

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 22 1985

date entered MAR 21 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Gripsholm Manor

and/or common The Drexel Estate (preferred for listing)

2. Location

street & number The Bluff N/A not for publication

city, town Islesboro, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Waldo code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John Colaprete Robert Longi

street & number 118 Pinewood Drive 888 Front Street

city, town Virginia Beach, Va. 23451 Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii 96761

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waldo County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Belfast, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on an isolated point of land overlooking Penobscot Bay, the Drexel House is situated on hilly terrain and surrounded by woods. The large, sprawling house is wood frame construction with shingle siding and gable roofs. Standing two-and-one-half stories high, the house has an asymmetrical plan and is designed in the Tudor style. All of the double-hung sash, which are original, contain diamond pane lights.

The west facade, which faces inland, includes an entrance portico with half timbering supported in chamfered posts. Flanking the portico is a large oriel window that lights the main staircase and hall. A square tower with a steep pitched roof at the northeast corner of the house contributes to the effect of picturesque asymmetry. The opposite elevation, facing the ocean, is more restrained but includes two large porches which, like the walls, are also sheathed with shingles. A large servants wing, arranged perpendicularly to the main section of the house, is located on the south end of the house.

The Drexel House contains original interior woodwork which, however, is quite plain. The central staircase suggests a medieval English estate in its stark simplicity. A similar effect is conveyed in the large north parlor where there is a rustic fieldstone fireplace. An unusual aspect of the interior, which remains almost completely unaltered, is the existence of numerous bathrooms with original fixtures.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903 ~~Butler~~ Architect Peabody & Stearns

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In addition to the obvious importance of the Drexel Estate as an impressive example of opulent summer resort living, this home is also significant as the residence of a remarkable individual who was a creative pioneer in high-speed power boat engineering.

One of the better known summer residents of Islesboro for about thirty years, roughly 1910-1940, was George W. C. Drexel of Philadelphia. Locally he was an object of awe and wonder as he drove his fast launches, some capable of 28 knots, around the waters of the eastern shore.

Drexel may have achieved primary recognition among his associates as a financier and philanthropist, but his reputation in the yachting fraternity was equally distinguished. Not only was he a skilled handler of fast power-boats, he was also a near-genius in the installation and operation of marine internal combustion engines. He did much to introduce fast, reliable marine engines to the Penobscot region of Maine long before Great Lakes' manufacturers of high-speed, mass-produced runabouts were able to deliver their products to the East coast in the mid-1920s.

Unlike most men of great wealth, Mr. Drexel was not averse to getting his own hands dirty. Although few people outside his own immediate circle were aware of it, he was a first-rate machinist in the high-speed, gasoline engine field, and he kept a perfectionist's sharp, critical eye on the servicing and operation of his fleet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Down East Magazine, July, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Islesboro

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	5	0	9	5	2	0	4	9	0	9	8	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 26, Lot 7

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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1985

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national 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

title *Euse S. Feltzworth* S.H.P.O. date 2/8/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Melores Byer Entered in the National Register date 3.21.85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

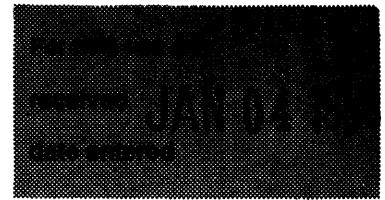
Additional Documentation

Drexel Estate
Waldo County, ME

Patrick Andrus 2/18/88

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



DREXEL ESTATE
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Drexel Estate
Islesboro, Maine
Amended Significance #8
December 17, 1987

Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street, Station #65
Augusta, Maine 04333

The summer cottage which Drexel commissioned to be built in 1903 was the work of one of the nation's most important architectural firms at the turn of the century. Robert Swaim Peabody (1845-1917) and John Goddard Stearns, Jr. (1843-1917) became partners in 1870. Their work in Maine began in 1881 with a summer cottage for Charles W. Eliot at Northeast Harbor. By the late 1890s their designs had assumed larger more formal compositions as expressed in the house for William R. Dupee built on Islesboro in 1897-98. The Drexel house was built during the mid point of the firm's work in Maine, and it is an intact and representative example from the period. In total Peabody and Stearns are known to have obtained twenty-two commissions in the state, one of which was not executed, three of which have been destroyed while three are unlocated.

Bibliography

Milliken, Weston F. "Peabody and Stearns". A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine. Vol. IV, No. 2, Augusta: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1987.