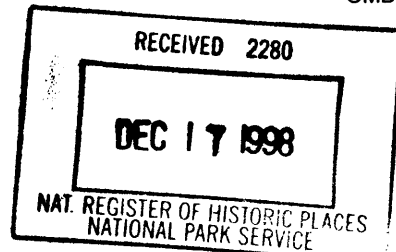


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1601

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Limington Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Junction of State Routes 11 and 117 N/A not for publication

city or town Limington N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04049

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 12/16/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title SHH

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 1.15.99

Limington Historic District  
Name of Property

York, Maine  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Commerce Trade/Department Store

Social/Meeting Hall

Government/City Hall

Education/School

Education/Library

Religion/Religious Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Social/Meeting Hall

Government/City Hall

Education/Library

Religion/Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Commerce
- Community Planning & Development
- Education
- Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

c. 1790-1948

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Stevens, John Calvin and John Howard

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Limington Historic District  
Name of Property

York, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 60

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 362640 4843830

Zone Easting Northing  
19 3628000 4842900

2

3 19 362120 4842900

Zone Easting Northing  
19 361830 4843770

4

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1998

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Continuation Sheet**

**LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**YORK, MAINE**

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Limington Historic District is comprised of twenty-four principal buildings that constitute the historic core of Limington Village. Constructed primarily in the late eighteenth and early to mid nineteenth centuries along two intersecting roads, these buildings reflect the development of a small rural Maine village that acted as a service center for the outlying community.

State Routes 11 and 117 intersect in the center of the district, and the buildings line these two roads in four directions. The district is located on a narrow ridge that is bounded on the east and west by rapid elevation changes. At present there is no consistent pattern of vegetation along the two roads, although photographs from the early twentieth century indicate that numerous mature deciduous trees located along the road edge gave the village a distinctive appearance. There are a mix of largely immature deciduous and evergreen trees scattered among the buildings. Remnants of the outlying agricultural landscape are visible near the Libby-MacArthur House (11) and in the vicinity of the houses (16,17,18) along the northeastern boundary.

The district's resources are, with the exception of the 1912 public library, frame buildings of one, two, and three stories. Most of the buildings are residences, with a predominance of the Federal style indicating the early settlement and growth of the village. Setbacks in the district are relatively consistent, although they tend to be more equal at the crossroads, and less so at the far ends. Side gable roof forms are most abundant, but there are a number of gable front buildings including two of the public buildings, the church, and the Masonic hall.

Among the early Federal style buildings is the gambrel roofed Libby-MacArthur House (11), a small cape (19) with a central chimney and lancet arched panels above its facade windows, and four houses (14, 17, 19, 23) with fanlights above their doorways. A notable Greek Revival style residence is the Dimock House (6) that is distinguished by its tall proportions, pedimented facade, and engaged two-story side porch. One house (1) exhibits Italianate style elements in its bracketed entrance hood and cornices, pronounced window hoods, and bay window. Although several houses exhibit additions that were made in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there are no examples of residential properties from this period in the district.

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**LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**YORK, MAINE**

**Section number 7 Page 3**

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There are three public buildings in the district including the village school (21), the town hall (3), and the public library (4). In overall form, the school is typical of buildings of this type erected in rural Maine, although it is distinguished by a Federal style bell tower with segmentally arched openings. The Italianate style town hall is a landmark in the village not only by virtue of its scale, but also in its location at one of the four corners formed at the intersection of Routes 11 and 117. On the corner to the west is the Davis Memorial Library, a Colonial Revival style brick building designed by the firm of John Calvin Stevens & John Howard Stevens, the state's leading architects.

Several buildings (2,5,7,12,13) were used during the nineteenth century as mercantile establishments or hostleries; one (12) contained a floor devoted to the functions of the local Masonic lodge; and another (7) was converted to a grange hall. The one religious building (15) in the district is a Greek Revival style edifice that features a projecting entrance pavilion, lancet arched panels above its windows, and a three stage tower crowned by a tall spire.

