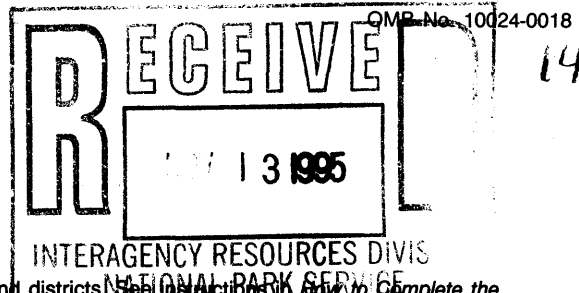


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Philbrook, John M., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 32 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bethel, N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04217

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Edson H. Beall 11/6/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title State Historic Preservation Commission Date  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 12.14.95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Entered in the National Register

**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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

Work in Progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

Wood/Shingle

roof Asphalt

other Front Porch & Corner Tower

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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.

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1895

**Significant Dates**

1895

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Tuell, Gilbert, Builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Philbrook, John M., House  
Name of Property

Oxford, Maine  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less Than 1

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 119 | 35741010 | 4911821610  
Zone Easting Northing

2    |    |   

3    |    |     
Zone Easting Northing

4    |    |   

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Patricia Thurston

street & number 99 Paradise Road telephone   

city or town Bethel, state Maine zip code 04217

**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. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Dominating the intersection of Main, Elm and Spring streets at the edge of Bethel's historic commercial center, the John M. Philbrook House is a large, asymmetrically massed Queen Anne style dwelling. The frame building, which is sheathed in weatherboards and wood shingles, features a front porch, corner tower capped by a bell shaped roof, and an irregular plan. It stands on a granite and brick foundation. The front block of the house is capped by a high hip roof whereas the recessed ell has a lower roof profile. A large carriage house stands off of the northwest corner.

Facing east, the front elevation contains an attached full width porch whose shed roof and small pediment above the steps is supported by turned posts. The posts are linked at the base by a balustrade and a narrow decorative screen at the top. Behind the porch is a wide entrance at the southeast corner and a single one-over-one window. Two symmetrically placed windows occupy the second story. A wood shingled pent gable featuring a Queen Anne style window and a projecting semi-circular hood extends across all but a small part of the facade. The porch meets the tower at the northeast corner. Its first story is comprised of a three-sided rectangular bay window while its second story is curved. Narrow one-over-ones are located in the sides of the bay whereas a pair of wider units are positioned on the front. Four windows are utilized on the upper shingled level, and these are matched by small Queen Anne tilt out windows in the narrow wood shingled wall surface between the main roof and that of the tower.

The north side elevation is comprised of two distinct wall planes: the projecting two-bay section of the main front block; and the recessed three-bay section of the ell. The front block has a single wide one-over-one window and a three-sided bay window on its first story, in addition to a pair of widely separated one-over-ones on the upper story. A shingled pent gable with a Queen Anne window in its tympanum frames the right side of the wall. There is a projecting entry porch and a vestibule on the first story of the ell as well as three two-over-twos, two of which are paired. Three smaller windows are located on the second story. In contrast to the north elevation, the south elevation has a projecting pent gabled bay at the southwest corner of the main block and a trio of windows that mark the location of the stairs. The upper and lower units in this group are located above each other, whereas the middle one falls on the inter-story landing and features stained glass. Paired one-over-ones occupy the bay, and a window punctuates the shingled tympanum of the gable. Two skylights on the main roof plane are recent additions. There are two windows on the rear (west) side of this bay, as well as six asymmetrically placed windows on the recessed wall of the ell. A dormer on the ell and a long wooden fire escape were recently added. A window and two doors, one of which is contained within the enclosed connector to the carriage house, are located on the rear elevation.

In plan, the Philbrook house is a fine example of the type of irregular, open interiors which

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characterize Queen Anne dwellings. The door opens into a narrow vestibule that in turn leads into the broad stair hall where an open string staircase rises through two inter-story landings to the second floor. This staircase is fashioned of varnished oak. To the right of the entry is a hall which provides access to the three first story rooms in the main block. A small angled fireplace located opposite an oak seat occupy the east end of the stair hall (nearest the porch/entry). Both rooms on the north side of the front block feature ornate mantelpieces with mirrored overmantels. Wide openings between the hall and parlor as well as the parlor and the room behind further enhance the sense of interior spaciousness. Unlike the other two principal first story rooms, the one in the southwest corner (behind the stair) is embellished with painted tongue and groove wainscot and a plaster ceiling medallion. There are four bedrooms on the second floor of the front block. The interior plan of the ell has been substantially changed during the recent rehabilitation, in part due to a fire which occurred prior to this work.

