

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

JUN 14 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Megunticook Golf Club

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 212 Calderwood Lane N/A not for publication

city or town Rockport,  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04856

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eric S. Steinhilber 6/9/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Delores Byrne

~~Entered in the National Register~~

Date of Action

7/22/93

Megunticook Golf Club  
Name of Property

Knox, Maine  
County and State

**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	
1	1	buildings
3		sites
		structures
		objects
4	1	Total

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Recreation & Culture/Sports Facility

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

Recreation & Culture/Sports Facility

**7. Description**

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

Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Shingle

roof Asphalt

other Wraparound Porch

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Megunticook Golf Club  
Name of Property

Knox, Maine  
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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Landscape Architecture
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1902-1943

**Significant Dates**

1902  
1912  
1915

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Manning, Warren, Landscape Architect  
Taylor, Albert, Landscape Architect

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Megunticook Golf Club  
Name of Property

Knox, Maine  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 66.1

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	4915	5710	4892	3000
Zone		Easting		Northing	
2	19	4915	5100	4891	6810

3	19	4941	910	4891	910
Zone		Easting		Northing	
4	19	4944	400	4892	550

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Igleheart, Kirk Mohny, Architectural Historians

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1993

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetMEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUBSection number 7 Page 2

The Megunticook Golf Club is located on a 66.1 acre site on Beauchamp Point in Rockport. The one-and-a-half mile long course consists of nine holes of varying lengths which are guarded by a variety of sand and earth berm hazards. Its irregular L-shaped configuration is bounded on the east by Calderwood Road and Penobscot Bay, Russell Avenue to the north, and heavily wooded private property to the south and west. The club house is located on a high piece of ground mid-point in the site with commanding views overlooking a large portion of the course and Penobscot Bay. The land is gently undulating with a natural appearance toward the Bay whereas the ground to the rear of the club house is more rugged and steep. Tennis courts are located immediately to the west and north of the club house. The site is surrounded by several residential buildings, originally constructed as summer cottages.

Consistent with recommended golf course design at the turn of the century, the links begin and end near the clubhouse. The first tee is immediately in front of the club house with an open view along the narrow fairway to the first green, a distance of 378 yards. The fairway is flanked by ledge outcroppings to the east and mature deciduous trees to the west. The second tee is located in the southwest corner of the property. The par four hole, which includes two hazards, a brook and a crossing over Calderwood Road, is a 279 yard shot. The land slopes gently about 20 feet from tee to green along this south boundary of the course. The third hole is a relatively long one, 406 yards uphill, where the player must clear the road and avoid a linear water hazard, the brook. The fourth hole is very short, only about 111 yards, but it is a blind shot to the green which is blocked by a ledge outcropping.

Greens five through nine are to the north of the club house. The terrain is more rugged and wooded in this section. The fifth tee is located on one of the highest points on the course. The shot is one of the longest at 400 yards, and crosses Beauchamp Street to the fifth green. The fifth and sixth greens and the sixth and seventh tees are located in an adjoining 12.35 acre section which was added to the course in 1915.

The sixth tee is reached through a woodland path, one of two such paths on the course. The sixth hole is a short shot, only 194 yards to the green, located in the western-most point of the club's property. The seventh hole, which crosses Beauchamp Street back to the original portion of the course, is the longest at 495 yards, with a par five "dog leg."

The eighth hole is a relatively short shot at 160 yards. The original eighth hole was a much longer shot with the green behind ledge and a grove of trees. A second woodland trail runs through the ledge, wooded area behind the eighth green to the ninth tee. The ninth hole, which brings the player back to the club house, is a par 4, 245 yard shot with trees and ledge

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

Section number 7 Page 3

---

hazards.

In plan, the club house is an irregularly-shaped building, but its expansive roof and engaged wrap-around veranda suggest a more rectangular form. The building's dramatic low profile, rubble stone foundation, brown stained shingled walls, and the void created between the porch deck and roof result in a structure that is remarkably suited to its site. As described in the July 25, 1902 edition of the Camden Herald., the club house:

... is Indian bungalow in style of architecture, 130 feet in length by 80 wide. A sixteen foot veranda extends completely around the house, giving 400 feet in length of veranda room. Entering by the main door, one is in the reading room, in which is located the office and desk, and from which may be entered the different rooms of the house. On the right is the main club room, 33X33 feet, on the left the ladies' parlor, 24X34. In each of these rooms is a picturesque stone fireplace and chimney....

The main approach to the club house is a narrow, kidney-shaped drive which turns off of Calderwood Road. Its exit loop lies parallel to a dry laid rubble stone retaining wall whose height increases near the club house to accommodate the change in grade.

There are two additional frame buildings on the property, both of relatively recent origin and located north of the club house. They include a small gable-roofed fuel shed and a larger structure used to store grounds keeping vehicles and golf carts. Between the club house and the maintenance buildings are two of the original (1912) tennis courts that are ringed by a tall chain link fence. Originally constructed with a clay surface, these courts now have an all-weather asphalt surface. Immediately to the north is a gravel parking lot. To the west of the club house are two additional tennis courts with their original clay surfaces.

The Megunticook Golf Club survives in a remarkable state of integrity. In the southern portion of the course, Warren Manning's 1912 design is well preserved, the only significant alteration being the removal of the bunker which guarded the first green and a locational change to the second tee on 3.25 acres of land given to the club by member Mrs. Spellisey. Likewise, and with the exception of the eighth hole, holes five through nine in the northern portion of the course continue to illustrate the historic routing as laid out in the 1915 expansion by Albert Taylor. However, in both portions the rectilinear greens specified on the 1912 and 1915 drawings have been altered to a more curvilinear shape. A shed which had been constructed near the entry drive to accomodate members' horses and a pavillion and steps to the beach near the second green do not survive.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

Section number 8 Page 2

The Megunticook Golf Club on Beauchamp Point in Rockport, is among the oldest surviving private golf clubs in Maine. First organized in 1899 and incorporated in 1901, the club's golf course and club house were opened for the 1902 summer season. The club house was designed by Boston architect Charles Brigham. Club notes credit groundskeeper Thomas Grant with designing the course with the work performed by local landscape contractor George W. Ingraham. Landscape architects Warren Manning and Albert D. Taylor were called in to improve the course in 1912 and 1915 respectively. The Megunticook Golf Club is significant as an example of a designed golf course and club house. It is eligible for listing under criterion A for its association with the development of forms of entertainment and recreation in the Camden/Rockport summer colony and under criterion C for its landscape architecture and architecture.

The history of golfing in Maine has recently been explored in a book entitled The Maine Golf Guide. In it, the authors state that the first recognizable golf course did not appear until the 1890s in association with the rapid development of the state's numerous summer cottage enclaves and tourist resorts. Bar Harbor's Kebo Valley Club, organized in 1888, is generally considered to be the earliest association of its type in Maine, with its original six-hole course having been laid out in 1891. Prior to 1900 some fifteen courses were in existence including Megunticook. An aspect of the Megunticook Golf Club which distinguishes it from other early courses in Maine, however, is its private status. Today, of the fourteen private courses in the state, Megunticook appears to be not only the oldest but also one of the most intact of the early courses.

Golf was first introduced to Camden in 1898 when a group of summer residents had a six-hole course laid out on Ogier's Hill in Camden. This course may have been the one whose design is credited to golf pioneer Alexander H. Findley (1865-1942) in the 1900 and 1901 editions of The Golf Guide. However, the members quickly became unhappy with the physical conditions of the site and unfavorable terms for use of the property. Shortly thereafter, summer resident Charles W. Henry of Philadelphia transferred a portion of his recently acquired property on Beauchamp Point to this enthusiastic group of golfers for the development of a club. Located principally on the site of what had been the Calderwood Farm, the Calderwood Improvement Association was established to hold the property composed of the golf links and club house.

Preliminary work on the course began in September of 1901 under the direction of local landscape contractor George W. Ingraham. The former pasture and woodland site required extensive reworking to create the golf course as indicated in an article which appeared in the July 25, 1902 edition of the Camden Herald:

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

Section number   8   Page   3  

... a piece of swampy woodland two acres in extent, has been transformed into a dry, smooth field, the swamp being filled in with four feet of rocks, covered to a good depth with dirt. These rocks were all taken from another section of the course which from an unusually rocky strip of woods has become a smooth tract with a fine growth of grass. In another place, Mr. Ingraham has removed a ledge twenty feet high.

