

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Christ Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Off West Side of Main Road not for publication
city, town Dark Harbor vicinity
state Maine code ME county Waldo code 027 zip code 04848

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u> </u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u> </u> | <u> </u> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <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] 2/22/92
Signature of certifying official Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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**

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] 3/26/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Shingle Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/Shingle Stucco

Stucco

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Sited on a large, sloping, wooded lot, and set back considerably from the road, Christ Church is a T-shaped frame chapel which is sheathed in wood shingles and stucco. It rests on a rubble stone foundation and is approached by way of handsome stone walled paths and an arched bridge.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed front elevation features a central gabled entrance porch employing bracketed square posts and half-timbering below the gable peak and in the walls that link the posts and nave. The eaves are decorated with shaped rafter ends, and the porch covers a wide two-leaf door. Pairs of rectangular, diamond pane windows with ogee arched trefoil tracery flank the porch. Their sills join a stringcourse that extends around the building, and they are sheltered by a narrow bracketed projection. A group of four similar windows and hood are located above the porch gable. The gable at this end of the nave is surmounted by a short belfry whose pyramidal roof has flared eaves. Due to the site conditions, the southeastern half of the facade has a large shingled area between the water table and foundation. Much of this space is occupied by an equilateral arched louver that vents the cellar. In addition, this corner is marked by a rubble stone buttress that extends up to the stringcourse. This feature is repeated at the corner of the deeply recessed transept. Unlike the shingled facade, the paired windows on the south side of the transept are set in a stuccoed panel. In addition, a small hipped roof dormer is located midway up the roof.

The conspicuous east side elevation is composed of the four bay nave and the transept. The nave sidewall has trios of windows similar to those on the facade set in stuccoed panels. Wide pilasters delineating the bays are met below the stringcourse by stone buttresses. In the northern two bays below the water table are additional louvered vents similar to the one on the facade. A trio of small dormers, like the one on the transept, are located above the three southern-most bays. A large equilateral arched window featuring simplified flamboyant tracery is located in the transept endwall. Three buttresses are located along the transept, along with another arched louver and a long, narrow window.

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Christ Church Waldo Co., ME

The design of the west nave sidewall mirrors that of the east side except that the buttresses and tall basement level are not present due to the higher grade. More substantial differences are evident on the west end of the transept where an entry porch below a group of four windows replace the single large window used on the east end. This difference is apparently due to the fact that the present transept is actually the original chapel building dating from 1893. Although no description exists of this building, it is reasonable to assume that the entrance was located at this end, and that the configuration was retained in the new, larger building. (The 1893 structure was moved back from its original site on this property and probably reoriented by ninety degrees.) The narrow chancel projecting from the rear of the church is covered by a gable roof.

Like the exterior, the interior makes striking use of medieval architectural forms. Its broad nave features an exposed roof structure with hammer beam trusses. Two groups of pews are separated by a central aisle, and the side walls are decorated with brass memorial plaques bearing the names of former summer residents. A screen with tracery separates the nave and hall from the west end. The elevated chancel is detailed with a variety of finishes including panels with tracery, and a three-panel depiction on carved and painted plaster of Jesus as the Good Shepherd among His sheep.

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

1901-02

Significant Dates

1901-02

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Allen, Francis R., Architect

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

(The following four paragraphs of text are repeated verbatim from Earle G. Shettleworth's description of the Church in The Summer Cottages of Islesboro.)

During the late 19th century, every major Maine summer colony from York Harbor to Grindstone Neck included a distinctive Episcopal chapel. In July and August worship moved from the massive stone Romanesque and Gothic churches of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia to picturesquely designed summer chapels. Their architects freely blended medieval and Shingle Style features to create a New England coastal version of the British country church. Christ Church at Dark Harbor is a classic example. [It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C and criteria consideration A for its architectural significance.]

During the first seasons that the Islesboro Inn attracted visitors, Episcopal services were held in the ballroom. The Rev. William Prall expressed the concern that there should be a chapel, and the Islesboro Land and Improvement Company provided a site for a token five dollars in November of 1891. Summer residents raised \$2,800 to build a small church, in which the first service was held on August 6, 1893. In August of 1894, the Bishop of Maine, Rev. Henry Adams Neely, officiated there for the first time. There is no record as to who designed this building or how it appeared.

As the Dark Harbor summer colony added more residents, the original Christ Church was outgrown. By early 1901, the trustees had secured plans from the Boston architect Francis R. Allen to expand the chapel. On February 28, 1901, the Belfast Republican Journal announced:

For the past two years the seating capacity of the Episcopal church has been wholly inadequate, and the building will now be enlarged. The edifice will be moved back from the street, and an addition built in front. The mason work will be done by George H. Wilbur.

See continuation sheet

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Christ Church Waldo Co., ME

Construction began in March, 1901, with a report by the Journal that "seven teams have been hauling rocks for the foundation of the Episcopal Church". At this point W. H. Glover and Company of Rockland was selected as the general contractor, and the local master mason Frederick A. Lee joined with Wilbur to undertake the masonry. However, the project then halted for a year, probably in order to raise the necessary funding. The spring of 1902 saw a renewed effort to complete the church. Work resumed in March and was sufficiently advanced by July that services could be held there. The building was finished by the end of 1902 at a cost of \$14,840.

As the chapel for Islesboro's exclusive summer colony at Dark Harbor, this building has undoubtedly been host to many prominent early twentieth century Americans. As reported in the March 7, 1920, edition of the Portland Sunday Telegram, in addition to serving many famous clergymen, President Taft, Col. Roosevelt and J. P. Morgan have worshipped here.

The building's architect was, at the time of this commission, practicing independently, having left a former partnership with Arthur Kenway in 1890. Born in 1843, Allen was a graduate of MIT's two year course in architecture, and subsequently attended the Atlier Vaudremer at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He established his practice in Boston in 1879. In 1904 he formed a partnership with Charles Collins which lasted twenty years. Christ Church is Allen's first known project in Maine, and it was published in the January 2, 1904, edition of The American Architect. Others that followed include a house on Deer Isle (1907), the Gymnasium and General Thomas Worcester Hyde Athletic Building at Bowdoin College (1913), and the First National Bank in Brunswick (1917).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland Sunday Telegram. March 7, 1920.

Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr. The Summer Cottages of Islesboro: 1890-1930. Islesboro, Maine: Islesboro Historical Society, 1989.

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 #

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 4.6 acres

UTM References

A Zone Easting Northing
C Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing
D Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Islesboro tax map 11, lot 29.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire island parcel historically associated with Christ Church.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1992
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