The carriage house is a full two stories in height and is capped by a high hip roof that is surmounted by an octagonal ventilator. Its front (east) elevation is composed of a large track mounted door near the northeast corner as well as a pair of doors (one or more of which may be recent) and one window on the first story. There is a smaller door above the big one and two additional windows on the second story. A shingled pent gable similar to those on the house is located above the large doors. There are four symmetrically placed two-over-two windows on each story of the north elevation, and four openings on each story of the west side, the upper ones of which vary in size reflecting recent changes. In addition, a deck spans about one-half of the second story on the west elevation. The south elevation exhibits an asymmetrical fenestration pattern comprised of the original large sliding door in the center flanked by three windows. A recent addition is the large four part window surmounted by a round arch that occupies the wall area above the door and below the center bay gable. Two of the four second story windows appear to be original, whereas the others are recent additions. At present, the carriage house contains apartments.

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Constructed in 1895 by local contractor Gilbert Tuell at a reported cost of some \$8,000, the John M. Philbrook House is an expansive and largely intact Queen Anne style dwelling. Erected on the site of a handsome Greek Revival house that was relocated to accommodate this one, the Philbrook residence is the most architecturally sophisticated building of its type and period on Bethel's Main Street (Bennett, p.32). Unfortunately, its architect remains anonymous. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance.

Bethel village became the mercantile and educational center of the Town of Bethel and surrounding communities during the mid nineteenth century, spurred in large part by the arrival of the Atlantic and Saint Lawrence Railroad in 1851. Bethel's commercial and residential development continued throughout the remainder of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as witnessed by the wide variety of architectural styles depicted in its building stock, much of which is evident in the Broad Street Historic District (NR 12/28/77, and 2/9/90), and in individual buildings such as the Philbrook house. This stylish house contains all of the hallmarks of the form including asymmetrical massing and plan, a corner tower capped by a bell shaped roof, a porch with turned ornamentation, and multiple sheathing materials.

Born in Shelburne, New Hampshire, John M. Philbrook (1840-1923) was educated at Gould Academy in Bethel and moved to the town in 1862 where he was initially engaged in farming and lumbering. He subsequently became a dealer in cattle and sheep. In 1895, Philbrook acquired the Gilman Chapman House on Main Street and commenced the construction of the present dwelling. Philbrook's redevelopment of this lot was described in the Extra Illustrated Edition of the *Bethel News* on January 6, 1904, when it noted that the site "...commands superb views of the surrounding mountains. The buildings were removed therefrom, and a handsome modern residence, surrounded by beautiful, well kept grounds, enhances the attractiveness of Bethel's main thoroughfare." Philbrook's move to Bethel village followed his transfer of the management of the farm to his son, and the beginning of a political career that had begun with his election to the State legislature in 1893. In 1897 he began a six year period of service as a county commissioner, and in 1903-04 he served in the State Senate. In relocating to the village, Philbrook was following the example set by his older brother Samuel D. Philbrook who had built a substantial Italianate house (NR 3/10/95) on Main Street in 1878-79.

Philbrook was living here at the time of his death, but it is uncertain how long his wife Pauline (Eames) Philbrook (1840-1938) continued to occupy the house as it was said to have been vacant for many years before it was acquired by Clarence Bennett about 1938. Bennett, who was an automobile dealer, built a garage on the northerly side of the property. This has recently been torn down to expand the grounds of the house. During most of the 1970s the house was used by Gould Academy for faculty

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housing. In the past year, it has been substantially rehabilitated with its significant architectural features retained.



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Bennett, Randall H. *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture.* Bethel, Maine:  
Oxford County Historic Resource Survey. 1984.

“Extra Illustrated Edition.” *The Bethel News*, January 6, 1904.

Lapham, William B. *History of the Town of Bethel, Maine.* Facsimile of the 1891 Edition.  
Somersworth, New Hampshire: New England History Press. 1981.

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*VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION*

The nominated property occupies the Town of Bethel, Tax Map 25, Lot 43.

*BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION*

The boundary embraces the entire village lot historically associated with the Philbrook House.