

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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 any 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 Suncook Village Commercial/Civic Historic District

other names/site number Suncook Business District

2. Location

street & number 1, 9-15 Glass St., 116-161 Main St., 19 Mill Falls, 4 Union St. not for publication N/A  
city or town Town of Pembroke vicinity N/A  
state New Hampshire code NH county Merrimack code 013  
zip code 03275

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

James W. Corcoran 1/31/05  
Signature of certifying official Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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 commenting or other official 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 of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**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**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>16</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>17</u>	<u>4</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:** 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling  
DOMESTIC: hotel  
COMMERCE: specialty store  
COMMERCE: department store  
COMMERCE: restaurant  
SOCIAL: meeting hall  
GOVERNMENT: fire station  
RELIGION: religious facility  
TRANSPORTATION: road-related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling  
COMMERCE: specialty store  
COMMERCE: department store  
COMMERCE: restaurant  
SOCIAL: meeting hall  
SOCIAL: civic  
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility  
RELIGION: religious facility  
TRANSPORTATION: road-related  
LANDSCAPE: parking lot

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance Revival  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:  
Colonial Revival  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:  
Late Gothic Revival  
OTHER: Modern 20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
CONCRETE  
STONE: granite  
walls BRICK  
WOOD  
CONCRETE  
METAL  
SYNTHETIC  
roof ASPHALT  
other STONE: granite, sandstone  
METAL  
WOOD

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.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce  
Community Planning and Development  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1868 - 1954  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1878  
1879  
1886

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
NA

Cultural Affiliation NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Samuel S. Ordway, builder  
Edwin T. Chapin, architect  
Chase R. Whitcher, architect

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

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property approximately 3 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	19	300445	4778000	4	19	300510	4778120
2	19	300390	4778115	5	19	300485	4777980
3	19	300455	4778165				

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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Maureen Taylor

organization Eastern Michigan University, Historic Preservation Program

date 11/15/2004

street & number 235 Strong Hall, EMU telephone 734-487-0232

city or town Ypsilanti state MI zip code 48197

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name multiple owners – see continuation sheet

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

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

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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 the 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.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Merrimack, New Hampshire

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**Narrative description**

The area known as Suncook Village in south central New Hampshire occupies part of two towns, Town of Pembroke and Allenstown, at the junction of the Suncook River Valley and Merrimack River Valley. The Suncook River forms the border between the towns and runs east-west through the center of Suncook Village. The Suncook Village Historic Commercial/Civic District is located roughly at the center of Suncook Village just north of the Suncook River in southwestern Pembroke. The district covers approximately three acres of hilly terrain. It is comprised mainly of buildings that are commercial on the first floor with secondary uses on the upper floors. The buildings are primarily two or three-story brick constructions with flat or shallow sloped shed roofs, and are characterized by arched window openings, decorative brick corbelling, and cast iron pilasters. The styles represented by buildings in the district are: Italianate, Renaissance Revival, Colonial Revival, and Gothic Revival. Many buildings also feature Queen Anne influenced architectural details. Many of the buildings are contiguous, with shared/party walls, and are closely spaced forming a compact core. The street facades of the buildings are lined up evenly forming a nearly unbroken line on both sides of Main Street and on Glass Street.

From the Suncook River just south of the district the land rises uphill in each direction creating a stepped streetscape in Suncook Village. The streets in the district are laid out roughly in a grid pattern with Main Street at the center and the cross streets nearly at right angles to Main Street. Main Street and Glass Street are wide with on street parallel parking. The streets have granite curbing and wide asphalt sidewalks. Main Street has cast iron light posts and trees encircled with cast iron fences on brick pavers. The density of buildings and their primarily brick construction combined with limited vegetation in the district contributes to an urban feel and appearance. Building conditions range from fair to excellent. The district includes sixteen contributing buildings, one contributing site, two noncontributing buildings, and two noncontributing sites.

