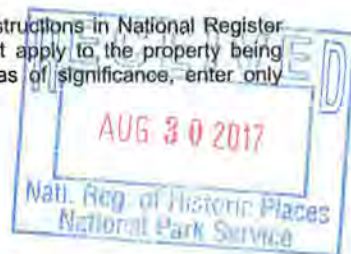


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fives Court  
Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 55 Fairburn Way  
City or town: Lovell State: Maine County: Oxford  
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<i>Kitt Mohnney</i>	<i>8/25/2017</i>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</b> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

<b>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</b>	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span>	

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**4. 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:)

*Lisa Delina*

10/5/17

**Signature of the Keeper**

**Date of Action**

**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

\_\_\_\_\_

buildings

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

sites

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

structures

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

objects

1

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports facility

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports facility

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Bungalow /  
Craftsman

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: concrete foundation, wood shingle siding and roofing

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

**Summary Paragraph**

The Fives Court at Westways Kezar in Lovell, Oxford County, Maine is one of the original buildings from a camp constructed by William Armstrong Fairburn in the 1920s as a vacation and corporate retreat. The Fives Court is Craftsman style with limited decorative details which allows it to blend with nature in the camp tradition. The one-story, one-room building is on Kezar Lake in the White Mountains near the New Hampshire border. The wood shingled Fives Court has a concrete foundation and a low-slope, gable-front wood-shingled roof. The building is balloon framed with smooth masonry interior walls and floor for the playing court. The requirements of the specialized court, solid masonry walls, result in windows on only the west façade and a single door at the northwest corner. The open single-room interior is almost completely court space with the west windows and a center skylight providing illumination. A four foot half-wall at the west end of the interior provides a small transitional space within the building but outside the playing court. This area also provides a viewing space for spectators. The building, still in use, has been changed little and remains in excellent repair. It retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. The Fives Court is one of four of the original 28 buildings that retain integrity within the boundary of the original complex. The camp as a whole has been subdivided with new cabins added, original cabins expanded, and facility buildings such as

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stables and laundry converted to housing. The feeling of the original private camp as a distinct entity is lost due to the many new built private cottages and the altered original buildings within the original complex, and as such, no eligible historic district is present.

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**Narrative Description**

The four-bay west façade faces Fairburn Drive, a one car gravel drive which separates this building from the original cottage built for William Fairburn's family. The original family cottage still exists as a single family cottage but has been modified over time. Kezar Lake is one hundred fifty feet to the west of the Fives Court and is visible through heavy tree cover. The wood-shingled wall with woven corners rises above the concrete foundation to a low-slope, gable-front roof with exposed rafters and no other eave or cornice detailing. The eight six-over-six double-hung wood windows are aligned in two rows of four across the façade. The windows have a common sill and a narrow brick mold trim around each window with a six inch wide trim board separating the grouped windows. Each window has a single pane wooden storm window. There is a 6" x 16" plaque over the upper windows reading "Fives Court" with a single residential porch light above it and a two bulb flood light above and just under the peak of the roof.

The north elevation has a stepped concrete foundation rising to the east as the grade rises. Wood shingles cover the wall with a nine-light wood door near the west corner. A wooden screen door covers the entry door. A rectangular piece of granite is the single step into the building. An eight foot section of gutter protects the entry with a downspout at the west corner. Gutters and downspouts are otherwise absent. The low-sloped wood-shingled roof has an eighteen inch overhang at the eaves with no other trim on the wall. An eight-light gable skylight covers the center fifth of the ridge and comes down half the roof slope on each side. The remaining ridge is finished with two 1"x6" cap boards on the slope and a 2"x6" vertical board creating an inverted "Y" ridge cap.

The south elevation has a stepped concrete foundation rising to the east with the grade, a wood shingled wall with no openings, and open rafter tails without other trim. An unattached, three-sided vertical board fence is at the east end of the wall and encloses a modern generator.

The east elevation is a wood shingled wall over a concrete foundation with exposed rafters. An original louvered opening in the gable end vents the attic. About eight feet above grade a pent roof projects sixteen inches from the wall to cover electric meters and paired board and batten cabinets that enclose additional electrical connections related to the generator to the south.

**INTERIOR**

The interior is a single high-ceiling room with a four foot half wall 5'4" east of the west exterior wall creating an anteroom. The south end of this space has a heavy screen

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enclosure for an original generator that is no longer in use. A single bead-board wood door opens to the court which is further delineated by a floor-to-ceiling stub wall projecting one foot into the room at each end of the half wall. The building is balloon framed with the west anteroom finished with bead board. The court to the east has a poured concrete floor and brick walls with a concrete skim coat. The interior court measures 28' 4" long, 11'9" wide, 15' floor to ceiling on three walls and 4' floor to top of the back or west wall. The paint scheme is gray floor and red ochre walls. A single four inch board runs horizontally across the interior of the east wall three feet one inch above the floor. There are no other markings or details on the plain, flat walls. The flat ceiling is matched bead-board which opens in a center light well under the eight-light skylight. The skylight shaft drops straight down before angling out to accommodate light dispersal. Bead board also covers the splayed and vertical sections of the light well. A single ventilation fan is placed just below the skylight's ridge in the east wall of the well. Three electric lights are recessed into the flat ceiling east of the skylight and two aligned in a row are recessed to the west to provide artificial light.

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**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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1924

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Fives Court is a specialized recreation building located in Lovell, Oxford County, Maine. The building was originally constructed in 1924 as part of Westways Kezar a vacation and corporate retreat built by William Armstrong Fairburn. The complex was built on Kezar Lake near the White Mountains and a few miles from New Hampshire. Built in a Craftsman style with limited decorative details on the exterior, the one-story, one-room Fives Court interior reveals distinct characteristics common to this rare type of sporting court. The building is significant under Criteria C for the distinct form, proportions, plan, materials and structure which are characteristic of Rugby style courts and reflect its origins in English preparatory schools. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level with a period of significance that reflects its construction date. However, the building is not eligible as part of a district due to the loss of integrity of original camp buildings and modern intrusions. The complex contained 28 cottages and support buildings in 1972 when sold. Since that time, forty-nine units were added, seven original buildings were sold and most original buildings were altered. While the Fives Court retains all aspects of integrity, the complex as a whole no longer represents a distinct entity due to loss of integrity of design, workmanship, materials, setting, association or feeling. The building is being nominated individually based on its distinct building type. This area of significance is not shared by other buildings or the group of buildings as a whole which made up Fairburn's Westways camp.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**History of Fives**

The game of fives is similar to hand ball, squash and other ball games played in an enclosed or semi-enclosed cubic space where the ball is played off the floor and walls. The game originated in England in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century at various elite preparatory schools as boys passed time playing a ball off the "U" shaped space created by buttressed chapel walls. The shape of the available space at a particular school and the associated rules developed by the resident boys created several variations of the game. The styles of play that developed locally at each school were adjusted as interschool communication and competitions occurred. Over time two dominant variations of the game emerged. The main difference between the two most common styles, Eton and Rugby, is the obstacles built into the Eton style court which reflect steps and a projecting buttress in the original playing space.<sup>1</sup> The Rugby style game originally played against bare walls has resulted in development of a regulation court that is a smooth masonry rectangle 28' long by 18' wide with sidewalls 15' at front to 4' 10" at the rear.

<sup>1</sup> *Wikipedia/ Fives*. December 21, 2015. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fives> (accessed July 5, 2016).

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The court can be a relatively simple open air space without a roof as it originated but is usually constructed as an indoor court.<sup>2</sup>

Various hand and racquet sports have existed in some form since antiquity. Handball games were played in the United States prior to the arrival of fives and continue to be played today. While it may appear initially that American handball and fives are basically the same game, there are distinct differences in court size and lining, balls, gloves, service and scoring. It is uncertain when the game known as fives was introduced in the United States. However, it seems fives as a codified sport was a direct transport from England that likely arrived with former English preparatory school students. For example, the Groton School in Boston was founded in 1884 by Endicott Peabody with support from J. P. Morgan and Teddy Roosevelt. Peabody was a graduate of Cheltenham in England where both Eton and Rugby fives were played.<sup>3</sup> The new Groton School was modeled on the English school he attended and the game of fives was included. It seems likely a similar pattern may have led to the development of fives at other preparatory schools.

Fives is almost exclusively confined to school and university courts and elite athletic clubs. Other documented fives courts were built in 1888 at the Boston Athletic Club, prior to 1902 at the NY Racquet Club and in 1909 at the University Club of Chicago, but these have been destroyed.<sup>4</sup> It appears squash was sometimes played on these courts as well and may have, with greater popularity, ultimately overshadowed fives. There are three other known U.S. courts in existence today, dozens in England, and others scattered through other former British colonies. The U.S. courts are at Groton School, the Union Boat Club, and the A.D. Final Club at Harvard all in Massachusetts. Courts at St. Mark's School in Southborough, Massachusetts were destroyed in 2005. Other private courts whether a room in a private residence or a standalone building like this one have not been identified in the United States. A single court in a private home was identified in England. While more private courts may exist but be difficult to identify, it appears courts are typically built in groups within a shared use athletic facility.

## Architecture

As stated above a fives court is either Rugby or Eton style. Each style has a specific court plan and associated rules. As this is a Rugby court, the discussion is limited to that style of court construction. As stated above the game was originally played in the found space created by chapel buttress walls. As would be expected these courts varied from school to school based on local chapel design. The present regulation court dimensions from the Rugby Fives Association of England only roughly match the dimensions of the Kezar court which was built prior to the establishment of "regulation courts." The Kezar court is narrower with a rear wall ten inches lower than current standards and the board six inches higher. Obviously, given the genesis of the game, variation in court size was probably unavoidable until the sport was codified in 1927 by the Rugby Fives Association.<sup>5</sup> As a rare building type, this court helps to illustrate the variations within the resource type. Variations exist between the current standard

<sup>2</sup> "The Construction of a Standard Rugby Fives Court." *Rugby Fives Association*. May 6, 2014.

[http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court\\_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf](http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia / Groton School. May 30, 2016. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton_School) (accessed July 6, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> Zug, James. *Squash: A History of the Game*. New York: Scribner, 2003.

<sup>5</sup> David Barnes, "Rugby School Fives," *Rugby Fives Association Annual Review 2010-2011*: 24,

<http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Rugby-School.pdf> accessed February 27, 2017.

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court measurements and the Kezar court, but the Kezar court does not deviate far from the standards. The minor differences are a point of comparison with other courts whether known or yet to be identified.

The interior finishes of the walls are also rooted in tradition and unchanged. While squash and other hand sports are played on wood floors, fives is played on concrete floors and walls. While not the stone surface of the original courts, concrete is a similar material in terms of playing characteristics. The walls at Kezar are concrete masonry as is the floor. Traditionally the walls are painted stone gray and the floors red oxide. At Kezar and Groton School, the application of colors is reversed.

The appearance of the building even with three windowless walls gives clues to the interior. The single wall of large windows and the skylight above indicates an interior use of the other walls that prevents windows yet requires abundant light. As with other courts the light must come from above or behind where natural or artificial. The buildings window configuration is typical by necessity. The built-in anteroom in this building, often a corridor in multiple court complexes, is also a significant detail. It allows both a transition space between games and a spectator viewing area.

As most courts are contained within larger athletic complexes at clubs or schools, the standard masonry construction of the court within the larger building is not as noticeable. In the Kezar building, the masonry court construction within the wood frame building is more apparent and highlights the distinct design and construction materials. A court could more easily have been constructed with solid masonry walls exposed on the exterior and interior, the default method in larger masonry and steel athletic facilities. The wrapping of the masonry court in a wood frame seems to point to a desire to create a compatible appearance with natural surroundings. Courts can be open to the air and with the summer usage in the Maine climate could have been built without a roof or a full back wall. Even without the other remaining camp buildings, it is clear this building was conceived to blend and fit into its environment. This building hides the court by using materials and a style compatible with nature just as typical school courts are concealed within a large Colonial Revival or Renaissance Revival gymnasium building. The court is built to correct standards but great pains were taken to make the building blend with the surrounding environment. The building conveys significant information about the general building type which is rare across the U.S.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)****History of Fives Court at Westways Kezar**

The history of the Fives Court at Kezar begins with the Fairburn family and their camp on Kezar Lake. William Armstrong Fairburn was a self-made industrialist. Born in England on October 12, 1876, he came to the U.S. in May 1891. He apprenticed at the Bath Iron Works and became a master mechanic. After studying naval architecture and marine engineering at the University of Glasgow, he returned to Bath Iron Works and built the first all steel freighter in the U.S. He worked as an independent consultant and later for the Diamond Match Company

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where he improved match design and ultimately became president. From a modest start he rose through hard work and innovation to accumulate great wealth.

Fairburn like other members of the upper-class around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century built and spent portions of their time at summer estates. These rural retreats were sometimes less elaborate than their urban homes, but they often included urban comforts like electricity and plumbing. When William Fairburn acquired land on Kezar Lake in 1924 and began building his complex, he created what was a recognizable camp complex, a main building for his family, a recreation hall, dining hall, guest cottages, and additional support and recreation buildings and structures. Westways followed a common pattern of building and recreation similar to Adirondack, sporting or wilderness camps. From this type of rural retreat, nature was enjoyed through country sports like hunting, fishing, and boating, but accommodation was usually made for elite recreational activities like tennis, golf, equestrian sports, and in this case fives.