The district contains 23 contributing resources and 1 non-contributing resource that are indicated, respectively, by the letters C and NC in the following Inventory List.

**Inventory List**

**1. S. Moody House, c.1860 -- C**  
**Route 11**

The Moody House is a two-story, three-bay transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style frame house that is sheathed in clapboards. It features a side gable roof, two-over-two sash, a deep entrance hood supported by large highly decorative brackets, bracketed cornice and eaves, wide paneled corner boards, a bay window on the west gable end, and a broad recessed wing on the east side.

The 1872 atlas map indicates that this house was occupied at that time by S. Moody. Little more is known about its history.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

YORK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

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## 2. **I. Mitchell Store -- C** **Route 11**

This one-and-a-half story, L-shaped frame building has a gable front main block and a recessed wing that may date to the early 20th century, as do the several shed roofed dormers on both sections. It is clad in aluminum siding.

Local historians indicate that the gable front block was erected about 1800 by John McDonald as a cobbler shop and store. It subsequently housed the post office and later the office of Dr. John F. Moulton, and in 1856 it was I. Mitchell's store. The date of its conversion to a residence is not certain.

## 3. **Limington Town Hall, 1871 -- C** **Route 11**

The town hall is a two-story, three-bay, Italianate style frame building that has a pedimented facade containing paired round arched windows in the tympanum. Its features include a segmentally arched window above the door, six-over-six double hung windows on the facade and five-bay side elevations, shallow hoods over the windows, and paneled corner pilasters. The town hall is presently sheathed in vinyl siding.

Completed on October 14, 1871, at a cost of \$3,000, the town hall was built on the site of the first town house erected in 1826. That building in turn had been constructed at the location of the town pound which was established in 1794. The town has recently voted to relocate its municipal offices to a new building which will be constructed for the purpose.

## 4. **Davis Memorial Library, 1912 -- C** **John Calvin Stevens & John Howard Stevens, Architects** **Route 11**

The Davis Memorial Library is a Colonial Revival style one-story, three-bay brick building that is covered by a hip roof. It has a gabled entrance porch that shelters a round arched window and six-panel door, fifteen-over-fifteen double hung sash windows, and corner quoins.

The library was constructed by Walter G. Davis, Sr. through the bequest of William Goodwin Davis, a successful Portland businessman. It was built on the site of the Chick Family House, a hip roofed Federal style house which is said to have been erected about 1780 by Nathan Chick.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

YORK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 5

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## 5. Limington House, c.1850 -- C Route 11

This two-and-a-half story, five-bay frame house has a side gable orientation and is covered in clapboards. It has a wraparound porch supported by chamfered posts, a pair of hip roofed dormers on the front elevation, two-over-one windows, and a large two-story ell that projects beyond the east gable end of the main block. An historic barn stood on the site of the garage located to the southwest of the house.

Occupied by a Mrs. Small in 1856, this building is shown on the 1872 map as a hotel operated by H.T. Larrabee. In 1893 it was sold to Charles E. Emery who remodeled the dwelling, added the "annex," and named the establishment *The Limington House*.

## 6. Dimock House, c.1850 -- C Route 11

The Dimock House is a tall two-story, four-bay frame building whose pedimented front gable roof engages a two-story porch that extends along one-half of the east side elevation. A one-story ell extends to the rear and a connector located at the southeast corner joins the house to a gable roofed barn/garage. The entire building is sheathed in clapboards with the exception of the walls behind the porch which feature flush sheathing. The house has six-over-six windows and a pair of Doric columns supporting the porch (two additional columns have been temporarily replaced by square posts).

Although the history of this house is not entirely certain, there is a tradition that one section of it was constructed in 1790 by a member of the Chick family. Dr. Henry Dimock, who came to Limington in 1808, is believed to have added the Greek Revival front block. His son William Dimock subsequently lived here.

## 7. Dimock's Store/Grange Hall, c. 1864 -- C Route 11

This two-story, six-bay, side gable frame building is sheathed in clapboards and has an engaged porch across one-half of the first story. The building features six-over-six double hung windows.



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LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

YORK, MAINE

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According to local tradition, this building was originally constructed by William Dimock, in whose name the building is shown on the 1872 atlas map. In 1877 Dimock and his son Charles Dimock established a clothing workshop in the building that is said to have employed between fifteen and twenty people. At present the building houses the Limington Grange, No. 571.

## 8. House, c.1880 -- NC Route 11

This one-and-a-half story, two-bay frame dwelling has a gable front orientation, side hall plan, and a connected barn at its southwest corner. The main block of the building is clad in aluminum siding whereas the barn is sheathed in clapboards. Additional alterations include the substitution of a large multi-pane picture window on the first story of the facade and an enclosed side porch.

Little is known about the history of this house. Although the 1872 atlas map indicates the presence of a house on or near this site occupied by J. Lord, the footprint of the building shown appears to be unlike the one that is here today.

## 9. I. Wentworth House, c.1850 -- C Route 11

The Wentworth house is a two-story, five-bay Greek Revival style frame dwelling that is sheathed in clapboards and covered by a side gable roof. Its symmetrically composed facade features two-over-two windows with narrow hoods, as well as a central entrance whose door contains a pair of round arched windows. Paneled pilasters frame the elevation, and a one-story ell extends to the rear where it meets a carriage shed.

At the time of the publication of the 1856 map, this house was occupied by J. Larrabee. In 1872 I. Wentworth, a blacksmith by trade, was living here.

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**LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**YORK, MAINE**

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**10. Ebenezer I. Larrabee House, c.1820 -- C  
Route 11**

This two-story, five-bay frame house features a wraparound front porch supported by posts, and a one-story ell that extends to a mid nineteenth century barn. The entire building is sheathed in clapboards. Its main block has two-over-two windows and a pair of interior chimneys located behind the ridge of the gable roof. To the northwest of the house is a deteriorated building which originally housed Larrabee's harness shop and subsequently the town library (until 1912).

In 1836, this house was purchased by Ebenezer Irish Larrabee (1810-1891), a harness maker by trade. Prior to that time it served as an inn operated by Peter Strout.

**11. Libby - MacArthur House, c.1790 -- C  
(NR 4/20/88)  
Route 11**

The Libby-MacArthur House is a two-story with attic, five-bay gambrel roofed frame house sheathed in clapboards. It has a gabled entrance vestibule on the facade, a pair of gabled dormers, six-over-six windows, a central chimney (which obscures the fact that there are actually two interior chimneys that meet in the attic to form a single flue), and a side porch. The L-shaped building exhibits Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate style interior features.

This house was originally constructed for Philemon and Martha (Small) Libby, and the Libby family is believed to have occupied it until about 1828. In 1836 it was acquired by Arthur MacArthur, a graduate of Bowdoin College who entered the legal profession upon his admission to the Bar in 1815. MacArthur married Sarah Prince in 1829 and subsequently moved to this house where they remained for the duration of their lives. A small building that formerly stood at the northeast corner of the lot was MacArthur's law office. Two large barns which stand in ruin to the rear of the house testify to the intensive agricultural use of the property by subsequent generations of the MacArthur family.

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**LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**YORK, MAINE**

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**12. Masonic Hall, 1818 -- C**  
**Route 11**

The Masonic Hall is a three-story, three-bay frame building that is clad in vinyl siding. It is oriented with its narrow gable end facing Rt. 11. The hall retains its six-over-six windows and short gable end returns.

Local historians indicate that James MacArthur constructed this building in 1818 at a cost of \$540.00 for the use of the newly formed Masonic Lodge. It was built on the site of an earlier store that had been operated by Philemon and Abner Libby, the original occupants of the Libby-MacArthur House (11). The lodge hall, which is still in use by the Masons, was built on the third floor, whereas the lower floors housed James MacArthur's general store until the 1850s. The Adoniram Lodge, A.F. & A.M. acquired the building in 1859, but continued to rent the lower floors to local merchants until at least the 1880s.

