

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

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

For NCRS use only
received FEB 29 1980
date entered MAY 6 1980

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

1. Name

historic West Street Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West Street between Billings Ave. and Eden St. not for publication

city, town Bar Harbor vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Various. See continuation sheet.

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

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 _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

<u>X</u> excellent	___ deteriorated	<u>X</u> unaltered	<u>X</u> original site
<u>X</u> good	___ ruins	<u>X</u> altered	<u>X</u> moved date 1886
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The West Street Historic District in Bar Harbor comprises seventeen architecturally or historically significant buildings. Dating from the 1870's to the early 20th century, few of the district's buildings have undergone major alterations. The district clings to a shoreline overlooking the Atlantic Ocean which was developed in the first great surge of summer visitors and reflects the wealth of the upper stratum of this influx. Primarily residential in character, the district also contains a clubhouse and an inn.

Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

1. "La Rochelle": 1903, French Renaissance, brick, 2½ stories, hipped roof, architect: Jaques and Rantoul.
2. "The Breezes": c. 1900, Colonial Revival, frame, 2½ stories, clapboarded, hipped roof.
3. "Greenlawn": 1887, Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof, architect: Rotch and Tilden.
4. "Saltair": 1887, Queen Anne, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof with towers, architect: Rotch and Tilden.
5. "The Tides": 1887, Colonial Revival, frame, 2½ stories, clapboarded, gabled roof, portico, architect: Rotch and Tilden.
6. "The Sunset": 1911, Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof, architect: Milton Stratton.
7. "Westbridge": 1887, Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof, architect: William A. Potter.
8. "Rosebriar": c. 1879, remodelled as Colonial Revival, frame 2½ stories, clapboarded, gabled roof, architect: W. Jordan.
9. The Bar Harbor Club: 1929-30, Tudor Revival, frame, 1½ stories, half-timbered, gable roof.
10. "The Crossways": 1901, Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof, architects: Andrews, Jaques and Rantoul.
11. "Westfield": 1901, Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof, architects: Andrews, Jaques and Rantoul.
12. "Maisonette": 1886, Queen Anne, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof.
13. "Chantier": 1887, Shingle Style, frame, 2½ stories, shingled, gabled roof, architect: William A. Potter.
14. "The Kedge": c. 1870, moved 1886, Mansard, frame, 2 stories, clapboarded.

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15. Petunia Cottage: 1877, Queen Anne, frame, 2½ stories, clapboarded, gabled roof.
16. Foster Cottage: 1878, Queen Anne, frame, 1½ stories, clapboarded, gabled roof, architect: James Foster.
17. Manor House Inn: 1887, Queen Anne, frame, 2½ stories, clapboarded and shingled, gabled roof, architect: James Foster.

Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district:

(None)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in one of the few areas totally spared by the forest fire holocaust of 1947, the West Street Historic District though limited in area, provides a remarkable micro-cosm of Bar Harbor's emergence from a small rural village called Eden into a playground for the wealthy.

Bar Harbor's scenic beauties were first discovered by artists in the 1840's, most notably Thomas Cole, founder of the Hudson River School, who introduced friends and associates to its natural splendor. By 1855 a number of local residents had begun to open their homes to summer boarders or "rusticators" as they were frequently called. In this same year the Agamont House was opened in Bar Harbor at the foot of Main Street, the first inn devoted solely to that purpose.

"Petunia Cottage" of 1877 (15), the first to be erected in the West Street area (the street itself was not laid out until 1886) was soon rented to vacationers and represents the next step in the development of the resort. Beside it, the "Foster Cottage" of 1878 (16), while built as a local family house, was bought by a summer resident. "Petunia Cottage" was also acquired quickly by an off-islander, the social lion, S. Weir Mitchell, who, having moved from Newport, placed the stamp of approval of high society on Bar Harbor. "The Manor House" (17), originally called "Boscobel" and built in 1887, was a much larger scale house, as befitted the changing times. It was also constructed by a local resident exclusively for summer rental. Since added to, it now serves as a summer hotel.

Though "The Kedge" (14) is the oldest of the district buildings, it was not moved to West Street until 1886. However, in its earlier existence on the harbor's edge it had served as the Oasis Club, one of the early social organizations which reflected the beginning of the development of a societal structuring among the summer residents.

The laying out of West Street in 1886 was followed by a building boom the following year when five large summer houses were constructed, all but one of which were on the north side of the street and had extensive lawns sloping down to the waters of Frenchman's Bay. These were really the first of the "cottages" so-called, a term applied by the wealthy summer residents to their generous houses. It is significant that three of these houses, "Greenlawn" (3), "Saltair" (4), and "The Tides" (5), were designed by Rotch and Tilden, an extremely prominent Boston architectural firm. The other two, "Westbridge" (7) and "Chantier" (13) were by William A. Potter of New York, also well known among the socially elect. The fact of their design by such notable practitioners indicates the coming of age of Bar Harbor as a fashionable watering place soon to rival Newport.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hale, Richard Walden, Jr., The Story of Bar Harbor. New York, 1949.
 Collier, Sargent F., Green Grows Bar Harbor. Farmington, Maine 1964.

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 25 **ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Bar Harbor Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>563070</u> Easting	<u>4915560</u> Northing	B	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>563120</u> Easting	<u>4915330</u> Northing
C	<u>19</u>	<u>562560</u>	<u>4915220</u>	D	<u>19</u>	<u>562510</u>	<u>4915450</u>
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the junction of Eden and West Streets, the district boundary follows the north side of West Street easterly to the junction with Holland Street whose east side it follows southerly then turns easterly along the rear property lines of the houses on the south side of West Street, (see continuation sheet)

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1980
 street & number 242 State 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 S. Stettinwood*
 title S.H.P.O. date 2/27/80

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 for *Bruce W. Dwyer* date 5-6-80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: *Patrick Andrews* date 4/23/80
 Chief of Registration

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From a stylistic point of view these first cottages are not easy to pinpoint. Their very size militated against the adoption of the standard residential styles. Although elements of the Shingle Style, for example, appear on many of them, the basic form of the style was too limiting to be applied in the traditional manner.

Houses in this same scale continued to be built on West Street through the turn of the century including "The Crossways" (10) and "Westfield" (11) both in 1901 and both executed by Andrews, Jacques and Rantoul of Boston, renowned for their commercial and institutional designs.

Also by this same firm was the design of LaRochelle (1) of 1903, a French Renaissance chateau which represents the culmination of Bar Harbor's development into a spa for society's highest level. This huge and ornate structure joined others like it, many of which were destroyed in 1947, to make the Mount Desert area a fashionable summer showplace unequalled elsewhere in Maine.

The Bar Harbor Club (9), of 1929-30, was designed in the Tudor Revival style then popular among the wealthy. This beautifully appointed building with luxurious swimming and tennis facilities represented a centralized organization of recreational activities unheard of in the 19th century. Its exclusivity is attested to by the fact that its membership in 1931 included Edsel Ford, Atwater Kent, Joseph Pulitzer and John D. Rockefeller.

Times have changed to some degree along West Street but less so than in many parts of Bar Harbor. Most of the houses are still privately owned, but LaRochelle, as with most of the palatial "cottages", is now institutionalized, belonging to the Maine Seacoast Mission.

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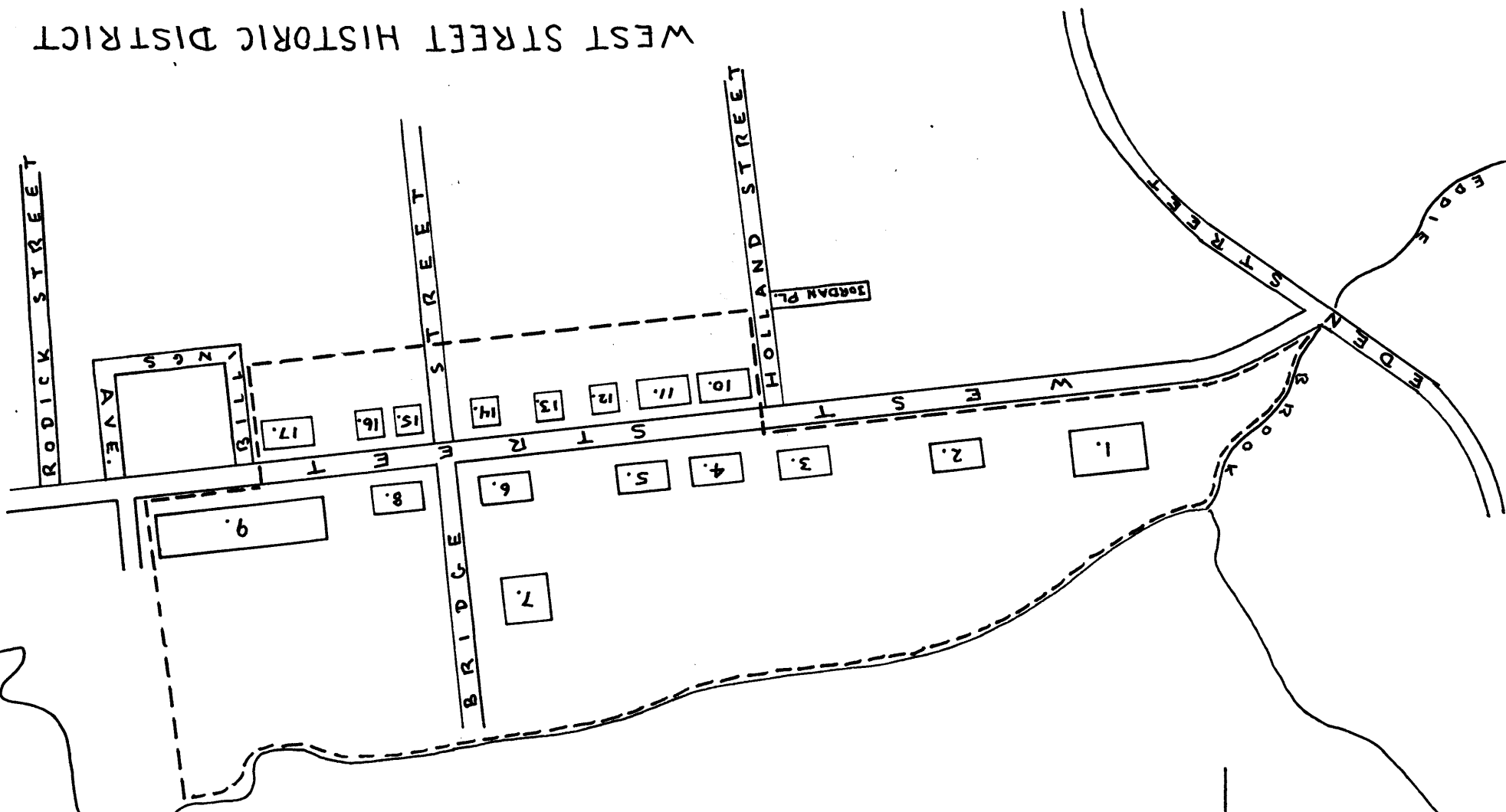
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crossing Bridge Street to Billings Avenue. From this point it turns northerly along the west side of Billings Avenue crossing to the north side of West Street which it follows easterly to the southeast corner of the Bar Harbor Club (9) property. Running along the east line of this property northerly to the shore, the boundary then turns westerly following the shore line to Eddie Brook and along said brook to the point of beginning.

This line encloses an area untouched by the 1947 forest fire and including properties related to Bar Harbor residential summer living. To the east and south lie commercial and year round residential buildings while to the west is Acadia National Park and a coastal stretch largely damaged by the fire. The district as delineated remains almost completely unchanged from its turn-of-the-century appearance.

WEST STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

District Boundary -----



Atlantic Ocean
(Frenchman Bay)

