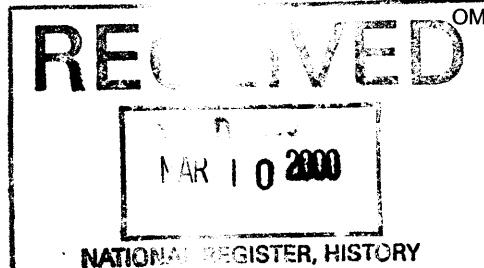


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



313

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 Shore Acres
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 791 Lamoine Beach Road N/A Not for publication
city or town Lamoine Beach N/A Vicinity
state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04605

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.)

Carole S. Peterson 3/6/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or 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 this 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): _____

for
Edson H. Beall 4.14.00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Shore Acres
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine
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

_____ 1 _____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects

_____ 1 _____ 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/Single Dwelling
Domestic/Hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone
walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt
other Front Porch

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SHORE ACRES

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

Shore Acres is a vernacular two-story, three-bay gable roofed frame building that is sheathed in clapboards. A hip roofed porch spans the first story of the front (north) elevation, and enclosed shed and hip roofed porches extend across the east side and rear elevations. The building is located in a rural setting near the shore of Eastern Bay.

The front elevation features an asymmetrical fenestration pattern comprised of a two-leaf center door, a second shorter door to the west, and nine-over-six double hung sash windows on the first story. There are four two-over-two double hungs on the second story -- two of which are paired. The first story porch roof is supported by six chamfered posts. A brick flue rises through the midpoint of the roof ridge.

The west gable end contains a pair of symmetrically placed two-over-two double hung sash on each story and a third pair in the gable peak. The latter are sheltered by a gabled overhang which at one time featured a large square timber post that projected above the roof. An enclosed porch (with seven nine-over-ones) spans the first story of the east side, above which are asymmetrically placed two-over-two windows on the second floor and a similar pair in the gable peak below the broad eaves. A second enclosed porch (which contains six one-over-ones, a large multi-pane window and a door) extends across the rear elevation, above which are four two-over-two windows and what appears to have been a fifth window opening that has been enclosed. The rear porch shelters four windows and what appears to have been the original main entrance. This supposition is based on the Greek Revival style embellishments of the slightly projecting vestibule whose four-panel door is flanked by narrow sidelights and surmounted by a denticulated cornice.

Inside, the three modestly finished levels reflect the turn-of-the-century remodeling of the Des Isles House into the summer hotel named Shore Acres Inn. From the north entry doors, one enters a small vestibule (presently used as a kitchen) to the right of which is a large parlor and to the left is a hall and bathroom that lead to the side porch. A second, smaller parlor is located behind the bathroom and adjacent to the back hall containing the stairs to the second floor. The main parlor contains the lone fireplace with a mantelpiece comprised of a bracketed shelf and an overmantel framing a mantel. Most of the trim dates to the remodeling, although mitered Federal period trim and wainscot survives in the small parlor. There are four bedrooms on the second floor, as well as a transverse hall that leads to a narrow stair at the east end. This latter stair provides access to several small rooms in the attic level. A number of the doors on the second and attic level rooms still bear their brass numbers. A scuttle in the attic ceiling provides a view to the hewn timber roof framing, the infill from a larger central chimney, and decking that exhibits early saw markings.

The precise configuration of the original building is not known, although the evidence in the roof makes it clear that there was a large central chimney at one time (the cellar is only partially excavated and there is no separate chimney base). The detailing of the south facing doorway suggests that this may have been the principal elevation, which had been updated with Greek Revival trim. Historic photographs reveal that the turn-of-the-century remodeling included an addition to the east end that more than doubled the size of the original block, although the existing porch was not extended. Two additional buildings and an observation tower were also added to the site at this time, although they had been removed (one to a nearby lot where it still exists) by 1931. The balance of the addition was removed later in the 1930s after which the enclosed porches were constructed.

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 a 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)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1887-1942

Significant Dates

1887

c. 1935

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSHORE ACRESHANCOCK, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Shore Acres is a vernacular two-story frame building which is significantly associated with the history of summer tourism in Lamoine. Originally constructed by members of the Des Isles family, the house was substantially remodeled and enlarged in 1887. Sometime thereafter it was named Shore Acres. However, during the 1930s the additions were removed -- perhaps because of a decline in the tourist trade at the height of the Depression -- at which time the building assumed its present appearance. Despite these alterations, it is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A as the last surviving historic hostelry in Lamoine.

One of Lamoine's enduring traditions of its early history relates to the aspirations of a wealthy French widow who acquired a large tract of land in the late eighteenth century for the purpose of building a community for her ex-patriate countrymen. In this account, Madame LaVal is said to have arrived at Trenton Point in 1792 equipped with servants, secretaries, and engineers. One nineteenth century history states that after a few years of effort she abandoned the project to become the wife of a governor of one of the islands of the Spanish Main, and turned her landholdings over to her secretary Louis Du Parre Des Isles (1769-1843) (L.M.D.L.C., p. 12). This same account relates that in 1796 Des Isles married Mary Googins (1775-1825), and tradition holds that thereafter they commenced the construction of a residence.

Local accounts of the history of Shore Acres disagree about whether the late eighteenth century building erected by Louis and Mary Des Isles became an inn named the Des Isles House, or whether the inn was in fact built by their son William Des Isles (1803-1888). Its substantial alteration in the late nineteenth century erased many of the building's early features, although existing Federal period woodwork, a purlin and rafter roof framing system, and the remaining evidence of a center chimney may support a c.1800 date of construction. In 1873, William Des Isles transferred the property on which Shore Acres stands to his son William Francis Des Isles (1849-1920) and his wife Susan Des Isles (1849-1934). Although the Des Isles House is not listed in business directories published in the 1850s through the late 1870s, beginning in 1879 and continuing until 1888, the annual editions of the *Maine Register* do list it under the proprietorship of William Des Isles. It was the only hotel in Lamoine listed in the *Register* at that time through 1887 when it was joined by the Gault House.

In 1886-87, the Des Isles House was substantially enlarged by William Francis Des Isles. An account of this undertaking appeared in the January 10, 1887 edition of the *Ellsworth American*. It was predicted that the twenty-six room extension would give the facility "the characteristics of a first class country hotel and boarding house." A subsequent report on the construction of a water pipeline that was published in the July 22, 1887 edition of the paper noted that it had reached the Des Isles House. For some unexplained reason, the enlarged hotel was not listed in the succeeding editions of the *Maine Register* until 1903-04 when Shore Acres appears as a summer hotel under the management of Edmon Eno. Historic photographs of Shore Acres which date from the early twentieth century show a hotel whose main block was more than double the size of the original Des Isles House, which formed the western end of this large building. A lower one-and-a-half story connector linked this block to a trio of structures that included an observation tower, a bungalow style building (referred to as the Dance Hall) with a broad hip roof and an engaged wraparound roof, and a rectangular two-story hip roofed building called the Music Hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSHORE ACRESHANCOCK, MAINESection number 8 Page 3

The expansion of the Des Isles House corresponds to a burst of land speculation in Lamoine, much of which appears to have been driven by the activities of the Lamoine and Mount Desert Land Company and its agent Col. John Shoenbar. In fact, both an unpublished manuscript from the 1920s on file at the Lamoine Historical Society and a newspaper account of the history of Shore Acres that was published in the July 25, 1931 edition of the *Bangor Daily News* states that the original Des Isles House was acquired and then rebuilt by Shoenbar. This sequence of events is not supported by documentary sources, although the Lamoine and Mount Desert Land Company clearly had grand plans for the area, beginning with its publication in 1887 of a booklet extolling the benefits of Lamoine for "Summer Sojourning." By 1890 the company was planning the development of a large resort hotel around the Fountain La Val Mineral Spring (located in proximity to East Lamoine Village and the site of Madame La Val's dwelling), and a railroad schedule published the same year identifies a wharf behind the Des Isles House as that of the Lamoine & Mt. Desert Land Company. There is no evidence that the company's plans in the community were carried out, and thus it joined the many other speculative resort development schemes in Maine that never materialized.

The history of Shore Acres is further colored by the stories that describe how and when it was named. Among Lamoine's visitors in the late nineteenth century was the playwright James A. Herne, who spent part of the summer of 1889 as a boarder at the nearby Gault House (no longer extant). According to his biographers, during this stay in Lamoine Herne was writing what would become his most popular play: *Shore Acres* (initially named *The Hawthornes*). Although Herne drew heavily on the local scene for the characters and events in his play, it is difficult to ascertain the direct connection -- if any -- between the hotel that was named Shore Acres and the play of the same name. The above referenced account that links the addition to the Des Isles House with Col. Shoenbar also relates that Herne asked him to change the name to Shore Acres. However, since Herne himself does not appear to have settled on the name *Shore Acres* until after he left Lamoine, it seems more plausible that the name of the building was changed after the play became a popular success in 1893. In any event, there seems to be insufficient documentation to justify a significant associational connection between Shore Acres and Herne.

Edmon Eno is listed in the *Maine Register* as the manager of Shore Acres through the edition of 1909-10, after which William F. Des Isles is named as proprietor until 1912-13. There is no listing of a hotel in Lamoine by any name from 1913-14 through 1921-22, and it may be that Des Isles had retired several years before his death in 1920. J. Sherman Douglas acquired Shore Acres in 1920 from the Des Isles family, and is listed as the operator 1928-29. In 1929 Douglas sold the property to Fred T. Hall of Bangor, and he remained the proprietor until he sold it in 1941.

From its beginnings as a modest eighteenth century residence, through its conversion into the Des Isles House, its subsequent enlargement and reemergence as Shore Acres, and finally its contraction into a smaller version of Shore Acres, this single building embodies the history of the hostelry industry in the Town of Lamoine. However, its period of significance is limited to the years between 1887 and 1942, when the inn known as the Des Isles House was remodeled and thereafter operated as Shore Acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SHORE ACRES

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Edwards, Herbert Joseph. "James A. Herne: the rise of realism in the American drama." University of Maine Studies, 2d Series, No. 80. Orono, Maine: University of Maine Press, 1964.

"Lamoine and Mt. Desert Land Company." *Industrial Journal* (Bangor), May 23, 1890.

Maine Register or State Yearbook and Legislative Manual. Various years.

"Shore Acres at Lamoine Has an Interesting History." *Bangor Daily News*, July 25, 1931.

Winterbotham, Prof. John C. *Lamoine and its Attractions as a Place for Summer Sojourning*. Boston: Lamoine and Mount Desert Land Company, 1887.

Shore Acres
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9	5	5	6	8	6	5	4	9	2	2	2	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

2

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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 _____

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SHORE ACRES

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of one acre occupies the Town of Lamoine tax map 14, lot 78.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot that is historically associated with Shore Acres.