**13. (Former) Store, c. 1830 -- C**  
**Route 11**

This two-story, side gable frame house has a partially enclosed front porch and a one-story ell. It is sheathed in clapboards and has had a number of alterations made to its windows. Nevertheless, it retains a measure of its modest Greek Revival style detailing in the proportions of its gable roof and the treatment of its cornice, gable end returns, and corner boards.

The history of this building is not entirely certain. Local sources believe that it may have been built by Abner Libby as a store which he and later his son Isaac operated until the 1850s. During the early 1830s it is also believed to have been the office of the *Maine Recorder*, a short-lived newspaper established by James MacArthur and published by Moses Dow. During the second half of the nineteenth century the store was occupied successively by Erving Small, Lewis Clark, and Eliza Chick.

**14. Abner Libby House, c.1812 -- C**  
**Route 11**

The Libby House is a two-story five-bay Federal style frame dwelling with a pair of telescoping rear ells. The house retains its twelve-over-twelve double hung windows, clapboard siding, and the segmentally arched fanlight above the front door.

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**LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**YORK, MAINE**

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In 1795 Thadeus Richardson sold the lot on which this house stands to Abner Libby (1764-1843), but Libby is not thought to have erected the existing dwelling until 1812. A blacksmith by trade, Libby is also believed to have operated a public house in this building. In 1872 the atlas map indicates that the house was occupied by Mrs. C. Libby.

**15. First Congregational Church, 1835 -- C**  
**Route 11**

The First Congregational Church is a wooden frame building sheathed in clapboards that exhibits Greek Revival and Federal style characteristics. It features a projecting three-bay gabled entrance pavilion that has a pair of doorways separated by a large lancet arched window. A three stage tower containing an open belfry and a tall spire rise above the main block of the church, and an early twentieth century vestry addition extends to the rear. The three-bay side elevations contain fifteen-over-fifteen double hung windows surmounted by lancet arched panels.

The existing church building is the second religious edifice which has occupied the site, the first having been constructed in 1793-94. Built at a cost of \$2,496, the present edifice is said to have had galleries along each side that were accessed via external staircases, and a semi-circular pulpit. In 1836 the tower and bell were added, and it may have been at this time that the building achieved its present configuration. The vestry was added in 1909-12.

**16. S. Moody House, c. 1824 -- C**  
**Route 11**

This modestly detailed, two-story, five-bay frame building has a two-story ell projecting from its northeast corner. Its central entrance is surmounted by a transom window, and it is flanked by pairs of nine-over-six double hung windows. Six-over-six windows occupy the second story of the gable roofed building.

Local historians indicate that this house was probably built by the Moody family, whose members are connected with several adjacent properties. In 1856 it was occupied by S. Moody, and in 1872, the house was the residence of Henry P. Waldron.

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LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

YORK, MAINE

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**17. W. Moody House, c. 1810 – C**  
**Route 11**

The Moody House is a two-story, five-bay Federal style frame building that is presently wrapped in TYVEK. Its symmetrically composed facade features a narrow central entrance surmounted by a fanlight and six-over-six windows. A recessed one-and-a-half-story, five-bay wing with Greek Revival style door and window surrounds is attached to the building's northwest corner. Apparently a mid-nineteenth century addition, this block features a trio of gabled dormers on its east elevation.

In both 1856 and 1872, this house was occupied by W. Moody, but its early history is not known.

**18. Moulton Family House, c.1880 – C**  
**Route 11**

This two-story three-bay frame house is comprised of a what appears to be an earlier side gable building to which have been added a pair of Queen Anne style corner towers and a wraparound porch. Presently, the dwelling is clad in asbestos siding. The original house has corner pilasters with round arched panels and gable end returns, whereas the alterations feature three-sided towers with two-over-one windows and turned porch posts with sawn brackets. A one-and-a-half-story ell extends to a small, much altered barn. To the northwest is a larger, free-standing barn.

According to local tradition, this house was erected in the 1870s or early 1880s by the Moulton family. Its materials are said to have come from two houses that had been dismantled in Hiram.

**19. Leonard F. Waldron House, c.1810 – C**  
**Route 11**

One of the most distinctive houses in the historic district, this one-story, five-bay cape features a central chimney, a louvered fan above its central entrance, and lancet arched panels above its twelve-over-eight facade windows. The house is sheathed in clapboards. A gable roofed wing and the remains of a carriage shed extend from the northeast corner of the building.

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The early history of this house has not been determined. In 1856 it was the residence of D.M. Swett. However, in 1872 it was occupied by Leonard Franklin Waldron (1836-1894), the son of Aaron C. Waldron and a partner in the carriage manufacturing firm of A. C. Waldron & Sons.

**20. T. Lord House, c.1790 -- C**  
**Route 117**

The Lord House is a low-posted one-story, five-bay cape that has a center chimney. It is clad in aluminum siding. A gable roofed ell extends from the northwest corner of the house, an enclosed porch is located on the east gable end, and a nineteenth century barn stands to the northeast.

Although the early history of this house is not known, its general configuration suggests that it is among the oldest buildings in the district. In 1856 it was occupied by T. Lord and in 1872 by C. H. Chick.

**21. Limington Village School, 1835 -- C**  
**Route 117**

The Limington Village School is a one-story, gable roofed frame building that is sheathed in clapboards. Its facade contains a centrally located six-over-six window, a door to the east, and a large opening to the west. A two-stage tower with a segmentally arched belfry stage surmounts the ridge of the roof; an unusual feature for a small rural school building. The four-bay side elevations contain six-over-six windows.

The existing school building, which is reported to have been built in 1835, stands on the site of the original village school that had been built in 1792.

**22. Edward Clark House, 1806, c.1850 -- C**  
**Route 117**

This one-story, five-bay Federal style cape is sheathed in clapboards and has a central chimney and a long ell attached to its southeast corner. The front elevation features a projecting pedimented entrance vestibule, a pair of pedimented dormers, and shallow pedimented Greek Revival style hoods above its doors and windows. These moldings are repeated on the broad west side elevation.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LIMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

YORK, MAINE

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According to local historians, this house was erected in 1806 by Edward Clark. Sometime later it was occupied by William G. Lord, the principal of Limington Academy from 1851-1894. The Greek Revival alterations may have been made during Lord's residence in the house.

## **23. Isaac Mitchell House, c.1810 -- C** **Route 117**

The Mitchell House is a two-story, five-bay Federal style frame dwelling that has a two-story ell. The building is sheathed entirely in clapboards. It has a segmentally arched fanlight that is framed by a decoratively carved surround, and nine-over-six double hung sash windows.

The early history of this building is not known, although as early as 1844 it was occupied by Isaac Mitchell, a surveyor by trade and the postmaster in 1844-56 and 1861-72. According to the 1872 atlas map, Mitchell was still residing here at that time.

## **24. (Former) Congregational Church Parsonage, 1803 -- C** **Route 117**

This two-story, five-bay Federal style house has a central entrance that is framed by pilasters and a projecting hood. Its facade contains a combination of twelve-over-twelve windows on the first story and twelve-over-eights on the second story. The existing paneled corner boards and wide cornice were probably added later in the nineteenth century. A one-story ell is attached to the southwest corner, and a small gabled barn stands off the north side of the main house.

In 1794 the town settled its first minister, the Rev. Jonathan Atkinson, and in 1798-99 he constructed a residence on the site of the existing house. According to notes in the Atkinson family bible, that house burned in 1803 and the present dwelling was erected in its place within a space of sixty-one days. Rev. Atkinson occupied the house until his death in 1836. In 1856 it was the residence of F. Atkinson.

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Comprised of twenty-four primary buildings, the Limington Historic District encompasses a small crossroads village that was developed principally in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Among the extant buildings are the town hall, a school house, a Masonic hall, a church, and a number of residences that exhibit features of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles of architecture. The district is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criteria A and C. Criteria consideration A also applies by virtue of the presence of a religious property.

## **c.1780-1850**

The settlement of Limington village (also referred to as Limington Corner), is said to have commenced in the late 1770s when Thaddeus Richardson occupied his one-hundred acre lot that now forms the northeast corner of the crossroads. Similar one-hundred acres lots defined the remaining corners, and one of the original settler's houses -- the c.1794 Libby-MacArthur House (6) -- is still extant. Ephraim Clark, who owned the southeast quadrant, sold lots early on for the use of a town pound (which was located on or near the site of the present town hall), a school house (first built in 1792), and a shoe shop. Richardson donated the lot of land on which the Congregational Church erected its first meeting house in 1793-94, and shortly thereafter sold the balance of his farm to Abner Libby and Joseph Moody. The southwest quadrant of land was settled by the Chick family.

Initially named Ossipee Plantation, the Town of Limington was incorporated on February 9, 1792, at which time the population is estimated to have been over 700 persons (Taylor, p.37). Town meetings were held in the school house until 1826 when the first town hall was built on the site of the town pound, a building that was subsequently replaced in 1871 by the existing town hall (3). The development of this corner lot with a public building had been preceded by the erection in 1818 of a building (12) on the diagonal corner to the northwest that housed James MacArthur's store on its first two stories and the Masonic Hall on the upper floor. Immediately across the street from the town hall on the land he had acquired from Thaddeus Richardson, Abner Libby established a blacksmith shop and subsequently erected a store building (13) which during the 1830s was also the office of a short-lived paper established by James MacArthur. Libby also constructed the Federal style house (14) which stands to the east of the store. Several other residences were built in the early 1800s including the house (24) occupied by the minister of the First Congregational Church, the Edward Clark House (22) of 1806, the Isaac Mitchell House (23), and the S. Moody House (16) of about 1824. Another house (19) built in this time frame is distinguished by its central chimney and lancet arched panels above the facade windows.



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The second quarter of the nineteenth century was a period during which the town of Limington reached its greatest historic population level. In 1840 this figure stood at 2,210 persons, although by 1850 this number had already declined and the pace of depopulation rapidly increased thereafter. In the 1858 *History and Description of New England*, Limington was described "as a good agricultural town, and contains one village, with the usual trade of a country community" (p.192). In addition to the two aforementioned stores, the village housed a carriage manufactory that had been established by Aaron C. Waldron, a tannery erected to the east of the district boundary in 1832 by Abram Winslow, and a harness shop founded by E. I. Larrabee in 1840. Further indication that this was a period of prosperity in Limington is evident in the 1835 reconstruction of the First Congregational Church (15) in which the eighteenth century meeting house was replaced by the existing handsome edifice, and the founding of the Limington Academy in 1848. In 1854, the Academy managed to raise a striking semi-peripteral Greek Revival style building (NR 6/23/80), that stands outside of the historic district.

## 1850-1900

In 1850 the population of the town of Limington stood at 2,116 persons, but by 1900 this figure had fallen by more than half to 1,001. A percentage of this decline may be attributed to the annexation in 1870 of about 1,500 acres of Limington by the neighboring town of Limerick, and most of the balance probably occurred in the rural agricultural sections of the town. Limington Corner retained its position as the principal village in the town with a variety of commercial enterprises and services supporting the outlying areas. Although the Waldron family's carriage manufactory was destroyed by fire in 1870 and was apparently not rebuilt to its former scale, two new enterprises established in this period were the clothing manufactories of S.T. Bickford and William Dimock & Son. Bickford had founded his operation in 1876 and by 1880 was employing 4-8 operatives, whereas the Dimock's employed 15-20 persons (*History of York County*, p.403), and were located in an addition to the store building (7) that William Dimock had erected several years earlier. In addition, O.P. Allen -- who had acquired the Winslow tannery in 1864 -- converted it to steam power in 1868, and was still operating it as late as 1886 (*Maine Business Directory*). By the turn-of-the-century, Limington Corner contained the town's library (which was in existence as early as 1895-96 [*Maine Register*]), and the *Limington House*, a hotel established by Charles E. Emery in a mid-nineteenth century house (5) that he remodeled through the addition of a porch and dormers.

