

2006 Statewide Historic Preservation
Honor Award Presented to:

The Bar Harbor
Club
for Rehabilitation and
Restoration



Built in 1929 in the Tudor Revival style, the Bar Harbor Club was once an exclusive recreational facility for members only. In 1931 those members included Edsel Ford, Atwater Kent, Joseph Pulitzer and John D. Rockefeller. Located along the ocean shore in what is now the West End National Register District, the Bar Harbor Club remained open until 1986, when it finally closed its doors, unable to sustain operations.

Now, fast forward 11 years to 1997. Maine Preservation acted on a nomination by a group of concerned local citizens by including it on our *Most Endangered Historic Properties* list. At that same time, Tom Walsh of Ocean Properties purchased the building and began planning its redevelopment as a hotel and conference center. Zoning, however, was not permitted for that level of redevelopment, and in 1999 an effort at contract zoning failed. As luck would have it, the next door property, a 1960s hotel, came on the market, allowing Ocean Properties the financial capital to redevelop both parcels. The 16,000 sq. ft. Bar Harbor Club became adjunct meeting and social space for the new hotel and the community. The original 1929 terracotta roof is 85% intact. Tiles were borrowed from roof sections unseen by the public to replace broken tiles. All new windows were installed matching the original muntin profiles. 80% of the original exterior oak trim is still intact and replacement sections were made to match the original. Interior plaster walls were repaired or restored. The original stage remains in the ballroom, whose floor had been mostly damaged when the dormers leaked. The original exterior color scheme was analyzed and the building repainted accordingly. Today, the \$5 million project is in its final stage with the restoration of the salt water pool and the soon to open spa and health club.

The Bar Harbor Club is located at:
111 West Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
(877) 237-3610