

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 Auburn-Harpswell Association Historic District

and or common The Auburn Colony

2. Location

street & number Route 123

N/A not for publication

city, town South Harpswell, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Portland, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Harpswell Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977-Present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records The Pejepscot Historical Society

city, town Brunswick, state Maine

## 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**

Grouped in a sweeping S formation reaching toward the tidal cove and the abutting pine grove in the middle of the 43 acre seashore property stand ten of the original fourteen cottages of the Auburn-Harpswell Association at South Harpswell. Built between 1901 and 1902, these summer residences represent the kind of affluence which was lavished upon selected enclaves along the Maine coast at the turn of the century. All are executed in the then popular Shingle Style. Behind these cottages are two large structures: a rambling community dining hall in the Colonial Revival style and an assembly hall in the Greek Revival style.

Originally, there were twenty small Victorian cottages built in 1877, but all burned in 1899.

For the most part, the cottages are in reasonably good condition.

Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

1. Cottage #1: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gable roof with facade tower.
2. Cottage #2: 1901; remodeled 1920s.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gable roof.  
Architect: Coombs and Gibbs
3. Cottage #3: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gable roof.  
Architect: Coombs and Gibbs.
4. Cottage #4: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 3 stories, shingled, gable roof.
5. Cottage #5: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gambrel roof.  
Architect: Coombs and Gibbs.
6. Cottage #6: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gambrel roof.
7. Cottage #7: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, hip roof.
8. Cottage #8: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, hip roof.
9. Cottage #9: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, hip roof.
10. Cottage #10: 1901.  
Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gable roof.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** See items 8. + 7      **Builder/Architect** See item 7.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The ten cottages and two halls here nominated in the Auburn-Harpswell Association Historic District represent one of the best examples along the Maine Coast of a planned community, conceived by Maine businessmen who wished to establish for their family and friends a permanent resort for relaxed summer vacationing by the sea.

As stated in the preamble to the first set of by-laws for the Colony, "Several gentlemen of Auburn, desiring a place of summer resort for themselves and their families, conceived the idea of forming a permanent association for the purpose of securing the material advantage of society, health and recreation."

For 109 years, the Association has continued to provide its residents with all the amenities of relaxed and comfortable vacationing with their family and friends. Residents have always been served all their meals in the community Dining Hall; bathing in the saltwater pool has supplanted dips at the Colony beach; the clay tennis court has always been in constant use; and the extensive colony grounds and surroundings continue to provide space for many types of recreation.

This is the second series of cottages, the first series of twenty-two having burned to the ground in 1899. With some changes in ownership, the Colony was reorganized with fewer cottages, but with the same high quality of life and the same goals.

The Colony represents a by-gone era of relaxed and comfortable vacationing in the fellowship of friends and family.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See checked sources.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 12  
 Quadrangle name South Harpswell

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

19	418285	4844115
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
 C 

19	418570	4843860
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
 E 

Zone	Easting	Northing

  
 G 

Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

19	418660	4843960
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
 D 

19	418270	4843965
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
 F 

Zone	Easting	Northing

  
 H 

Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at the junction of the NW property line of the Auburn-Harpswell Association with Route 123, the district boundary follows said road SW 390' where it turns north and runs N along the entrance road to the shore of Potts Harbor. The line then follows the shoreline N and E to its junction

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 Dana Porter Carson, Graduate Assistant  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 *Evan S. Peterson*  
 title J. N. P. O. date 2/8/85

**For NPS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register date 3-21-85  
*J. Delores Byer*  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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AUBURN-HARPSWELL ASSOCIATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

Item number

4

Page 2

For NPS use only

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date entered

MAR 21 1985

Cottage #

1. Mrs. Foster Yancey  
3909 Shannon Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75205  
#833-2865/214-521-2804
2. Miss Mary Arnold  
Miss Tippy Arnold  
317 Franklin Street  
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450  
#833-6030/201-444-5332
3. Mr. & Mrs. James Nelson  
48 West Shore Road  
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey 07046  
#833-6427/201-334-3622
4. Mrs. E. Farrington Abbott  
29 Goodrich Avenue  
Auburn, Maine 04210  
#833-5988/782-0868
5. Dana Porter Carson  
Robert C. Porter, Jr.  
R.F.D. #1, Box 1452  
Brunswick, Maine 04011  
#833-6492/725-4701
6. Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Williams  
724 Clark Street  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
#833-2328/201-233-7572
7. Mr. & Mrs. Mayro Keeney  
195 Concord Road  
Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01106  
#833-5432/413-567-8739
8. Mr. & Mrs. Paul Warren  
6 Ball Road  
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey 07046  
no local phone/201-334-9161

