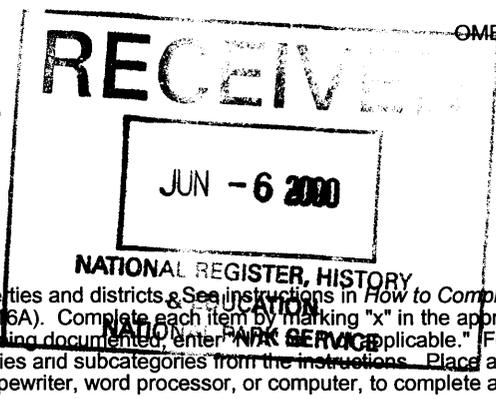


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 68). 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" where 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.

761



1. Name of Property

historic name St. Mary's-By-The-Sea

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 20 South Shore Road N/A not for publication

city or town Northeast Harbor MN/Arcticity

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04662

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.)

Carol Johnson 5/26/00
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): _____

Edson H. Beall 7/5/00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

St. Mary's-By-The-Sea
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)

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite
walls Stone/Granite

roof Asphalt
other _____

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

ST. MARY'S-BY-THE-SEA

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

St. Mary's-by-the-Sea is a cruciform shape, Gothic Revival style stone and stucco chapel that is located in an enclave of large summer cottages. The building is comprised of a tall nave with aisles, a square crenelated crossing tower, gabled transepts with corner buttresses, and a chancel. It stands along the south side of South Shore Road, directly opposite the junction with Kimball Road.

Oriented with its long axis in an East/West direction that is parallel to South Shore Road, the principal elevation is the north side. From this perspective, all of the components that create the chapel's lively silhouette are evident. Located at the northeast corner is the projecting entrance vestibule with its half-timbered and stuccoed gable end framed by a bargeboard with tracery. The vestibule intersects the north aisle, whose wall surface contains three symmetrically placed openings containing a trio of four-centered arched, stained glass windows. The stuccoed and half-timbered clerestory of the nave is punctuated by four openings, each of which contains four arched windows similar to those on the aisles. The north transept features paired double shoulder, corner buttresses and a large equilateral arched stained glass window comprised of two long rectangular units surmounted by tracery that is highlighted by a quatrefoil. Looming above the transept is the tower, which has a belt course just below the peak of the nave roof, a rectangular opening that contains a pair of windows with tracery, a Gothic style drip molding, and a second belt course above which is the crenelated cap. The chancel projects eastward from the tower at the same roof height as the nave. Its north side has a shed roofed extension containing two narrow windows, whereas the main wall features a stained glass window composed of two panels with tracery.

The west elevation is a series of receding wall planes behind the nave end wall, which has buttresses on its westerly corners, a large center stained glass window with tracery, and a bell cote. The flanking aisle to the south has a door set within an equilateral arch, and the aisle to the north has a single stained glass in a segmentally arched opening. Both aisles have paired corner buttresses. A single narrow window is located on the west wall of the vestibule, and the design features of the tower's north side are repeated on the west side (as well as on the south and east sides). Both the overall design and the fenestration pattern of the south elevation are virtually identical to the north elevation. Exceptions include the substitution of a fourth set of windows in the aisle in place of the entrance vestibule, and the use of a double window on the chancel extension rather than two smaller ones. The east elevation of the chancel contains a large stained glass window with tracery under an equilateral arch. In addition, each of the chancel extensions has an entrance door, and the one on the south side features a double stained glass window.

Interior highlights include extensive use of varnished wood beams, ceilings, and eight-sided posts that support the clerestory. The nave roof is supported by a hammer beam truss with arched braces. Brick drop arches frame the openings of the crossing, and the tower has a coffered ceiling of varnished wood. The chancel is covered by a vault formed by square and rectangular that resemble seven large staves. An elaborately carved chancel screen is located immediately below the large east window. It was installed in 1925 at the time the window itself was dedicated.

In addition to the architectural finishes, the interior of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea is notable for its numerous stained glass windows, whose installation began within a few years of the church's construction. One or more of these windows may, in fact, have been moved from the Episcopal chapel that preceded this church.

St. Mary's-By-The-Sea
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine
County and State

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Vaughan, Henry, Architect

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 SheetST. MARY'S-BY-THE-SEAHANCOCK, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

St. Mary's-by-the-Sea is a cruciform shape stone chapel that was erected in 1902 from designs by the English born Boston architect Henry Vaughan. It is one of a group of architecturally distinguished chapels in Maine's coastal resorts whose construction was initiated in large part by summer residents. The chapel is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion C for its local architectural significance. Criteria Consideration A also applies by virtue of its religious use.

[The following history of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea is adapted from the history written by Gunnar Hansen.]

On Sunday, August 20, 1882, the Right Reverend William Crosswell Doane, Bishop of Albany, consecrated the little chapel of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, the first church in Northeast Harbor. This church sat across the road from Squire Daniel Kimball's boarding house, on land donated by one-time Bear island lighthouse keeper Stephen Smallidge and by the Bishop's daughter, Daisy, whose property adjoined.

It was an unassuming building, described in a contemporary church record as "in perfect keeping with its surroundings, having the charm of fitness. Built of timber, the exterior covered with spruce and hemlock slabs (the rounded outer part of logs milled for lumber), simply oiled to bring out their rich color, it looks almost as if it might have grown, so harmonious is it with its situation."

