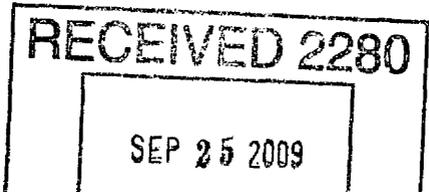


879

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets, if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Arundel Golf Club

other names/site number Kennebunkport Golf Club; Cape Arundel Golf Club (preferred for listing)

2. Location

street & number 19 River Road

not for publication

city or town Kennebunkport

vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04046

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official

Date

9/21/09

State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for Edson H. Beall

11.4.09

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
1	3	structures
		objects
3	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports Facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH C. AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Bungalow / Craftsman

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD / WEATHERBOARD CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

other: BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Cape Arundel Golf Club is located on a 88 acre parcel of land located along the northeast bank of the Kennebunk River in Kennebunkport, Maine. The compact historic district is located north and east of the village of Kennebunkport in an area previously characterized by fertile farmland. The 18 holes of varying lengths stretch along the Kennebuk River, and along and between a three branched tidal estuary that interrupts the southern quarter of the property. The south and southeast limits of the property are bounded by residential properties along Locke and North Streets, as well as The Tombs cemetery on North Street. Beginning at the northwest end of North Street the course extends along the edge of River Road as it irregularly heads northwest. The western limits of the property are defined by the tidal estuary at the southern end of Goff Mill Brook. The land is almost flat, with no more than a forty foot rise above sea level. A narrow, paved driveway connects River Road to the parking area and Bungalow style club house (1900,1920), both of which are located along the Kennebunk River. This driveway roughly bisects the property into western and eastern sections. South of this driveway radiating arms of the tidal estuary reach north, northeast and east, and require the use of two bridges to access the course. At the north west end of the estuary a stream fed pond has been dammed and the driveway passes over a culvert that leads to the estuary. In addition to the club house, the Golf Club property includes a three-sided frame shelter, a concrete block maintenance facility, and a set of modern rest rooms and two modern bridges.

Narrative Description

In order to simplify descriptions in the nomination all features, structures and buildings will be described as if the Kennebunk River and River Road/North Road were oriented on an east to west line (rather than northwest to southeast).

Golf Course. 1900, re-designed 1920-21. Contributing site.

Alexander H. Finley, original designer

Walter J. Travis, landscape architect, 1921-1922.

The front nine holes are located west of the drive and the back nine are to the east. As originally laid out in 1921 this order was reversed. References to hole numbers reflect the current, not historic, numbering pattern. The entire course was redesigned between 1921 and 1922. No patterns from the original course can be read on the landscape currently.

Both the beginning and end of the course are adjacent to the club house. The first tee is located just west of the parking lot, and the par 4 fairway stretches 375 feet straight along the Kennebunk River. There is a deep gully at 165 feet, and overshooting the gently undulating green will land a ball either in a bunker to the north, or the river to the west and south. A single kidney shaped sand trap lies along the south edge of the fairway at the midpoint, and native grasses mark the north edge. The second hole starts between the first green and the edge of the River in an elbow where the shore heads north up the estuary. The fairway is bounded by the river on the west and mounds and a few trees to the east. The pitched green is on a slight rise and has two sand traps to the south and a larger bunker northeast.

A cart path separates the second green from the third tee. Although the length of this hole is only 157 yards, its difficulty is compounded by the rover to the west, a line of low scrub that wanders onto the fairway before the halfway mark, and two kidney shaped bunkers flank the south and east corners of the tear shaped green. The fourth hole runs almost parallel to River Road, and stretches 398 yards on a straight course to the east. The green is large and has two distinct tiers, and the fairway is lined with mature trees (along the road) on the north, and a series of sand traps, a few trees, and rough to the south. The fifth hole (359 yards) is the first of several dog-leg fairways. The tee is located west of a driveway that leads to the club's maintenance facility. A long play (220 yards approximately) will set up the shorter second shot to the green located to the north. However, this tee shot must also cross a small stream and avoid an old apple orchard. The shallow green has a large mound in the middle, and two pot bunkers protect the front of the green and a narrow bunker is positioned behind the feature. The sixth hole, at 118 yards is short, but a full quarter of that distance is taken up by the pond, on the southern edge of which is a bunker immediately in front of the green.

The par four seventh hole tees off from the east side of the driveway and ends 386 yards west into the prevailing wind. The fairway is guarded on the north by large mounds and well placed bunkers and the irregular shaped green is flanked by a pair of sand traps. The eighth hole continues west for 370 yards. The fairway is lined with bunkers and rough, but the pair of large cross bunkers immediately in front of the narrow, undulating green imparts additional difficulty. The long ninth hole heads south then west along a broad fairway with numerous sand traps encroaching along the lie. At the end of the 480 yards is a green with a deceptively placed "false-front".