Interest in fives was generally passed down through schools and continued by former players at athletic clubs. It appears the Kezar court is no different in origin. The sons of William Armstrong Fairburn, William Jr. and Robert, attended Groton School before graduating from Princeton in 1932.<sup>6</sup> It appears they were attending a school with fives courts at or before the Westways camp and its Fives Court was built circa 1924. Whether William Fairburn knew and played the game prior to his sons is uncertain, but it is likely he was familiar with the game since it was more common in his lifetime, he spent his childhood in England where the game developed, and at least some of his well-placed business colleagues may have attended preparatory schools with courts.

Whether this court originates from William Fairburn's interest in the game or his sons, it illustrates the broad historic development of this game particularly among the upper-class. The tie to a preparatory school education is clear as is the pattern of a club type setting if play is to continue after graduation. With no other fives courts identified past or present in Maine, this court appears to be a unique resource in the local area. William Fairburn was very private at his camp. Locals who worked at the complex were not permitted to discuss what went on at the camp, so the court was not known locally until Fairburn's death in 1947 and little known thereafter. Just as with a private athletic club, the majority of the local community had no direct knowledge of what went on within the smaller socioeconomically exclusive community. The presence of courts and a small, dedicated following from Chicago to the east coast reflects the significant but not widespread popular interest in the sport.

William Fairburn died in 1947 and passed the 130 acre Westways at Kezar to his son Robert who sold the property in 1972. LandVest Properties who purchased the property subdivided the property selling the separate cottages and support buildings. The cottages have been modified with significant additions. Support buildings like the stables and barn have been converted to living space with additions as well. Additional lots have also been sold with new cottages constructed interspersed on the land.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

<sup>6</sup> Brooklyn Daily Eagle. "Wedding Announcement." September 10, 1931: 9.

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barnes, David. "Rugby School Fives." Rugby Fives Association Annual Review 2010-2011.: 22-26. Accessed February 27, 2017. <http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Rugby-School.pdf>.

*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. "Wedding Announcement." September 10, 1931: 9.

*Groton: History*. n.d. <http://www.groton.org/Page/About/History> (accessed July 6, 2016).

MacNeil, Malcolm. "Gimmie Fives." *Lion's Pride*. n.d. <http://www.stmarksschool.org/lionspride/StoryPages/2010/Jan/an1.html> (accessed July 6, 2016).

Moore, Pauline W. *Blueberries and Pusley Weed: The Story of Lovell, Maine*. Kennebunk, ME: Star Press, Inc., 1970.

"Rugby School: History of Fives." *Rugby School*. n.d. <https://www.rugbyschool.co.uk/co-curricular/sport/other-sports/history-of-rugby-fives-pdf/> (accessed July 6, 2016).

"The Construction of a Standard Rugby Fives Court." *Rugby Fives Association*. May 6, 2014. [http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court\\_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf](http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf) (accessed July 6, 2016).

*Wikipedia / Groton School*. May 30, 2016. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton_School) (accessed July 6, 2016).

*Wikipedia/ Fives*. December 21, 2015. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fives> (accessed July 5, 2016).

Woods, David F. "William Armstrong Fairburn and Westways." *Yesterday's News*, Summer 2013: 1,3-5.

Zug, James. *Squash: A History of the Game*. New York: Scribner, 2003.

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

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recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 251-0003**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

- NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 349101 | Northing: 4897387 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |

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3. Zone: Easting: Northing:  
 4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Fives Court is shown as the shaded section in the southwestern portion of lot 10 on the attached map entitled "Fives Court Lovell, ME." The property is bounded on the west and south by Fairburn Drive, on the north by lot 007 and on the east by a line running south southeast from the southeast corner of lot 007 to Fairburn Drive.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The large property that included the original complex has been subdivided into many smaller parcels. This boundary represents the land surrounding and associated with the rectangular 36' by 14' Fives Court. The remaining portion of lot 10 being common roadway and woodland which is not directly associated with the Fives Court.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain, Architectural Historian  
 organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
 street & number: 55 Capitol Street  
 city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333-0065  
 e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov  
 telephone: (207) 287-5465  
 date: 22 May 2017

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Fives Court

City or Vicinity: Lovell

County: Oxford State: Maine

Photographer: Michael Goebel-Bain

Date Photographed: 28 June 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_ FIVES COURT\_0001.TIF  
Primary façade and north elevation; facing southeast.

2 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_ FIVES COURT\_0002.TIF  
Primary façade and south elevation; facing northeast.

3 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_ FIVES COURT\_0003.TIF  
Court interior; facing east.

4 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_ FIVES COURT\_0004.TIF  
Court interior; facing west.



**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

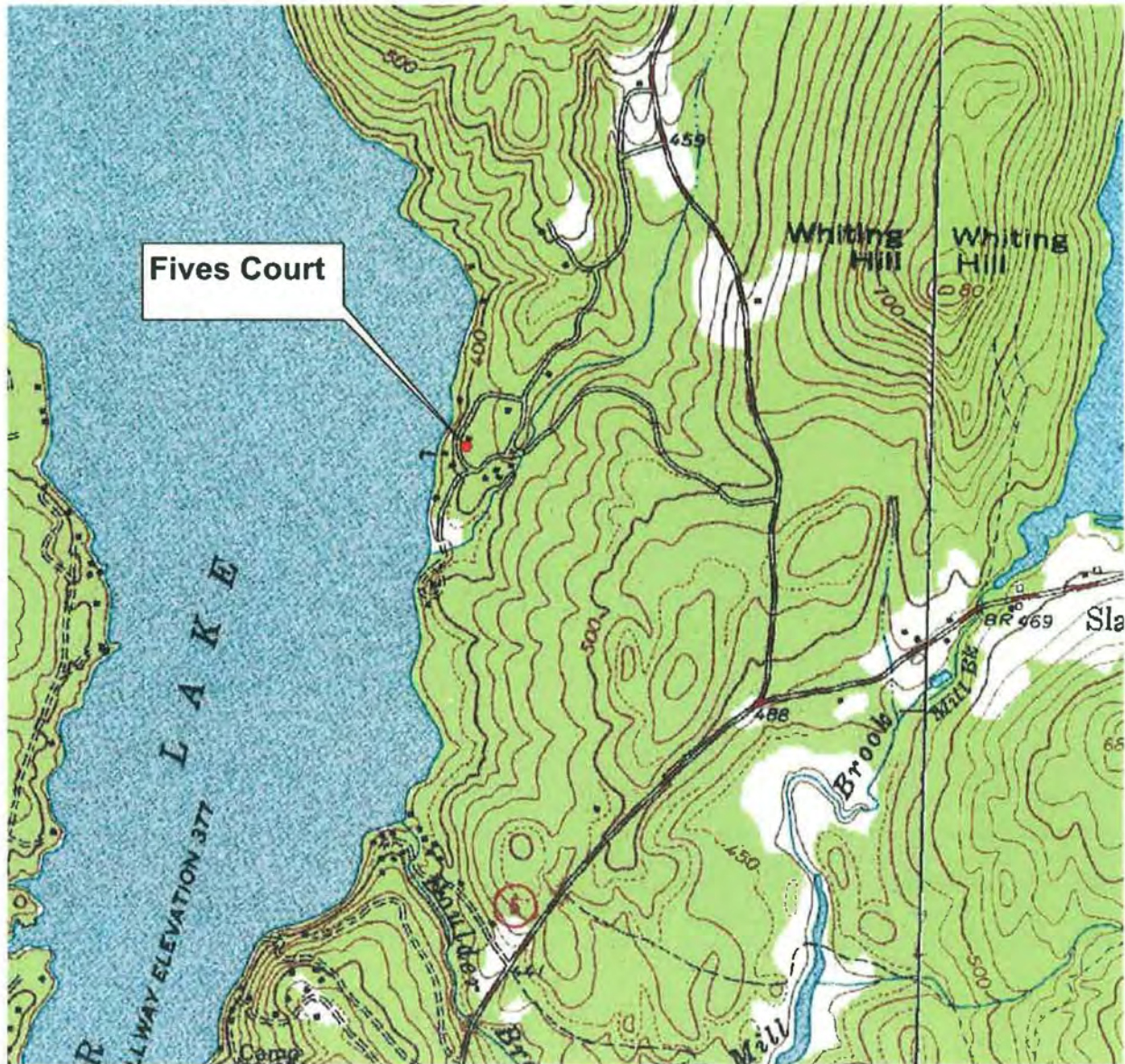
County and State

**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.460 et seq.).

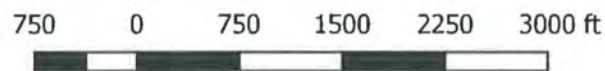
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**FIVES COURT**  
Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State



**Fives Court, Oxford County, Maine**  
**UTM 19 / 349101 / 4897387**  
**NAD 83**  
**11 July 2016**



**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State



**Fives Court**

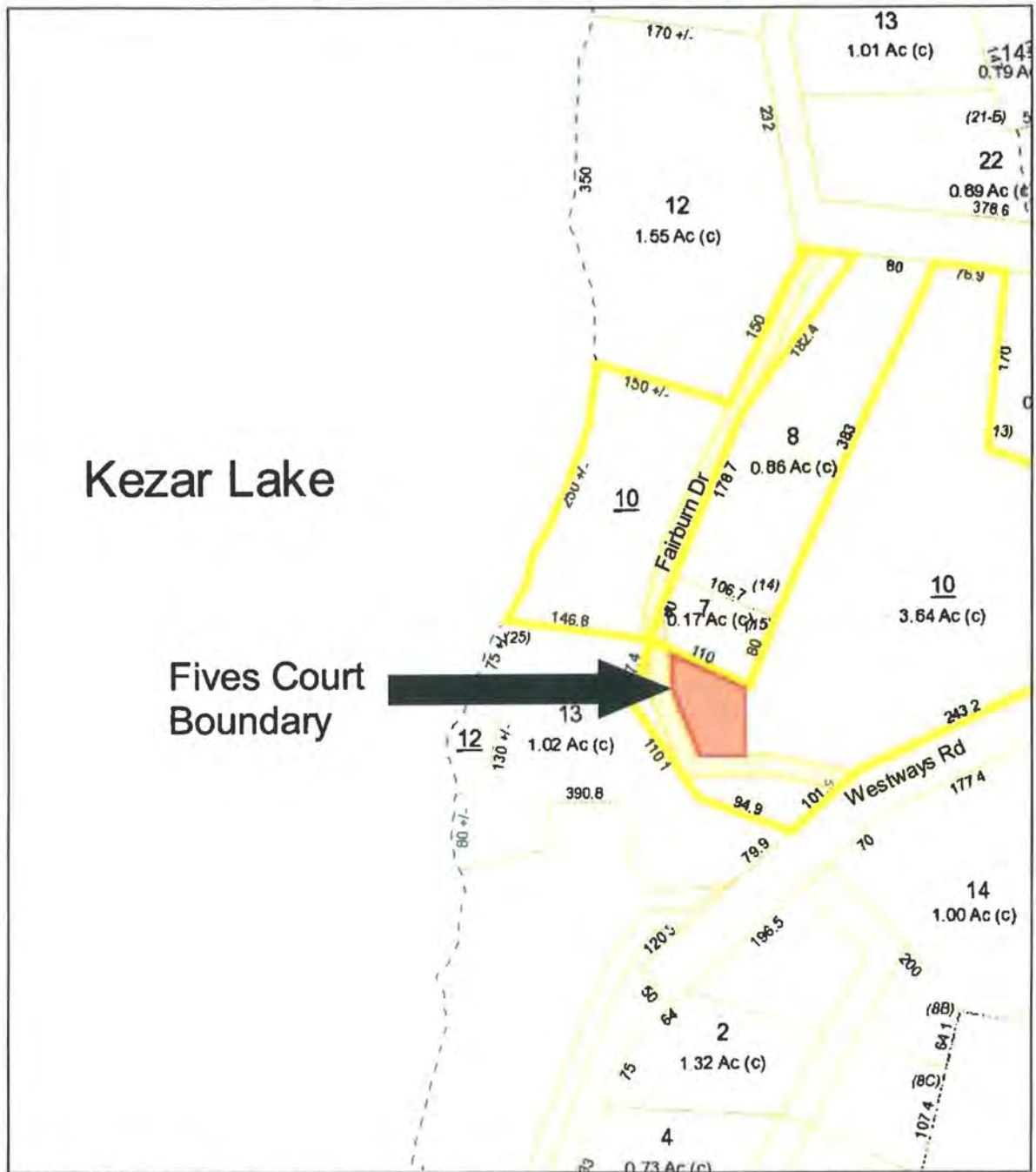
Lovell, ME

1 inch = 134 Feet



August 3, 2016

www.cai-tech.com



Fives Court Boundary



Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.









National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Fives Court

Multiple Name:

State & County: MAINE, Oxford

Date Received:  
8/30/2017

Date of Pending List:

Date of 16th Day:  
9/19/2016

Date of 45th Day:  
10/16/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: 16000676

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Appeal

SHPO Request

Waiver

Resubmission

Other

PDIL

Landscape

National

Mobile Resource

TCP

CLG

Text/Data Issue

Photo

Map/Boundary

Period

Less than 50 years

Accept

Return

Reject

10/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criterion C. Local Level. POS 1924.  
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 10/5/17

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 12 2016 KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

8 August 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find three (3) new National Register nominations for properties in the State of Maine:

Waterville Main Street Historic District (Boundary Increase), Kennebec County  
Fives Court, Oxford County  
Robinhood Free Meetinghouse, Sagadahoc County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 8.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain  
Architectural Historian

Enc.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

671

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

RECEIVED 2280

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fives Court  
Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

AUG 12 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

## 2. Location

Street & number: 55 Fairburn Way  
City or town: Lovell State: Maine County: Oxford  
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national \_\_\_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ D

Returned

<u>Kirk F. Mohnney, SHPO</u>	<u>8/8/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<b>MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</b>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

**4. 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Action**

**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

**Returned**

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

\_\_\_\_\_

buildings

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

sites

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

structures

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

objects

1

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Sports facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Returned

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Bungalow /  
Craftsman

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: concrete foundation, wood shingle siding and roofing

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Required

**Summary Paragraph**

The Fives Court at Westways Kezar in Lovell, Oxford County, Maine is part of a camp constructed by William Armstrong Fairburn in the 1920s as a vacation and corporate retreat. The Fives Court and surrounding buildings are Craftsman style with limited decorative details which allow them to blend with nature in the camp tradition. The building is on Kezar Lake in the White Mountains near the New Hampshire border. The one-story, one-room Fives Court is one of several buildings or structures created for sport and recreation within the complex. A recreation hall is to the southwest across the gravel road while softball and tennis facilities are to the northeast. The guest cottages have passed into private ownership but retain shared use of the recreation spaces. The wood shingled Fives Court has a concrete foundation and a low-slope, gable-front wood-shingled roof. The building is balloon framed with brick interior walls for the playing court. The requirements of the specialized court, solid masonry walls, result in windows on only the west façade and a single door at the northwest corner. The open single-room interior is almost completely court space with the west windows and a center skylight providing illumination. A four foot half-wall at the west end of the interior provides a small transitional space within the building but outside the playing court. The building, still in use, has

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

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been changed little and remains in excellent repair. It retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. The camp as a whole has been subdivided but maintained in such a way as to maintain the feeling of the original larger complex.

---

**Narrative Description**

The four-bay west façade faces Fairburn Drive, a one car gravel drive which separates this building from the original cottage built for William Fairburn's family. Kezar Lake is one hundred fifty feet to the west of the Fives Court and is visible through heavy tree cover. The wood-shingled wall with woven corners rises above the concrete foundation to a low-slope, gable-front roof with exposed rafters and no other eave or cornice detailing. The eight six-over-six double-hung wood windows are aligned in two rows of four across the façade. The windows have a common sill and a narrow brick mold trim around each window with a six inch wide trim board separating the grouped windows. Each window has a single pane wooden storm window. There is a 6" x 16" plaque over the upper windows reading "Fives Court" with a single residential porch light above it and a two bulb flood light above and just under the peak of the roof.

The north elevation has a stepped concrete foundation rising to the east as the grade rises. Wood shingles cover the wall with a nine-light wood door near the west corner. A wooden screen door covers the entry door. A rectangular piece of granite is the single step into the building. An eight foot section of gutter protects the entry with a downspout at the west corner. Gutters and downspouts are otherwise absent. The low-sloped wood-shingled roof has an eighteen inch overhang at the eaves with no other trim on the wall. An eight-light gable skylight covers the center fifth of the ridge and comes down half the roof slope on each side. The remaining ridge is finished with two 1"x6" cap boards on the slope and a 2"x6" vertical board creating an inverted "Y" ridge cap.

The south elevation has a stepped concrete foundation rising to the east with the grade, a wood shingled wall with no openings, and open rafter tails without other trim. An unattached, three-sided vertical board fence is at the east end of the wall and encloses a modern generator.

The east elevation is a wood shingled wall over a concrete foundation with exposed rafters. An original louvered opening in the gable end vents the attic. About eight feet above grade a pent roof projects sixteen inches from the wall to cover electric meters and paired board and batten cabinets that enclose additional electrical connections related to the generator to the south.

**INTERIOR**

The interior is a single high-ceiling room with a four foot half wall 5'4" east of the west exterior wall creating an anteroom. The south end of this space has a heavy screen

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

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enclosure for an original generator that is no longer in use. A single bead-board wood door opens to the court which is further delineated by a floor-to-ceiling stub wall projecting one foot into the room at each end of the half wall. The building is balloon framed with the west anteroom finished with bead board. The court to the east has a poured concrete floor and brick walls with a concrete skim coat. The interior court measures 28' 4" long, 11'9" wide, 15' floor to ceiling on three walls and 4' floor to top of the back or west wall. The paint scheme is gray floor and red ochre walls. A single four inch board runs horizontally across the interior of the east wall three feet one inch above the floor. There are no other markings or details on the plain, flat walls. The flat ceiling is matched bead-board which opens in a center light well under the eight-light skylight. The skylight shaft drops straight down before angling out to accommodate light dispersal. Bead board also covers the splayed and vertical sections of the light well. A single ventilation fan is placed just below the skylight's ridge in the east wall of the well. Three electric lights are recessed into the flat ceiling east of the skylight and two aligned in a row are recessed to the west to provide artificial light.

Returned



**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

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**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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Returned

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1924 - 1966

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1924

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Returned

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Fives Court is a sporting facility located at Westways Kezar in Lovell, Oxford County, Maine. This complex is one of three Westways vacation and corporate retreats built by William Armstrong Fairburn where he entertained family, friends, and business prospects. Containing cottages and recreations facilities, Westways Kezar was built in 1924 on Kezar Lake near the White Mountains and a few miles from New Hampshire. Built in a Craftsman style with limited decorative details the Westways buildings share a common camp aesthetic. The one-story, one-room Fives Court is one of several camp buildings and structures created for sport and recreation. Originally, there was a recreation hall with bowling alley, a softball diamond, a tennis court, riding stables, and boating on the lake. The Fives Court and some of the other recreation buildings reflect the general inclusion of specialized buildings for more urban type games at similar upper class camp complexes. The game of fives was not a widely popular sport at the time the court was built and is almost unheard of at present. The game is and has been generally played at elite English preparatory schools and their American counterparts. While courts have historically existed at athletic clubs as well as schools, declining interest in the sport has resulted in the removal of most courts. A privately owned court is unusual historically and otherwise unknown today. This Fives Court represents an almost lost sporting tradition and illustrates a broad pattern of this recreational activity. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level under Criterion A, Entertainment and Recreation, as a rare example of a unique sports court which is now almost unknown in this country.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The game of fives is similar to hand ball, squash and other ball games played in an enclosed or semi-enclosed cubic space where the ball is played off the walls. The game originated in England in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century at various elite preparatory schools as boys passed time playing a ball off the "U" shaped space created by buttressed chapel walls. The shape of the available space at a particular school and the associated rules developed by the resident boys created several variations of the game. The styles of play that developed locally at each school were adjusted as interschool communication and competitions occurred. Over time two dominant variations of the game emerged. The main difference between the two most common styles, Eton and Rugby, is the obstacles built into the Eton style court which reflect steps and a projecting buttress in the original playing space.<sup>1</sup> The Rugby style game originally played against bare walls has resulted in development of a regulation court that is a smooth masonry rectangle 28' long by 18' wide with sidewalls 15' at front to 4' 10" at the rear. The

