

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



MAR 2

**1. Name**

historic Ocean Park Historic Buildings

and/or common Temple Square

**2. Location**

street & number Temple Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Ocean Park N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county York code 031

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Ocean Park Association

street & number Box 296

city, town Ocean Park, vicinity of state Maine 04063

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number

city, town Alfred, vicinity of state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date N/A  federal <sup>N/A</sup>  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

---

## 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**

The Ocean Park Historic Buildings are a distinctive cluster of communal structures dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The four structures all face south along a road. From west to east they are as follows:

Porter Hall, built in 1902, is a handsome temple-form building in the neo-Greek Revival style, with facade colonnade, gable roof, and match-board siding. The columns are fluted Corinthian and support a pediment which contains the words "Porter Memorial" and a classical lamp in relief. The frieze contains the words "Hall in the Grove". A central entrance of double panelled doors is flanked on either side by a 1/1 window with louvered shutters. The sides of the hall are five bays long, with fenestration as on the facade. An internal brick chimney straddles the roof ridge at the rear.

The Temple, built in 1881, is already listed in the National Register.

The Bell Tower was built in 1882, and consists of a wooden structure square in plan with hipped roof and ornate decoration of each side below the roof evoking a clock face. Access to a deck is by wooden steps from the west. The deck is fitted with a wooden railing.

B. C. Jordan Memorial Hall was built in 1915. This imposing building is of frame construction with two stories, hipped roof, and clapboard siding. The five-bayed facade features a four-column colonnade in the Ionic order, behind which is a three-bay recess with double-doored entrance flanked by 6/6 windows. The sides of the hall are seven bays wide. All first-story fenestration as on the facade, is 6/6 with pediments, except as noted below. Pediments likewise crown the hall's doorways. A secondary entrance faces west. While the facade contains only one story, the sides and rear are two stories high. Second-floor fenestration consists of small rectangular casements, except at the rear where all bays are 6/6. Tall rectangular windows comprise the extreme bays on the facade and sides of the hall.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1881, 1882, 1902, 1915 builder/Architect *unknown*

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Temple Square", the area where these three buildings and the bell tower stand is the focal point of Ocean Park, a family style summer community with a religious background not unlike Oak Bluffs in Massachusetts or Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Dedicated to self improvement, very few of these denominational reservations, so prevalent in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, still exist and among them Ocean Park is perhaps the least changed from its original plan and purpose. (Detailed information about the background and development of Ocean Park may be had by referring to the nomination for "The Temple", N.R. 4-28-75).

When Ocean Park was built in 1881, approximately 24 lots were set aside and known as Temple Square. No tenting was allowed within this area, which was to hold the Assembly Buildings. The first building, a unique octagonal wooden structure, The Temple, was built and dedicated in 1881. This was followed in 1882 by a Bell Tower used to call people to assembly programs. It still serves that function today. This was the era of permanent "Chautauquas," founded after the mother institution in Chautauqua, New York with which Ocean Park had associations for many years. In those days it was felt that there were three physical requirements for an assembly site: water (lake, river, or ocean), a grove of trees, and a bell tower.

From the early beginnings other space was needed for meetings besides the Temple and various tents served these functions. In 1902 a permanent building, Porter Hall, was built to replace "The Tabernacle," one of the tents. Of Classical Revival design, it has functioned for over 75 years, and was the Ocean Park home of the CLSC (Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle) for about 50 of those years.

In 1915 another permanent wooden building, Jordan Hall, was added to the site. It is columned also, with ionic columns and has a wooden beam ceiling.

All four structures have been essentially unchanged over the years. All are functional and still used extensively every year. They all share the same grove of Cathedral pines whose history far precedes them. The Temple is currently on the National Register, being the largest and most historic building on the site. The other three structures are being nominated since they share the same history and purpose, since they are buildings of merit, either by design or uniqueness, and since they are all part of that portion of land known as "Temple Square."

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jakeman, Adelbert, The Story of Ocean Park. Ocean Park, 1956.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Old Orchard Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 9	3 8 7 6 7 5	4 8 7 7 6 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
---	--	--	--

E			
---	--	--	--

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map, Lots 9, 10, 10A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1981

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature E. S. [Signature]

title S.H.P.O. date 12/18/81

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Braubach date 3-2-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration