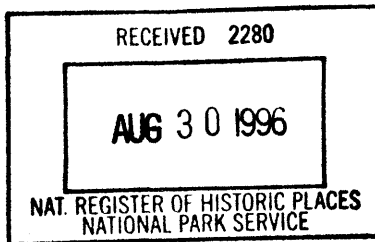


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 "x" 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 Dreamhome

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number W. side of Lake Christopher
.45 mi N. of Hill Road N/A not for publication

city or town Bryant Pond vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04219

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.)

Eileen S. Peterson ⁵⁴⁸⁰ 8/23/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
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:)

Edson B. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 8-27-96 Date of Action

Dreamhome
Name of Property

Oxford, ME
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Camp

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century

Revivals

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other Dormers and enclosed

side porch

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.

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1916
1919
c. 1920

Significant Dates

c. 1916
1919
c. 1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Blossom, Harold Hill, Landscape Architect

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Dreamhome
Name of Property

Oxford, ME
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 16

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	368140	4914340
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	19	368480	4914350

3	19	3685000	4914100
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	19	3681600	4914030

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. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1996

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town Augusta state ME zip code 04333

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dreamhome

Oxford, ME

Section number 7 Page 2

Dreamhome is an expansive, two-story frame summer cottage that is sheathed in shiplap siding and covered by a hip roof. It is distinguished by its large number of windows and French doors. In addition to the main building, the property features a one-story, hip roofed guest house, a frame boathouse with a cross gabled roof, and landscaped grounds. The sixteen acre property occupies a dramatic site between the shore of Lake Christopher on one side and a steep cliff of Mount Christopher on the other.

Main House

Facing east, the four-bay front elevation of the main house features a slightly recessed central two-bay block that is flanked on the ends by projecting hip roofed bays. The fenestration pattern on the first story is comprised of two sets of paired French doors framed by wide full length sidelights in the center block, a third set in the north bay (in place of what was originally an engaged porch), and a fourth set in the south bay (which are recent additions in place of paired six-pane casements and a smaller single pane window; both alterations partially fill a space originally occupied by another engaged porch). The second story of the center bays has a fenestration pattern composed of a trio of eight-pane casements located above the southernmost first floor doors and a widely spaced pair of casements above the northernmost doors. The north projecting bay features a large central window with four narrow casements that is flanked by pairs of eight-pane casements. The south bay contains two pairs of casements. Two small dormers with very broad hip roofs are located over the central block on axis with the first story doors. A pair of brick chimneys punctuate the roof; the one to the south is forward of the ridge, whereas the one to the north is behind the ridge.

The north elevation of the house contains a bank of narrow, full length five-pane windows on the first story and a strip of casement windows on the second story. In contrast to the symmetrical fenestration pattern of the front and north side elevations, the rear elevation exhibits an asymmetrical pattern comprised of both rectangular and diamond pane casement windows. There are five windows on the first story, a pair at the inter-story stair landing, and four on the second story, in addition to a French door/sidelight unit at the northwest corner.

A recessed two-story hyphen added in the 1960s links the main house to a two-story, two-bay block which is referred to on a 1919 landscape plan as a bath house and hall. At present, the first story of the hyphen features a door framed by narrow half length sidelights and a picture window, both of which are sheltered by a pent roof. Two small windows are located on the upper story just below the eave line. Abutting the hyphen but attached to the exterior end wall of the main house is a brick chimney which appears to be part of the 1960s addition. The facade of the bath house features a trio French doors surmounted by a pent roof, and a single window on the second story. The irregular south elevation of the bath house is comprised of a narrow projecting entrance vestibule (located slightly east of center) that is capped by a bracketed hipped roof, and a projecting two-story bay that occupies the western half of the wall, the upper story of which overhangs the lower one. There is a single six-over-six window located east of the entry, smaller single sash windows on either side of the vestibule roof, a pair of six-over-sixes in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dreamhome

Oxford, ME

Section number 7 Page 3

the first story of the bay, and a single six-over-six in the upper level. Several double hung windows are located on the rear wall of this block.

The interior of Dreamhome is executed in a Colonial Revival style manner. Its first floor consists of a small room at the south end of the main block (presently being converted into a kitchen), two large rooms in the central section, and the enclosed informal porch space at the north end. The central rooms are the most architecturally important. Both feature false beam ceilings and fireplaces, the northern one of which is an especially prominent feature that is flanked by built-in bookcases and benches. To the left of this nook is the enclosed staircase that rises through two inter-story landings to a narrow central hall on the second floor. Four bedrooms and a bath are accessed from this hall. The north bedroom has a fireplace flanked by arched nooks with window seats, and a French door opens into what appears to have been a second story sleeping porch. The interior of the bath house/ hyphen is divided into several modest rooms.