<sup>1</sup> *Wikipedia/ Fives*. December 21, 2015. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fives> (accessed July 5, 2016).

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

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court can be a relatively simple open air space without a roof as it originated but is usually an indoor court.<sup>2</sup>

Various hand and racquet sports have existed in some form since antiquity. Handball games were played in the United States prior to the arrival of fives and continue to be played today. While it may appear initially that American handball and fives are basically the same game, there are distinct differences in court size and lining, balls, gloves, service and scoring. It is uncertain when the game known as fives was introduced in the United States. However, it seems fives as a codified sport was a direct transport from England that likely arrived with former English preparatory school students. For example, the Groton School in Boston was founded in 1884 by Endicott Peabody with support from J. P. Morgan and Teddy Roosevelt. Peabody was a graduate of Cheltenham in England where both Eton and Rugby fives were played.<sup>3</sup> The new Groton School was modeled on the English school he attended and the game of fives was included. It seems likely the other courts were constructed as a result of local Groton School graduates or players exposed in the English preparatory schools.

Other documented fives courts that have since been destroyed were built in 1888 at the Boston Athletic Club, prior to 1902 at the NY Racquet Club and in 1909 at the University Club of Chicago.<sup>4</sup> It appears squash was sometimes played on these courts and with greater popularity ultimately overshadowed fives. The game is almost exclusively confined to school and university courts and athletic clubs. There are three other U.S. courts in existence today, several dozen in England, and others scattered through other former British colonies. The U.S. courts are at Groton School, the Union Boat Club, and the A.D. Final Club at Harvard all in Massachusetts. Courts at St. Mark's School in Southborough, Massachusetts were destroyed in 2005. Support for the game has fluctuated over time at a national level and within a given playing school, but it appears overall growth has not generally expanded to include new schools.

The history of the Fives Court at Westways is tied to the Fairburn family and their camp on Kezar Lake. William Armstrong Fairburn was a self-made industrialist. Born in England on October 12, 1876, he came to the U.S. in May 1891. He apprenticed at the Bath Iron Works and became a master mechanic. After studying naval architecture and marine engineering at the University of Glasgow, he returned to Bath Iron Works and built the first all steel freighter in the U.S. He worked as an independent consultant and later for the Diamond Match Company where he improved match design and ultimately became president. From a modest start he rose through hard work and innovation to accumulate great wealth.

Fairburn like other members of the upper-class around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century built and spent portions of their time at summer estates. These rural retreats were certainly less elaborate than their urban homes, but they often included urban comforts like electricity and plumbing. When William Fairburn acquired land on Kezar Lake in 1924 and began building his

<sup>2</sup> "The Construction of a Standard Rugby Fives Court." *Rugby Fives Association*. May 6, 2014.

[http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court\\_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf](http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia / Groton School. May 30, 2016. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton_School) (accessed July 6, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> Zug, James. *Squash: A History of the Game*. New York: Scribner, 2003.

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

complex, he created what is a recognizable camp complex, a main building for his family, a recreation hall, dining hall, guest cottages, and additional support and recreation buildings and structures. Westways reflects a common pattern of building and recreation similar to Adirondack, sporting or wilderness camps. From this type of rural retreat, nature was enjoyed through country sports like horse riding, hiking, and boating, but accommodation was often made for what are more suburban recreational activities tennis, bowling, and fives.

The Fives Court at Westways is an example of a very specific upper-class collegiate or club facility recreated in a private camp setting. A Fives Court is unusual for a camp as far as known, but it illustrates how the camps in some ways made over the rural retreat to accommodate and incorporate the desires of the wealthy. The Fives Court is at this camp for personal reasons related to class and personal interest. Just as other camps had tennis courts or a small golf course to accommodate those interests, the Fives Court accommodates one of the Fairburn's personal interests. Just as great camps and sporting camps developed within historical patterns that reflect wealth and privilege and the associated leisure time, sports and rural activities, this specific building reflects these same patterns seen through Fairburn's success and his son's privilege.

Interest in fives was generally passed down through schools and continued by former players at athletic clubs. It appears the Westways court is no different in origin. The sons of William Armstrong Fairburn, William Jr and Robert, attended Groton School before graduating from Princeton in 1932.<sup>5</sup> It appears they were attending a school with fives courts at or before the Westways camp and its Fives Court was built ca. 1924. Whether William Fairburn knew and played the game prior to his sons is uncertain, but it is likely he was familiar with the game since it was more common in his lifetime, he spent his childhood in England where the game is more common, and at least some of his well-placed business colleagues may have attended preparatory schools with courts.

Whether this court originates from William Fairburn's interest in the game or his sons, it illustrates the broad historic development of this game particularly among the upper-class. The tie to a preparatory school education is clear as is the pattern of a club type setting if play is to continue after graduation. With no other fives courts identified past or present in the Maine, this court appears to follow a regional or national trend. The fact that this is the only privately owned court identified in available documents could indicate local significance, but William Fairburn was very private at his camp. Locals who worked at the complex were not permitted to discuss what went on at the camp, so the court was locally unknown until Fairburn's death in 1947 and little known thereafter. The presence of courts and a small, dedicated following from Chicago to the east coast places the game in a national context. The lack of known courts in Maine and the private ownership of this court with no local community access for most of the period of significance points to the national significance of the Fives Court.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)**

<sup>5</sup> Brooklyn Daily Eagle. "Wedding Announcement." September 10, 1931: 9.

**FIVES COURT**  
Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. "Wedding Announcement." September 10, 1931: 9.

*Groton: History*. n.d. <http://www.groton.org/Page/About/History> (accessed July 6, 2016).

