

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 23 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Poland Spring Bottling Plant and Spring House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Ricker Road N/A not for publication

city, town Poland, N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Androscoggin code 001

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A In process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Poland Spring Water Corporation

street & number Ricker Road

city, town Poland Spring, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04274

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Auburn, 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

The Spring House and Bottling Plant at Poland Spring are two Italian Renaissance style structures which are constructed of a light tan brick with green tile roofs and ashlar granite foundations. Located in a rural setting, the two buildings are formally arranged in a clearing at right angles to each other.

The Bottling Plant, which is the larger of the two structures, is rectangular in shape with round arched windows and a hipped roof with over-hanging eaves supported on brackets. The main decorative feature is the tall tower located in the center of the southwest elevation. The base, which is rusticated brick, contains a round arched entrance. The shaft is unornamented except for decorative metal medallions which adorn all four sides. In the top of the tower are openings in each elevation which contain Tuscan columns in antis. There is also a heavy cornice with balconies and a hipped roof with wide over-hanging eaves. A secondary entrance, located on the southeast side of the building, has an ornate copper marquee hanging over the door.

Designed in the form of a small Greek Cross, the Spring House has rusticated walls identical to the base of the tower on the Bottling Plant. On the roof is a round dome which is Baroque in character. Located at the intersection of the four gable ends, the dome is made entirely of copper. Its base has oval windows alternating with scroll-shaped brackets.

The entrance to the Spring House, located on the southeast facade, includes Tuscan columns and pilasters supporting an entablature. This is surmounted by a lunette set in a large round arch. On either side of the building is a round arched window designed to provide ample light for visitors taking the water.

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/ 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 checked="" 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 1907 ~~XXXXX~~ **Builder/Architect** Harry C. Wilkinson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Poland Spring, which has been known since the mid-18th century, was the principal raison d'être for the establishment of the world famous resort founded by the Ricker family and was symbolized the great Poland Spring House which burned in 1975. The bottling plant and spring house remain as monuments to this great summer hotel which served a stellar clientele and provided all that could be desired by its guests.

Jabez Ricker, the founder, first came to Poland Spring in 1794 and his son, Wentworth, built the first hostelry on the property in 1797, which was called the Mansion House. In 1800 he became ill and his case was declared hopeless by the doctor. Nevertheless, after having drunk copiously from the spring nearby, he made an apparently miraculous recovery. From that time on the spring's reputation for supposed medicinal properties grew until it became world renowned and the Poland Spring House, built in 1876 by Hiram Ricker, Wentworth's son, became a watering place equal in reputation to any of the great European spas.

Although the great hotel is gone, the original bottling plant of 1907 remains and is still in operation, Poland Spring bottled water being now extremely popular as a table water. Beside it stands the spring house, lavishly designed to accomodate hotel guests "taking the waters".

Harry C. Wilkinson, the architect of both structures grew up as a boy in Poland, Maine, and was known to the Ricker family. After a year's experience with a small architectural firm in Lewiston he went to Washington to become a draughtsman in the office of the Supervising Architect of the U. S. Treasury Department. While there he studied pen and ink drawing and became well-known for his renderings in this medium. In 1903, when Edward P. Ricker, Hiram's son, began to consider the erection of a formal spring house and bottling plant, he wrote to Wilkinson asking for a design. After much correspondence, he completed the final plans which were carried out in 1907.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Poland Spring, Illustrated History, published by Hiram Ricker and Sons, Inc. 1908.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Minot

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	9	11	0	14	10	4	18	7	15	7	17	10
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 6, Lot 40B

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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1984

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 2/16/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/22/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration