ISLAND - RESERVATION BOUNDARY NAME OF PARK APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE REGION MIDWEST COUNTY ASHLAND STATE WISCONSIN |



- LEGEND**
- Forest
 - Forest Encroachment
 - Lawn
 - Beach
 - Stone Revetment
 - Erosion Control
 - Deciduous Tree
 - Tram Tracks
 - Concrete Walk
 - Trench
 - Top / Bottom of Embankment
 - Lake Edge
- BUILDINGS**
- A. Fog Signal Building (1901)
 - B. Outer Light Tower and Keepers Quarters (1874)
 - C. Privy (1874)
 - D. Oil Storage (1895)

| | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| TITLE OF PROJECT | | CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT | |
| EXISTING CONDITIONS | | TITLE OF DRAWING | |
| UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR | | OUTER ISLAND LIGHT STATION | |
| APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE | | NAME OF PARK | |
| | | APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE | |
| REGION | | COUNTY | |
| MIDWEST | | ASHLAND | |
| | | STATE | |
| | | WISCONSIN | |

SITE IMAGE 01-76