

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00001637

Date Listed: 01/22/01

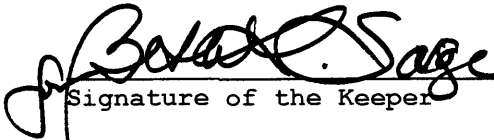
Cathance Water Tower
Property Name

Sagadahoc
County

ME
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

1-22-01
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period of Significance

The period of significance for this property relates to its construction date, which by physical indications was most likely in the last quarter of the 19th century. The period of significance is thus c.1875-c.1900.

This information was confirmed with Kirk Mohney, National Register Coordinator, MESHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DEC - 8 2000

1637

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
& EDUCATION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cathance Water Tower

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number East Side of Cathance Road at Junction with Beechwood Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Topsham vicinity

state Maine code ME county Sagadahoc code 023 zip code 04086

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.)

[Signature] 11/30/00
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): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

1-22-01
Date of Action

Cathance Water Tower
Name of Property

Sagadahoc, 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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/Weatherboard

Wood/Wood Shingle

roof Metal/Tin

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

CATHANCE WATER TOWER

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Cathance Water Tower is a two-stage wooden frame structure which is about thirty feet in height. Its pyramidal base is sheathed in clapboards, whereas its overhanging upper stage is clad in wood shingles. The tower stands in close proximity to the wooded east side of Cathance Road. Stone corner piers support the structure's timber sills.

The base of the tower features a vertical board entry door centered on the west elevation, a second similar door at the northwest corner, and a double hung window on the lower part of the east side, above which is a third door. A deteriorated catwalk located below the east side door leads to a ladder which in turn provides access to the upper level. The upper stage is comprised of a cribwork platform that overhangs the base by 2-3 feet. Its slightly tapered four walls are flared at the base, and it is capped by a shallow hipped roof. There are two small, symmetrically placed rectangular openings on the east and north elevations.

Inside, the stairs to the upper level of the base are located along the north wall and are accessed by the door at the northwest corner. The door on the west side provides access to the lower level of the base which originally contained the machinery that pumped the water to the banded wooden tank in the upper stage. According to tradition, the original pump was comprised of a hydraulic ram which was subsequently replaced by an electrically operated device. Remnants of the mechanism include a rotating iron shaft mounted to a wooden frame, and a boxed enclosure rising to the tank level that houses the inlet pipe.

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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

c. 1875 - c. 1940

Significant Dates

c. 1875 - c. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCATHANCE WATER TOWERSAGADAHOC, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

The Cathance Water Tower is a two-stage wooden frame structure that was built by the Rogers family to supply the domestic water needs of their nearby residence (no longer extant). Although the tower's date of construction is uncertain, the techniques employed in its framing and the Victorian stylistic character of the upper stage suggest that it was probably built in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C as a rare surviving example of an historic water supply structure.

Local historians state that the water tower was part of a complex of buildings which formed the Rogers Homestead, at the core of which was a two-story dwelling believed to have been erected in 1773 for John Hunter. This property came into the Rogers family when Alexander Rogers married John Hunter's widow. Photographs of the house made in 1966 show it to have had at that time a two-story ell and wing, the latter of which had a long one-story shed that terminated at a barn. An artist's conception of the complex made in 1978 when the remaining buildings were destroyed by fire, show an equally long wing and barn extending from the other end of the main house. The water tower stands to the northeast of this site and on the opposite side of the road.

Despite extensive research in documentary sources, there appears to be little verifiable information pertaining to the history of the Cathance Water Tower. One source relates an oral tradition that the structure was located for a period of time on the Topsham Fairgrounds, and then returned to its present site (Monahan notes, p.3). The implication from this information is that the tower was originally constructed on or near the existing site, but it has not been ascertained when it was originally built or relocated. However, two pieces of circumstantial evidence suggest that it has been located here for at least sixty years: 1) the Rogers family abandoned their homestead about 1940, and presumably it would not have been moved after that date; and 2) no one in Topsham seems to remember it occupying a different site. The tower and its immediate site are presently owned by the Town of Topsham.

Water towers which served domestic needs may have been common in Maine historically, but they are exceedingly rare today. The only other comparable structure in the state that is presently listed in the Register is the Bailey Farm Windmill (N. R. 6/28/88), an octagonal wood shingled frame tower which was built to pump -- but not store -- water for the farm on which it stands. The construction of structures like the Cathance Water Tower made it possible to benefit from the availability of fresh water by way of a pressurized delivery system, and to create protected storage for a large volume of water.

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CATHANCE WATER TOWER

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

“Halloween fire destroyed house 205 years old.” *The Times Record* (Brunswick), November 7, 1978.

Monahan, Anne. “The Olde Water Tower on the Cathance Road.” Copy of typescript research notes on file at the
Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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CATHANCE WATER TOWER

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Topsham tax map R-9, lot 22.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire town-owned lot that is presently and historically associated with the Cathance Water Tower.

Cathance Water Tower
Name of Property

Sagadahoc, 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	4	2	5	3	2	0	4	8	6	6	7	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

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3

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

Zone Easting Northing

4

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date August, 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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

CATHANCE WATER TOWER

SAGADAHOC CO., ME

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 2

Kirk F. Mohny
November 22, 1999
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
View of tower from NW

2 of 2

Kirk F. Mohny
November 22, 1999
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
View of tower from NE