The same article gave the distance and bogey for each link of the course:

Link	Distance	Bogey
1	230	4
2	145	3
3	253	4 1/8
4	242	4
5	168	3 1/8
6	335	5
7	242	4 1/8
8	410	5 1/8
9	<u>85</u>	<u>3</u>
	2,110	37

The article cited above provides the only known information about the original course. Thus, the extent of the work undertaken by Warren Manning in 1912 is uncertain. And, although he did prepare a detailed map of the course, it is unclear whether the features indicated were of his design or were existing ones. In any case, he did make improvements to the drainage system.

The layout of the northern section of the course proved to be very congested with players frequently hit by golfballs. As a result, wire nets were installed to protect the golfers. To remedy the situation, A. H. Chatfield gave an adjoining 12.5 acre parcel to the club in 1915. Landscape architect Albert Davis Taylor was commissioned to design the expansion thereby largely bringing the course to its present size and design.

The development of the Megunticook Golf Club was the direct result of the influence and interests of the Camden/Rockport summer colony, an enclave whose greatest period of growth coincides with the construction of the course. Camden's first summer boarders are believed to have arrived in the 1850s, but the first cottage was not erected until 1871. This initial development was followed by a veritable boom that saw the construction of dozens of "cottages," in the 1890s and 1900s. This activity is demonstrated



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

Section number 8 Page 4

---

by a report in the May 5, 1899, edition of the Camden Herald in which it was stated that "Never before were so many outside people interested in cottages and cottage lots as this year."

The first summer cottage constructed in Camden is located on a point of land originally known as Ogier's, but subsequently referred to as Dillingham Point. It was first built upon in 1871 when Caleb Holyoke of Brewer erected a cottage. Edward Dillingham of Bangor, Maine acquired the property in 1881 and renamed the cottage "Arequipa." Mr. Dillingham and his sons soon purchased the adjoining lots and constructed several cottages, five of which remain.

Construction at Dillingham Point was mirrored by the development of Ogier's Hill. Alfred M. Judson purchased a large tract atop the hill in 1881 on which he erected "Stonyhurst," a magnificent estate precipitating further colonization by the wealthy of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Among the subsequent builders of substantial cottages were the Rev. Theodore Prudden of Brookline, Massachusetts, New Yorker Lawrence Abbott, and Col. Myron Parker of Washington, D. C. By the late 1890s the Beauchamp Point area of Rockport, on which the existing golf course is located and which adjoins Ogier's Hill, had begun to be developed. In 1899 Albert H. Chatfield of Cincinnati had acquired a large parcel of property known as the "Barrett Farm" on the Camden side of the area, whereas several former farms on the "Point" were acquired beginning in 1899 by Charles W. Henry of Philadelphia. Both the Chatfields and Henrys subsequently remodeled three existing farmhouses into summer residences and additional "cottages" were built on adjoining properties. Separating the two original nineteenth century farm compounds is the irregularly shaped area of the golf course.

Charles H. Brigham (1841-1925), the architect of the club house, was a long time Boston architect and a partner in the firms of Sturgis & Brigham (1866-86), Brigham & Spofford (1888-91), and Brigham, Coveney & Bisbee (1907-19). During the several intervening years between these partnerships, including the period of the Megunticook project, he apparently was practicing on his own. To date, his known work in Maine includes the Lewiston City Hall, remodeling of the west wing of the State House, and the Belfast Memorial Building (all during the partnership with John C. Spofford), as well as the First Church of Christ Scientist in Portland (1915), and the Frederick Gilbert Cottage in Rockport. The contractor for the club house was W. E. Schwartz, a Camden architect/builder who was in some way responsible for many of the summer cottages in the Camden/Rockport area.

