

PH0500950

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 12 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 9 1978

## 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 **\*\*** Topsham Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *Elm. Park, Maine, & 2nd Sts.*

CITY, TOWN Topsham VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

STATE Maine CODE 23 COUNTY Sagadahoc CODE 023

### 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sagadahoc and Lincoln County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Bath, Maine and Wiscasset, Maine STATE \_\_\_\_\_

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Topsham Historic District is comprised of a cohesive, homogeneous grouping of early 19th and 20th century architecture. Stylistically, the largest number of structures are Federal (30). Styles represented in the district include the Greek Revival (i.e. 33, S.S. Long House), the Transitional Federal-Greek Revival (i.e. 22 Capt. L. Orr House), the Italianate (i.e. 25, F. W. Jack House), the Queen Anne (i.e. 58, Donahue House), the Colonial Revival (i.e. 24, Topsham Village School), and the Contemporary (i.e. 57, Dudley House), the Eclectic (i.e. 37, L. White House).

Of the 58 homes and buildings within the district, 30 are Federal, 8 are transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 13 are Greek Revival, 1 is Italianate, 2 are Queen Anne, 1 is Eclectic, 1 is Colonial Revival and 2 are contemporary. In its span of slightly more than one century of development, the predominant characteristic of structures in the Topsham Historic District has been a straightforward interpretation of the current architectural mode.

The scale, proportion, materials, color, and design quality of the structures are in harmony throughout the Topsham Historic District. The following figures delineate the scale of the 58 homes and buildings in the area:

2	1 story gable roof
13	1½ story gable roof
2	2 story gable roof
10	2 story hip roof
27	2½ story gable roof
3	2½ story hip roof
1	3 story hip roof

All the buildings exhibit a traditional concern for symmetrical design and proportion. Of the 58 buildings, all are wood frame. Of these, 39 have clapboard exteriors, 3 have matchboard exteriors, 4 have matchboarding and clapboarding, 7 have aluminum siding, 2 have clapboarding and shingling, 1 has shingling, 1 has wooden siding, and 1 has asphalt siding. White is the predominant paint color. All buildings are simply designed and substantially constructed.

The 58 homes and buildings of the Topsham Historic District stand in close proximity to one another on seven streets; Elm Street, Green Street, Town Landing Road, Pleasant Street, Perkins Street, Melcher Place, and Main Street. Yet this close proximity should not be interpreted to mean the presence of a rigid pattern of structure location. Houses and buildings relate to streets at varying angles and distances. No regularized development is evident in a majority of the district. The area retains many of its fine shade trees.

Of the 56 structures in the District originally intended as residences, 54 are presently being used for such purposes. Exceptions include the two residences which have been adapted as the public library (49), and as the office of a local newspaper (40). Of the remaining buildings, one is a church (13), and the other is a remodeled School Academy presently housing the Municipal Town Offices (24). The

(see continuation sheet)

# 6 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 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

Prior to 1640 there were few settlers in the Topsham area and, indeed, there were few east of Casco Bay. In 1628, however, Pejepscot (the Indian name for Topsham and the surrounding area) had its first settler, Thomas Purchase. Purchase had no legal title to the land, having acquired the area through bartering with the native Indians, and in 1639 deemed it favorable to convey a four mile square tract of land to the Government of Massachusetts Bay. This land was situated on both sides of the Androscoggin River, and was intended for the settlement of a new colony. Purchase received, in exchange, a vast estate for himself and the promise of protection from Indian attack.

After his death in 1676, Purchase's heirs sold the bulk of his extensive holdings to Richard Wharton. Acquiring even more land from the Worumbo Indians in 1684 Wharton was able to amass extensive territories on both sides of the Androscoggin River. In 1714, he sold these lands to a group of eight men, primarily from Boston, who associated themselves under the name of the Pejepscot Proprietors.