The tenth hole (354 yards) features a broad dog-leg south of east, and players have to avoid both chocolate drops to the south, and cross the main driveway. The narrow, four corner green is fronted by a meandering sand trap and backed by the estuary. A cart path separates the tenth green from the eleventh tee and the thirteenth green. This path leads north to a bridge over one leg of the estuary and southeast over another leg via a bridge. The 320 yard eleventh hole requires a golfer to first shoot over the estuary, then change direction and shoot west, avoiding the driveway and a series of drops. The twelfth hole retraces much of the path of the previous hole, but terminates shy of the estuary. The 409 yard fairway is lined with pines on the north and native grasses on the south. The contouring of the green is purposefully deceptive.

The next hole, although a short 165 yards, is made over the broad mouth of the estuary, onto a point of land occupied by the oval green and pair of bunkers. Play on this hole is generally into the wind. The 387 yard fourteenth hole again returns over the water (although a different branch of the estuary), and the dog-legged fairway runs along yet another part of the tidal stream.

To get to the tee of the fifteenth hole from the previous green the golfer must cross a small stream on a cart path and pass in front of the seventeenth tee. This is the only instance on the course in which the previous greens and subsequent tees are not immediately adjacent to each other. Both the fifteenth and seventeenth tees are set on the western edge of a historic burying ground locally known as the Tombs. This 1.7 acre cemetery stretches from the east edge of the golfcourse to North Street and contains dozens of slate and marble headstones dating mostly to the 18th and early 19th century.

The fifteenth hole is played over the stream to a dog leg at mid point. The 322 yard long fairway is relatively open and broad, with several drops along the western edge, and an apple tree and large bunker guarding the green. The sixteenth hole is located between fifteen and seventeen; at 220 yards, the narrow fairway is bounded by trees and ledge on the east and numerous drops on the west. The tee for seventeen is across the stream, next to 15. This 365 yard fairway is relatively straight to the south, but at the far end is a large cross bunker and a blind, inverted green. The final hole tees off on a small peninsula at the river's edge and is a 394 shot across the mouth of the estuary, down the broad fairway next to the club house, and across the drive before reaching the uphill green surrounded by three bunkers.

Club House. 1900, 1920, 1970s to 1980s
Prosper L. Senat, architect (attributed).

In plan, the club house is a rectangular shaped building with an expansive, hipped roof that covers an engaged, wrap-around veranda on three sides. When viewed from the north, east or west the building has a low profile, however the grade drops on the south, or river, side of the building and provides for a partially-finished high foundation under the south half of the club. The building sits on a concrete foundation, and has green clapboard siding and an asphalt roof with exposed rafter tails. A brick chimney pierces the roof just west of the ridge, in the southern half of the building. The verandas on the east and west side of the building were enclosed in the 1970s to create a Pro-Shop on the west, and offices on the east. The front veranda, overlooking the river, is accessed by a tall flight of wooden stairs at its west end. Six square wooden posts frame five open bays under the veranda roof. A low balustrade with wooden railing and balusters spans the edge of the deck on the south and east elevations. The porch deck is covered with an indoor-outdoor carpet. The lower level of this elevation features two enclosed bays (at the corners) flush with the front edge of the porch and three bays with their exterior wall aligned with the exterior wall of the clubhouse. Modern metal doors access each of the side rooms, and an overhead door leads through the wall into the concrete floored room used for golf cart storage and maintenance.

The small paned, casement windows distributed in pairs or singly along the east and west elevations date to the 1980s when the verandas were enclosed; it is likely that the casement windows on the south elevation also date to that renovation. The north side of the building contains a pair of joined, nine-light awning sash that are similar to several windows depicted on postcards from the first two decades of the twentieth century. Within the enclosed side verandas are several casement windows, including one diamond pane window, that appear to be original to the building. The interior of the club house is dominated, in the south half, by a single large club room centered on a partially free standing brick

masonry stack and fireplace. The room is open to the rafters, however two partition walls attached to the east side, and northwest corner of the masonry stack serve to section off a small corner kitchen area and bathrooms. A door in the kitchen area leads to the men's locker room, which along with the men's bathroom and women's lockers and bathroom, occupy the back, or north half of the building. The walls of the main room are finished with plaster above a barn-board type rough wood siding, the latter of which appears to date to a 1980s-era remodeling.

There is a loft space above the kitchen and locker room area that is open and visible in the main room. To either side of the chimney stack, two sections of wooden loft floor/room ceiling extend partially into the room, suspended from the rafters on wooden posts. The underside of these features are finished with narrow bead board, and the thick edges feature a cornice moulding. Various memorabilia, trophies, flags and clubs are displayed on these shelf-like features. The masonry unit is built of glazed brick below loft level and regular brick in the chimney stack. A raised brick panel on the chimney breast, splayed brick lintel above the firebox and narrow wooden mantle are the only historic ornamentation on the structure. The cornice moulding on the front edge of the loft is also applied to the top of the chimney breast, below where the masonry steps back to form the chimney stack proper.

