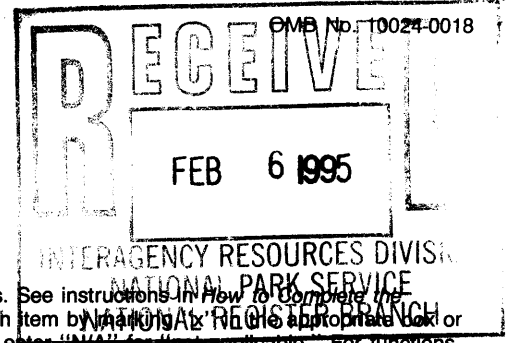


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 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, Samuel D., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 162 Main Street N/A not for publication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.)

Eileen S. [Signature] 1/31/95
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 H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action 3/10/95

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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Business

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Ell with porches and attached barn

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

1878-79

Significant Dates

1878-79

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Merrill, Edmund, Jr., 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, Samuel D., House
Name of Property

Oxford, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 9 | 3 5 7 5 5 0 | 4 9 1 8 7 2 0 |
| | 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 January, 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 _____
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.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

PHILBROOK, SAMUEL D., HOUSE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Philbrook house is a square, two-story, three-bay Italianate style frame dwelling sheathed in weatherboards that features a cupola, one-and-a-half story rear ell with flanking porches, and a large connected barn. It is covered by a hip roof and rests on a granite block foundation. The house is prominently sited along Bethel's Main Street in proximity to the commercial district, and its front yard is bordered by two low granite retaining walls with short corner posts.

Facing east, the symmetrically composed front elevation has a central entrance containing a two-leaf door that is sheltered by a handsome bracketed hood. The entry is flanked by three sided bay windows with brackets. On the second story paired one-over-one double-hung sash occupy the center bay whereas single two-over-two units are located on either side. A lunette framed by a decorative sawn molding and a keystone is located above the center bay and below a small gable. The broad cornice (which carries around the house) features small closely spaced console brackets with larger ones containing pendants at the corners. Surmounting the roof peak is the cupola that has paired round-arched windows on each side, large inverted scrolls at its base, a cornice matching the main block, and a pyramidal roof crowned by a finial.

Both side elevations are divided into two bays with four symmetrically placed two-over-two windows on the north side and three units on the south side in addition to a bay window in the southwest corner. The ell extends from the center of the front block such that its attached porches do not extend beyond the main side elevations. On the south side the porch shelters a door and three windows, whereas the north porch covers a door and four windows. Four chamfered, bracketed posts support the south porch and five are utilized on the north side. There are four small windows above the porch roof on both sides, in addition to two windows (one on each story) on the rear wall of the front block.

The gable roofed barn, which is connected to the ell at its southwest corner, features a large central door with transom and flanking single pane double-hung windows which replace the original six-over-six sash. An additional pair are located below the gable peak. There are four asymmetrically placed windows and one door on the first story of the long south side and three additional windows on the second story. Five windows are located on the north side along with two large sliding doors in the basement level. A small shed roofed addition abuts the rear ell and northeast corner of the barn.

Inside, the plan is organized around a central hall containing an open string staircase with walnut newel post, handrail, and balusters. Two rooms are located on the north side of the hall whereas the original two on the

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National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PHILBROOK, SAMUEL D., HOUSE

Section number 7 Page 3

south side have been combined into one large one. Window and door surrounds are typical of the period with wide heavily molded profiles. Plaster ceiling medallions are located in the hall and northeast first floor room. The ell contains one large room on the first story. There are five bedrooms on the second story.

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Continuation Sheet

PHILBROOK, SAMUEL D., HOUSE

Section number 8 Page 2

Erected in 1878-79 on the site of a building which had been destroyed by fire, this Italianate style dwelling and its attached barn was the residence of businessman Samuel D. Philbrook. The house occupies a site several lots north of Bethel's historic commercial district. It has been characterized as "the finest Italianate residence in Bethel and one of the most important in Oxford County" (Bennett, p. 31). The Philbrook house is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its architectural significance.

Local historians have concluded that a building was located on the site of the existing house as early as 1858. Sometime during the following two years the lot is believed to have been occupied by the dwelling and blacksmith shop of Fletcher Russell. In 1860 Philbrook is thought to have acquired the property and presumably made it his residence. These buildings burned in August of 1878 and Philbrook took immediate steps to rebuild, engaging carpenter Edmund Merrill, Jr. for the work. Construction proceeded rapidly, and the Oxford Democrat (Paris) noted in its October 8, 1878, edition that:

Mr. S. D. Philbrook has put in the foundation and is erecting buildings on the site where his buildings were burned. He has already got up a barn 42X80 and it is nearly covered.

Architecturally, the Philbrook house is a fashionable Italianate style building in both its proportions and detailing. The bay windows, entry porch, window hoods, cupola, decorative cornice, and the small gable over the facade's center bay are all characteristics of the style as they would have appeared in more urban contexts in Maine, albeit a decade before this house was raised. Nonetheless, it is a well preserved example of the form, particularly in its local context where Federal and Greek Revival style houses are prevalent.

Samuel Delano Philbrook was born in nearby Gilead on March 8, 1838, the son of Harvey and Susannah (Wright) Philbrook. His biographical sketch in the History of Bethel (1891) states that he first married Angilina Chapman in 1862 and after her death married Emily J. Kimball in 1866. This source describes Philbrook as a successful businessman engaged primarily in farming and trade in livestock. He first appears in the 1879 edition of the Maine Register as a cattle broker, and from 1885 to 1893 as president of the Bethel Savings Bank. The Philbrooks apparently occupied the house until their deaths, after which it was obtained by Mortimer Thurston who was also a cattle broker. Thereafter, it became a tourist home and subsequently a health center. It has recently undergone a rehabilitation for use as retail/commercial space with a second floor apartment.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

PHILBROOK, SAMUEL D., HOUSE

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

- Bennett, Randall H. Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture. Bethel, Maine: Oxford County Historic Resource Survey. 1984.
- 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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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PHILBROOK, SAMUEL D., HOUSE

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Philbrook house occupies the Town of Bethel Tax Map 25, Lot 93.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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