

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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DIVISION OF  
NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dix Family Stable  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Rt. 102A N/A not for publication  
city, town Bass Harbor N/A vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04653

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

2/27/90

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

Helene Syer

4/5/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Secondary Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/WeatherboardWood/Shingleroof Wood/Shingleother Gabled Ventilator on Roof

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dix Family Stable is a two-story frame building of unusual design. Sheathed in weatherboards on the first story and scalloped wood shingles above, the stable has an elaborately detailed pent gable on the facade that intersects the broad clipped gable roof of the main block. The ridge of this tall roof is crowned by a gabled ventilator. A small ell covered by a tall hip roof projects to the rear.

The building's symmetrically composed front (west) elevation features a paneled two-leaf track mounted doorway on the lower level that is flanked by twelve-paned fixed windows. A flared overhang shelters these windows and marks the beginning of the shingles. Located above the main entrance is a two-leaf door with an exterior safety gate used when the doors were opened. A pair of narrow six-pane windows frame the door. The doors are sheltered by a large bracketed hood that forms the peak of the gable. It has a narrow louvered ventilator in the middle of its tympanum. Bracketed gable end returns from the main roof extend across a portion of the facade and define the lower edge of the pent gable.

The south side elevation is dominated by the wide clipped gable that frames a side door and three asymmetrically placed first story windows. A trio of six-pane fixed sash occupy the center part of the gable. Narrow gable returns project into the shingled upper story. The south wall of the shed is a continuous extension of the main block's first story with two symmetrically placed twelve-pane windows. On the north side the fenestration pattern is identical on the upper floor but is reduced to two windows on the lower story. The deeply recessed north wall of the ell has no openings, but there is a door on the adjacent east wall of the stable and one in the rear of the ell.

There are four primary spaces on the interior: three on the first floor and one in the loft. The front half of the lower story is an open area originally designed for the storage of carriages. Entry into it is made through the double doors and the small south side door. Behind this space in the south side and separated from it by a half height partition is the stable. The stable can be arranged with one large or two small stalls by the use of a movable partition with a hinged gate, all of which slides on a ceiling mounted track. Both the carriage and stable areas are detailed with

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vertically sheathed wainscot on the lower half of the walls and narrow rectangular panels above. Opposite from the stable is a paneled enclosure with three doors, behind one of which is the stair to the loft whereas the others open to reveal closet space. The loft is unfinished.

In 1989 the stable was moved approximately fifty feet to the east of its original position and placed upon a concrete foundation. Additional space will be made available in the basement thus formed, but the historic appearance of the site will be largely retained through the contouring of the fill.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1890  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1890  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Co-operative Building Plan Association  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This highly unusual and remarkably intact building was built as a free-standing stable/carriage house on the property of Charles and Almira Dix in Bass Harbor. Their highly embellished residence does not survive. The stable was constructed, probably in the 1890s, by an as yet unidentified builder who drew heavily upon design No. 589 in Shoppell's Modern Houses (1889). The building is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C and criteria consideration B for its architectural significance.

The use of designs from mail order architectural firms was a practice which, judged by the proliferation of firms and publications as well as surviving buildings, was a widespread practice in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One of the leading purveyors of this business was Robert W. Shoppell and his Co-operative Building Plan Association. Shoppell's first collection of architectural designs was published in 1883 and titled How to Build a House: Co-operative Building Plans, Containing the Most Approved Designs for Villas, Cottages, Farm House(s) and Suburban Residences. Beginning in 1886 the first of his popular series of periodicals - Shoppell's Modern Houses, an Illustrated Architectural Quarterly - appeared with illustrations by Stanley S. Covert and Albert H. Kipp. It was volume number 13 of this periodical that contained the design upon which the Dix Family Stable was built.

Numerous "pattern book houses" have been identified in Maine, but outbuildings that share such an origin are comparatively rare. The overall integrity of this particular example is especially noteworthy. In the context of its modest vernacular residential neighbors the stable stands as one of Bass Harbor's most significant architectural landmarks, and a conspicuous reminder of the impact of popular architectural periodicals in the nineteenth century. Despite the fact that the building has been moved to a point some fifty feet from its original location, its significance is not diminished.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Shoppell's Modern Houses. New York: The Co-operative Building Plan Association, No. 13, 1889.

Tomlan, Michael Andrew. "Popular and Professional American Architectural Literature in the Late Nineteenth Century." Ph.D. Dissertation, Cornell University, 1983.

See continuation sheet

**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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1.46

**UTM References**

A 

1	9	5	5	2	3	2	0	4	8	9	8	7	9	1	5
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Tremont tax map 3, lot 12 B.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire lot on which the stable now stands. This new site is approximately 50 feet east of the original location and occupies a portion of the original lot.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date December, 1989

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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Unfortunately, little has been uncovered about the original owners of this property. In 1881 Almira T. Dix, the wife of Charles Dix, both of whom were then residents of Brooklyn, New York, acquired the property from her father John Verrill. An additional acre was acquired in 1892, but there is no documentation that indicates when the stable was erected after the design was published. It remained in the Dix family until at least 1919 when the stable is recorded in the inventory of Almira's estate.