

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

669

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 14 2015

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Owls Head

Other names/site number:      The Ralph H Houser Summer Home     

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

### 2. Location

Street & number: 289 West Shore Road

City or town: Hebron State: NH County: Grafton

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

     national      statewide   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  
  x   A      B   x   C      D

EJ Mungy 7/20/15  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Director and SHPO Date  
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title : \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Lawson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*9-29-15*  
Date of Action

**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Camp  
            
            
            
            
            
          

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Camp

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Bungalow/Craftsman

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, Log, Weatherboard , Steel

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

Owls Head is an approximately 800-foot high wooded hill situated on the northwest Shore of Newfound Lake in Hebron, New Hampshire. The hill rises moderately on its western side but drops sharply (with some ledge) on its eastern side to the lake's shore. Owls Head also refers to the Houser family summer camp, a collection of buildings and structures built on the crest of the hill by Ralph H. Houser in the 1920s and used by him and his family as a summer home. Inspired by the book Camps, Log Cabins, Lodges, and Club Houses by noted writer and editor Frank Everett Brimmer (published in 1925), the camp was designed by Ralph Houser and consists of the one-and-a-half story main house, a small sleeping cottage (former ice house), a tool house/garage, a pump house, and a small concrete cistern. The camp also has a clay tennis court and an historic road that winds its way to the hilltop with stone retaining walls. The buildings sit within a forest of mostly coniferous trees, empty of undergrowth around the buildings, with cleared views to the northeast of Newfound Lake and distant views of the White Mountain National Forest. Still used by the descendants of Ralph H. Houser, the camp is an excellent and well-preserved example of the Rustic or Adirondack style with a high degree of architectural integrity and the majority of its original furnishings, many inspired by Brimmer's book and constructed for the property by Ralph H. Houser, still intact.

### Narrative Description

#### Owls Head Main House c.1900/1926 (Contributing)

Built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as a small cottage, the building was substantially rehabilitated into Owls Head in 1926. The main house (approximately 40 feet by 43 feet) at Owls Head is a half-log clad rectangular one-and-a-half story bungalow facing northeast. Owls Head is built on a foundation of concrete pilings. The building has a wide gabled roof with double shed roof dormers with double six pane windows ornamented with flower boxes on the front and back. The roof extends over the recessed porches along the front and back of the building supported by rough logs of equal dimension. The wider front porch extends along the full front width of the house. The back porch extends along the full back width of the house and continues beyond the northwest corner to a small gabled roof one story water closet addition. Both porches have decorative balustrades made of vertical and horizontal elements constructed of whole logs. The back porch has a screen of tall vertical logs that shade the area of the porch that connects the house to the water closet. Both porches are

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accessed by stone and mortared steps. The front porch has a decorative foundation screen made of vertical and diagonal half logs.

The building's front (northeast) façade, dominated by the porch, has an off-center entrance with a door made of unfinished lumber flanked by a double nine pane casement window to the north and a triple nine pane casement window to the south. The back (southwest) façade, also dominated by its porch, has an off-center entrance with a door constructed of unfinished lumber. Both doors are illuminated by a simple electric wall light carved from a birch log. The back porch has a mixture of double casement windows with nine panes and a smaller casement with a diamond pane design. The southeast façade is centered on a large pyramidal chimney of mortared stone that rises from the ground and projects above the roof line. Double and single casement windows provide light to the first and second floor. A door, sheltered by a simple overhang over its top lintel and reached by a set of wooden steps with a rustic log railing, sits to the south of the chimney. The northwest façade is punctuated by single and double casement windows in a mostly symmetrical pattern.

The main floor of Owls Head is divided into three spaces. All spaces on the first floor have walls of painted wood sheathing with baseboard, door, and window casings crafted from half-trees with the bark still attached. The floors are finished wood with rugs scattered in various locations. Door and window casings are crafted from half-trees with the bark still attached. The ceiling is the open framework of large logs with intact bark. The southern end of the room is dominated by a mortared stone fireplace and hearth with a rustic wood mantle. The northern end of the room has a seating area with built-in benches adjacent to a wide staircase with risers and balustrades of solid log. The stair turns ninety degrees to the west at a low landing. The room is furnished with tables, bookcases, and chairs that are original to the house, many of which were built by Ralph Houser based on designs in Brimmer's book. The area behind the living area is divided into two spaces. To the north is a kitchen with cabinets made of half-logs, a built in dining table (inglenook), and its original wood fired cook stove. The room to the south is a small bedroom with a sink/bathtub area separated from the main room by a screen of timbered logs and green cloth. The beds are original to the house and crafted by Ralph Houser.

The second floor of the house is divided into four spaces with a large rectangular hallway that provides sitting space as well as access to three bedrooms. All spaces on the second floor have finished wood floors, walls of unpainted wood sheathing and baseboard, door, and window casings crafted from half-trees with the bark still attached. The rooms retain their original furnishings including beds built by Ralph Houser. A small ladder rises along the wall of the hallway, providing access to a small attic loft area through a child-size entry.

### **Sleeping Cottage (Ice House) 1926**

The Sleeping Cottage sits approximately 200 feet west from the main house. Originally built as an ice house, it was converted into a sleeping cottage when the Housers purchased an electric refrigerator for Owls Head in the 1930s. The rectangular (~10'x12') half-log clad cottage is a one story structure with a shallow pitched gabled metal roof. Its deep eaves are supported on the long sides of the building by notched rafter tails. The main (south) façade is dominated by a door clad in vertical half-logs. Its east façade has a ribbon of four wood diamond pane casement windows with a rustic flowerbox underneath. The back (north) façade is dominated by a large pyramidal stone and mortar chimney that rises just above the roof's ridgepole. The chimney is flanked by wood casement windows with diamond panes. The west façade has no openings.

The interior of the former ice house is one room with walls of painted wood sheathing, finished wood floor, and window and door casings constructed of half-logs with bark still intact. The ceiling is open with whole log rafters spanning the width of the room. The north wall is dominated by a fireplace with a rustic mantle, flanked by two built-in triangular benches. The west wall has a built-in bunk bed; the east wall has a built-in wall cabinet. The built-ins and furniture for this room is trimmed with half-log decoration and built by Ralph Houser. The original ice saw and tongs used in the ice house hang on the wall as decoration.

### **Tool House/Garage 1926**

33 feet south from the Sleeping Cottage is a small (~10'x20') half-log clad rectangular Tool House/Garage with a gabled metal roof. A small shed metal roof addition runs the length of the east façade of the building. The building's main (north) façade is dominated by a large off-center garage opening that has recently been in-filled with plywood double doors. To the left of the opening, a smaller historic door provides access to the shed addition. To the right is a nine pane casement

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window that provides light into the shed area of the building. The west facing gabled end also has a nine pane casement window. Constructed for storage, the interior of this building is unfinished.

### **Pump House 1926**

The pump house sits along the lakeshore within the tree line behind a sandy beach. It is a simple shed roof building with painted vertical wood sheathing. The building is accessed by a simple door in its northeast façade; a four pane window faces out to the lake. Used to house the pump that provided water to the cottage, the building is now used for storage. Its interior is unfinished. The pump house was abandoned when a modern water system was installed.

### **Cistern 1926**

The cistern sits south from the main house at Owls Head on a wooded rise. It is an 8'x8' square concrete structure with a wood framed gabled roof. The cistern was a holding tank, situated on the rise to provide water pressure to the kitchen and bathrooms on the first floor of the house. The cistern was abandoned when a modern water system was installed.

### **Driveway c.1924/1927**

In 1924 a road was laid from West Shore Road to the summit of Owls Head. The road was later improved by the Housers in 1927. At the base of the road is a surviving stone and mortar gate post. The road climbs the hill heading southeast for several yards before taking a wide curve to a stretch that runs in a long easterly direction reaching a maximum twenty-one percent grade. At the summit of Owl's Head, the road turns southward to the area behind the main house. The road is built up and has shallow stone retaining walls in many places.