A major influence on the appearance of the commercial and civic area of Suncook Village was a series of fires during the 1870s and 1880s. These fires directly affected the age of the buildings and the appearance of the district. Prior to the fires the district was composed of primarily wooden structures on a narrow road. There were three large fires within a ten year period: January 25, 1876; August 14, 1878; December 11, 1886.<sup>1</sup> After the fire of 1876 burned down the buildings on the western side of Main Street, between Front and Union streets, the town voted to widen the street and three large brick blocks were built, including a large five-story hotel and an adjoining four-story block.<sup>2</sup> The fire of 1878 consumed the buildings on the eastern side of Main Street from the Baptist Church (no longer extant, now site #8) at the corner of Central Street south to a point just north of Chickering's brick block (#2).<sup>3</sup> Again the Town of Pembroke voted to widen the street. Most of the current brick blocks on the east side of Main Street were built shortly after this fire, bringing this side of the street largely to its current appearance.<sup>4</sup> The fire of 1886 destroyed the still new brick blocks on the west side of Main

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<sup>1</sup> Meet Me In Suncook Committee, "Suncook Village Tour Script – Pembroke Side" n.d.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

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Merrimack, New Hampshire

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Street, except the clock tower (#1, built 1879), and were replaced with the three smaller brick blocks currently standing north of the clock tower. The town was able to rebuild after each fire due to a good local economy supported by the textile industry and brick making. Since the second rebuilding of the west side of Main Street in 1886 this central block of Suncook Village has remained essentially unchanged.

The focal point of the district is the Clock Tower building (#1), constructed in 1879, located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Front Street. Main Street runs roughly in a northeast-southwest direction up a hill that rises northerly from the Suncook River. The clock tower is visible from a distance as you approach Suncook Village and dominates the view as you enter the commercial center. (This building defines the transition between the former industrial mill area along the river and the commercial area to the north; and the transition from commercial center to residential area on Front Street, heading west from Main Street). Another important building in the landscape is the Suncook United Methodist Church (#7), rebuilt in 1911 after a fire, occupying the northwest corner of the district at Union and Main streets. This brick building with its bell tower, large wall dormers and sandstone details shows the confidence of the local residents in the stability and prosperity of their community. Another group of buildings with a strong visual impact are the Osgood (#12), Gordon-Piper (#13), and Tennant (#14) blocks on the east side of Main Street, built shortly after the fire of 1878, constructed to appear as one cohesive block.

The district includes one block of commercial buildings on Main Street between the east-west running Union Street and Central Street at the north end and the roughly east-west running Front Street and Glass Street at the south end, plus the northeast corner of Main Street and Central Street. It also includes a civic building on Union Street, the Pembroke Police Station (#6), and a religious building at the northwest corner of Main Street and Union Street, the Suncook United Methodist Church (#7). Then east of the Clock Tower the district boundary includes two properties on the south side of Glass Street, which runs easterly uphill from Main Street. The district heads south of Glass Street to Mill Falls, which runs nearly parallel to Main Street, to include one more property. The district boundaries follow along the outer property lines of the building lots.

The character of the area remains intact and the buildings have retained their basic functions with few exceptions. The fire station is now the police station (#6, 4 Union Street); Osgood Inn (#5, 144 Main Street) is now a meeting hall and barbershop, and the old hardware store is an American Legion lodge (#20, 1 Glass Street). The former Georgi's Restaurant (no longer extant) burned in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, according to longtime resident George Rainville and is now a vacant lot (#15, 127 Main Street).<sup>5</sup> Rainville Shoes at 131 Main Street (#14) is the oldest continuously operating business in Suncook, started by John Rainville in 1897 and run today by his grandson George. Other businesses in the district include restaurants, a bakery, antique stores and a variety store. Civic functions in the district include the police station, a food pantry and the church along with the meeting halls of the Masons and the American Legion. There are also several barber shops and salons which not only serve a commercial need, but have historically served as a public forum.

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<sup>5</sup> Rainville, George. Interview, April 2003.

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Although the storefronts have had some alterations over the years, the district is still seen as a turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial and civic area that was typical of a small New Hampshire mill town during that period. On the east side of Main Street the buildings have multiple additions off of the back constructed at different times (although many were in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century according to Sanborn Maps). Two buildings have had renovation work, the clock portion of the Clock Tower (#1) was restored 2001-2002 and 15 Glass Street (#19) was renovated during the late 1990s. There are two noncontributing buildings, one is newer construction (#16) and one is an older building (#20) that has undergone extensive alterations compromising its character and integrity. Overall, the look and feel of the area has changed little since the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is among “the most intact small nineteenth-century commercial centers in southern New Hampshire”.<sup>6</sup>

The description of the individual properties comprising the district follows. It begins at the northwest corner of Main Street and Front Street heads north on the west side of Main Street to Union Street, and west on Union Street to the western terminus of the district and returns north to the northwest corner of Union Street and Main Street. It then crosses Main Street to the northeast corner of Main and Central Street and turns south along the eastern side of Main Street to Glass Street, continuing east on the south side of Glass Street before heading south to end on Mill Falls.

**1. Charles Williams and J.L. Hosmer’s Clock Tower, 116 Main St., 1879. Contributing building**

The 3 story transitional Renaissance Revival style building with an offset 4-story clock tower at the southeast corner is the tallest building in Suncook Village and is located at the corner of Main Street and Front Street. The nearly square block building is constructed of red brick in a common bond pattern (every ninth row is headers), rests on a brick foundation, and has a flat asphalt roof. It is a 10 x 10 bay structure characterized by granite sill courses and heavily corbelled brickwork on the two primary faces, the east side facing Main Street and the south side facing Front Street, which are divided horizontally by the different architectural detailing on each floor. The bays on the primary facades are also divided into three vertical sections by plain 3-story projecting brick pilasters.

The first floor Main Street façade has a rough textured, pinkish concrete brick surface with large granite aggregate. The tower entrance has a vertical banded concrete frieze while the rest of the façade has a wide plain granite frieze. There are four recessed entries on the Main Street façade, which have granite steps and/or stoops. Large rectangular plate glass windows with granite sills flank the clock tower entrance. The entry also has a small arched canvas awning over the stoop. The two entryways at the north end have slightly projecting bays and small fixed 4-light sashes with granite sills flanking the bays.

The Front Street side is fairly plain on the first floor with an entry below street level at the west end with a large granite lintel and granite steps leading down to a wood floor. The walls of the entry have flush clapboards and

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<sup>6</sup> Meet Me in Suncook Committee, “Self-Guided Walking Tour of Suncook Village: Pembroke and Allenstown New Hampshire” brochure (no date).

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the east wall has a 1/1 double hung window. The Front Street façade has six street-level short, segmental arch windows with double rowlock lintels on the western 2/3rds, and two similar openings with granite sills on the first floor. The windows on the upper floors of both the Main Street and Front Street facades are grouped together within their section of the façades and have granite sill courses. The second floor on both primary facades has 1/1 recessed replacement windows with projecting brick arch surrounds, which have alternating projecting and recessed voussoirs topped by a continuous row of headers. Below the sill course on the south face are plain projecting and recessed brick rows, like a cornice and frieze. The third floor of these facades has recessed 2/1 windows with wood surrounds and segmental rowlock arches with projecting plain brick pilasters between them topped by a plain continuous lintel. Below the third floor sill course on both faces is a wide projecting brick frieze with a decorative recessed cross pattern. The fourth floor of the tower has recessed 1/1 round-headed windows with projecting plain arch surrounds topped by a second set of projecting arches on pilasters with corbelled capitals. These arches have decorative recessed and projecting brickwork patterns. There is a small wood cornice with brick dentils and a heavily corbelled frieze on the two primary facades and all four sides of the tower's fourth floor. The east and south faces of the main block also have corbelled architraves. The bell of the clock is housed at the top of the tower in a wood-constructed belfry with a flat roof that has wide bracketed eaves and paired triangular arches on each side. The metal flared eave with brackets at the base of the belfry overhangs the S-curved mansard roof of the tower, which houses the clock works. There is a wood mantle-style clock face on all four sides of the mansard roof with gold colored numbers and hands on a black face with a decorative gold scroll pattern below the face.