Cottage #

9. Mr. & Mrs. Steve Wilson  
14 Castle Road  
Irvington, New Jersey  
10533  
#833-2902/914-591-5060
10. Mr. & Mrs. Mathew G.  
Herold, Jr.  
30 Lake Drive  
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey  
07046  
#833-5209/201-334-6767

OTHER STRUCTURES

11. Assembly Hall:  
Auburn-Harpswell Association  
South Harpswell, Maine  
04079
12. Dining Hall:  
Auburn-Harpswell Association  
South Harpswell, Maine  
04079

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

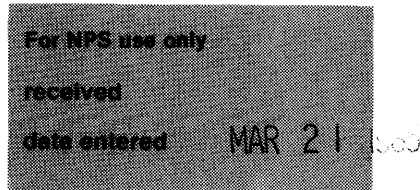
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AUBURN-HARPSWELL ASSOCIATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2



11. Assembly Hall: c. 1876, Remodeled c. 1901  
Gothic Revival, 1 story, clapboard, gable roof
  
12. Dining Hall: pre-186, Remodeled 1876, between 1901 and 1908 with major  
addition  
Colonial Revival, 3 stories, shingled, hip roof  
Builder: Leon Blake Merriman

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AUBURN-HARPSWELL ASSOCIATION HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Continuation sheet 1

Item number 9

Page 2

Brown, Mrs. Winston (South Harpswell, visitor to the Colony since 1911, descendent of W. K. Dana, cottage owner from 1955-1968), interviews, Summer, Fall, 1954.

Dana, Miss Marion (75 State Street, Portland, summer visitor to the Colony since the 1890s, neice of W. K. Dana), interviews, Summer, 1984.

Hamilton, Mr. Isaac (6 Hemlock Road, Brunswick, born in the Hamilton House, c. 1915), interview, Summer, 1984.

Merriman, Mr. Ralph N. (Basin Point, South Harpswell, son of Leon Blake Merriman), interview, Summer, 1984.

Porter, Mr. Robert C. (South Harpswell, summer visitor to the Colony since 1919, descendent of W. K. Dana, cottage owner 1960-1983), interviews, Summer, Fall, 1984.

Written Sources

Abbott, E. F., Sr., AHA correspondence and minutes, 1946-1950.

Arnold, Miss Henrietta (317 Franklin Avenue, Ridgewood, New Jersey, summer visitor to the Colony since early 1900s, current cottage owner), notes, Fall, 1984.

Auburn-Harpswell Association (South Harpswell, Maine), miscellaneous records and files.

Connors, Frank, "Auburn Colony: A Special Summer Place", Brunswick (Maine), The Times Record, 20 August, 1976.

Maine Historical Society, Coombs and Gibbs, Architectural Drawings, 1901.

McEwen, Mr. Currier (South Harpswell, summer visitor to the Colony since 1902, grandson of Oceola Currier), notes, Fall, 1984.

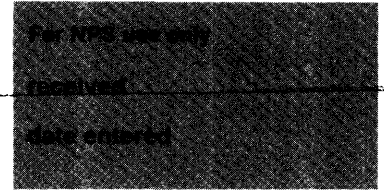
Miscellaneous photographs and postcards belonging to R. C. Porter, C. McEwen, Roger Conant, Colony Members.

Tax records, Harpswell, Cumberland County, Maine.

Thomas, Miriam S., notes and recollections of the AHA.