Boundary disputes arose between the Pejepscot Proprietors and others (such as the Kennebec Company) who had been granted lands from the Council of Plymouth in Massachusetts. These ambiguities did not, however, entirely interfere with the administration of the area. The claims of individual settlers under other titles were disposed of by confirmatory grants from the Pejepscot proprietors, if such titles were found legal and valid. The Pejepscot Proprietors were thus able to retain control of the land for about one hundred years. By that time, in 1814, all their land holdings had been disposed of and the company was liquidated.

At the time of the formation of the Pejepscot Proprietors all the settlements in the area had been abandoned. Between 1717 and 1722 thirty-three persons took up lots in Topsham. Many of these settlers, however, forfeited their claims by non-fulfillment of the conditions required by the proprietors.

The original lots extended back two miles from the Androscoggin River and averaged 26 rods. These were separated by straight lines approximately perpendicular to the western bank of the River. These lots proved to be shaped so awkwardly that they were afterwards changed to lots of one mile long and fifty-two rods wide.

In 1731 a number of new pioneers took up claims in Topsham, and between that date and 1738 some fourteen families settled. In 1746 there were nearly

(see continuation sheet)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shipman, William D., The Early Architecture of Bowdoin College and Brunswick, Maine, Brunswick, 1973

The Topsham and Bowdoinham Register 1905, compiled by Mitchell, Daggett & Wilson, Brunswick, Maine, 1904

(see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45

UTM REFERENCES

DA	1,9	4,2,2,6,0,0	4,8,6,4,1,8,0	A-B	1,9	4,2,3,6,8,0	4,8,6,4,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
β	1,9	4,2,3,5,0,0	4,8,6,3,7,5,0	C-D	1,9	4,2,2,6,7,0	4,8,6,3,6,2,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of Maine and Elm Streets, the district boundary runs northerly along the east side of Maine Street to the northern property line of the Walker Wilson House #44 at the north corner of Melcher Place. Running easterly along this line and southerly along the east property line to Melcher Place, it runs easterly along the north side of this street and northerly along the east side of Pleasant Street, past the intersection with Perkins Street. (See continuation

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES sheet)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Steven R. Kaplan, Graduate Assistant  
Frank A. Beard, Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE January 1977

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Eula S. Sheddworth* DATE January 17, 1977

TITLE *State Historic Preservation Officer*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST <i>William D. Shipman</i>	DATE 1-9-78 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER <i>Charles Beard</i>	DATE 1-6-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Names and addresses of property owners in the Topsham Historic District keyed to inventory list.

INVENTORY # NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Sheils, Peter & Catherine<br>4 Green Street ✓ |
| 2  | Mitchell, Almon R.<br>5 & 7 Green Street      |
| 3  | Colby, Clarence<br>9 Green Street ✓           |
| 4  | Johnson, Lewis E.<br>11 Green Street          |
| 5  | Riley, Peter B.<br>8 Green Street             |
| 6  | Veterans Administration                       |
| 7  | Rogers, C. Harmon<br>10 Green Street          |
| 8  | Thibeault, Irene<br>15 Green Street           |
| 9  | Weatherbee, Donald S.<br>14 Green Street      |
| 10 | Deck, Charles B.<br>16 Green Street           |
| 11 | Higbee, G. William<br>18 Green Street         |
| 12 | Littlefield, Mrs. Harold<br>Town Landing Rd.  |
| 13 | United Baptist Church<br>Elm Street           |
| 14 | Campbell, Elwood J.<br>5 Elm                  |
| 15 | Holmes, Emily<br>6 Elm                        |
| 16 | Morse Bros. Oil Co.<br>5 Main Street          |
| 17 | Jordan, Dorothea<br>10 Elm Street             |
| 18 | Hoar, John<br>9 Elm                           |
| 19 | Bernier, Stanley<br>12 Elm                    |
| 20 | Morse, Madeline<br>11 Elm Street              |
| 21 | Beebe, Christopher<br>16 Elm Street           |

