

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **NOV 27 1987**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic "Raventhorp", J. G. Thorp Summer Cottage

and or common

2. Location

street & number Greening Island

N/A not for publication

city, town Southwest Harbor, X vicinity of

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>N/A</u> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Peter Forbes

street & number 144 Lincoln Street

city, town Boston, _____ vicinity of state Massachusetts 02111

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Ellsworth, _____ state Maine 04605

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Raventhorp" is a two-and-a-half-story shingled frame summer cottage featuring an asymmetrical silhouette, an expansive wraparound porch, an octagonal tower on one elevation and a pair of two-story ells. A gable roof covers the building. Its intact exterior features are matched by an equally unaltered interior.

The front (north) elevation of "Raventhorp" is embraced by the wraparound porch. This porch extends from a glazed sun porch on the west elevation, follows an irregular L-shape across the front and terminates at a second glazed room at the northeast corner. Its shallow hip roof, which supports low shingled parapets at both corners, is carried by pairs and trios of square posts. A wide shingled skirt extends from the porch parapet to the rubble stone foundation. Behind the porch are two six-over-one double-hung sash windows flanking a four-unit bay window and a pair of sash framing a doorway between the dining room and porch. The second story is nearly symmetrical in its composition. A large centrally placed three-part window is flanked by two six-over-one sash to the west and single and coupled windows to the east. The center unit is surmounted by a bracketed gable whose tympanum contains a drop arch framing a trio of windows. Small hip roofed dormers flank this gable and a pair of stone chimneys punctuate the roof.

The west side elevation contains the primary entryway. This glazed and paneled door is sheltered by the porch and flanked to the south by a pair of windows. On the second story of the main block there are three windows whereas a pair of large windows occupies the gable peak. The latter are recessed behind curved shingled frames and open onto a balcony. There are two symmetrically placed windows in the second story of the ell. The first story contains the projecting glazed porch.

"Raventhorp's" most impressive elevation is its east one. Here a tall rubble stone foundation supports a distinctively horizontal composition established by strings of multiple double-hung sash as well as the sun porch at the northeast corner. This linear effect is realized in spite of the vertical elements of the centrally located tower and the broad end gable. A shed roofed dormer and gable window flank the tower and serve to carry the horizontal scheme to the half-story.

The rear elevation consists of a pair of two-story ells covered by hipped roofs. Both ells feature projecting porches with decks and balustrades and second story windows. The east ell also has a trio of hipped roof dormers.

Inside, "Raventhorp" maintains its important architectural features. The east entrance door opens into a narrow paneled vestibule which in turn leads to the main hall/living room. This room is the focal point of the interior. At the far end of the long rectangular room is a prominent stone fireplace, and to the south side is the broad open stairway and landing. The entire room has paneled walls whereas boxed beams form rectangular spaces on the ceiling. Low benches are located below the bay window on the north side of the room and the large window at the landing. A secondary fireplace is located to the south of the entrance vestibule. Behind the hall/living room is the dining room whose much more modest woodwork and plaster over lath walls are typical of the remainder of the rooms. The house also retains its original pantry cupboards and kitchen stove. Of further note is the fact that the house has not been wired for electricity.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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

Specific dates 1895 **Builder/Architect** Savage & Stratton, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Raventhorp" was the summer cottage of J. G. Thorp. Designed by the Bar Harbor architectural firm of Savage and Stratton and built in 1895, this handsome and remarkably intact shingled summer cottage, is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C as an important example of this firm's mid-1890s work. Prominently sited near the northwestern point of Greening Island, the Thorp house is also an important reminder of the cultural forces that shaped the built environment of Maine's great summer colonies.

During the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century the rugged, natural beauty of Maine's mid-coast region drew an increasing number of summer tourists to the small communities that dotted this area. Many of these "rusticators" were members of wealthy families whose prosperity, at least in many instances, derived from the broad based economic expansion of the post Civil War period. This new wealth, combined with a perceived sense of the healthful benefits of the outdoors and a growing abundance of leisure time ultimately transformed distinct areas of the Maine coast. The remarkable natural beauty of Mt. Desert Island and its surrounding islands was especially sought after for cottage sites. Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor and Seal Harbor, as well as the nearby Cranberry Isles, supported particularly striking summer colonies.

The Thorp family cottage erected on Greening Island clearly reflects this pattern of development. Joseph Gilbert Thorp (1852–1931) was born in Oxford, New York.¹ A graduate of Harvard Law School (1882), Thorp established his practice in Boston and subsequently became a member of numerous clubs and associations. On October 14, 1885, he married Anne A. Longfellow, the daughter of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. When they purchased property on Greening Island the Thorps were, no doubt, joining numerous social acquaintances who had built or were planning to build equally ambitious cottages. Thorp's avowed interest in golf was perhaps a deciding influence on location because soon after "Raventhorp" was completed he undertook the construction of a small golf course on the island.² The Thorp cottage remained in the family until 1981 when it was sold to the present owner.

"Raventhorp" is significant as an important example of the work produced by the architectural partnership of Fred Lincoln Savage (1861–1924) and Milton W. Stratton.³ Between the years 1892–98 this firm carried on a thriving business among the summer residents of Mount Desert. Prior to their partnership Savage had been very active in the area. Following a period of study in the renowned Boston firm of Peabody & Stearns, Savage established his practice in Northeast Harbor where he designed a variety of summer cottages. In 1892, perhaps at the formation of his partnership with Stratton, Savage relocated to Bar Harbor.⁴ Following the dissolution of the firm in 1898 Savage continued to maintain his practice at Bar Harbor where he subsequently designed numerous cottages as well as hotels, libraries and at least one bank. Altogether he obtained nearly 200 commissions for a wide

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marquis, Albert Nelson, ed. Who's Who in New England. Chicago: A. N. Marquis & Co., 1916.
Savage & Stratton Architect File, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8.7

Quadrangle name Southwest Harbor, Maine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 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

The nominated property of 8.7 acres occupies the Town of Southwest Harbor, Tax Map 5A, Lot 00201.

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 Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1987

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 *E. S. Fletcher*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/24/87

For NPS use only

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

Patrick W. Andrews date 1/7/88
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

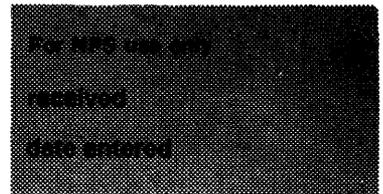
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

"RAVENTHORP", J. G. THORP SUMMER COTTAGE

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2



range of work and in places as far distant as Michigan, Colorado Springs and California. Unfortunately, little is as yet known about Stratton's career.

Endnotes

- 1 Albert Nelson Marquis, ed. Who's Who in New England (Chicago: A. N. Marquis and Company, 1916), p. 1065.
- 2 Author's interview with Agnes Scott, August 26, 1987.
- 3 Information on the work of Savage and Stratton is on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.
- 4 Fred L. Savage Obituary, Bar Harbor Times, February 27, 1924.