Several feet behind and extending the entire length of the main house and its connected bath house is a granite block retaining wall. It varies in height about three to four feet. A similar structure is located behind the guest cottage.

Guest Cottage

The guest cottage (which appears to have been erected after the main house because its footprint is not shown on the 1918 landscape plan) is a symmetrically composed one-story, three-bay building that is covered by a hip roof, the center of which is punctuated by a large chimney. It is located to the south of the main house. Its front elevation features a broad central entrance whose two-leaf door is surmounted by an ornate fan light. A porch with a gable roof supported by a pair of Tuscan columns shelters the entry. On either side are pairs of French doors that open onto a deck extends over a tall dry laid stone retaining wall constructed of irregular granite blocks. Both the north and south elevations contain two pairs of eight-pane casement windows, of which those on the north side are separated by a small shed roofed addition. There are two sets of French doors on the rear elevation and one group of windows.

The interior of the guest cottage is divided into four rooms. The front half of the building contains a great hall whose focal point is a large fieldstone fireplace located opposite the entrance. All of the rooms are finished in narrow tongue and groove sheathing.

Boathouse

Standing to the southeast of the main house is the boathouse, a one-and-a-half-story frame building that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dreamhome

Oxford, ME

Section number 7 Page 4

stands on a large U-shaped concrete base. Like the main house and the guest cottage, it is covered with shiplap siding. Its water front elevation has a broad opening for the boat entrance, above which is a French door that opens onto a narrow balcony. Both side elevations contain a centrally located pair of four-pane windows and large gable roofed dormers with a similar group of windows. There are doors on both stories of the land elevation, the upper one of which originally was reached by a set of exterior stairs that were subsequently replaced by a set on the interior. The interior is sheathed in varnished tongue and groove sheathing. Wooden docks are presently being installed on both sides of the boathouse.

Grounds

The lone historic plan relating to this property that has been discovered to date is a planting plan drawn by landscape architect Harold Hill Blossom of Dedham, Massachusetts. It is dated May, 1918, but a handwritten notation indicates that it was issued the following year. The plan called for the construction of a terrace walk in the front and north side of the house, and a curvilinear walkway leading from the north side that used stones in the bank for steps. A walk built of Marl and bordered on the west side by a gutter was to be built from the bath house to the boathouse, and a path is shown leading from the northwest corner of the main house to the north. In addition, the construction of several round stone retaining walls was indicated around several trees. Surrounding all of these features was an extensive planting scheme employing no fewer than forty-seven separate plant varieties.

Despite many years of little or no maintenance on the grounds, a considerable number of the original features and many identifiable plantings survive. The circulation pattern in particular as well as the materials used in that system, such as the stone bank steps and the gutter comprised of cobblestones set in concrete, are still in place. Likewise, the stone retaining walls built around the trees are still in place, although the trees themselves are gone.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dreamhome

Oxford, ME

Section number 8 Page 2

Dreamhome is a substantial two-story frame, lakeside summer cottage that is set amidst landscaped grounds and is accompanied by a detached guest cottage and boathouse. It is believed to have been constructed about 1916 for William Ellery and his wife Bessie (Collier) Ellery. Although the designer of the buildings has not as yet been identified, landscape architect Harold Hill Blossom developed the plans for the grounds. The subject compound was originally the centerpiece of a 125 acre estate that bordered the southwestern half of Lake Christopher and was comprised of a small island as well as several other cottages and ancillary buildings, including a log cabin and log outhouse said to have been built for the chauffeur. According to local tradition, the name is derived from Bessie Ellery who dreamed of building a house on this site while summering in a nearby cottage. Dreamhome is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion C for its local significance in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture.

To date, little biographical information has been discovered about the Ellerys. Tradition holds that William Ellery was a wealthy textile manufacturer whose fortune was lost in the stock market crash of 1929 and during the ensuing Great Depression. Land records indicate that on January 29, 1916, Bessie (Collier) Ellery was given a deed to the Dreamhome property by Edmund P. Collier of Cohasset, Massachusetts. At the time, Bessie Ellery was living in Brookline, Massachusetts. Her relationship to Edmund Collier is unknown. It is presumed that the construction of Dreamhome began shortly after Bessie Ellery acquired the property, and by the spring of 1918 the Dedham, Massachusetts landscape architect Harold Hill Blossom had been engaged to develop a plan for the grounds.