The north and west faces of the building are much plainer. On the north side there are no doors or windows on the unadorned first floor. Both faces have five recessed 1/1 replacement windows with flush segmental arches on the second floor. The north side has a fire escape leading down from a metal door on the east end of the third floor, and three segmental arched window openings, while the west side has four segmental arched window openings. Most of the third floor windows are boarded over; there are two 2/1 sashes. The rear (west side) of the building has two entries on the first floor. One is a recessed segmental arch, while the second is flush with hinged double doors made of wood vertical boards covered with metal. All of the door and window openings on the west and north walls have cast iron hardware on the wall for hanging shutters and according to Sanborn Maps they had iron shutters at least until the 1920s. Overall the building is a transitional style before the final development of the Renaissance Revival style with elements of the Late Victorian Italianate (round arched windows) and Queen Anne styles (inset brick paneling and heavy corbelling) and minor Second Empire influences (compound curved roof, different window treatments on each floor).

The local contractor Samuel Ordway built the building in 1879, which was commissioned by Charles Williams and J.L. Hosmer who were Boston businessmen.<sup>7</sup> It was, and still is, a private building with commercial spaces on the first floor, and private spaces on the upper floors. The Masonic Hall of Suncook was located on the third floor from the inception of Jewell Lodge No. 94 in April 1879 until at least 1929, according to a Sanborn Map.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Meet Me in Suncook Committee

<sup>8</sup> Aldrich, Frank Levi. "Suncook To-day", The Granite Monthly: A New Hampshire Magazine Vol. XXIX, No. 1, July 1900: p. 18

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The Post Office was located on the first floor at least from 1906 to 1923 according to Sanborn Maps. The clock is owned by the town, originally paid for through subscription by the townspeople in 1878, and was made by E. Howard and Co. of Boston.<sup>9</sup> The frame of the clock was made by Ordway and painted by John H. Lewis, while Henry Williston cast the weights in his iron foundry near Front Street.<sup>10</sup> The Town of Pembroke still owns the clock and provides regular maintenance, including the repair and restoration of the clock in 2001-2002.

**2. Access drive, Main Street. Contributing site**

This is a gravel drive between 116 Main St., the Clock Tower building (#1), and 130 Main St., the Otterson Block (#3). This parcel historically served as part of an unpaved access road off of Main Street running behind the Pembroke Mill Company's tenement buildings on Front St.<sup>11</sup> It now leads to a gravel parking area behind The Otterson Block (#3).

**3. T.J. Otterson's Block, 130 Main Street, c. 1886. Contributing building**

The Otterson Block is a two story, 6 x 4 bay red brick Italianate building resting on a brick foundation with an extremely shallow sloped shed roof sheathed in asphalt. It adjoins the Addison N. Osgood Block on the north side (#4). The building is characterized by a balanced façade with large arched entries and windows on the first floor and hooded windows on the second floor.

The first floor east facade has ten double-rowlock round arches with four recessed entries. The southern two entries are angled bays flanked by painted cast iron, fluted engaged columns on plinths with acanthus leaf capitals. Next to each column is a plate glass display window with a rounded transom resting on a molded wood panel. The southern two recessed wooden entry doors have large panes over two horizontal wood panels flanked by angled plate glass display windows with transoms above them. The central entry has an arched canvas awning. The third entry, towards the north end of the façade, is similar to the first two, except that it has a column and display window on the south side only. The fourth entry at the north end leads to the upstairs apartments and has a wood door with 6 panes over three panels. The two southern entries have granite steps while the northern two have concrete steps.

The second story windows on the east façade are on an inset brick panel with decorative brick corbelling at the top. The windows have brick segmental arched hoods with pendants and large granite keystones. The windows are 1/1 replacements with 6/6 muntin dividers, and they have rough granite projecting sills. There is a

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<sup>9</sup> Mann, Jennifer K. "Building Pembroke: The Evolution of a Landscape" (1985) p.6

<sup>10</sup> Wilson, Artelia. "Suncook Village, Pembroke, New Hampshire", Cultural Resource Survey, Inventory, and Plan. (Concord, NH: New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, 1983). Survey Number 60

<sup>11</sup> Walling, H.F. Map of Merrimack County, N.H., Suncook Village. (New York: H.F. Walling Map Establishment. 1858)

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projecting brick stringcourse with block modillions dividing the first and second floors. There is a wooden cornice supported by two large consoles with an inset brick pattern on the frieze and brick block modillions beneath it. The south side of the building has four small segmental arched window openings at ground level that are boarded over and two larger ones on the first floor that now have ventilation equipment. There are also four segmental arched windows on the second floor with rough granite projecting sills. Three windows are 1/1 replacements, while one is 2/2.

There have been several additions off the back of the building, the west side. One is a two-story shed roof wood framed addition, with wood shingles, at the south corner. It has been there since at least 1906 according to a Sanborn Map. It appears to be a back entry for the second floor. The first floor has additions with poured concrete foundations to accommodate the mechanical, refrigeration and ventilation needs of the bakery. Above these additions on tall wood posts is a second floor porch with a high wood shingled wall. There is a shed roof dormer on the roof partly visible from Main Street, plus other roof top additions at the west end enclosed by a stockade fence.

The T.J. Otterson Block was built after the fire of 1886, and was Otterson's third building on the west side of Main Street with the previous two being consumed by fires. Originally the building housed Suncook Hall on the second floor and multiple businesses such as a dry goods store and drug store in 1906, and a barbershop, hardware store and drug store in 1912 with living spaces above. According to Sanborn maps in 1923 and 1929 the second floor served as a hall. There also used to be a two-story building behind this block that served as a tenement and later a grocery store. According to an 1889 Sanborn map one of the first floor spaces operated as a bakery, which is the building's current use.

**4. Addison N. Osgood's Block, 132-138 Main Street, c. 1886. Contributing building**

The Osgood Block, which was also known as the Odd Fellows' Block, is a two story, 9 bay commercial block built in the Italianate style with a symmetrical façade. It is constructed of red brick in a common bond pattern (every ninth row is headers) resting on a brick foundation, and has a flat roof sheathed in asphalt. It adjoins the T.J. Otterson Block (#3) to the south and the Osgood Inn (#5) to the north. There is ceramic or terra cotta coping along the top of the walls on the east, south and west sides, and a brick firewall on the north side along the slightly taller Osgood Inn (#5).

The first floor east façade has nine double rowlock round arches and four recessed entries, very similar to the T. J. Otterson Block (#3). Painted, spiral fluted, cast iron engaged columns on plinths with acanthus leaf capitals flank the south two entries. Next to each column is a two pane round-headed window over a plate glass display window resting on a wood panel. The third entry has just one column and one display window on the south side. These three recessed entries have transoms over the doors, and angled walls with large 1/1 fixed pane windows on small molded wood panels. The fourth entry at the north end has an angled wall with windows on the south side only.

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The first and second stories of the west face are divided by a brick stringcourse with block modillions beneath it. The second floor windows of the Main Street façade are on an inset brick panel. There are nine segmental arched 1/1 replacement windows, one above each first floor arch, with projecting granite sills. Above these windows is a projecting brick stringcourse.

A large section of the south wall shows evidence that a gable-roofed building adjoined the Osgood Block, and stood behind the T.J. Otterson Block. There is a cinder block retaining wall with an aluminum fence along the south property line.

The rear of the building has nine segmental arched openings on both floors. The first floor has three entries, with the central one covered with painted plywood. The entry at the north end is a plain metal door flanked by two boarded over windows. The south end entry has one sidelight and is flanked by window openings. The second floor has a door in the center with a fire escape and four 1/1 replacement windows on each side, half of which have granite sills.

The Osgood Block was constructed after the fire of 1886 destroyed the three story Suncook Opera House on this site, which was also built and owned by Addison N. Osgood<sup>12</sup>. The current building originally had two floors with an overhanging cornice.<sup>13</sup> A third floor was added between 1889 and 1900, and it housed the meeting hall of the International Order of the Odd Fellows, Howard Lodge No. 31<sup>14</sup>. The third floor addition was lost in a fire in 1914 and the building returned to its original two stories<sup>15</sup>. Initially Simpson, Miller & Co. occupied the three spaces on the first floor with separate departments for dry goods, groceries and provisions and was one of the largest businesses in Suncook.<sup>16</sup> The business operated into the early 1920s.

