

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

For NPS use only

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

received **NOV 27 1985**

date entered **DEC 26 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Baxter Summer Home

and/or common Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

2. Location

street & number Mackworth Island N/A not for publication

city, town Falmouth, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, c/o Mrs. Carlene W. Parker

street & number P. O. Box 799

city, town Portland, _____ vicinity of state Maine 04101

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Federal Street

city, town Portland, 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 on a prominent site in the center of Mackworth Island, the Baxter Summer Home is closely surrounded by several long, rectangular two story school buildings. This complex is in turn surrounded by mostly unspoiled terrain consisting of a mixture of open fields and woodland.

The nominated property is a two-and-one-half story residential building constructed of dark red Tapestry brick. The roof is hipped with green terra cotta tiles and the foundation is random coursed fieldstone. A one-story enclosed porch extends from the south side while on the northeast corner is a one-story circular solarium. The windows are either casement or fixed sash with multi-pane lights, except for the dormers which have double-hung sash. There are four brick chimneys.

The house has two principal entrances, each with classical porticos. The principal (east) entrance has a door enframed by sidelights and transom. The transom contains stained art glass with sailing motifs. Enclosing this doorway, and its identical counterpart on the north side, is a pedimented portico supported on Ionic columns and Doric pilasters.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1917–1918 **Builder/Architect** Frederick Thompson, Architect, Portland

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Baxter Summer Home is historically important as the residence of Percival P. Baxter, a governor of Maine and one of the most important conservationists the state has produced. The building is also architecturally significant as a distinguished work of Portland architect, Frederick Thompson, who had a large practice at the turn-of-the-century.

Governor Baxter's father, James Phinney Baxter, purchased Mackworth Island in 1885. He first built a cottage on this site, which was moved elsewhere on the island and later destroyed. The elder Baxter also built the present house as a summer home in 1917–1918. Baxter, a mayor of Portland, historian and president of the Maine Historical Society, was an important public figure himself. He left the property to his son, who served as governor of Maine for two terms in 1921–25. The younger Baxter is principally known for securing Baxter State Park and Mackworth Island for the people of Maine. Governor Baxter used this summer house until 1943, when he donated the property to the State of Maine. The School for the Deaf, founded in Portland in 1857, moved to the island in 1953. Over the next four years the school buildings were erected, in part using funds donated by the former governor. Renamed the Baxter School for the Deaf, the institution was constructed in the center of the island on land immediately adjacent to the house. The remainder of the island remains undeveloped and open to the public.

Architect Frederick Thompson designed a house which depended largely on the materials used - dark red Tapestry brick walls, green terra cotta roof tiles and fieldstone foundation - for exterior ornamentation. Only the classical porticos over the two entrances display a more traditional architectural treatment. Even here, however, Thompson added curves to the raking cornices of each pediment to reflect the Renaissance style curves in the roof and dormers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Archives, Baxter School for the Deaf, Mackworth Island.

Lewiston Journal, November 29, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

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

Quadrangle name Portland East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	4	0	0	6	3	0	4	8	3	7	7	4	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 R2, Lot 12

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 October, 1985

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

title S. H. P. O. date 11/22/85

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 12-26-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration