

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received July 27
date entered

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

1. Name

historic St. Jude's Episcopal Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number Route 3 not for publication

city, town Seal Harbor, vicinity of

state Maine code 23 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 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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Rector, Warden and Vestryman of St. Mary's and St. Jude's, c/o Rev. Paul Gilbert

street & number

city, town Northeast Harbor, vicinity of state Maine 04662

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Ellsworth, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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

Located along the principal coastal road between Seal Harbor and Northeast Harbor, St. Jude's Episcopal Church occupies a heavily wooded lot on hilly terrain. There are scattered buildings in the area, including an 1892 cottage on the adjoining lot to the west. Nearby is the former Seal Harbor Congregational Church, already listed in the National Register.

The church is a one story rectangular structure with a steeply pitched gable roof and wood shingle siding. The nave, with its bowed windows, is at the east gable end, while the main entrance is located on the north side near the opposite end of the church. The latter features an enclosed vestibule and hanging bell sheltered by a pitched roof with a rounded gable end. The long north and south elevations have shingled buttresses alternating with square multi-pane windows. In the center of each roof slope is a large "eye-brow" dormer. In each gable end are tripartite stained glass windows and stylized Gothic vergeboard.

Attached to the west end of the church is a small one story guild hall with a hipped roof, shingle siding and double-hung sash with six-over-six lights. This structure is joined to the church by a narrow L-shaped cloister constructed of the same materials.

The interior of the church is a large open nave with a chancel flanked by a vestry and organ-room on the east end. The walls have exposed studs except for the chancel, which is shingled. Over-head are exposed rafters and on the floor are two rows of wooden benches. The opening to the chancel is enframed by wooden Gothic tracery. Two outstanding features are the stained glass windows which represent scenic views typical of Mt. Desert.

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/
<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 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 1887–1888 **Builder/Architect** Byron Candage/William Ralph Emerson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Jude's Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as the only surviving unaltered example of William Ralph Emerson's ecclesiastical work in Maine. Emerson, a renowned Boston architect who was chiefly responsible for developing the Shingle style, designed numerous structures in Maine's resort communities. Most of these, however, have not survived. St. Jude's, an excellent small example of the architect's work, exhibits a characteristic rustic flavor in its use of natural materials and minimal finish.

Seal Harbor, which developed as a summer community in the mid-1880s, was closely associated with the nearby colony at Northeast Harbor, founded a few years earlier. Wealthy Episcopalians in Northeast Harbor, led by Bishop Doane of Albany, helped organize a mission in Seal Harbor on November 17, 1886. Supported by wealthy benefactors such as Rufus R. Thomas of Philadelphia, work began on the chapel in 1887. The church was substantially finished in 1888, although it was several more years before all interior fixtures were in place.

Architect Emerson was a logical choice for the church as he was then the leading designer for summer cottages in nearby Bar Harbor and had just completed St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rockland, which was very similar to St. Jude's. With its completely shingled exterior and sparse interior revealing the church's structural system, St. Jude's is characteristic of the architect's work. The use of natural materials and the lack of historically-derived ornamentation are in keeping with Emerson's philosophy to design a building that blends harmoniously with its setting.

The congregation of St. Jude's never increased beyond the capacity of this church, which seats less than 200. In 1931, however, the need for a guild hall led to the erection of the present hall and kitchen on the west end of the church. This structure was an old school that was moved to the site for this purpose. Also added to the church are the stained glass windows dedicated to Bishop MacKay-Smith and his wife. The east window, in memory of the Alexander MacKay-Smith (died, November 6, 1911), is signed by Tiffany Studios. The west window, for Virginia Stuart MacKay-Smith (died, August 6, 1936), was produced by Westminster Memorial Studios, New York City.

Seal Harbor's lack of growth compared to Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor, ensured the survival of the original church. William Ralph Emerson's other churches have fared less well. The Unitarian, Catholic and Congregational Churches in Bar Harbor are no longer extant, and the Rockland Episcopal Church has been altered with several major additions. Now combined with the Episcopal congregation in Northeast Harbor, St. Jude's remains in use as a summer chapel.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mt. Desert Herald, November 5, 1886.

Not a Common House, Gunner Hanson, privately printed, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Seal Harbor

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

Assessor's Map 1, Lot 11

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 Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1986

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 *Eileen S. Fitzpatrick*

title S.H.P.O. date 6/23/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

J. Alvarez Byers Keeper of the National Register date 7-24-86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date