Warren H. Manning (1860-1938), the landscape architect of the golf course, began his career working in his father's nursery in Reading, Massachusetts. He was employed by the Olmsted Firm in Brookline,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

Section number 8 Page 5

Massachusetts from 1888-1896. In 1896 Manning left the Olmsted firm and in 1901 formed a partnership with his brother, J. Woodward Manning. The practice was dissolved in 1905 and Warren continued to practice under his own name in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Throughout his career Manning had over 40 commissions in Maine, including state parks, urban planning, institutional grounds, and estate designs. The Manning office records include three residential projects which adjoin club property for club members: A. H. Chatfield in 1900, Cyrus H. K. Curtis in 1902, and L. A. Ault in 1910. Their familiarity with Manning's work may have influenced the club's decision to engage his services. Prior to working at Megunticook, Manning had designed a private golf course at Hillstead for architect Theodata Pope in Farmington, Connecticut in 1897 and in the same year as Megunticook, the Meadow Brook Golf Course in Reading, Massachusetts.

A. D. Taylor (1883-1951) studied at the Massachusetts State Agricultural College and received a Master's degree from Cornell University's College of Agriculture in 1906. Taylor worked for Warren Manning and in 1912 after four years in the office he became an associate.

On March 1, 1914, Warren Manning announced A. D. Taylor's departure from the firm. Taylor continued to work with Camden clients, as reported in the August 14, 1914 edition of the Camden Herald:

Mr. Albert D. Taylor, Landscape Architect, who has handled extensive work on many large country estates throughout the east and Middle West and who has also carried out a great amount of work during the past two years for various summer residents in Camden, will be in Camden from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. Mr. Taylor was formerly associated with Mr. Warren H. Manning, President of the American Society of Landscape Architects. He is now conducting an extensive practice for himself with offices in Boston and Cleveland. Mr. Taylor has made numerous visits to Camden during the past three years, especially in connection with work on the property of Mr. A. H. Chatfield, Mr. Cyrus Curtis. Mrs. J. J. Borland, and Mrs. C. W. Henry. When not being entertained by friends in Camden, Mr. Taylor can be reached in care of the Bay View Hotel.

A. H. Chatfield maintained a professional relationship with Taylor well after his work on the golf course, commissioning him, in 1925, to design a luxury subdivision called "Camargo" (now the village of Indian Hill) in Cincinnati. The extent of Taylor's work in Maine is not known.

The design of the golf course reflects both Manning's and Taylor's naturalistic approach to landscape design. It also contains features

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

Section number   8   Page   6  

---

employed at courses designed by well-known golf architects, most notably the use of natural hazards and the flat square greens (Martin, 1936, p. 335). Although extensive earth moving was performed in 1902, the natural appearance of the course makes it an integral component of the cultural landscape at Beauchamp Point. The woodland areas that are maintained between the fairways, the expansive view of the bay from the club house and throughout the southern portion of the course, utilize the site to its best advantage. The course is framed by mixed hardwood and evergreen plantings which provide a verdant backdrop year-round.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

Section number   9   Page   2  

---

Brigham, Charles. Architect File, Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Augusta.

Glimpses of Camden on the Coast of Maine. Newtonville, Massachusetts: J. R. Prescott. 1904, 1916.

Grundmann, William. "Warren H. Manning," American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places. Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press. 1989.

Labbanca, Bob and Cornwell, David. The Maine Golf Guide. Stockbridge, Vermont: New England Golf Specialists. 1991.

Manning, Warren. Landscape Architect File, Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Augusta.

Martin, H. B. Fifty Years of American Golf. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company. 1936.

The Megunticook Golf Club, undated typescript notes.

National Register Nomination for the Chestnut Street Historic District, Camden, Maine. Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Augusta.

Robinson, Reuel. History of Camden and Rockport, Maine. Rockland, Maine: Huston's Book Store. 1907.

Vernon, Noël Dorsey. "Albert Taylor Davis." American Landscape Architecture Designers and Places. Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press. 1989.

Wendehack, Clifford Charles. Golf and Country Clubs. New York: William Helborn, Incorporated. 1927.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MEGUNTICOOK GOLF CLUB

KNOX, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 1

---

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Megunticook Golf Club occupies the Town of Rockport tax maps 2, lot 5; 25, lot 92; and 26, lot 18.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire 66.1 acres which constitute the Megunticook Golf Club property including the original tract, as well as the addition made in 1915.