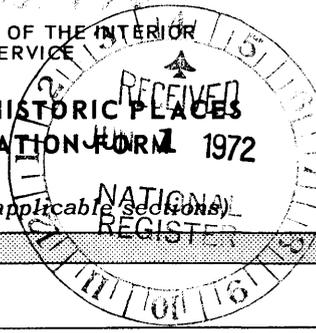


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM 1972

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 18 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Academy Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Gorham Academy (1806); Gorham Seminary (1856)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Gorham Campus of the University of Maine at Portland - Gorham School Street (also called Fort Hill Road), Route 114

CITY OR TOWN:
Gorham

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Cumberland** CODE: **005**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
University of Maine at Portland - Gorham

STREET AND NUMBER:
96 Falmouth Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE: _____

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Cumberland**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **JAN 18 1973**

DATE: _____

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Academy Building stands on the western side of School Street, set back from and above the street on the hillside of the Gorham Campus of the University of Maine at Portland - Gorham. It faces northeast and has a commanding view of the countryside to the north and east. The exterior of the Academy Building has barely been altered since it was completed in 1806. The handsome Federal structure has been and continues to be an architectural focal point of the Town of Gorham.

The Academy Building is a wooden frame structure, two stories high, 40 feet wide, and 50 feet long. From the center of its hip-on-gable roof rises a square wooden cupola with four arched openings and a wooden spire. The cupola houses a bell, hung there in 1807. The exterior foundation wall is of cut granite. The side and end walls are finished with a narrow ship-lapped clapboards. All the window openings are framed by flush mouldings of a medium width. The windows themselves (the only alteration in the exterior appearance of the building), are modern, double hung 6-over-6. A modillion cornice with a narrow bed mould runs around the entire building. The four corners of the building are finished with wooden quoins. The roof is presently shingled in asphalt. The building is painted white.

The front (northeast facade of the Academy Building is impressive. A classically detailed portico and pediment give dignity to this main entrance. A balcony with a wooden balustrade projects from the second floor. It is supported by four Doric wooden columns, forming a wide portico which is approached by granite stairs from three directions. Four engaged pilasters frame the entrance door and one of the two windows to either side of it. The entrance door is six-panel, set in an arched opening with a fanlight above. Four Ionic pilasters on the second floor level frame a central door with a fanlight above and one of two windows to each side, echoing the first floor motif. The pilasters support a pediment which is broken out from the cornice and has an identical raking cornice. The pediment is decorated with a moulding relief of a fanlight in the center. (An earlier photograph dating prior to 1886 shows a glass fanlight.) The facade wall surface is flush horizontal boarding; its smoothness sets off the fine detail of the balcony, columns, pilasters, and pediment.

The interior of the Academy Building has been altered several times. The original use of the building in 1806 was as a college preparatory school for boys. Apparently the first floor was finished as one large room with a broad aisle between three rows of desks on either side, and a smaller room. The Academy was used as a preparatory school under various names until 1877. In 1895 it was given to the state. It was then used as a grammar school, a dormitory, and an industrial arts building. In 1963 the Academy was renovated for use as an art building, and it is presently used as such by the University of Maine at Portland - Gorham.

(See Continuation Sheet)

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 18 1973	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

Many of the original features of the interior can still be seen. In the unfinished attic, the heavy timber framing of the building is clearly visible. The roof is supported by four king-post trusses. The joints are pegged, mortise and tenon. The timbers are coded with hatch marks. The first and second floors are free spans of 40 feet. The floor to ceiling height of the first floor was originally 13 feet, of the second floor 11 feet. (In spite of the modern lowered ceilings and partitions of the 1963 renovation, one can still sense the scale and spaciousness of the original interior of the Academy.) The later pressed tin ceilings of the first and second floors remain intact behind the present ceilings. Identical wooden mouldings are used around all the windows on both floors. Some of the original horizontal board and bead panelling of the first floor can be seen by the stairs to the basement. The thick fieldstone walls of the full basement employ many huge stones. The brick columns supporting the beams of the first floor are intact.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1806**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1802, the citizens of Gorham petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature to establish an academy in Gorham. On March 5, 1803, the Governor of Massachusetts approved the act. The Gorham Academy was incorporated and a board of trustees named. It was an accomplishment to have such an educational institution located in Gorham. At the time, there were only six other incorporated academies in Maine.

In 1804, Samuel Elder of Gorham was contracted to build the Academy, the plan having been fixed by a building committee. The Academy was dedicated on September 8, 1806, and opened on September 9, 1806. Funds to operate it came from the students' tuition and the sale of wildlands granted to it by the legislature. The Gorham Academy was at first a male preparatory school, then co-educational, then male, then female. In 1856, it again became co-educational as the Gorham Seminary. It was closed in 1877. Students attended the State Normal School which opened on the hill behind the Academy in 1878. The Academy had served its purpose well, educating many Maine citizens.

The people of Gorham were proud to have founded the Gorham Academy, and their pride is reflected in the design of the building. The scale is large and ambitious. The exterior detailing is carefully executed. The main entrance facade is well-proportioned and handsome. An elegant Federal building, rising from the hillside, the Academy Building has today the same real dignity it had in the past. Although many modern buildings have recently been added to the Gorham Campus of the University of Maine at Portland - Gorham, the Academy Building continues to be an architectural focal point on the campus and in the town.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Celebration of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Gorham
Maine, May 26, 1886, Portland, 1886.
 Johnson, Walter H., (ed.): Bi-Centennial History of Gorham, Maine 1736-1936,
 Westbrook, 1936.
 McLellan, Hugh D.: History of Gorham, Me., Portland, 1903.
 Pierce, Josiah: A History of the Town of Gorham, Maine., Portland, 1862.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 40 ' 55.5N"	70 ° 26 ' 45.0W"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A. Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Laurence Stuart*
 Title *Commissioner, Parks & Recreation*

Date *May 22, 1972*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Utey
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *1/18/73*

ATTEST:
Wm. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *1.9.73*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS