

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Dennysville Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

The Lane, Main and King Sts.

street & number Main Street and the Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Dennysville

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

2nd

state Maine

code 23

county Washington

code 029

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both

Public Acquisition

- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military

- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Machias

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

N/A

has this property been determined eligible?

N/A yes

no

date

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

The Dennysville Historic District is comprised of a cohesive and homogeneous grouping of 19th-century buildings, largely residences, but including a church, library, former academy, legion hall and former inn. The district runs along the west shore of the Dennys River about two miles above its entrance into Dennys Bay, a tidal estuary and an arm of Cobscook Bay which empties into the Atlantic Ocean between Eastport and Lubec. The boundaries include the oldest part of the community which was centered about several mills located along the river at this point. The village, located in a fairly remote part of Washington County, has experienced very little change within the last hundred years and retains its 19th-century flavor both in architecture and in the generous spacing of the buildings. The structures are generally in good to excellent condition. No known archaeological sites are present within the district.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

1. Congregational Church, 1834.
Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, one story, frame with clapboard exterior. Original box pews. Spire.
2. Town Library, 1923
Bungaloid, one story, brick with stucco exterior. Colonial Revival portico.
3. Theophilus Kilby House, c.1830
Federal, one and one-half stories with one story ell and attached barn, frame with clapboard exterior. Italianate front porch added.
4. Aunt Eva Gardner House, c.1820
Federal, one and one-half stories with two story ell, frame with clapboard exterior. Moved to this location before 1890.
5. Ned Gardner House, c.1835
Federal, one and one-half stories with gabled pavillion added c.1885 and two story ell with shed. Frame with clapboard exterior.
6. Charles Eastman House, c.1815
Federal, one and one-half stories, frame with clapboard exterior. Open porch added 1912.
7. Dennysville Academy, later church vestry, 1846. Greek Revival, one story with square tower, frame with clapboard exterior.
8. Congregational Parsonage, 1862
Greek Revival, two and one-half stories, frame with clapboard exterior.
9. Deacon John Kilby House, 1843
Greek Revival, two and one-half stories, frame with clapboard exterior.
10. Peter E. Vose House, 1859; ell, 1849
Italianate, two stories, attached one story ell, frame with clapboard exterior.
11. House, c.1860
Greek Revival, two and one-half stories, frame with clapboard exterior.
12. American Legion Hall (former lodge), c. 1885
Vernacular, frame with clapboard exterior.
13. Benjamin Foster House, 1824
Federal, two story, later added porch, frame with clapboard exterior.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

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14. Theodore Lincoln, Jr. House, 1825
Federal, two and one-half stories, frame with composition siding.
15. Theophilus Allan Homestead, 1839
Greek Revival, two stories, frame with clapboard exterior. Attached Federal one and one-half wing built in 1802 by Mark Allan, frame with clapboard exterior.
16. William Allan House, c. 1830
Federal, one and one-half stories, frame with clapboard exterior. Enclosed porch and shed dormer added c. 1890.
17. Capt. Ebenezer Wilder House, 1834
Federal, two and one-half stories, frame with clapboard exterior. Ell and Eastlake trim added in 1886.
18. Allan's Stage and Livery Stable, c.1875
Barn with shingle exterior.
19. House, c.1890
Square hip roof, frame with clapboard exterior
20. Nathan Preston House, 1804
Federal one and one-half stories with ell, frame with clapboard exterior.
21. House, c. 1860
Italianate, one and one-half stories, frame with clapboard and shingle exterior.
22. Ebenezer Gardner House, c. 1835
Greek Revival, one and one-half stories, frame with clapboard exterior.

Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district:

- a. House, 20th-century
one and one-half stories, shed dormer, frame with clapboard exterior.
- b. House, 20th-century
Ranch, one story, frame with shingle exterior.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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

N/A

Builder/Architect

N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Dennysville was founded by General Benjamin Lincoln, who received the sword of surrender at Yorktown on behalf of General Washington, after a survey trip to the area in 1784. His son, Theodore, was the first permanent settler, building in 1787, a large frame house (N.R. 3/29/78) on the bank of the Dennys River just north of the district here nominated. Most of the early settlers were artisans and farmers from Hingham, Massachusetts, General Lincoln's home.

The early years of the settlement were especially difficult because of its extremely remote location but in the early years of the 19th-century the plentiful timber in the area began to be cut and reduced to lumber in mills along the river. Easy access to the sea made the lumber trade highly successful and Dennysville prospered by mid-century as witnessed by the homes built during this period as well as the Academy and the handsome church.

In the early years of the 20th-century virgin timber began to run out in the region which already been damaged by the famous Saxby Gale of 1869 and serious forest fires the following year. In the thirties, the mill dam on the Dennys River was destroyed. More and more, the wage earners of the town had to seek employment in the surrounding area.