The church was named for the mother of Jesus, a name that also appropriately reflected the essential involvement of Mary Spring Perkins, the recently deceased wife of Bishop Doane's half-brother, Edward. Mary Perkin's initial enthusiasm and bequest of money had made it possible. More than that, however, the little chapel was really the product of the combined efforts of both year-round and summer residents. They, led by Bishop Doane, joined together to give their money, labor and spirit to raise the building and form the community of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea.

A large congregation of local residents and summer visitors gathered that Sunday morning to hear Bishop Doane's consecration sermon in their new slab church:

It is simply, plainly, roughly built out of the same stuff of which we build houses and barns; but from this day forth it is *not* a common house. It is separated and set apart to be treated and used with reverence, because it is 'the Lord's house in which it pleaseth Him to dwell, yea, the Lord will abide in it forever' ...I want you to realize this and to treat this place with reverence; to come here as into a hold and loving presence, expecting to meet *Him*, to commune with Him, to hear Him speak, to get a blessing from Him....I hope to keep the door of this Chapel always open, so that you may come into it when you will, for a moment of quiet thought and prayer, and I am sure that you will always treat it as God's House, and that even the youngest child will realize its dignity and holiness.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ST. MARY'S-BY-THE-SEA

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

Speaking on the community's efforts in building the church, the Bishop added, "I recognize gladly the faithful and generous giving of time and labor by many of the men here; and of the land and of the plan and supervision. And I do not forget that kind friends gathered here last summer (she [Mary] among the rest) gave money towards the beginning of a building, or the fact that from many since, who loved her, have come the gracious and separate gifts... that make this dear chapel complete. But the gift is hers, out of loving interest *in the people who live here.*"

Parallel with the construction of the new St. James, St. Mary's chapel also underwent large changes. By the summer of 1899, the often-enlarged slab church had once again become too small to accommodate the swelling summer congregation. In addition, the chapel was felt to be too uncomfortable for winter services.

An entirely new, much larger, stone chapel was planned. The chancel, with a vestry and organ loft, would be built first. The nave and transept would be added after more money could be raised through subscription.

Bishop Doane gave the additional land needed to accommodate the new building, and work on the chancel began the fall of 1899. The following year it was completed at a cost of \$7,000.

Chauncey Joy supervised the work on St. Mary's. He was, in addition, the superintendent of all construction done by the newly-founded Village Improvement Society, which had Bishop Doane as its president and Mr. Norwood on the Board of Directors. In the spring of 1900, the Society had hired Mr. Joy to lower the grade of the Ice House Hill (Harborside) Road. With true Yankee ingenuity, Mr. Joy *quarried* seven feet of granite from the road bed and then used that granite to build the new St. Mary's chapel.

Unfortunately, the new chancel was found to be about eight feet out of its proper relation with the original chapel. The result was awkward-looking at best. The most effective solution, the Bishop felt, was to begin construction on the nave immediately. He appealed for funds and raised \$16,000. When this work was about to begin, however, it was suggested that perhaps a larger, more beautiful chapel than previously planned, should be built.

Bishop Doane, trusting the people of the mission would support this, secured a design by noted architect Henry Vaughn. He then borrowed another \$19,000 a debt that was soon canceled by subscription. The work on both the nave and the transepts began, and by the summer of 1902, the present stone church was complete.

In his essay for *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine*, architectural historian William Morgan states that:

The architecture of Henry Vaughan [1845-1917] in Maine is not extensive, comprising only one house, three churches, and a trio of buildings for Bowdoin College. Yet this handful of works includes some of the more important and most engaging designs by an architect who is credited with initiating the last phase of the Gothic Revival in America.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ST. MARY'S-BY-THE-SEA

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

St. Andrew's Church (NR 10/8/76) in Newcastle, erected in 1883, and St. James Episcopal Church (NR 11/19/74) in Old Town, built in 1892-94, were Vaughan's first two major commissions in Maine. Unlike these two modestly scaled wooden buildings, St. Mary's-by-the-Sea was, according to Morgan, a "fully realized Vaughan church of the kind that made him one of America's most respected ecclesiastical architects." He further comments that "The somewhat solemn exterior of St. Mary's barely hints at the splendor revealed inside which makes this church one of Vaughan's most powerful works."

St. Mary's-by-the-Sea is one of an important group of religious buildings erected in Maine during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the coastal summer colonies. Oftentimes, as in Northeast Harbor, these chapels were substantial architect designed buildings which were erected primarily through the interest and funding of summer residents. For example, the chapels at Islesboro, Hancock Point, Northeast Harbor (Union Church), and Seal Harbor were designed, respectively, by Francis R. Allen, John Calvin Stevens, Peabody & Stearns, and Grosvenor Atterbury. Their shared characteristics of high quality design and use of rubble stone masonry make them distinctive landmarks in their respective settings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ST. MARY'S-BY-THE-SEA

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Hansen, Gunnar. *Not a Common House: A History of St. Mary's-By-The-Sea*. Privately Printed, 1981.

Morgan, William. "Henry Vaughan, 1845-1917," *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine*, Vol. I, No. 8. Augusta, ME: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1984.

St. Mary's-By-The-Sea
Name of Property

Hancock, 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	5	5	6	9	8	0	4	9	0	3	9	6	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

2

Zone	Easting						Northing							

3

Zone	Easting						Northing							

4

Zone	Easting						Northing							

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 April, 2000
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

ST. MARY'S-BY-THE-SEA

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Mount Desert tax map 22, lot 13.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with St. Mary's-by-the-Sea.