The club house was built in two stages: the south half was constructed in 1900 to designs by the local artist, cum architect, and president of the club, Prosper Senat. According to historic photographs, the building had a large veranda on the south elevation which wrapped partially around the side walls, and small, high, horizontally-oriented windows on the north half of the side walls. Starting about the time that the course itself was to be enlarged the Board of Directors debated how best to utilize the club house or how to expand it. In 1921 a 'Colonel Bogey,' writing in the *Ogunquit and Kennebunkport Bulletin* charted the discussions over the summer. Early on he reported that it was to be "built on the high ground overlooking the river, about one hundred yards east of the present 18th tee. No plans have been made as yet for the building as no work will be done on it until the new course is entirely finished. It is to be thoroughly modern, up to date club house in ever (sic) respect, amply provided with shower baths, and all that sort of things, (sic) so sadly lacking in the present building." (Douglas, p. 27-28.) Later in the summer, a special meeting of the membership was called and plans "to provide a fine club house, a big social hall for entertainments, lock buildings with up to date baths and showers, and afternoon tea quarters, etc., etc., were thoroughly discussed. As soon as these matters are definitely settled, the various alterations and improvements will be started immediately." (Page 29.) However, the plans were not fixed, as the Colonel decried at the end of the summer: "the matter of the new Club House is still in abeyance... We, therefore, say nothing definite at present, but the matter will probably be decided in the winter." (Page 30.) Two years later, at the end of the 1923 season the Colonel again bemoaned the situation: "What is needed, and that pretty badly, is a real Clubhouse. The present locker building is only makeshift at best, without the convenience of shower baths; kitchen or dining rooms. An afternoon tea crowds it inside and out. The location on the banks of the beautiful River is an ideal one for a roomy, widely pizza-ed (the Colonel's word) structure with ample room for everything. That such a building in the very near future is a probability is devotedly to be wished." (Page 40.) It appears that none of the grand plans for the club house were ever undertaken, as the current structure is unchanged from its original location. Clearly, the northern portion of the building was expanded, but it provided a rather basic locker space, rather than a kitchen, dining room, or shower baths. It is possible that the following note in the July 1927 edition of the local summer paper *The Turn O' the Tide* reflected the expansion: "(t)he old caddy house had been done away with and a new one erected in the rear of the clubhouse." (Douglas, page 51).

There is a small practice putting green located on the lower terrace between the club house and the river.

Maintenance Building. C. 1960. Non contributing building.

Located at the end of a short, dirt drive south of River Road, the maintenance facility consists of a L-shaped, one story building of painted concrete block and a compound roof of asphalt. The ell extends south off the back of the east side of the building. The gables above the south, east and west walls are clad in T-111 wood siding, and a brick chimney punctures the roof at the north end of the ell. The north elevation of the building contains two overhead garage doors, and a couple of small paned, but relatively modern, sash windows. On the front portion of the east side of the building are two more of these windows and two metal doors leading to restrooms. The wall of the ell contains another door, and a one-over-one sash window. The south end of the building features an overhead door, opposite the western door on the front. Another overhead door is in the west side of the ell, while the west end of the front portion contains two more windows. Several temporary fabric shelters and sheds surround the building, including one small concrete block structure that appears to house water pumps/irrigation machinery. The maintenance building sits on a concrete slab which extends along the east and north elevations as a work surface. This building is considered non-contributing because it was constructed long after the period of significance.

Shelter, date unknown. Contributing structure.

Located on the river adjacent to the third tee is a small frame shelter. This three sided building has clapboard exterior walls, and an asphalt side-gable roof that is supported by two wooden corner posts on the northeast and northwest corners. The building faces north, and is partially open on the east and west sides, and entirely so on the north. The interior of the structure, which might measure 10 by 14 feet, has a wooden platform and the walls are lined with benches. The shelter is supported by concrete piers. The only decorative elements on the structure is latticework affixed to the underside of the open portion of the roof. While the date of construction for this building is unknown, it appears to have been built in the early 20th century.

Estuary bridges. 2008. Two non-contributing structures.

Two, new, permanent bridges were erected in the off-season of 2008, across the base and the north arm of the tidal estuary in the east half of the course. These wood and steel single span arch bridges replace temporary, non-historic wooden bridges that had to be dismantled each year to avoid damage by seasonal ice flows.

Restrooms, c. 1997. One non-contributing structure.

At the midpoint between fairways 11 and 12 is a small, side-gable frame structure with an overhanging roof supported on wooden posts. Built to provide a pair of restrooms, the building sits on a concrete foundation, is sided with clapboards and has an asphalt roof. The building faces south towards the estuary.

Name of Property

County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Period of Significance

1900 - 1927

Significant Dates

1920/21

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Travis, Walter J. (1862-1927) Landscape Architect

Senat, Prosper L. (1852-1825) Architect

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 grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1900, when the current colf course property was obtained, the first nine-hole course laid out, and the earliest section of the club house constructed. The period of significance ends in 1927, by which time the course had been redesigned by Walter Travis and enlarged to eighteen holes, and the club house expanded to its current size.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Cape Arundel Golf Club on the northeast bank of the Kennebunk River in Kennebunkport is among the oldest surviving golf clubs in Maine. The golf course was first established in 1896 as the Kennebunkport Golf Club and reorganized four years later as the Arundel Golf Club. The club house was designed by Prosper L. Senat in 1900, and the first nine holes were laid out by Alexander H. Findley, a professional golfer from Scarsdale, New York. The course was thoroughly redesigned, and expanded to eighteen holes, by the noted golf architect Walter J. Travis between 1920 and 1922; shortly thereafter the size of the club house was increased. The Cape Arundel Golf Club is significant as an example of a designed golf course by a well respected landscape architect who specialized in golf course design. The design reflects attempts to modernize the game as its popularity grew and its participants became increasingly skilled. The formation and evolution of the Club was fueled by the well-heeled residents of the nearby summer colony that had developed at the end of the 19th century, and it became an important recreational outlet for the summer residents of that colony. The Cape Arundel Golf Club is eligible for listing under Criterion A for its association with the development of forms of entertainment and recreation in the Cape Arundel summer colony and under Criterion C for its landscape architecture significance. As the only example of Travis's work in Maine, the recommended level of significance is statewide.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)**Criterion A: Entertainment and Recreation**

The Cape Arundel Golf Club is eligible for National Register listing at the local level of significance under Criteria A, for its association with entertainment and recreation in Kennebunkport, Maine. The Kennebunkport Golf Club was organized in 1896, about 20 years after the Cape Arundel Summer Colony (NR: 84001549) was established, and part of its significance must be seen in relation to the colony.¹ This planned, seasonal community is located on the coast of Kennebunkport, just south of the historic commercial center of the village, and contains over 150 buildings, including cottages, hotels, club houses, boat houses, restaurants, and a few commercial, civic or religious buildings. Started as a resort community in 1873, the colony drew vacationing families from the urban east coast, who stayed in the grand hotels or had prominent architects design stylish 'cottages' by the shore. Before the end of the 19th century the prospering development had at least six hotels and more than 35 cottages. The growth of the Cape Arundel community paralleled a trend found in other exclusive and wealthy coastal resort communities such as York, Camden/Rockport, Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor. In Kennebunkport, as with these other communities, additional facilities for entertainment and recreation were established, including the Arundel Casino (1886 - which had a music hall, bowling alley, library and billiard room), and the Kennebunk River Club (1889), a boating and canoeing club.

The history of golfing in Maine has been explored in a book entitled The Maine Golf Guide by Bob Labbanace and David Cornwell. In it, the authors state that the first recognizable golf course did not appear until the 1890s in association with the rapid development of the state's numerous summer cottage enclaves and tourist resorts. Bar Harbor's Kebo Valley Club, organized in 1888, is generally considered to be the earliest association of its type in Maine, with its original six-hole course having been laid out in 1891. By 1900 there were fifteen courses in existence in the state. Although golf is today a sport taken up by people from all walks of life, in the later years of the 19th century it was primarily enjoyed by the elite. In part this is because to establish a course required the ability to acquire, and remove from agricultural production, large amounts of land. Many of the early courses in Maine (and along the eastern seaboard) were built at the large resort complexes that developed in the last three decades of the century, including the Poland Spring House, the Sam-O-set in Rockland and the Mount Kineo House on Moosehead Lake. Other, sometimes private, early courses were developed near the cottage colonies of Bar Harbor (Kebo Valley, 1888/91), Camden/Rockport (Megunticook Golf Club, 1898 NR: 93000636), Northeast Harbor (1895), Winter Harbor (Grindstone Neck, 1895), and York (York Country Club, 1900, NR: 73000249). Writing in the Maine Golf Guide, Labbanace & Cornwell articulated the connection as follows: "we know that Scottish immigrants came over as stonecutters, weavers and workers and are reported to have played their native game over meadows in Maine in the 1880s, but a recognizable, enduring golf course waited upon successful capitalists. This

¹ The name of the club was official changed to "Cape Arundel Golf Club" in 1949, and as this is how the property has been known for the last 60 years, it is the name utilized in the nomination. Technically, during the period of significance the property was known as the "Arundel Golf Club," although there is actually some question as to what the legal name of the club had been after 1900. See Douglas, p. 60-61.

early jet-less set tended to gather at the right places so that much early golf in New England was played at Newport, Wellesley, Brookline and Bar Harbor." (Page 182).