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Judging from the stylistic characteristics of the buildings in the district, it would appear that most of the buildings that are extant today had been erected prior to the commencement of the Civil War. The Greek Revival style is represented in three dwellings (5,6,9), of which the Dimock House (6) is the most distinguished with its tall gable front proportions and engaged two-story side porch. Greek Revival features were added during this period in an apparent remodeling of the Edward Clark House (22), an early nineteenth century cape that was updated with shallow pedimented hoods over its doors and windows, paneled corner pilasters, and a projecting entrance vestibule. The Italianate style was used on a house (1) that was erected about 1860.

Further construction took place in the district during and shortly after the Civil War when William Dimock erected a store building (7) about 1864; when the town replaced its early nineteenth century town hall in 1871 with the Italianate style building (3) that continues to serve in its original capacity; and when the Moulton Family built a house (18) from materials that were salvaged from two buildings that had been dismantled in Hiram. Subsequent architectural fashions that were developed in the latter decades of the century are only represented in alterations or additions that were made on several house.

## 1900-1948

According to the *Maine Register*, in 1900-01 Limington Corner had three general merchants, as well as a sleigh and pung manufactory, one carriage repair shop, four blacksmiths, and a producer of staves and shingles. Legal services continued to be provided by William M. MacArthur, the son of Arthur MacArthur who had established his legal practice in the village in the 1830s. During the next few decades, the community continued to support a variety of commercial establishments. For example, the 1940-41 edition of the *Maine Register* lists the names of an automobile dealership, a service station, a blacksmith, a butcher, a grocer, and a general store that were located in or in close proximity to the village. It also notes the existence of three fruit growers, one of which was the MacArthur Farm (11). Although the existence of such services continued to underscore the position of the village in the local economy, it seems likely that the level of activity had declined markedly from what it had been in the nineteenth century, in part due to the fact that the town as a whole continued to witness a dramatic decline in its population (only 747 persons were enumerated in the 1930 census).

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The most significant physical changes that occurred in the district during the first half of the twentieth century include the construction of the brick library building (4) and the alterations made to Routes 11 and 117 in the form of widening and paving. Constructed in 1912 from designs by John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens, Maine's most notable architectural firm, the library was erected on the site of the Chick Family House, a two-story hip roofed Federal style house that is said to have been erected in the late 1700s. Another early village house that was located between numbers (17) and (18) burned in 1927. Highway improvements transformed the old dirt roads into modern paved roadways that served the rapidly developing automobile culture. Several decades thereafter, the elm trees that had adorned the village had also disappeared.

## 1948-Present

At the close of the twentieth century, the town of Limington -- like many rural communities in southern and western Maine -- has witnessed a resurgence in its population (2,842 in 1990) to a point that exceeds its historic level. Much of the new housing development that accompanies this growth appears to be occurring on long abandoned farmland and not within or immediately adjacent to the historic district. Nonetheless, these changes are evident in the district in the efforts that are being made to use and preserve the residential properties on the one hand, and on the other the town's recent decision to abandon its 1871 town hall in favor of building a new municipal facility on a site that will presumably be outside of the village center. The village remains the focal point of grade school level education in town with a modern school complex located adjacent to the former Limington Academy building, and both the Masons and Limington Grange continue to utilize their respective buildings.

