

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Conant-Sawyer Cottage other names/site number "Summersong"

2. Location

street & number 14 Kendall Road city, town York Beach state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 03910

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 2/21/92

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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:). Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 3/26/92

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Wood/Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Stair Tower and Wraparound Porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Standing on the north side of Dover Bluffs overlooking York Beach, the Second Empire style Conant-Sawyer Cottage is an L-shaped one-and-a-half-story frame building sheathed primarily in weatherboards. A two-and-a-half-story tower is located in the junction of the "L" where it abuts a wraparound porch. The cottage rests on a recently constructed concrete foundation.

Facing north, the front elevation has an asymmetrical configuration created by the projecting porch and the stepped wall surface of the main block, tower, and ell. The porch, which extends across most of the front and east sides, appears to be a later nineteenth century addition. It features turned, bracketed, posts that are linked by a highly decorative balustrade, and a shallow pyramidal roof over its projecting northwest corner. The porch shelters a cluster of four double-hung windows on the main block that extend from floor to ceiling as well as the two-leaf door and another window that are located on the tower. A single six-over-one window is located on the wall of the deeply recessed ell. Largely obscured by the porch roof is the bracketed cornice that extends (with the exception of the tower) around the building. The wood shingled lower slope of the mansard roof is punctuated by a pair of shed dormers and a connecting multi-pane picture window (added in 1973) on the main block. A third dormer is located in the ell. The second story of the tower contains another picture window (also added in 1973) which replaces a single double-hung window. The tower's pyramidal roof has flared eaves and is punctuated on all sides by hip roofed dormers. This tower is further distinguished by a broad band of molding around two sides that is comprised of narrow boards whose shaped ends form a sawtooth pattern.

The east elevation features the porch extension behind which is another tall window at the northeast end and a door. Two shed dormers are located on the roof. A single window and dormer are centrally located on the west elevation of the ell, which is an 1896 addition. Two windows, one on each story, are positioned on the tower's west side. There are three windows on the first story of the building's rear elevation, as well as a small engaged porch located at the junction of the original and 1896 blocks. Four dormers, one of which has paired windows, are located on the roof. Brick chimneys punctuate the roof on both the main block and the rear slope of the ell.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Conant--Sawyer Cottage York Co., ME

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The interior consists of a living room occupying the front half of the 1877 block, behind which is the hall. A brick fireplace is located in the living room where a broad passage leads into the dining room located in the tower. The 1896 addition contains the kitchen and an unusual recessed courtyard. Narrow tongue-and-groove sheathing is employed throughout the interior wall surfaces, but all of this has been painted with the exception of the hall. This space also contains the stair which has two inter-story landings, turned balusters, and ornate newel posts.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Conant--Sawyer Cottage York Co

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally  statewide  locallyApplicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureSocial History

Period of Significance

1877-1941

Significant Dates

18771896c. 1909

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Hayes, Washington Paul, Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed in 1877, enlarged in 1896, and moved about 1909, the Conant-Sawyer Cottage is a Second Empire style summer house which overlooks York Beach from Dover Bluffs. It is named for its original and most significant subsequent owners. The substantially intact building stands out amidst its much altered neighbors, thereby conveying an historically accurate image of the modest cottages that characterized the immediate post-Civil War development of Maine's summer colonies. For these reasons, the cottage is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria A and C. Criteria consideration B also applies because the building has been moved.

The Conant-Sawyer Cottage is presumed to have been built by Washington Paul Hayes a prominent Dover, New Hampshire contractor, builder, and manufacturer of sash, blinds, and doors. In 1877 Hayes acquired the parcel of property on which the cottage originally stood, and tax records indicate that it must have been erected by 1878. Shortly thereafter, Hayes sold it to Dr. Josiah Conant of Somersworth, New Hampshire, perhaps indicating that Hayes built it on speculation. Conant owned the property until his death, after which his widow sold the cottage to its most historically significant owner, Charles Henry Sawyer. A Dover woolen manufacturer, Sawyer was a former State legislator who was elected Governor of New Hampshire in 1886. Sawyer is said to have added the wing now containing the kitchen in 1896. Among the building's subsequent owners was Rochester, New Hampshire shoe manufacturer Sumner Wallace. It is believed that the cottage was moved across the bluffs to its present site during Wallace's ownership.

The cottage stands in an area of modest summer residences historically known as Concordville which, as one turn-of-the-century souvenir brochure noted, was "occupied almost wholly by New Hampshire people." This description illustrates the historical pattern in which visitors from small

 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Conant--Sawyer Cottage York Co., ME

Maine or New Hampshire cities, as opposed to the wealthy from larger urban areas beyond this region, tended to congregate with other home-town vacationers. An 1872 atlas map of York shows the handful of buildings which existed in the neighborhood at that time, many of them concentrated along what came to be known as the "Dover Bluffs." An 1888 birds-eye-view reveals a much enlarged colony adjoining two roads that followed the peninsula's shore. To the north of the cottages were a pair of expansive hotels, further indicating the explosive growth of the local tourism industry in this period.

Although many summer cottages survive in "Concordville" and in the neighboring communities at Bald Head Cliffs and along the intervening beaches, few retain the historic architectural integrity of the Conant-Sawyer Cottage. This pattern of unsympathetic twentieth century alteration through the application of synthetic sidings, changes in fenestration patterns, or inappropriate additions stands in marked contrast to the integrity of far grander "cottages" most often associated with Maine's summer colonies. The cottages in the nearby York Cliffs Historic District (N.R. 7/26/84) amply illustrate this point, as do those at York Harbor, included in the York Historic District (N.R. 7/16/73).

The history of Maine's summer tourism industry can be traced to the 1840s when the earliest "rusticators" began to seek out the State's natural amenities that still attract visitors today. For the most part, accommodations in the antebellum period were to be found in the rooms of the many farmhouses that were scattered along the coast. In Old Orchard Beach, for example, the Staples Inn (N.R. 6/26/87), an eighteenth century farmhouse, was first opened to summer tourists in 1840. Subsequently, hotels were erected to serve the growing clientele, and their construction was rampant after the Civil War. As is evident in the development at Concordville, however, the erection of individual summer cottages was also a significant aspect of post war developments in the industry.

A number of Maine's exclusive summer colonies, such as those at Bar Harbor and Islesboro, were initially developed in the 1870s with modest cottages. However, few examples of these early structures survive at those locations, where the subsequent construction of grand summer residences utterly transformed those communities. In contrast, Concordville still retains its historic character as a summer colony for the prosperous middle class of late nineteenth century America. Reflecting popular architectural fashions as interpreted by architect-builders, the Conant-Sawyer Cottage is a remarkably well preserved example of picturesque cottage design of the period.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Herndon, Richard, comp. Men of Progress: Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Leaders in Business and Professional Life in and of the State of New Hampshire. Boston: New England Magazine. 1898.

Stearns, Ezra S., comp. Geneological and Family History of the State of New Hampshire. New York: The Lewis Publishing Company. 1908.

Gough, W. N. Souvenir of Old York. York Beach, Maine. No date.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

UTM grid coordinates for Zone, Easting, and Northing.

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Conant-Sawyer Cottage occupies the Town of York tax map 25, lot 122.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with the cottage since it was moved here about 1909.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65
city or town Augusta
date November, 1991
telephone 207/289-2132
state Maine zip code 04333-0065