Although the Cape Arundel Golf Club is located north of the village center (and thus not physically adjacent to the cottage colony), there is no doubt as to the connection. The first president of the golf club, Prosper L. Senat, had both a cottage and studio in the colony, as did most of the other elected officers, including Sara P. Bancroft, E.C. Stanwood, J.J. Grenough, Edwin Packard, and H.M. Forrest. For the first few years the golf links were located in a "field off Main Street, after the South Main street corner, heading towards the Wilde District and Cape Porpoise" and the 'club house' was in a barn. (Douglas, p. 6.). In 1900 the club was renamed, the course relocated, and a club house started. The following two passages charting the progress of the new club were printed in *The Wave*, a weekly summer newspaper published in Kennebunkport from 1887 to 1908, and written by the editor, John Collins Emmons. They were reprinted in "Our Little Golf Club in Maine, Cape Arundel", written by George A. Douglas in 2001.

The old Golf club is an institution of the past, it having been incorporated by the newly incorporated club which has secured on a long lease new grounds up river near the Locks, where a fine 9 hole course over 2700 yards in length has been laid out by Mr. Finley, the expert. A new Club House is nearing completion. The grounds can be conveniently reached by boat and Hall and Littlefield will be running a bus there next week on a regular time table. (July, 1900. Douglas, p. 7).

The recent impetus given to Golf by the incorporation of the Arundel Golf Club and its energetic efforts to arrange new links and erect a new Club House, bids fair to place all other societies and organizations in the shade. The Golfers of Kennebunkport are among the most popular and prominent of our summer visitors. They never take hold of anything that they do not make a success of. The Casino and Boat Club will still prosper, for there is room for all; but the golf club will certainly monopolize the attention this year. (July 14, 1900. Douglas, p. 7).

Even when play was held in the field, the Club held in-house tournaments, with the first known interclub match being held in 1899 with the York Cliffs Golf Club. Early 20th century postcards of the Golf Club show a boat landing and canoeists on the Kennebunk River in front of the club house. According to Douglas, early in the club's history the property also maintained tennis and croquet courts, although "golf was paramount." (Douglas, p. 51).

Criterion C: Landscape Architecture

The existing 18 hole course at the Cape Arundel Golf Club is the design of Walter Travis, an influential and important golf course designer who practiced between 1899 and 1925. Categorized as a modified link-type golf course, the landscape is modeled on old-style, seaside courses in Scotland, and has relatively open fairways, limited water features, and earth movement was limited to earthen mounds, or "chocolate drops." The course runs along the Kennebunk River (holes 1, 2, and 3) and crosses two tidal tributaries (holes 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, and 15), and both wind and tide affect the quality and experience of play. The small greens, with four corner pads and false fronts and chocolate drops are characteristic of Travis designed courses, as are the deceptive fairways that requires golfers to think ahead and seek views between trees and bunkers in order to strategize play on future holes. The level of design integrity is high, as is the integrity of setting, location, association, feeling, and materials. All of the fairways retain their original configuration (as Travis designed them, although the order of play between the front nine and the back nine have been reversed), and a recent campaign restored the original configuration and size of the sand traps and greens. Only minor changes have been made to the length of the tees, and slight modifications made to the dips and mounds of the greens to help drainage and accommodate modern mechanical equipment. As such, the course is a faithful and little altered example of Travis's historic design.

The Cape Arundel Golf Course of today was designed by the famed golf course architect, player, author and innovator Walter Travis. Mr. Travis, known as the Grand Old Man of American Golf, was hired in 1920 to redesign the course using existing and newly purchased property to expand the 9 holes that had been previously laid out by Alexander H. Findley. Findley (1865-1942) was a professional golfer from Scarsdale, New York who also worked on the earliest course layout at Megunticook (c. 1898), Tarrantine on Islesboro (1914), Grindstone Neck in Winter Harbor (early 20th c.) and Summit in Poland (1915). Described as a pretty course, with excellent natural hazards the Findley course had sufficed for twenty years. After World War I, however, the Board of Directors decided that the course had outlived its usefulness. According to an article in the *Ogunquit and Kennebunkport Bulletin*, published in 1921, "the fair greens (fairways) were 'fair,' and that was all. The putting greens were passable, but the whole course, to speak plainly, was sadly out of date, and offered no fair test of real golf." The article continued:

A special club meeting was called, and the situation laid plainly before members. It was shown that there was one thing to be done and that was to acquire more land, and then build a strictly modern 18-hole course on scientific lines. Money, some \$27,000.00 was subscribed, two adjacent farms along the riverbank, to the west, purchased, and Walter J. Travis secured to layout the links. Mr. Travis has probably no equal in such work in this country. (Douglas, p. 25)

Initially the Club contracted with Alex Campbell of Massachusetts to undertake the redesign, but when he failed to show they obtained the services of Walter Travis. It is more than a little likely that the link to Travis (and possibly the impetus for the expansion and redesign as well) was George Herbert Walker, a St. Louis and New York banker whose summer house was at Walker Point in the Cape Arundel Summer Colony. Walker was a member of the Cape Arundel Golf Club but on a national level, he was also elected president of the United States Golf Association in 1920. During his tenure Walker established the Walker Cup, a prestigious, biennially-held team competition between the leading amateur golfers of the United States, Ireland and Great Britain.