### **Tennis Court c.1928**

To the southwest of the main house is a 50'x103' clay tennis court constructed by Ralph Houser. The flat court was built over the sloping hillside with the construction of a large dry-laid stone wall. The tennis court retains its net posts and is fenced in on three sides by a pipe and chain-link fence.

### **Owls Nest (No Longer Extant)**

Just south of the cistern, the Houser's built a picnic platform in a tall oak tree. The platform was accessed by a ladder and was used for dining and to provide views of Newfound Lake and the mountains beyond. The tree and platform were destroyed in the hurricane of 1938.

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1926-1964  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Houser, Ralph R  
Remick, R.S.H



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Owls Head is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A under social history as a well-preserved lakefront camp site constructed in the 1920s. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the lakes and mountains of New Hampshire became a popular tourist destination. With the development of the automobile, the shores of New Hampshire's lakes were made accessible to middle-class Americans like the Housers, who purchased lots along lakefronts and in picturesque areas on which they constructed modest camps and cabins. They used these camps for family vacations filled with light recreation like hiking, boating, tennis, and swimming. Owls Head is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a lakefront camp complex designed in the rustic or Adirondack style. Owls Head's design, construction, and furnishings are directly connected with B.F. Brimmer's 1926 Camps, Log Cabins, Lodges, and Club Houses, one of several different pattern books and design guides published in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Settlement of New Hampshire's White Mountain and Lakes regions began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the scenic views and natural resources of both the mountains and lakes began to draw tourists. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, road and canal development became a catalyst for the "American Grand Tour." Highlighted in travel literature of the time, The American Grand Tour became a seasonal travel plan that brought foreign and domestic tourists up the Hudson River to the Catskill Mountains of New York. Travelers would then follow the Erie Canal to the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls before finishing their tour with travels to the White Mountains and a return to New York through the Connecticut River Valley.<sup>1</sup>

The rugged scenery of the mountains and lakes drew both writers and artists to the region. Popular news stories of the region's settlers like the tragic death of the Willey family in 1826 (who evacuated their home in Crawford Notch to escape a landslide that claimed their lives but spared the house) also became a draw and source of artistic inspiration. Hudson River School painter Thomas Cole came to the White Mountains in the late 1820s. The romanticized paintings and subsequent prints by artists such as Thomas Cole and Benjamin Champney, along with the fiction and prose of popular writers like Nathaniel Hawthorne and Louisa May Alcott, helped popularize the region in the early and mid-nineteenth century as a tourist destination.<sup>2</sup> While the majority of these works centered on the area of the White Mountains, the lakes region just south of the mountains was also documented by popular culture. In the 1850s, Currier & Ives produced the print "Indian Summer" showing a scene from the shores of Squam Lake.

Early vacationers to the White Mountains stayed in taverns and hotels. In the later part of the nineteenth century, several areas in the mountains and along the lakes developed into summer destinations where upper middle class families purchased lots and built homes along waterfronts or in areas with scenic views that they could return to year after year.

<sup>1</sup> Brown, Dona *Inventing New England: Regional Tourism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995

<sup>2</sup> Purchase, Eric *Out of Nowhere, Disaster and Tourism in the White Mountains* Baltimore, The John Hopkins University Press, 1999

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Newfound Lake is New Hampshire's fourth largest lake<sup>3</sup> and is located in the state's lakes region adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest. This region also includes the state's largest (Winnepesaukee) and second largest (Squam) lakes. The area surrounding Newfound Lake was settled in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Transportation improvements along the eastern shore of the lake with the construction of the Mayhew Turnpike in the early years of the nineteenth century provided increased opportunities for the development of taverns, agriculture and industry. The arrival of the railroad to the region in 1848 created increased opportunities for economic development in the region as well as recreation and tourism opportunities along the shores of Newfound Lake. By 1865, the first of several steamboats provided transportation on the lake to residents and summer visitors. Similar steamboat operations also developed on Lake Winnepesaukee.<sup>4</sup> The increased travel allowed for the development of small private camps along the shores of Newfound Lake. Boys camps also developed in New Hampshire's lakes region in the late nineteenth century. In 1881, Camp Chocorua for boys was developed on an island in Squam Lake with three other similar camps developed on that lake by 1893. The trend of boys camps came early to Newfound Lake. In 1895 Camp Pasquaney for boys was developed on the eastern shore of Newfound Lake, followed by Camp Redcroft in 1900. These camps, where the middle and upper class could send their children for a summer of education and recreation, are two of the earliest in New Hampshire.<sup>5</sup>