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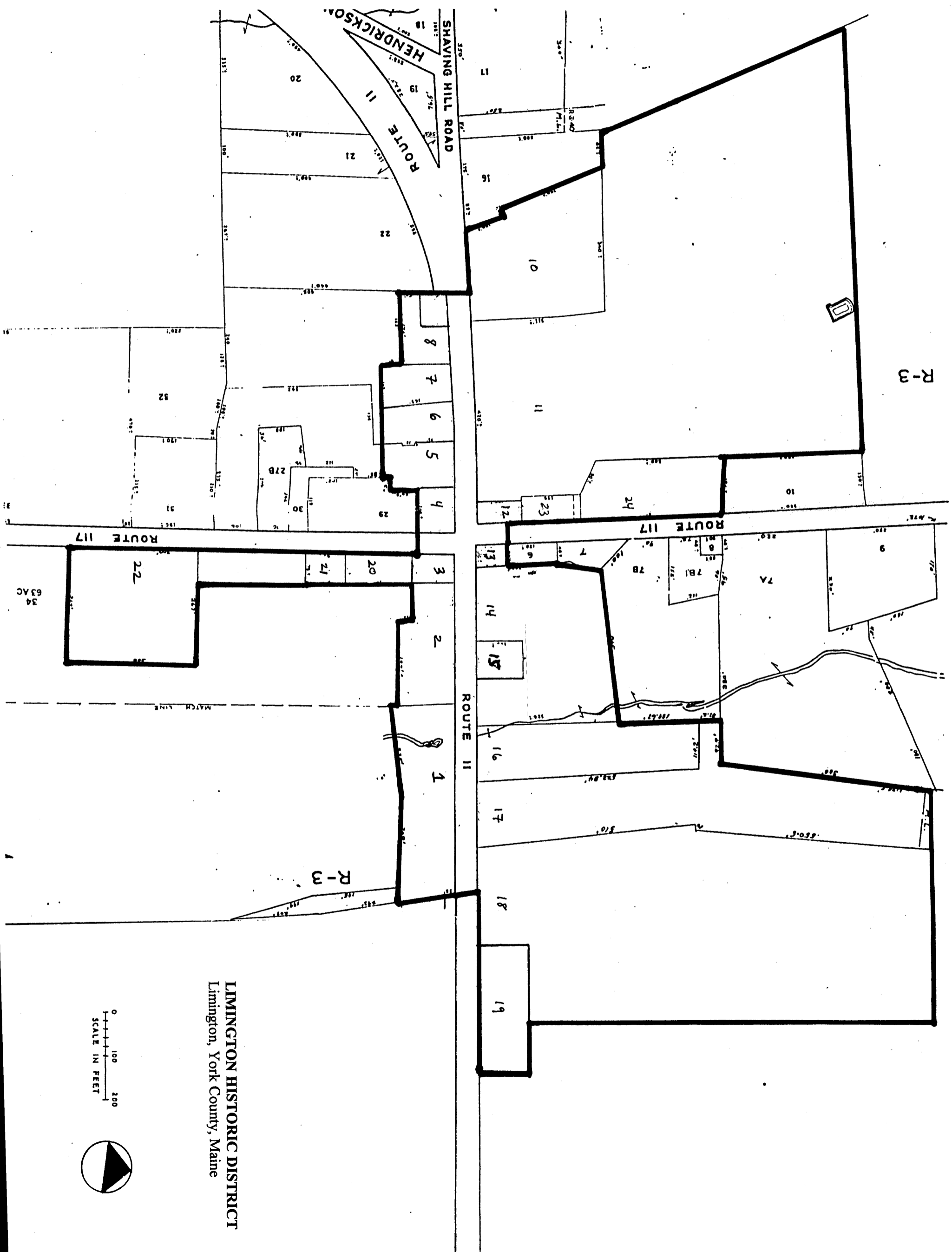
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## **Verbal Boundary Description**

See map.

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Limington Historic District embraces virtually all of Limington Village as it was historically developed along State Routes 11 and 117, and as it was depicted on nineteenth century maps. Its northern boundary is defined principally by the large former agricultural lots that are still associated with several of the existing houses. Several nineteenth century buildings lie beyond the western boundary, but they have been excluded primarily because of the recent alterations that have been made to them. The southern boundary is formed by the rear lot lines of the historic buildings that face Route 11 and the lot containing the Ephraim Clark House (22). Although the previously listed Limington Academy stands across from the Clark House, it is flanked on the north and south by modern buildings including an elementary school and an automobile repair facility. The eastern boundary marks the terminus of the concentration of historic buildings that comprise the village.



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