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AUBURN-HARPSWELL ASSOCIATION HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Continuation sheet

Item number

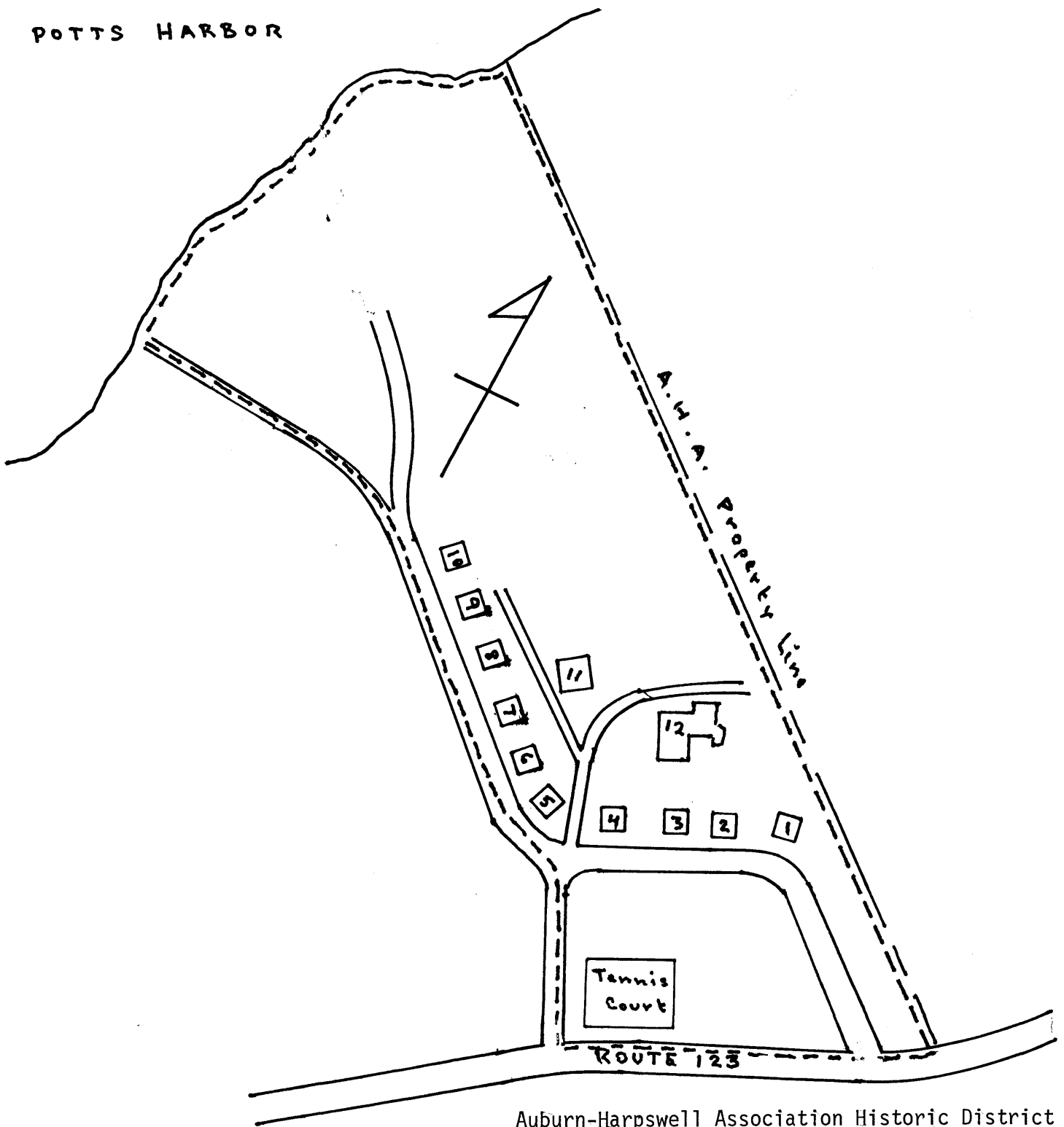
10

Page 2

with the NE end of the NW A.H.A. property line which it follows SE to the point of beginning.

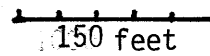


POTTS HARBOR



Auburn-Harpswell Association Historic District  
District Boundary

Scale 1:1300



MERRICONEAG SOUND