During the nearly two hundred years of its history, Dennysville grew from a small settlement to a prosperous community and then, with the decline of the lumber industry, became a largely residential area. Most of the original frame houses still stand and are still occupied by descendants of the early settlers. It is only within the last several years that new families, attracted by the natural beauty of the area, have moved into the town. This has resulted in the construction of new houses, largely on the perimeter of the community, leaving this unspoiled 19th-century village largely intact.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hobart, Rebecca, History of Dennysville. Unpublished ms.
Dennysville Centennial Memorial, Portland, 1886.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 30
 Quadrangle name Pembroke

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 9	6 3 9 7 6 0	4 9 7 3 6 6 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 9	6 3 9 9 4 0	4 9 7 2 7 4 0
E	1 9	6 3 9 7 1 0	4 9 7 1 3 1 2 0
G			

B	1 9	6 3 9 8 2 0	4 9 7 3 6 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 9	6 3 9 8 5 0	4 9 7 2 7 3 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the point where the southern boundary of building 15 meets Main Street, the district boundary proceeds west along this line, thence northerly and northwesterly along the rear property lines of buildings on Main Street and The Lane, thence northeasterly along the northwest property line of building 22

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1980
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133
 city or town Augusta state Maine

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 *Charles S. Fittsworth* date 10/31/80
 title S.H.P.O.

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Robert Van Dusen</i></u>	date <u>10/29/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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

DENNYVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

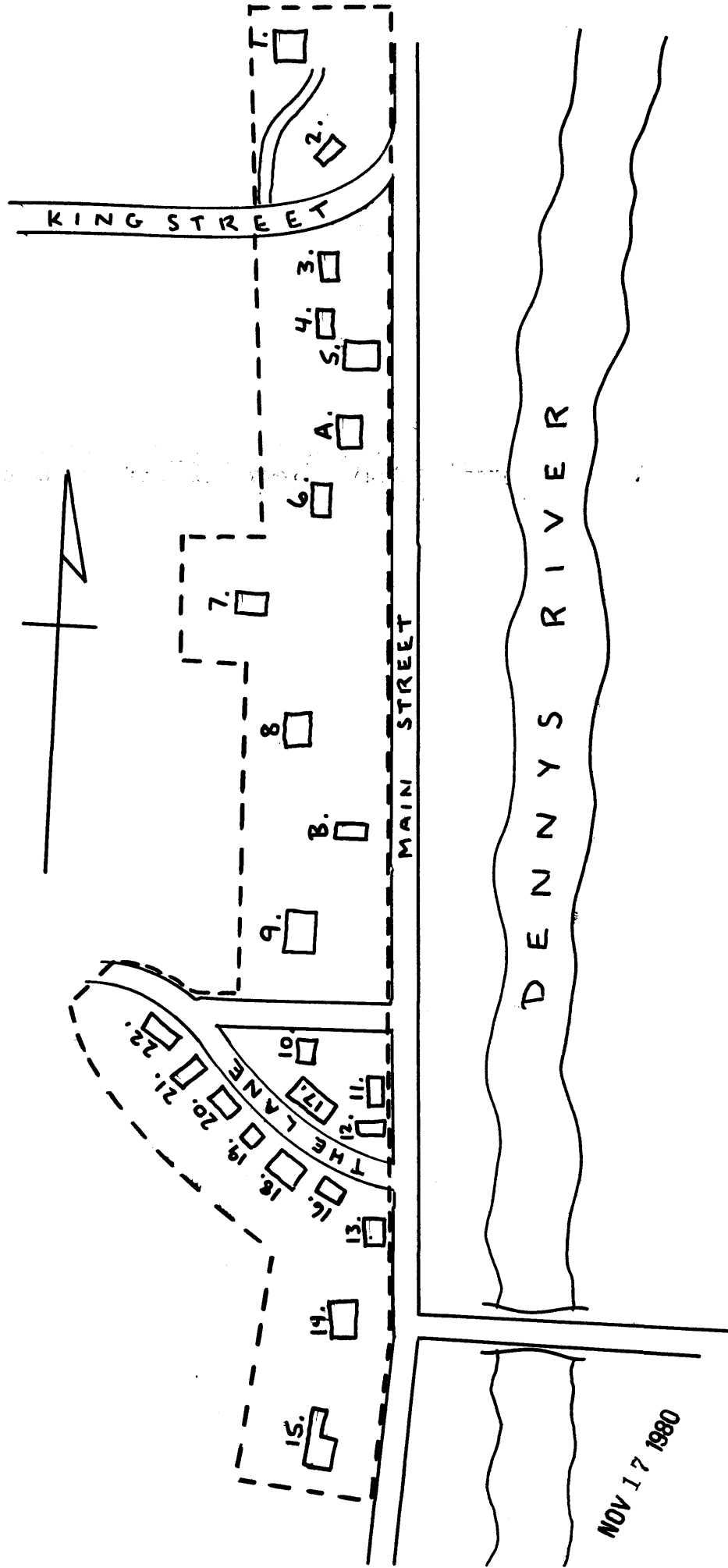
Item number 10

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to The Lane. Following the northerly side of this street the boundary proceeds easterly to the west property line of building 9 where it turns northerly and follows the rear property lines of buildings on the west side of Main Street to the north property line of building 1. The boundary then proceeds easterly along this line to the west side of Main Street which it follows southerly to the point of beginning.

DENNYVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

District Boundary - - - - -



NOV 17 1980