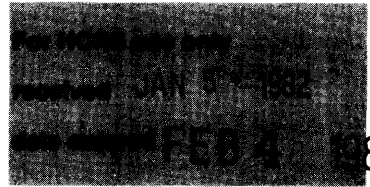


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



82

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sproul's Cafe

and/or common Ward's Building

2. Location

street & number 128 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Bar Harbor,

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 2nd

state Maine

code 23

county Hancock

code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard & Nancy Libby

street & number 5 Stephens Lane

city, town Bar Harbor,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04609

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hancock County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Ellsworth,

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date N/A

N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sproul's Cafe in Bar Harbor, Maine, built in 1880, is a 2½-story commercial building of frame construction, with a Mansard roof, one external brick chimney, shingle and clapboard siding, and a granite foundation.

The facade, which faces west, contains a recessed central entrance flanked by store windows. The second story features two projecting bay windows--each with three sides containing four 1/1 windows. These flank a central doorway which provides access to a screened and balustraded porch which fills the space between the bay windows. In the half story are three gable-roofed dormers each containing a 2/2 window.

The sides of the building are four bays wide with equivalent dormers above 2/2 windows.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1880 **Builder/Architect** Elihu T. Hamor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This well preserved Mansard style commercial building is a relic of Bar Harbor's "cottage era"; during the town's heyday it housed Sproul's Cafe, a favorite gathering place for summer residents and natives alike. As nationally famous as Sherry's or Delmonico's in New York, Sproul's of Bar Harbor operated from 1870-1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sproul first opened a restaurant in 1870, but the quarters became too small for the popular, "pioneer restaurant", so an entirely new facility was constructed in 1880. Elihu T. Hamor erected the present building on a much larger and more elaborate scale than the other. The Sprouls served elegant dinners, catered local affairs, and became nationally famous for the way they "served wine in defiance of the 'Maine Law'".

The Bar Harbor Record recalled in 1903:

"Being the only place of the kind in the village its fame spread. Season after season saw its opening, each year added another gem to its crown of prosperity. When the young bloods of the town wanted a late dinner in thoroughly good style they went to Sprouls and nothing was ever lacking. It soon became quite the thing for parties from Seal, Northeast, Winter Harbor and Sorrento to dine at the Cafe.

"Men whose names stand high in the political world, women who occupied the highest social position have broken bread and exchanged gay repartee at the tables. On its register may be found names of the pioneer visitors at Bar Harbor such as W. F. Holland, Rufus Prime, Lucien Carr and family, J. L. Ketterlinus, W. H. L. Lee, Llewellyn Barry, S. W. Bates, Capt. Thomas J. Bush, the Vanderbilts, Pulitzers, Scotts, Stewarts, Bowlers--in fact all the leading families have patronized Sprouls. Many of the patrons are dead and gone but their sons have made Sprouls their rendez-vous."

Another report has it that "dawn usually revealed a number of coachmen and attendants waiting outside asleep in victorias and cut-unders. After the season closed, Sproul often sent bills to his patrons. One recipient of good memory protested mildly that he had maintained a clear head on his last visit and that he had paid his bill. 'Think nothing of it,' said Sproul. 'We send out a lot of bills anyway. You'd be surprised how many pay them.'"

Sproul's "served the high bloods with the best of everything long before the advent of many private clubs." For thirty-three years the Cafe was run by the original owners, but in 1903 the Sprouls sold their property to a prosperous Bar Harbor merchant, a Mr. Franklin, who remodelled the building into a "first class department store." At the present time the building houses a dry goods store on the first floor and four apartments on the upper floors.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Richard W. Hale, Jr., The Story of Bar Harbor. New York, 1949.
 Bar Harbor Record, "The Passing of Sprout's", March, 11, 1903.
 S. F. Collier & Tom Morgan. Mount Desert: The Most Beautiful Island in the World.
 Boston, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4
 Quadrangle name Bar Harbor

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A	1 9	5 6 3 4 0 0	4 9 1 5 1 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 2, Block 4, Lot 19.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian/Bette A. Smith, Assistant
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1981
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133
 city or town Augusta, state Maine-04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Earle B. Speltz

title S.H.P.O.

date 12/18/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

2/4/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration