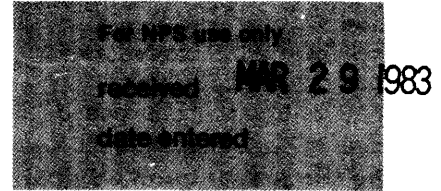


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Temples Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Madison Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Anson ~~North Anson,~~ vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Somerset code 025

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 Various (See continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Skowhegan, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Me. Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, state Maine

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 Temples Historic District includes four one-and-one-half story Greek Revival houses on adjoining lots, along Madison Avenue in North Anson, Maine. Three of the houses are prostyle temples, and the fourth is a temple-form house which lacks a colonnade and incorporates some Italianate features. The houses are extremely similar in plan and detail.

Discussion of the houses is in the order of their location, east to west:

1, 2. Samuel Bunker & William H. Jones Houses:

These two are the most similar in detail. Both are long, rectangular, pitched-roofed boxes, fronted (on the north gable end) by three Doric columns supporting a pediment. A correct Doric entablature runs around the eaves. Each facade is three-bayed with two 9/9 windows extending from eave to porch, and Greek Revival molding around door and side-lights. The windows on the side-walls (three on the east side) are 6/6, and all windows have dentiled cornices. Both houses are clapboarded.

3. Ebenezer F. Witherill House:

This house is identical to the others in shape and fenestration, but lacks colonnade and pediment, and has a later Colonial Revival porch. In place of the Colonnade are thick pilasters at the facade's two corners, and the entablature is unornamented. Also, the facade gable is rusticated with matched boards and contains a round, arched Italianate window.

4. George A. Fletcher House:

This three-columned house is extremely similar to the first two, but lacks decoration on its frieze and decorative molding about its door and sidelights. Its side walls are three-bayed, and an ell with porch extends from its rear wall. The roof of the house was covered with tin in this century.

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/ humanitarian
<input 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 1844-58 **Builder/Architect** Attributed to Ebenezer Witherill

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The one-and-one-half story temple house and the odd-columned temple house are not uncommon vernacular types in central Maine. The Bunker, Jones, and Fletcher houses, however, are exceptional examples of their type, the first two being particularly unusual in their Doric entablature. The existence of three such houses on the same small lane is unique. None can be perceived without reference to the others.

Mystery still surrounds the origin of these temple houses, which were probably built on various dates in the period 1844-58. Two of the original owners (Bunker and Jones) were manufacturers, Fletcher was a merchant, and Witherill was a house carpenter. The latter's profession suggests that he built his own house and may have been responsible for the other three.

The Witherill House is of the same period, shape, and style as the others, and links two of the temples with the third. The early date of the house (by 1852) makes the existence of the Italianate attic window unusual. Carpenter Witherill may have substituted this Italianate detail for a colonnade to show his up-to-dateness, or the house may have had a colonnade originally, which Witherill later removed, modifying the gable at the same time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

J. Chace, mapmaker, "1860 Map of Somerset County".
Somerset County Atlas, 1883.
 Somerset County Deeds: 60/263; 74/181; 77/531.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 1/2
 Quadrangle name Anson

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	4	29	2	00	4	19	67	11	25
Zone		Easting				Northing				

B

Zone		Easting				Northing				

C

Zone		Easting				Northing				

D

Zone		Easting				Northing				

E

Zone		Easting				Northing				

F

Zone		Easting				Northing				

G

Zone		Easting				Northing				

H

Zone		Easting				Northing				

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the NW corner of Samuel Bunker House (1) property, the district boundary runs easterly along the south side of Madison Avenue to the NE corner of the George A. Fletcher House (4) property where it turns south running along the east property line and thence west along the rear property lines of the houses on the south

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see continuation sheet)

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date January, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 *Eric S. Feltmeyer*

title S. H. P. O. date 3/22/83

For NPS use only

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

Linda McClelland date 5/12/83
 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**

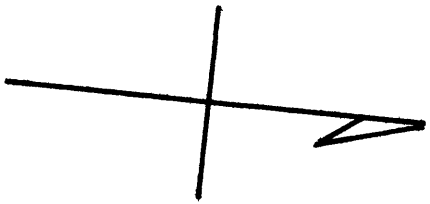
TEMPLES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

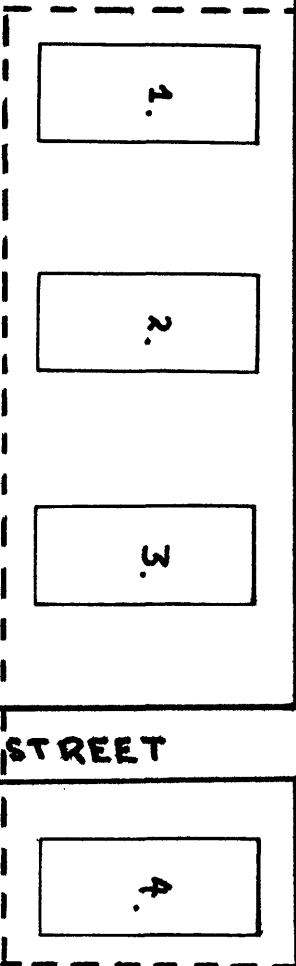
Page 2

side of said Madison Avenue to the SW corner of the said Bunker House and thence north to the point of beginning. This line includes the four houses discussed in the nomination.



MADISON AVENUE

SUMMER STREET



TEMPLES HISTORIC DISTRICT

North Anson, Maine

District Boundary - - - - -

WINTER STREET