Walter Travis was known as the Grand Old Man because he did not take up golf until late 1896, just weeks before his 35th birthday. Less than four years later he won the first of three United States Amateur Championships. In 1904, Travis's victory in the British Amateur is credited with sparking interest in golf throughout the United States. He wrote prolifically on all aspects of golf, and was published in *Country Life in America*, *Harpers Weekly*, *Colliers*, *Outing*, *Golf*, and *Golf Illustrated*. Two of his books *Practical Golf* (1901) and *The Art of Putting* (1904) are considered to be classics within the sport. He also founded and published *The American Golfer* magazine in 1908 (it ran until 1936) and remained its editor until 1920. While on the one hand his books influenced American golf course design, construction and development, they also promoted the development and use of innovative golf equipment and methods of teaching and playing. According to a biography of Travis written by Ed Homsey and published on the Walter J. Travis Society web page, "In May, 1999, *Golf World* magazine listed Travis as number two on its "Top Ten List of Underrated Golf Course Architects". (www.buff-golf.com/travis.htm).

There are at least 31 golf courses across the nation that were either designed by Travis working alone or with an assistant or other designer.² In addition he remodeled another 14 courses and consulted on 19 others. Cape Arundel was his only commission, in any category, in Maine. His reputation as a designer was most likely established by the 8 year remodeling project he undertook at the Garden City Golf Club in Garden City, New York between 1901 and 1909. In 1920 Travis wrote an autobiographical article, published in *The American Golfer* about his work at the Garden City site:

The year 1906 marked a new era in golf course construction in the United States. Up to that time the natural contour of the ground was followed in the construction of putting greens, little or no attempt at embellishment being made in artificially introducing undulations. In the fashioning of site Dame Nature had not been so kind to us as to the golfers of Great Britain, where, especially on seaside links, greater diversity of putting surfaces obtained.

To remedy this defect I conceived and carried out the idea of reconstructing a number of the greens at Garden City. That was the first start. It led to what has since become the universal practice on all first-class courses. Hand in hand with the green changes was a departure from the orthodox method bunker construction. These I not only made much deeper, but more natural in appearance.

The Willie Dunn System. The system in vogue up to then had been very crude. Willie Dunn started it in the early days of golf on this side. His method was imply to select a suitable site for the putting green and to put in a cross bunker for the tee shot and another cross bunker for the second shot: These stereotyped creations extended clear across the fairway and consisted merely of an excavation of uniform depth and width, the excavated soil forming a cap or face of uniform height. Not only were they offensively artificial, lacking wholly in artistic finish, but they placed all players on a dead level of equality. They rarely troubled the fairly long hitter, but they were a terrible trial to the week player. There was no dodging them, except by playing short. I changed all this by so arranging the hazards as to open up an avenue of play for the weaker brothers by remodeling several of the greens and adding wing or side bunkers through the green, and more especially adjacent to the putting greens, closer and deeper than before.

My paramount idea was to make it harder for the good player and easier for the poor one, excepting on the short holes I had my eye on only the good player, the good player who brought off what then were considered good shots...but not quite good enough. For I was looking ahead, knowing full well that improvement was bound to come (which en passant is the only correct way to design a hole – a hole that will be just as good ten years

² Two of these courses no longer exist and one was designed but not built.

Name of Property

County and State

hence as it is to-day). The hazards are unchanged; they are there to stay. But a certain measure of elasticity is provided by alternative tees, two at least, in some cases three or even four.

What was the result? More or less "kicking," of course. But after the protests simmered down it was no uncommon sight to see the leading protestants escorting their friends around to view the lions – the deep pits which had been the subject of their own abjurations and fierce anathemas at the start. Now they were proud of them! Proud because they belonged to a club which could point to such a unique (at the time) hazard. It reflected credit indirectly on their own prowess.