Tourism along the shores of Newfound Lake continued to prosper and grow in the post-World War I era. The development of an affordable automobile opened the shores to an increasing number of the middle class in 1920s, including people like Ralph & Faith Houser. Ralph Horton Houser was born in Castalia, Ohio on Sept. 2, 1884. He graduated from Oberlin College, and in 1911 married Faith Weld Tenney, classmate and daughter of Rev. Henry M. Tenney of the First Congregational Church in Oberlin, and granddaughter of portrait painter Adna Tenney (many of whose portraits hang in the N.H. State House and at Dartmouth College.) After marrying, the couple moved to Arlington, MA. They had two daughters, Hope and Betsy. Ralph received an MS from Harvard College in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, and started his teaching career while helping to build a home for his family in Belmont, MA. He taught at Roxbury Latin School for 40 years without missing a day of school.

While on a summer holiday on Newfound Lake, New Hampshire in 1922, he saw a little hill rising above the shore across the lake, and discovered that it was for sale. Climbing the hill on a donkey path, he found the shell of a building at the top, with nothing but a central brick chimney inside, and a beautiful view of the Waterville Range of the White Mountains to the north. A retreat was just what he was looking for, so he bought Owl's Head and spent the rest of his life maintaining and improving it in the Rustic or Craftsman style. Houser purchased the property in 1926 and immediately began implementing plans to improve it. Using plans they developed with local builder W.S.H.Remick in Bristol, NH, the Housers transformed the existing building shell into their summer home with the majority of the work completed by Ralph. The scope of work included fenestration changes, development of the kitchen and current floor plan, and the decorative architectural finishes on the interior and exterior of the building. Ralph Houser took down the brick chimney and built one of fieldstone, spending much time during its construction on homemade scaffolding. He built a large fireplace inside and a fire screen decorated with copper cutouts of Indians. He built a second chimney to accommodate the kitchen woodstove. He built most of the indoor furniture, including 2 tall bookcases, a dining table (of flooring), a back door (of flooring), a writing desk and 2 stools, kitchen counters and drawers, an inglenook for cozy breakfasting near the stove, and an upstairs with 3 bedrooms, 7 birch bedframes and a large cedar chest. Ralph's improvements to the property included the development of a paved driveway, workshop building, icehouse, tennis courts,

<sup>3</sup> New Hampshire's Biggest Lakes <http://new-hampshire-nh.com/2009/03/09/biggest-lakes-nh/> (accessed August 25, 2014)

<sup>4</sup> Greenwood, Charles E. *History of Bristol 1919-1969* Meredith, NH, Meredith News, 1969

<sup>5</sup> Maynard, W.Barksdale "The Ideal Life in the Woods for Boys, Architecture and Culture in the Earliest Summer Camps" Winterthur Portfolio, Vol 34, No 1, Spring 1999

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water system, and a trail system that connects the house to the property's beachfront on the lake. When the family purchased a refrigerator, Ralph converted the ice house to a sleeping cabin with a fireplace and chimney similar to the one he built for the house.