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INVENTORY #	NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER
22	Perey, Joan 18 Elm Street
23	Wallace, John M. 20 Elm Street
24	Town of Topsham 22 Elm Street
25	Defreitas, Timothy B. 24A Elm Street
26	Frost, John 24 Elm Street
27	Hill, Elmer 26 Elm Street
28	Proctor, Hannah 28 Elm Street
29	Wright, Frank V. Jr. 32 Elm Street
30	Wise, Ronald W. 34 Elm Street
31	Gamble, Gregor A. 36 Elm Street
32	Saindon, Paul L. 38 Elm Street
33	King, Maxine B. 40 Elm Street
34	Clouttier, Micheal 42 Elm Street
35	Jenneson, J. Peter 44 Elm Street
36	Direnzo, Norman S. 46 Elm Street
37	White, David W. 48 Elm Street
38	Kachinski, Joseph E. 56 Elm Street
40	Barker, George, Jr. 64 Elm Street
42	United Baptist Elm Street

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INVENTORY #	NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER
43	Laffely, Jeanette 47 Main
44	Norton, Bela M. 2 Melcher Street
45	Hedges, Robina M. 2 Pleasant Street
46	White, Dorothy T. 3 Pleasant
47	Cox, Peter W. 5 Pleasant
48	Allen, Ralph J. 6 Pleasant
49	Topsham Public Library 8 Pleasant
50	Clifford, George M., Jr. 10 Pleasant
51	Pennell, Elizabeth 7 Pleasant
52	Warren, Andre R. 9 Pleasant
53	Gibson, Joan H. 11 Pleasant Street
54	Warren, Andre R. 9 Pleasant Street
55	Eves, William M. 15 Perkins
56	King, Angus S., Jr. 11 Perkins
57	Dudley, Robert M. 8 Perkins
58	Gardner, Rodney J. 7 Perkins

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reuse of these structures occurred as isolated instances over a long period of time. There are no federally owned buildings within the district.

Most of the Topsham Historic District homes and buildings are in good to excellent condition. Most structures have apparently always been well maintained. There are no serious intrusions to the area in the form of commercial buildings or modern construction.

The Topsham Historic District includes a significant portion of the homes and buildings of architectural merit in Topsham. Adjacent areas have not been included because of their lower concentrations of quality structures and their larger number of intrusions.

In their many and varied styles, the houses of the Topsham Historic District reflect the growth of the village as it occurred during its most important period of development.

INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN THE TOPSHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

House and Buildings Names & Dates are based largely on the 1802, 1828, 1857 and 1911 Maps of Topsham, as well as the 1877 drawing of the Topsham-Brunswick area.

Map Number	Street Number	GREEN STREET
1	4	Isaac Johnson House, by 1802 Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Greek Revival corner pilasters and cornice trim
2	5 & 7	Ezra Smith House, by 1802 Federal, Cape 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior
3	9	James Blanchard House, by 1802 Federal, Cape 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior 20th century enclosed front porch
4	11	Obed Burnham House, by 1802 Federal, 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior, central chimney
5	8	Noah Tobey House, by 1802 Federal, 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior

(see continuation sheet)



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- | Map Number | Street Number |  |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 6          | 13            | S. Jameson House, by 1828<br>Federal, Cape 1½ stories, frame with aluminum siding  |
| 7          | 10&12         | Godfrey House, c.1802-1828<br>Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Queen Anne side and front porticos   |
| 8          | 15            | R. Ricker House, by 1828<br>Federal, 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior  |
| 9          | 14            | Dr. McKeen House, by 1828<br>Federal, 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Greek Revival corner pilasters and cornice trim, Federal style roof balustrade, Italianate side window |
| 10         | 16            | F. C. Whitehouse House, c.1808<br>Federal, 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Italianate portico and roof balustrade, plain decorative box cornice                              |
| 11         | 18            | A. Bowman House, by 1828<br>Federal, 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior, 20th century side portico, central chimney  |