The article then went on to explain how he and Donald Ross had altered the bunkers at Pinehurst, #2 (1904), in Pinehurst, North Carolina, which along with the Ekwanok Country Club in Manchester, Vermont, (1899), National Golf Links (with C. B. MacDonald and others, 1910) in Southampton, New York and the Pine Valley Golf Club (1917) in Pine Valley, New Jersey became some of his best known commissions. Of his work in Arundel, Travis wrote:

While the course is on the 'short side' – and rightly so, seeing that it is a 'resort' course, principally – yet it will strongly appeal to every class of golfer, from the 'crack' to the 'dub.' It looks easy, as my courses do, but the man who equals par will have played some 'golf.' The real difficulties in the scientific placements of hazards, all arranged not for the 'dub' but for the fairly good shots of the player which are not quite good enough. Yet no single hazard borders on unfairness. (Douglas, p. 49.)

The golf historians Labbance and Cornwell characterize Travis as "practically obsessive about his greens" and notes that he made plaster models of each one, which were then taken to the field and followed dip for dip and mound for mound. He also drew detailed blueprints for each green, imposing a grid over the landscape and carefully noting the change in elevation. Below the diagrams were notes, such as "Upslope at A-B and also wings on either side to be finished by hand fairly steep, after harrowing, the wings to be left rough on outside as indicated, also at extreme north" for the 17th green. The Club retains all of these diagrams except for green #4 and # 16, as originally numbered.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The earliest portion of the club house was designed by the first president of the Golf Club, Prosper L. Senat. Best known as an artist, Senat was born in 1852 in Germantown, Pennsylvania. He studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts under Jean Leon Gerome, at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and at the South Kensington School in London. His work gained moderate acclaim during the late 19th century and he had exhibits in Brussels, in 1880, at the Naples National Exposition in 1889, the Vienna National Exhibition in 1893, and won awards at both the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 and the Atlanta Exposition in 1895. Senat and his wife had both a cottage and a studio in Cape Arundel, however there is no indication that he designed either of these buildings. According to Douglas's history of the Club, Senat superintended "the entire work done and personally looked after the erection of the beautiful new club house, which was built by carpenters under his personal direction." In addition to acting as architect, and serving as president of the Club, Senat was the first American to patent a golf tee. He received his patent in 1895 for a c-shaped paper cup, that once inverted, would support the ball. The cup had notches and markings along the bottom edges to help keep score.

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:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

BIBLIOGRAPHY

American Art Annual. Volume XXII (For the Year 1925). (Washington, D.C.: The American Federation of Arts), 1926.

Douglas, George A. "Our Little Golf Club in Maine, Cape Arundel". (Kennebunk, Maine: The Cape House Book Publishers), 2001.

Falk, Peter Hastings, ed. Who Was Who in American Art. (Madison, CT: Sound View Press), 1985.

Homsey, Ed. "Walter J. Travis – a golfing pioneer of the 20th century." The Walter J. Travis Society, Inc. <http://buff-golf.com/travis.htm> 21 July 2009.

Labbance, Bob and David Cornwell. The Maine Golf Guide. (Stockbridge, Vermont: New England Golf Specialists), 1991.

Miscellaneous photographs, blue prints, journals and records, 1896 – 2008. Property of the Cape Arundel Golf Club, Kennebunkport, Maine.

Travis, Walter J. "Twenty Years of Golf. An Autobiography. The Advent of a New Era in Golf Course Construction" in *The American Golfer*. October 9, 1920. Volume 23, Issue 33. Pages 4, 23, 24.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 88.86 Acres
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References
 (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>379621</u>	<u>4803604</u>	3	<u>19</u>	<u>380586</u>	<u>4802576</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>19</u>	<u>380393</u>	<u>4803093</u>	4	<u>19</u>	<u>380075</u>	<u>4802574</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
5	<u>19</u>	<u>379590</u>	<u>4803180</u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are the legal limits of the Cape Arundel Golf Club as depicted on the Town of Kennebunkport tax map # 12, block 1, lot 13, 5, and 5d.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The above described boundaries represent the full extents of the Cape Arundel Golf Club. The Club's golf course occupied a small amount of leased land at the southeast end of the course until the early 21st century, when that land was purchased by the organization. The limits of the golf course have not been altered since the course was expanded in 1921/2.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Christi A. Mitchell, Architectural Historianorganization Maine Historic Preservation Commissiondate 23 July 2009street & number 55 Capitol Streettelephone (207) 287-2132city or town Augustastate Mainezip code 04353e-mail Christi.mitchell@maine.gov**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Cape Arundel Golf Club
City or Vicinity: Kennebunkport
County: York
State: Maine
Photographer: Christi A. Mitchell
Date Photographed: 18 August 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_001.tif**
Sixth green (foreground) and sixth tee (across pond); facing north.
- 2 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_002.tif**
View towards twelfth green and rest rooms. In foreground are chocolate drops that separate the fairway of # 10 (off to left) and # 18 (off to right). Facing northeast.
- 3 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_003.tif**
View across estuary to seventeenth green (upper left) and eighteenth men's tee (lower left, at water's edge) and women's tee (right). Facing southeast.
- 4 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_004.tif**
View from southeast edge of seventeenth fairway across estuary to #13 tee and # 12 tee. Seventeenth green at far left. Facing northwest.
- 5 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_005.tif**

CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB**YORK COUNTY, MAINE**

Name of Property

County and State

Fourteenth green with 'false front'. Facing northwest.

