

The Pulpits of Acadia

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The Pulpits of Acadia

This is not about church pulpits, but about prominent rock formations on Mount Desert Island, ME and in Acadia National Park that resemble them, were so named, and became hiking highlights.

The earliest rock formation to be called Pulpit Rock appears to have been the one in Bar Harbor.

It was noted in 1869 by Benjamin F. De Costa. In his book *Sketches of the Coast of Maine*, he mentions a shore walk from the steamboat landing [Bar Harbor wharf] south to Cromwell's Cove: "Opposite Mr. Hardy's handsome cottage is an isolated rock. Every one must climb this, because, forsooth, it is Pulpit Rock. In some great cathedral, it would serve a good turn for the preacher."¹

It wasn't until 18 years later this pulpit rock became first depicted on a map.^{*2} It is located off the Shore Path alongside the Bar Harbor Inn.

The second pulpit rock initially appeared on 1896 path and MDI maps and was located in the gorge between Cadillac and Dorr



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