T O W N L A N D I N G R O A D

- |                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 12                | 4 | Littlefield House, c.1857-1877<br>Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with shingled exterior, 20th century roof dormer                      |
| E L M S T R E E T |   |  |
| 13                | 3 | Baptist Church, 1835<br>Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 1 story with tower, frame with aluminum siding                                     |
| 14                | 5 | Joseph Swett House, by 1802<br>Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Greek Revival doorway                                       |
| 15                | 6 | Harris-Sanford House c. 1809<br>Federal, 2 stories, frame with aluminum siding, detailed cornice trim<br>Samuel Melcher, architect and builder |

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4

Map Street  
Number Number

- 16 7 Patten House, by 1857  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Italianate door overhang
- 17 10 James Pray House, c.1820  
Federal, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with aluminum siding
- 18 9 Castany House, by 1828  
Federal, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, later triangular dormer, Italianate door overhang
- 19 12 C. Gould House, c.1808  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior
- 20 11 N. W. Quint House, by 1828  
Federal, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with asphalt siding, later door overhang
- 21 16 Nahum Perkins House, 1830 (previously a Cape, c.1807)  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with matchboarded facade, remainder clapboarded.  
Samuel Melcher, Architect and Builder
- 22 18 Capt. I. Orr House, by 1857  
Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with matchboarded facade, remainder clapboarded
- 23 20 David Scribner House, c.1840  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories frame with clapboard exterior,
- 24 22 Topsham Village School (Academy) - remodeled 1848, and c.1900 from the Topsham Court House which occupied the site as of 1800. Currently houses the Municipal Town Offices.  
Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, central dormer forming top of front entrance extension Palladian window on 2nd floor of entrance extension
- 25 24A F. W. Jack House, by 1911  
Late Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior



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Map Street  
Number Number

- 35 44 O. A. Barker House c., 1877-1911  
Queen Anne, 2½ stories, first story clapboard, second and half  
story shingled.
- 36 46 H. Thompson House, by 1802  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior  
Italianate door overhang
- 37 48 L. White House, 1902  
Eclectic, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior,  
Italianate cornice brackets
- 38 56 Frost House, by 1857  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior,  
full-length windows on front facade, large semi-circular  
window under gable
- 39 64 James Purinton House, c.1800  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with matchboarded facade, remainder  
clapboarded, Greek Revival doorway  
Samuel Melcher III, Architect and Builder
- M A I N E S T R E E T
- 40 41 General Samuel Veazie House, 1820  
Federal, 2 stories, frame with matchboard exterior.  
Greek Revival corner pilasters and box cornice trim,  
Federal style portico  
Samuel Melcher III, Architect and Builder
- 41 43 Baptist Parsonage, c.1857-1877  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with aluminum siding,  
Stick-style door overhang
- 42 45 H. P. Mallet House, by 1857  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with aluminum siding, Greek Revival  
pediment above door
- 43 47 J. Haskell House, by 1857  
Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clap-  
boarded exterior

(see continuation sheet)

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M E L C H E R P L A C E

Map Street  
Number Number

44 2 Walker-Wilson House, 1802-1803  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior,  
Samuel Melcher III, Architect and Builder

P L E A S A N T S T R E E T

45 2 Purington House, c.1815  
Federal Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior  
later door overhang

46 3 Sanford Perkins House, c.1860  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories frame with clapboard exterior

47 5 J. S. Reed House, c.1840  
Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with  
clapboard exterior, Greek Revival corner pilasters and  
cornice trim

48 6 Rev. Amos Dean Wheeler House, c.1811  
Formerly a simple Cape Cod cottage  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Greek  
Revival corner pilasters and cornice trim, central chimney

49 8 Whitten House, 1838,  
Federal, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior, Greek  
Revival corner pilasters, and cornice trim, 1852 wallpaper  
in front hall

50 10 Andrew Whitehouse House, by 1857 - formerly a simple Cape  
Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with  
clapboard exterior, Greek Revival corner pilasters and cornice  
trim, Italianate side portico

51 7 Robbins House, c.1825  
Federal, 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior,  
Italianate side window

(see continuation sheet)

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Map Number Street Number

52 9 Caleb Killgore House, c.1850  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior,  
later portico

53 11 Maxwell-Perkins House, by 1857  
Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2 stories, frame with  
clapboard exterior, Greek Revival, corner pilaster and  
door surround

P E R K I N S S T R E E T

54 18&20 Warren House, c.1957  
Contemporary, 1 story, frame with wooden siding

55 15 Captain Scribner House, by 1857  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior

56 11 Flye House, by 1857  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior

57 8 Dudley House, 1966  
Contemporary, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior

58 7 Donahue House, c.1925  
Queen Anne, 2 stories, first story frame with clapboard exterior,  
second story frame with shingle exterior, 20th century front  
porch addition

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36 settlers. Having few strong fortifications, however, Topsham was much exposed to the incursions of the Indians. Many families were killed or driven off by Indian raids. By 1750, eighteen families remained and it is believed that descendants of not more than ten or twelve of these early families remained as permanent settlers. According to a 1752 map of the Kennebec Company, there were about twelve dwellings in the Town at that time. By 1757 the population of the township nearly doubled. The town was incorporated seven years later in 1764.

The Androscoggin River has always been of great importance to the town. The first saw mills in Topsham upon the Androscoggin were erected prior to 1772. Subsequent years saw the addition of at least five more mills. The manufacturing of lumber during the first part of the 19th century made Topsham the most active commercial center for the entire area west of Bath. Other industries such as paper and box manufacturing and feldspar mining were established and a whole range of professions were initiated.

With subsistence farming no longer the dominant preoccupation, the way was clear for the erection of residential communities where men could be close to their work in the village. Such was the beginning of the Topsham Historic District, just east of the present town center. The elegant Federal style home of a wealthy village merchant could be found beside the modest Cape of a village laborer because both men desired close proximity to the village and so settled their families accordingly. The slope of the land afforded a magnificent river view, thus adding to the area's residential desirability. The nearby village also provided access to the neighboring town of Brunswick across the river, first by boat, and later by toll bridge (1796).

The Topsham Historic District preserves within its boundaries an area of development which emerged from two American lifestyles; that of the pioneer settler, and that of the working class land owner. The District is unique not only because it appears today much as it appeared during its heyday in the 19th century but because local builders, such as the prominent Samuel Melcher, were able to imbue over a century of architectural styles with a consistently appropriate manner of construction and physical appearance.

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Topsham, Maine, 200th Anniversary., Town report compiled by Bicentennial  
Committee, 1964

Wheeler, George A., and Wheeler, Henry W., History of Brunswick, Topsham, and  
Harpwell, Maine, Boston, 1875

Woodman, Moses, "History of Topsham," compiled by Mary Pelham Hill,  
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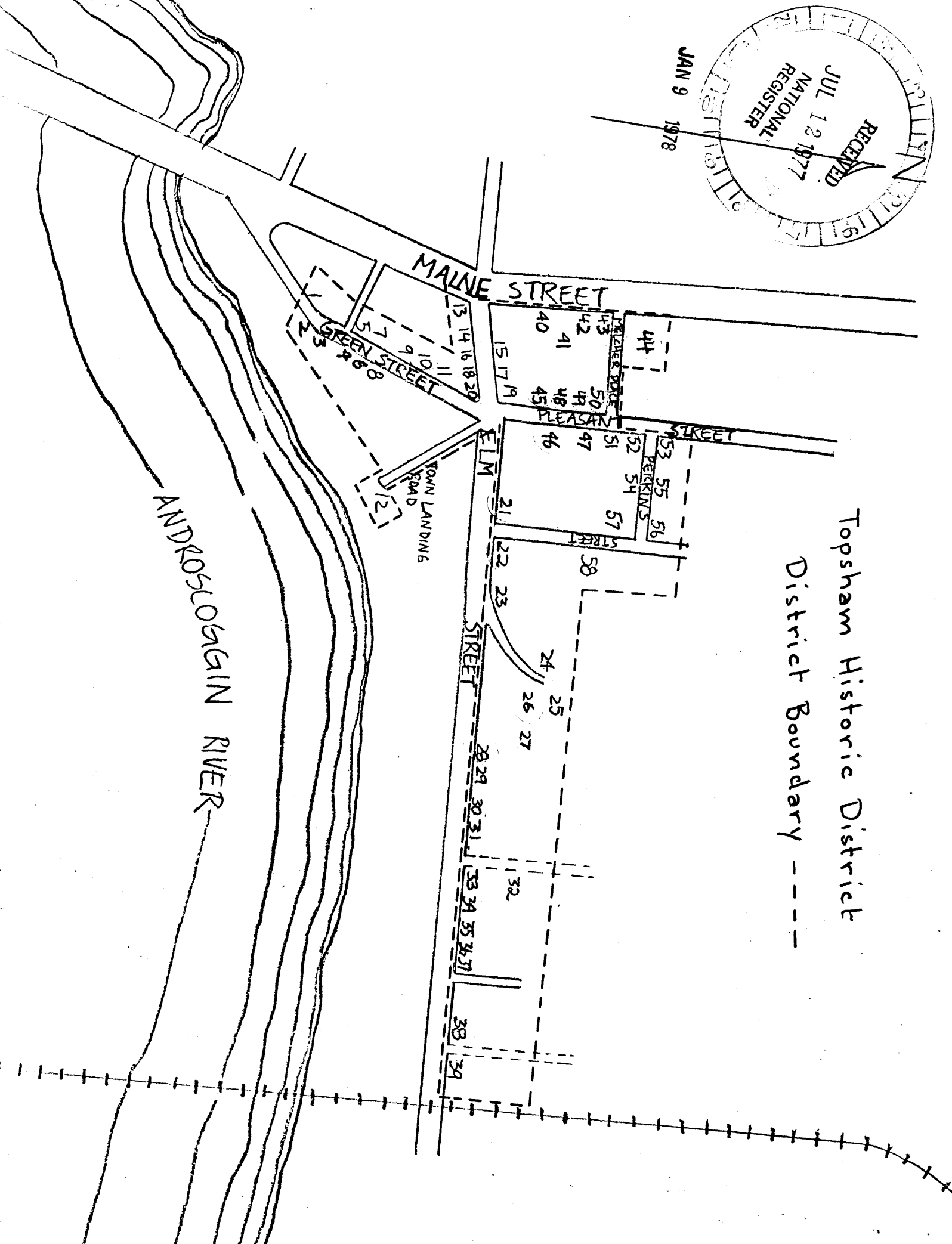
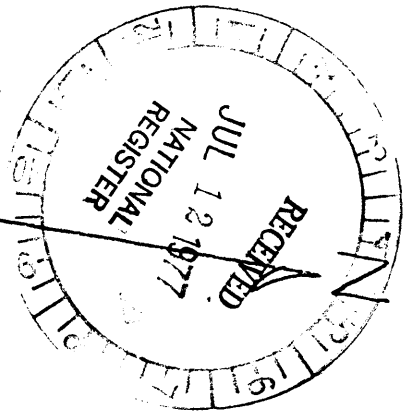
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The boundary then follows the rear property lines on the north and east sides of Perkins Street (L shaped street) to the intersection with the rear property line on the north side of Elm Street which it follows easterly to the Maine Central Railroad overpass. Returning westerly along the north side of Elm Street, the line runs down the east side of Town Landing Road to include the Littlefield House (#12), thence southerly along the rear property line on the east side of Green Street to the southern property line of the Ezra Smith House (#2). Crossing Green Street running westerly along the southern property line of Isaac Johnson House (#1), the line then runs northerly along the rear property lines on the west side of Green Street and westerly along the rear property lines on the south side of Elm Street to Maine Street and along the east side of Maine Street to the point of beginning.



Topsham Historic District  
District Boundary - - - -

ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER

MAINE STREET

GREEN STREET

PLEASANT STREET

ELM STREET

PERKINS STREET

TOWN LANDING ROAD

- 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39