Judging from the size of their Lake Christopher estate and the number of buildings that were ultimately constructed on it (the others are no longer associated with Dreamhome), the Ellerys expended considerable resources on the property that ultimately had nearly a half mile of frontage on the water. Beginning in 1936, however, the Ellerys were unable to meet their property tax liabilities, a reversal of fortune that appears to support the local tradition. For the five years between 1936 and 1940 the towns of Greenwood and Woodstock placed tax liens on the property, and then in 1941 the Town of Greenwood placed a Writ of Possession on that portion of the estate lying in Greenwood. Four years later Bessie Ellery deeded one-third of the property to the Town of Woodstock. Both parcels totaling 125 acres were subsequently acquired from the towns of Greenwood and Woodstock by Irving O. Barrows and Fernando F. Francis. They held the property for about two months and then sold it in July of 1946 to Alfred and Lily Stone of Miami Beach, Florida. Dreamhome has had a number of different owners since then, and the property has been reduced in size from the original 125 acres to the present 16.

The important historic architecture of Maine's coastal summer resorts has been well documented through numerous surveys, National Register nominations, and in a variety of publications. In contrast, the architectural makeup of the seasonal residences that front on the state's vast number of inland lakes is less well known. Although a recent survey of extant private and commercial sporting camps has filled a large gap in our knowledge about the resources on the lakes, much is yet to be learned, particularly about the numerous boys and girls summer camps which were built in the early twentieth century, and the distribution of private estates like Dreamhome.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dreamhome

Oxford, ME

Section number 8 Page 3

In the years after the Civil War, Maine's inland regions witnessed a sharp increase in the number of recreational tourists who came to the area. Initially, most of these people were "sports" in pursuit of the much-praised fishing and hunting experiences that had been extolled in published accounts, and their destinations were often one of the many rustic sporting camps that soon dotted the lakes. As the number of people drawn to the interior increased, however, an entire industry emerged to cater to their needs. In addition to the sporting camp complexes, a considerable number of resort hotels were erected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that provided not only full accommodations, but also a whole range of recreational activities including golf, tennis, and boating. In time, the logistical problems encountered in reaching many of these inland locations were reduced by expanding rail connections and the widespread use of automobiles on the improving highway system.

Within the context of the overall development pattern of the tourism industry in inland Maine, the factors that led to the construction of private summer residences has not been fully explored. Judging from the preliminary results of a recent survey of designed residential subdivisions in the state, however, it seems that the number of planned lakeside developments was far fewer than those that had been initiated on the coast. There are probably numerous reasons for this discrepancy, not the least of which is the desirability of the coastal locations, the relative ease of access (by steamship and rail), and the availability of property. Inland locations were generally more remote, and in many instances developable real estate may not have been for sale.

The construction of Dreamhome and the numerous other buildings that originally comprised the Ellery estate on Lake Christopher, were carried out on a scale that rivaled and in many ways exceeded the coastal pattern. Although the lack of extensive survey documentation for this property type makes it difficult to draw definitive conclusions, it would seem that the assemblage of a property of approximately 125 acres with extensive shore frontage was unusual. Certainly, the size of the main house and its extensively landscaped grounds gives this property particular distinction.

Although no documentation relating to the designer of Dreamhome and its ancillary buildings has been found, a blueprint of the original landscape plan has survived. Drawn by the Dedham, Massachusetts landscape architect Harold Hill Blossom and dated May 1918, the landscape plan provides an important glimpse of the original design intent, much of which was carried out and is still evident today. The plan contains the footprint of the main house, the originally detached bath house/hall, and the boathouse, but does not show the guest house. In addition, it contains a handwritten note stating that the plan was issued on May 8, 1919, presumably after the house was largely complete. The design itself is largely an informal one that works around and incorporates into its plan the striking features of the natural landscape. A curvilinear circulation pattern was instituted, one part of which employed the natural surface stone for a footpath. Several existing trees on the slope between the house and lake shore were protected by circular stone retaining walls, and a large quantity of plant materials were introduced in front of and to the sides of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dreamhome

Oxford, ME

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Land records pertaining to Dreamhome. Oxford County Registry of Deeds. South Paris, Maine.

Pictorial Woodstock, Maine: 1815-1920. Woodstock, Maine: Woodstock Historical Society.
1988.

Planting Plan for Mr. William Ellery. Dreamhome. Bryant Pond, Maine. Harold Hill Blossom,
Landscape Architect, May 1918. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation
Commission, Augusta.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dreamhome

Oxford, ME

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

Dreamhome occupies the Town of Woodstock tax map 15, lot 3, as well as the Town of Greenwood tax maps U-21, lot 2, and U-21, lot 2A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the approximately sixteen acre property that is historically and presently associated with Dreamhome.