

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

SEP 15 1989

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 Tiffany, George S. Cottage

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Off Main Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Dark Harbor

N/A vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Waldo

code 027

zip code 04848

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

Carole S. Fadden  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

7/8/89

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Shelley Byrum

Entered in the  
National Register

10/16/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Camp

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Camp

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Colonial Revival  
Late 19th & Early 20th Century American  
Movements/Prairie School

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Wood/Shingle  
roof Asphalt  
other Engaged Porches at North end

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The George S. Tiffany Cottage is a two-story V-shaped building with a dominant horizontal massing conveyed by the expansive hipped roof and a variety of architectural details. It is sheathed entirely in wood shingles. The cottage occupies a point of land that faces the water.

The ocean or west elevation is comprised of a projecting two-bay gable roofed block centrally located on the facade. A pair of doors with narrow sidelights occupy the corners of the first floor; a pair of eight-over-one windows are located above the doors in the second story and a louvered elliptical fan decorates the gable peak. The sills of the windows merge into a stringcourse that carries around the entire building. Hip roofed porches with square paneled posts flank this projecting block. The fenestration pattern of the recessed wings is asymmetrical with double-hung windows interspersed above and between a bay window to the south and a two-story engaged porch with paneled posts that terminates the north wing. Brackets appear on both wings below the slight overhang of the second story, and the exposed rafter ends are decoratively shaped. Four chimneys punctuate the roof on the west elevation.

The land or east side of the Tiffany Cottage forms the V-shape with the projecting gabled central block repeated from the opposite elevation. Unlike the symmetry of its counterpart, however, the fenestration pattern here is irregular consisting a wide center door flanked by a window, a large stairhall window located midway between floors and a pair of windows set off center from the louvered fan. Likewise, the fenestration pattern on the wings is asymmetrical with windows used singly, in pairs, and in trios. The overall horizontal quality is emphasized by the brackets between floors, the stringcourse and the roof. A short two-story ell projects from the end of the south wing parallel to the gabled central block.

Inside, the cottage displays Colonial Revival detailing. The entrance hall features paneled pilasters that rise to a broad entablature and a stair with paneled wainscot. Principal public rooms have similar details as well as mantels with details that include eared surrounds, bracketed shelves and paneled chimney breasts or friezes.

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1911 - 12

Significant Dates

1911 - 12

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mauran, Russell & Crowell, Architects  
Hatch & Pendleton, Builder

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

Constructed in 1911-12 by local contractors W. E. Hatch and Loranus F. Pendleton from plans drawn by the St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran, Russell & Crowell, the George S. Tiffany Cottage is representative in scale if not detail of the summer houses erected on Islesboro during the early 1900s. It is one of two major cottages built by members of the Tiffany family of St. Louis, only one of which survives. The cottage is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its architectural significance.

With the formation of the Islesboro Land and Improvement Company in 1889, a remarkable period in this island community's history began. This firm immediately began to assemble a large tract of land at the southern end of the island in and around the village of Dark Harbor. In 1889-90 the company erected a large hotel as a means of accommodating summer visitors, and a number of these people subsequently purchased building lots on which they constructed substantial architect-designed cottages. Between 1898 and 1903 no less than 40 summer houses were built in Dark Harbor and most of these were occupied by wealthy and prominent citizens from Boston, Philadelphia and New York. An additional 15 were erected during the next 23 years.

As one might expect, the early cottages were most often designed in the Shingle Style, although more eclectic examples could be found including some large half-timbered structures. By the early 1900s, however, the emerging Colonial Revival style began to show itself not only in details, but throughout entire compositions. The Tiffany cottage both shares these characteristics and introduces its own unique qualities to the colony as a whole. On the one hand its shingled exterior surfaces and Colonial Revival details such as louvered elliptical fans and six-panel doors with sidelights evoke the image of Maine's early architecture, while its strong horizontal emphasis give it a link to the Prairie School of the mid-west. Given the fact of its design origin in St. Louis, the cottage strikes a harmonious blend between two widely separated architectural traditions.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr. The Summer Cottages of Islesboro: 1890 - 1930.  
Islesboro, ME: Islesboro Historical Society, 1989.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 3

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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5	0	6	1	6	0
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4	8	9	9	3	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property of three acres occupies the Town of Islesboro tax map 9, lot 15.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with this cottage.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1989  
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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George Shepley Tiffany (1877-1934), for whom this cottage was built, was a native and near life-long resident of St. Louis and a graduate of Harvard University. In 1901 he established himself as a cotton buyer. His father, Dexter Tiffany, purchased in 1891 one of the first cottages built in Dark Harbor. This house was destroyed by fire in 1910.