MacNeil, Malcolm. "Gimmie Fives." *Lion's Pride*. n.d.  
<http://www.stmarksschool.org/lionspride/StoryPages/2010/Jan/an1.html> (accessed July 6, 2016).

Moore, Pauline W. *Blueberries and Raspberry Weed: The Story of Lovell, Maine*. Kennebunk, ME: Star Press, Inc., 1970.

"Rugby School: History of Fives." *Rugby School*. n.d. <https://www.rugbyschool.co.uk/co-curricular/sport/other-sports/history-of-rugby-fives-pdf/> (accessed July 6, 2016).

"The Construction of a Standard Rugby Fives Court." *Rugby Fives Association*. May 6, 2014.  
[http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court\\_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf](http://rugbyfivesassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Court_Specification-26th-January-2015.pdf) (accessed July 6, 2016).

*Wikipedia / Groton School*. May 30, 2016. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groton_School) (accessed July 6, 2016).

*Wikipedia/ Fives*. December 21, 2015. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fives> (accessed July 5, 2016).

Woods, David F. "William Armstrong Fairburn and Westways." *Yesterday's News*, Summer 2013: 1,3-5.

Zug, James. *Squash: A History of the Game*. New York: Scribner, 2003.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 251-0003**

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

- NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

Returned

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

1. Zone: 19	Easting: 349101	Northing: 4897387
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Fives Court is shown as the shaded section in the southwestern portion of lot 10 on the attached map entitled "Fives Court Lovell, ME." The property is bounded on the west and south by Fairburn Drive, on the north by lot 007 and on the east by a line running south southeast from the southeast corner of lot 007 to Fairburn Drive.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The large property that included the original complex has been subdivided into many smaller parcels. This boundary represents the land surrounding and associated with the rectangular 36' by 14' Fives Court. The remaining portion of lot 10 being common roadway and woodland which is not directly associated with the Fives Court.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain, Architectural Historian  
 organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
 street & number: 55 Capitol Street  
 city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333-0065  
 e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov  
 telephone: (207) 287-5465  
 date: 7 July 2016

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:



**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Returned

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Fives Court

City or Vicinity: Lovell

County: Oxford State: Maine

Photographer: Michael Goebel-Bain

Date Photographed: 28 June 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_ FIVES COURT\_0001.TIF  
Primary façade and north elevation; facing southeast.

2 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_ FIVES COURT\_0002.TIF  
Primary façade and south elevation; facing northeast.

**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

- 3 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_FIVES COURT\_0003.TIF  
Court interior; facing east.
- 4 of 4 ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_FIVES COURT\_0004.TIF  
Court interior; facing west.

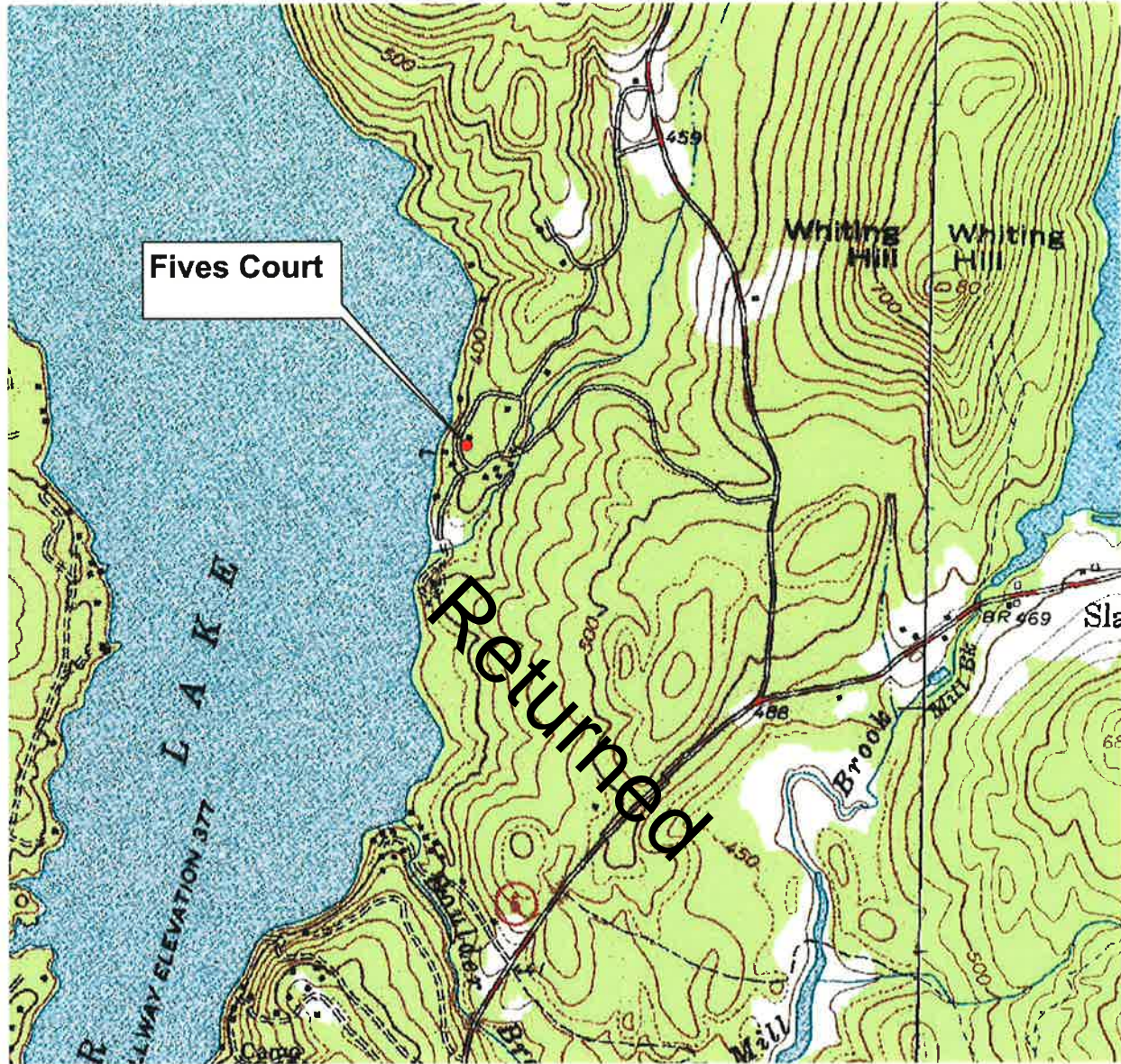
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

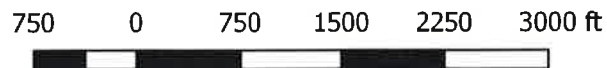
Returned

**FIVES COURT**  
Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State



**Fives Court, Oxford County, Maine**  
**UTM 19 / 349101 / 4897387**  
**NAD 83**  
**11 July 2016**



**FIVES COURT**

Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State



**Fives Court**

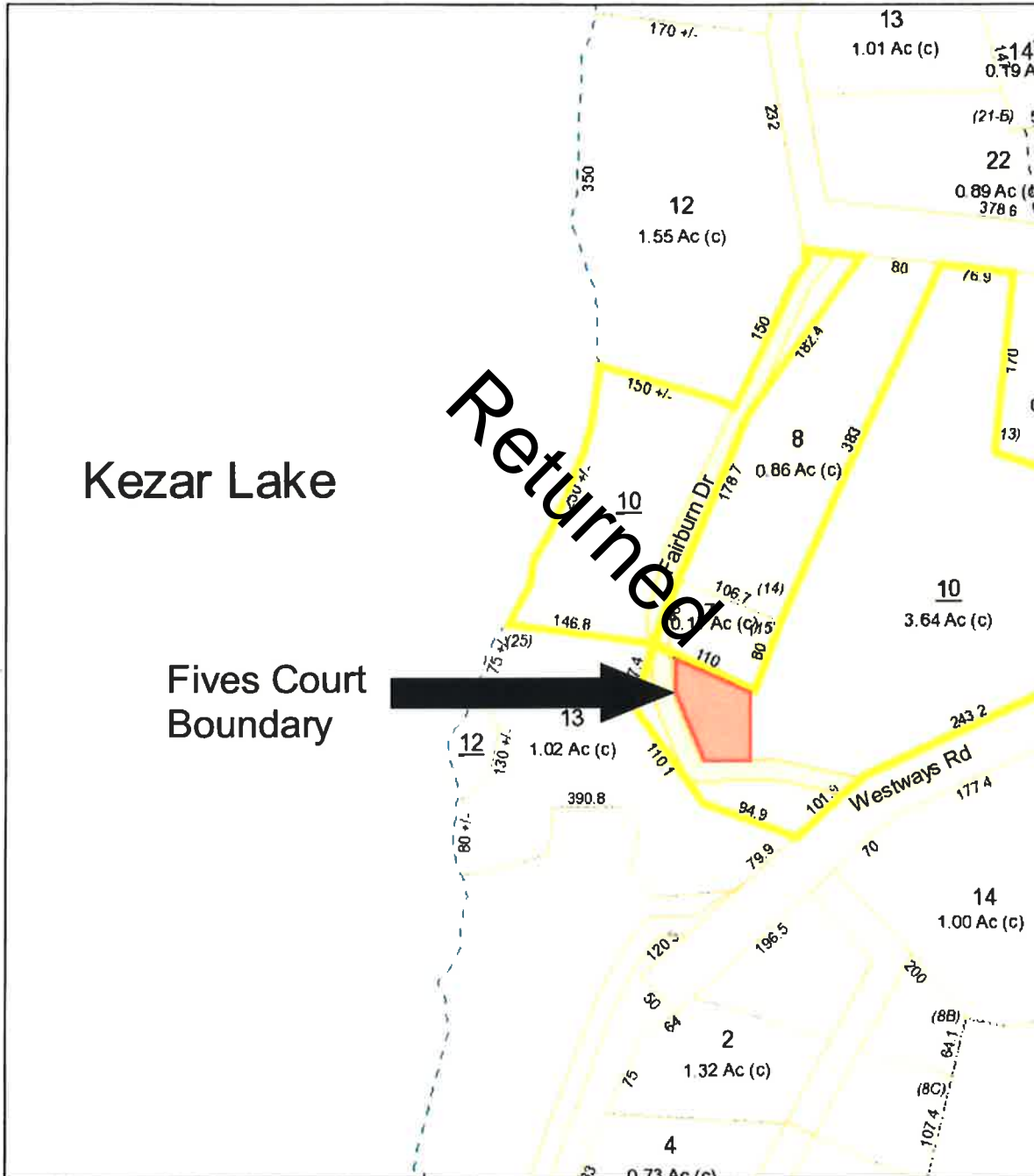
Lovell, ME



August 3, 2016

1 inch = 134 Feet

www.cai-tech.com



Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fives Court

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Oxford

DATE RECEIVED: 8/12/16      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/16      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000676

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    9/27/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA [Signature]  
REVIEWER [Signature]      DISCIPLINE [Signature]  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE 9/27/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Comments  
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

**Property Name:** Fives Court

**Property Location:** 55 Fairburn Way

**Reference Number:** 16000676

**Date of Return:** September 27, 2016

**Nomination Summary:**

The nomination is being returned for additional information. Fives Court is a recreational facility located within the private summer camp of Westways Kezar. The 1924, one-and-a-half-story, bungalow-type building is used for playing the game of fives, a sport similar to hand ball. The resource is being nominated under Criterion A, at the national level, under entertainment/recreation, with a period of significance of 1924-1966.

**Issues:** The nomination does not make the case for national significance. The nomination does not provide adequate information to evaluate this property's significance within a national context. A property with national significance must be of exceptional value in illustrating an important theme in the history of the nation. The nomination also does not make the case for individual eligibility, since its significance is within the larger context of the Westways camp. In this case, this building would be considered a contributing resource within the broader context of recreational activities at this private camp.

National Register guidance (National Register of Historic Places, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, p.10) provides that in order to be found to be nationally significant under Criterion A, a property must illustrate the nationwide impact of events associated with the property and the property must be shown to be of exceptional value in representing that nationally important theme in the history of the nation. Please address how the sport of fives has had a nationwide impact on American history or culture and why this property is of exceptional value in representing this historic theme. The same evaluation would

need to be made if state-level of significance is considered and its statewide impact within Maine.

The nomination mentions how these camps offered a variety of recreational activities for their owners and guests. The original property owner, William Armstrong Fairburn, held a special interest in the game of fives and happened to build this court, along with other recreational facilities, as part of a larger rural retreat. The camp included Fairburn's main family building, a recreational hall, dining hall, and guest cottages. Guests could enjoy sports like horse back riding, hiking, and boating, as well as bowling, tennis, and fives. Because this resource is part of a larger camp complex, its significance is as a contributing resource to the overall recreational camp setting and association. It does not appear to be individually eligible. Please revise.

Lisa Deline, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
Lisa\_Deline@nps.gov



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333



KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

28 August 2017

Edson Beall  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Beall:

Enclosed please find one (1) National Register nomination for the Fives Court, Oxford County, Maine. This nomination form is being resubmitted in response to reviewer, Lisa Deline, comments. The associated photographs and image CD were not returned and should be in your system. The original submission was sent August 8, 2016.

If you have any questions relating to the nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 8.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain  
Architectural Historian

Enc.