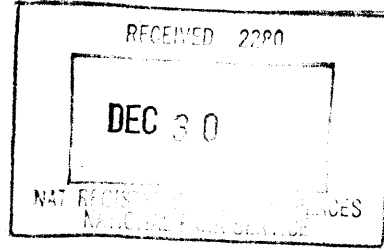


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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 Nazi Spy Landing Site

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number West shore of Crabtree Neck at Sunset Ledge Cove N/A not for publication

city or town Hancock Point vicinity

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04640

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.)

Earle S. Redmond 12/26/02
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

[Signature] 2/13/03
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

NAZI SPY LANDING SITE
Name of Property

HANCOCK CO., 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	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	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
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
LANDSCAPE / Natural feature

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
LANDSCAPE / Natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation _____
walls _____

roof _____
other _____

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NAZI SPY LANDING SITE

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The Nazi spy landing site is a small, crescent shaped beach on Frenchman's Bay, in Hancock, Maine. The beach occupies less than .25 acres, and is covered with a mixture of small rocks, sand and organic matter. Directly to the south, at the water's edge is a high exposed bedrock outcrop locally know as Sunset Ledge. Further to the south and to the north the coastline consists of rounded boulders and jagged outcrops deposited by glaciers 13,000 years ago. The inlet slopes very gently toward the water's edge, and at mid-tide the beach is approximately forty feet long by 30 feet deep. Thick pines surround south, west and north sides of the inlet. A foot path currently leads to a summer cottage to the south, and past this cottage to an overgrown dirt road heading west.

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 a 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)

MILITARY

Period of Significance

1944

Significant Dates

1944

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NAZI SPY LANDING SITE

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nazi spy landing site on the west side of Crabtree Neck, Hancock Point Maine, is the location where a German U-boat deposited two spies on a mission to relay technical information on American military activities back to Germany. The small, sandy beach on which the two men landed is one of only two locations in the United States on which German spies gained entry into the United States during World War II. The site is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in recognition of the potential impact this military event could have played in the War against Germany in 1944 and 1945, had the German spies not been apprehended.

On the 28th of November, 1944, the German submarine, U-1230, entered the mouth of Frenchman's Bay, a five mile wide and ten mile long body of water between Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula, the location of a Naval Station at Winter Harbor. The following evening, after slowly and furtively making its way north around several islands, the submarine moved along the western side of Crabtree Neck, the southernmost projection of Hancock Point, and came to rest about 500 feet to the west of a small beach next to Sunset Ledge, on the western side of the Point. From this location four German sailors entered a rubber raft and rowed ashore. The two spies disembarked on the beach, and after hopping ashore briefly, the remaining sailors returned to the U-boat with the rubber raft.

The geology of the Maine coast is noted for its rocky, steep and jagged shore and there are few beaches of any size. According to David Kahn, the author of Hitler's Spies, the site for the drop had been chosen ahead of time.

Lieutenant Hilbig had been instructed to land the men on a beach near Frenchman Bay because of the bay's deep water, its desolation, and its ingress to main road and rail routes. But one day Berlin radioed that because a U-boat had been sunk not far away carrying two other German spies on a similar mission, the U-1230 was to put the men ashore elsewhere. ...[The crew] discussed other landing places near Newport, Rhode Island; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Portland, Maine; and the northernmost coast of Maine, all of which have deep water close inshore. Hilbig finally concluded, however, that Frenchman Bay was the safest of all and that he would disregard the instructions...." (Kahn, p. 17).

After taking leave of the rubber raft the two spies proceeded across the small, crescent shaped beach and immediately picked up an overgrown dirt road that led directly to Center Point Road, the main track down the center of the peninsula. Here they turned north, walked five miles to the junction with Route 1, and miraculously, flagged down a taxicab that was headed to Bangor from a trip down east. From here they took a train to Boston, and later New York City, where they proceeded to make preparations to convey information back to Germany. The spies were a 26 year old American named William Colepaugh, who had volunteered with the German military, and a 34 year old German named

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NAZI SPY LANDING SITE

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

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Erich Gimpel, whose specialty was in radio communication.

In addition to the gentle slope of the beach and access to deep water, one of the attractions of the landing site at Crabtree Neck was its isolation. In the late 18th century the entire Neck was the property of Captain Agreen Crabtree. Over the next six decades his descendants practiced almost subsistence level agriculture and or took to the sea, and although the population on the Point grew, it did so slowly. However, the area was "discovered" in 1867 by an Ellsworth minister, Rev. Frances T. Hazelwood, who with the help of many of his contacts in Boston and New York, acquired land at the Point and established one of the many summer cottage communities that were developed on the coast of Maine in the decades around the turn of the 20th century. By the Second World War, Hancock Point, and its controlling body, the Hancock Point Village Improvement Society, had become a fairly exclusive summer community. Seasonal cottages were built all along the point and the number of year round residents were few. By November, the vast majority of these summer cottages were unoccupied. The current homes adjacent to Sunset Ledge Cove, where the spies landed, had not yet been built, and as expected, they encountered no one as they trekked through the woods.