The design and furniture of Owls Head was developed using the book Camps, Log Cabins, Lodges, and Club Houses published in 1925 by Frank Everette Brimmer. Frank Brimmer was a noted magazine writer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as the managing editor of Outdoor Recreation magazine. F.E. Brimmer wrote at least one other book on auto-camping as well as a number of articles for magazines like The Saturday Evening Post, The American Magazine, Field & Stream, The American Motorist, and the Lady's Home Journal<sup>6</sup>. F.E. Brimmer's book is one of several similar books on the construction of camps in the rustic style from the 1880s up through the 1930s. While Camps, Log Cabins, Lodges, and Club Houses is not the earliest or most influential of these books, its influence on Owls Head is highly discernible. While Brimmer does provide sample designs for a variety of cottages at the back of the book, it is not a typical pattern book of house plans and instead provides examples of camp types (all in the rustic style) as well as instructions for the building of chimneys and fireplaces, outbuildings, and the construction of camp furniture. The influence of Brimmer's book at Owls Head can be seen not only in the general design of the individual buildings but in the layout of the camp and the custom furniture made by Ralph Houser that still survive in the house.

The Rustic or Adirondack style of architecture developed in the Adirondack region of New York in 1880s. It was influenced by the earlier writings of Andrew Jackson Downing, Alexander Jackson Davis, and other architects and designers in the mid-nineteenth century who advocated for the picturesque and eclectic architecture that became the hallmark of the Gothic Revival as well as the Italianate styles. The style later developed under the influence of landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmstead and the publications and design work of Gustav Stickley. The rustic style was first used for garden structures like gazebos and bridges. The first camp to utilize the style for larger buildings was the 1887 Pine Knot Camp in New York. The style stressed an affected rustic appearance of structures developed in a natural and picturesque setting. Usually built of logs or sheathed with split log veneer, the style uses resources and materials (native wood and stone) for the construction of its features.<sup>7</sup>

Some of the earliest examples of the style can be found in the lakes region of New Hampshire. The boys camps mentioned above that developed both on Squam Lake and Newfound Lake utilized the Rustic style for the buildings and structures within their compounds. The style was also used on a variety of private camps and cabins, including National Register listed Rockywold and Deephaven Camps in the late 1890s. The Houser's Owls Head exemplifies the rustic style with a cluster of purpose-built buildings and structures that are created from native wood and stone. All the buildings are sheathed with half timbers with decorative interior and exterior architectural details and complemented with furniture that reflects natural designs and materials. Owls Head stands among the finest examples of rustic or Adirondack style on Newfound Lake. While most of the local camps for boys and girls on the lake have buildings in this style, there are few examples of family camps of the size and quality of Owls Head. Owls Head represents traditional camp architecture of the 1920s and 1930s and was built with thought about how we experience and live within nature, creating an environment as dissimilar to the rushed and hurried, highly automated and technical world that was rapidly developing during Ralph Houser's lifetime and which we realize today.

As a teacher, Ralph Houser had his summers free. The family spent their summers at Owls Head, driving four hours from Belmont, MA in the family Marmon Motor Car, where Ralph worked constantly on his

<sup>6</sup> "Winning Confidence is Task of Florida, Says Frank Brimmer" Florida Review, April 18, 1927 Vol , No. 22, Page 9

<sup>7</sup> Gobrecht, Larry E. "Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources" Washington, DC, National Park Service, 1986

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many projects of building stonework, clearing the woods, cutting and hauling wood for the fireplace and kitchen stove, and creating furniture and attractive wooden lamps. When Ralph worked a summer job tutoring, his wife and daughters would summer at Owls Head where he would join them on weekends. Every summer his younger sister, Luella "Bobby" Houser came from Michigan for an extended visit. She was a tennis teacher at Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills and gave Ralph and Faith's two daughters tennis lessons every day before the family climbed down the path to the lake for a swim and lunch at the private beach. The Housers also entertained friends each year at Owls Head, two couples at a time, every summer. Weekends of entertaining began with breakfast in the inglenook, followed by tennis, swimming, lunch on the porch, a rest, cocktails on the porch, dinner in Owls Nest and an evening of home spun entertainment. The family came to Owls Head on winter vacations climbing the steep driveway through snow while carrying supplies in their arms. The family used the kitchen stove and living room fireplace to keep warm during winter visits. When the famous hurricane of 1938 flattened all the hundred-foot pine trees on the south side of Owls Head hill, it nearly broke Ralph Houser's heart. Ralph spent the rest of his life clearing his land of the fallen trees, using them for firewood.