6 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_006.tif

Seventeenth tee and gravestones. Facing south, along the seventeenth fairway.

7 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_007.tif

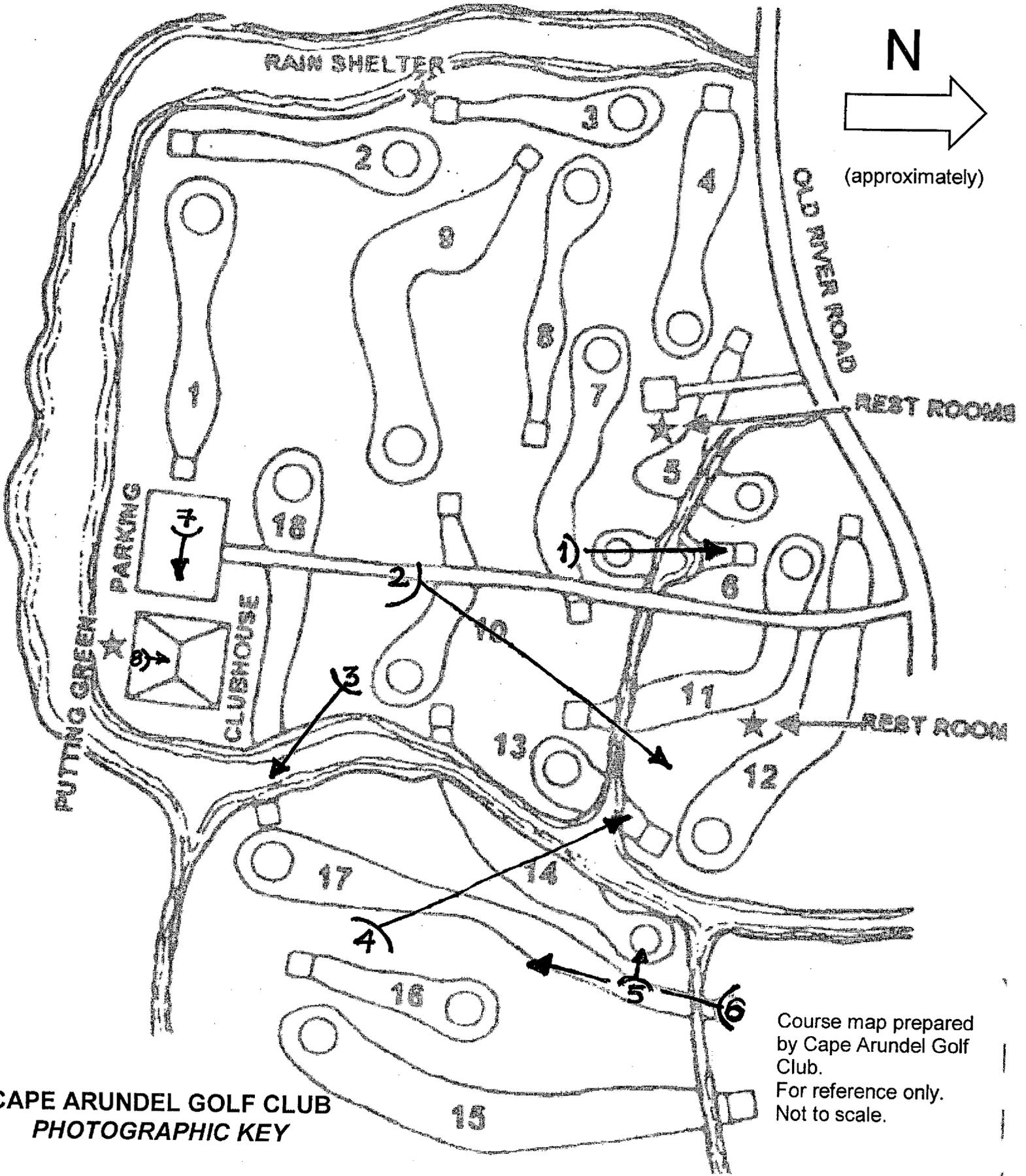
Exterior of clubhouse, facing east.

8 of 8 ME_YORK COUNTY_CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB_008.tif

Main room, interior of Clubhouse. Facing north.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



N
 (approximately)

**CAPE ARUNDEL GOLF CLUB
 PHOTOGRAPHIC KEY**

Course map prepared
 by Cape Arundel Golf
 Club.
 For reference only.
 Not to scale.