Ironically, however, this isolation worked against Gimpel and Colepaugh. It was snowing the night of their landing, and after turning onto Center Point Road sometime after 11:00 p.m. they were passed by two local cars. The occupants of both of the cars noticed the two men walking through the snow, hatless, and carrying suitcases and brief cases. In what later became a national news story, Harvard Hodgkins, a high school student and son of the Deputy Sheriff, noted that the men were dressed in city clothes, and that their tracks emerged from an old road through the woods that led to the cove. The next morning, after conferring with a neighbor, Mary Forni, who had also passed the men on the road the night before, Hodgkin's traced the tracks to the water, and then alerted his father. The FBI in Bangor were notified and descended upon Hancock Point. Due to the capture of one of the spies on the U-Boat that was sunk nearby, United States Military Intelligence was not surprised to learn that another set of spies had landed on American soil.

The mission that Gimpel and Colepaugh had been sent to undertake was formed at the highest level of the German SS. Initially conceived by the Third Reich foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, the original mission was to test the effectiveness of German propaganda on Americans during the 1944 Presidential election. However, by the time appropriate recruits had been found and trained the goal of the covert action was much more menacing.

What was needed was technical data on shipbuilding, airplanes, rockets, and any other information, particularly from the engineering field, that would be of value to Germany. The spies were not expected to get this information by the classic means of espionage - theft, bribery, seduction, or force. Rather they were to exploit the openness of American society, picking up what they needed from newspapers, technical magazines, radio, and books.

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NAZI SPY LANDING SITE

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

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Some of this material was already reaching Germany, but only after intolerable delays....The mission was to last for two years, after which the pair would be withdrawn. (Kahn, p. 13).

Gimpel and Colepaugh, operating under the aliases Edward Green and William Caldwell respectively, were expected to send radio transmission directly to Berlin by which to report on American news, or to photograph information and send it via microdots back to Germany. Over the next month, the two spies set about securing an apartment in New York, procuring pieces for their radio, and trying to acclimate themselves to the city. However, on December 21st, the young American traitor was having second thoughts, and deserted his companion, eventually turning himself into the F.B.I. on December 26th, 1944. Four days later, Gimpel was located and arrested. The pair had been in the country for only one month, and the amount of information they relayed back to Germany can only be guessed at. Short lived as it was, had the spies remained undetected the mission had the potential to alter the details of the remaining five months of War against Germany. At the very least, this event can be seen as one of Germany's last ditch efforts to effect change, using one the few remaining tools it had left.

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NAZI SPY LANDING SITE

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Haslau, H. E. "...The Landing: It's A Long Way from the Rocks to the Corner!". Manuscript, 1992. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Kahn, David. Hitler's Spies: German Military Intelligence in World War II. (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.), 1978.

Phippen, Sanford, ed. The Sun never Sets on Hancock Point, Vol.I and II. (Ellsworth, Maine: The Historical Society of the Town of Hancock, Maine), 2000.

NAZI SPY LANDING SITE
Name of Property

HANCOCK CO., MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than .25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 9 5 6 0 0 6 4 4 9 2 4 5 5 4
Zone Easting Northing

3 1 9
Zone Easting Northing

2 1 9 5 6 0 0 9 1 4 9 2 4 5 2 4

4 1 9

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 18 October 2002

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NAZI SPY LANDING SITE

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a small, crescent shaped cove located on the north western edge of the property most fully represented by Town of Hancock tax map number 31, lot 168. See attached sketch map for additional information.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property encompass only that section of beach that lies north of Sunset Ledge in Sunset Ledge Cove, on the west shore of Crabtree Neck, Hancock Point, Maine, that is known to be the site upon which two Nazi spies landed in November 1944.

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NAZI SPY LANDING SITE

HANCOCK CO., MAINE

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PHOTOGRAPHS

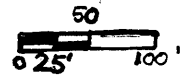
Photograph 1 of 2
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
June 6, 2002
Sunset Ledge Cove, facing south.

Photograph 2 of 2
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
June 6, 2002
Sunset Ledge Cove, facing northwest.

NAZI SPY LANDING SITE
SUNSET LEDGE, CRAB TREE NECK
HANCOCK CO., MAINE



LANDING SITE AND LIMITS
OF NOMINATED PROPERTY



CURRENT STRUCTURES