After his daughters finished college, they married and each had five children. The Houser's ten grandchildren often visited Owls Head together each summer where Ralph and Faith could share the joys and challenges of living on a hilltop surrounded by peaceful woods and beautiful views of the lake and mountains. Descendants of Ralph and Faith Houser, including their surviving daughter Betsy, continue to own and use Owls Head. Its maintenance and upkeep is undertaken using guidelines developed and written by Betsy based on her father's philosophy for the construction and continued care of the complex.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Purchase, Eric *Out of Nowhere, Disaster and Tourism in the White Mountains*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1999

Ruell, David, "Hebron Village Historic District National Register Nomination". Washington DC, National Park Service, 1984

"Winning Confidence is Task of Florida, Says Frank Brimmer" Florida Review, April 18, 1927 Vol , No. 22, Page 9

Tucker, Kevin W. *Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement*. New Haven: Yale University Press 2010

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 10.6

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 43.678876 | Longitude: -71.792917 |
| 2. Latitude: 43.678247 | Longitude: -71.792922 |
| 3. Latitude: 43.679203 | Longitude: -71.788278 |
| 4. Latitude: 43.677756 | Longitude: -71.788087 |

Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Starting at the northern most point of the property along West Shore Road, the boundary runs southeast for approximately 434.6 feet. The boundary runs east with a slight bow to the north to the shore of Newfound Lake. The boundary follows Newfound lake south for 600 feet before turning northwest back to West Shore Road.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the land associated with Owls Head.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

name/title: Betsy Houser Twombly  
organization: Owner  
street & number: 289 West Shore Road  
city or town: Hebron state: NH zip code: 03241  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
date: September 30, 2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs



Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Owls Head

City or Vicinity: Hebron

County: Grafton

State: NH

Photographer: Peter Michaud

Date Photographed: August 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 8: View of main house front façade, camera facing east

2 of 8: View of ice house, camera facing northeast.

3 of 8: View of garage & tool shed, camera facing southwest.

4 of 8: View of tennis court, camera facing southwest.

5 of 8: View of pump house, camera facing west.

6 of 8: View of cistern, camera facing south.

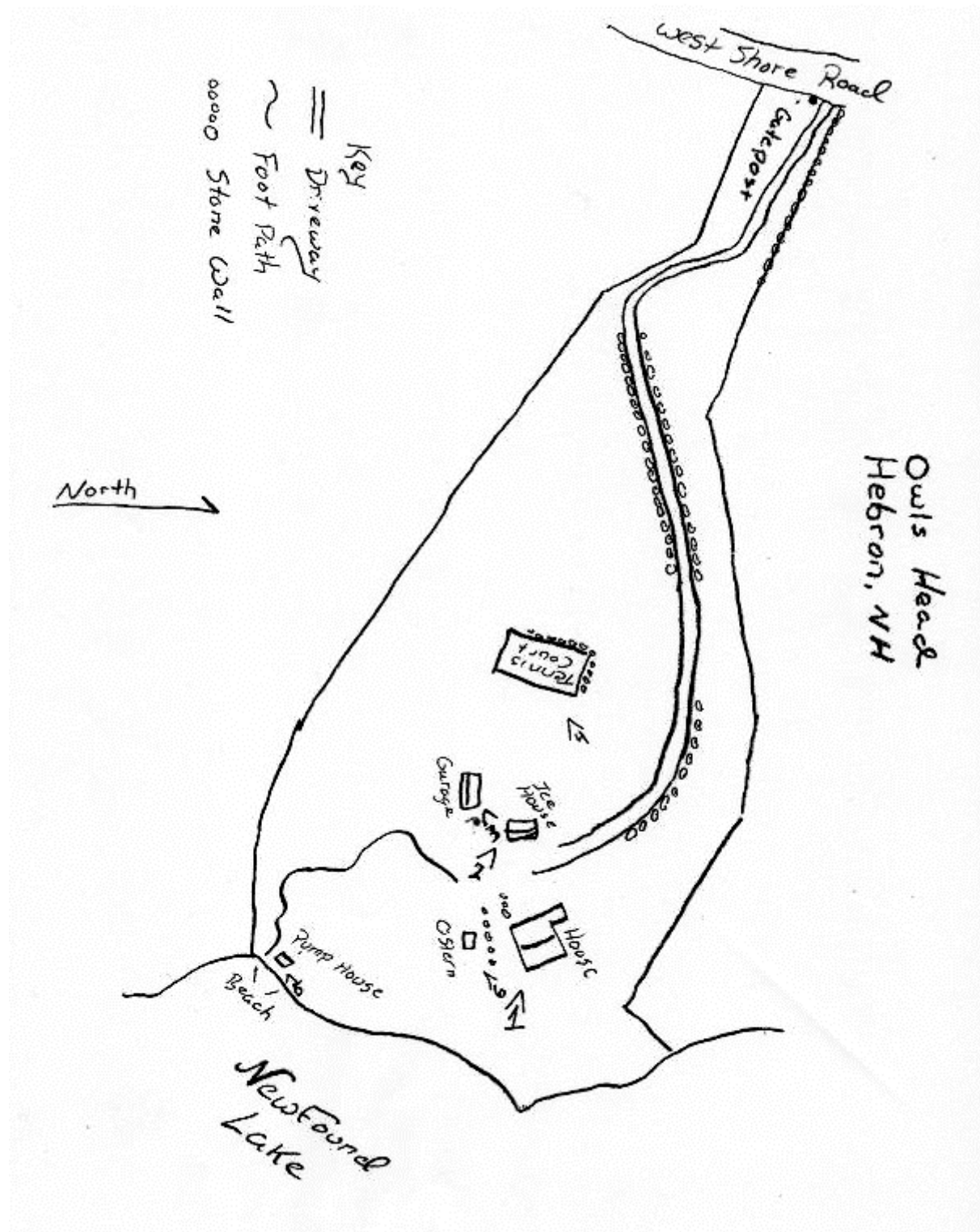
7 of 8: View of main house living room and stair, camera facing northwest.

8 of 8: View of ice house interior, camera facing north.

Sketch Map & Photo Key

Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State



Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State



c.1926 view of the south facing elevation of the main house at Owls Head before rehabilitation.



Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State



c.1926 view of the east facing façade of the main house at Owls Head before rehabilitation.



Owls Head Post Rehabilitation as pictured on the Houser's stationary.



Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 1





Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 2





Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 3





Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 4



Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 5





Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 6





Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 7



Owls Head  
Name of Property

Grafton, New Hampshire  
County and State

Photo 8







Unsaved places

- 1. **Owls Head 1**  
43.678476, -71.792917
- 2. **Owls Head 2**  
43.678247, -71.792922
- 3. **Owls Head 3**  
43.679203, -71.788278
- 4. **Owls Head 4**  
43.677756, -71.788087



































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Owls Head  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW HAMPSHIRE, Grafton

DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/15                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/09/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/24/15                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/29/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000669

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT       RETURN       REJECT      9.29.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

AUG 14 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
Park Service



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NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

**MEMORANDUM**

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**To:** Lisa Deline  
**From:** Peter Michaud  
**Subject:** National Register Nominations  
**Date:** August 10, 2015

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Dear Lisa,

Enclosed are five nominations for the National Register. The enclosed disks for Owls Head in Hebron, NH, The Bartlett Roundhouse in Bartlett, NH, Hilltop School in Somersworth, NH, Rollinsford Grade School in Rollinsford, NH, and Bristol Town Hall in Bristol, NH contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for these properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

On a side note, Rollinsford Grade School is my former elementary school and I did the nomination for them on my own time as a gift.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Michaud'.

Peter Michaud  
National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives,  
& Easements Coordinator  
19 Pillsbury Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271 3583 *fax* (603) 271 3433  
Peter.michaud@dcr.nh.gov