#### **5. Osgood's Inn, 144-148 Main Street, c. 1886. Contributing building**

The Osgood Inn, at the southwest corner of Main Street and Union Street, is a two-story, 5 x 9 bay commercial block adjoining the Addison N. Osgood Block (#4) to the south. The Renaissance Revival style building with Queen Anne details is constructed of red brick in a common bond pattern (every ninth row is headers) resting on a brick foundation with a flat roof sheathed in asphalt. A molded wood cornice topped by metal flashing runs around the east, north and south sides with dentils along the east and north sides. Nearly all of the window openings on the building have a flush brick segmental arch with a projecting rough granite sill, except those noted on the front façade. The windows are wood framed 2/2 double hung sashes, except one as noted.

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<sup>12</sup> Sanborn Map Company. Concord, New Hampshire 1884. (New York: 1884)

<sup>13</sup> Sanborn Map Company. Concord, New Hampshire 1889. (New York: 1889)

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn Map Company, 1889 and Aldrich, p. 4, photograph of building with 3 stories. Aldrich, p. 18, mentions the location of the I.O.O.F.

<sup>15</sup> Meet Me in Suncook Committee, "Self-Guided Walking Tour of Suncook Village: Pembroke and Allenstown New Hampshire", mentions the fire of 1914.

<sup>16</sup> Aldrich, p. 52

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The Main Street façade has a large segmental arch entry vestibule with a projecting brick surround and wooden floor. There is a center double door entry and a single door on each sidewall. The wooden double doors have a molded wood surround and a transom with a pair of large square windows that have small square stained glass lights around them. The side doors have plain wood surrounds and wooden screen doors. The vestibule walls have vertical wood paneling, and the same paneling is on the ceiling. The bottom step is granite while the rest are wood. A pair of windows with projecting brick segmental arches flanks the recessed entryway. At street level are small windows and a former basement entry, which has been filled in and is now a window. The second floor has five windows in line with the first floor openings, and both floors have exterior storm windows. The architrave has a decorative inset brick cross pattern with corbelled brickwork below it. The frieze is decorative brick corbelling and it continues around on the north façade.

On the north side there is a corbelled brick stringcourse below the frieze. The north face of the building has irregularly spaced windows and one door. There are eight windows on the first floor and a plain wood panel door at the west end. The first floor has two 2/2 double hung windows at the east end and a smaller 6-pane pivot window. On the west half of the first floor the openings are covered with painted plywood. The second floor has nine 2/2 double hung windows placed above the first floor openings. The windows on the eastern half of the façade have exterior storm windows.

The west side of the building is nearly plain. At the south corner there are two wood paneled doors with flush segmental arches, one on the first floor and a second right above it on the second floor with a metal fire escape. There is a segmental arched opening in the center of the first floor, with granite sill, covered by two painted wood panels. Below the stairs of the fire escape is a small, low shed roof addition about four feet high where it meets the wall. The south side of the building has one window on the first floor at the west corner.

The building originally served as an inn, which accommodated 50 guests, and had a second floor cast iron balustrade porch on the façade, as seen in a circa 1900 photograph.<sup>17</sup> It was originally managed by J. M. Pierpont, and later managed by Guy F. Whitten in the early 1900s.<sup>18</sup> The Osgood Inn replaced the much larger five story Jones' Hotel (burned in 1886) and remained in operation into the 1910s.<sup>19</sup> There was a bar in the basement according to the 1906 Sanborn Map and later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was a bowling alley in the basement.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Aldrich, p. 38 -39.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Sanborn Map Company. Suncook, Merrimack County, New Hampshire 1912. (New York: 1912)

<sup>20</sup> Bickford, Glenn. Interview, April 2003

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**6. Fire Station, 4 Union Street, 1930. Contributing building**

The 1930 Colonial Revival style Fire Station is built into a hillside and faces Union Street. An asphalt parking area is located at the front of the building with additional on the east side at the rear of the Fire Station. The two-story and basement, 4 x 3 bay building is constructed of common bond, pressed veneer brick over hollow structural clay tile with reinforced concrete floors to create a fire-proof structure. It rests on a concrete foundation and is covered with a flat asphalt roof.

The Colonial Revival detailing includes a roof parapet broken by balustrade panels, a deeply projecting cornice, a stringcourse, and a Tuscan surround framing the main entrance. The cast stone parapet and cornice run along the north and east faces and continue onto part of the west face of the building. The cast stone stringcourse runs between the first and second floors on the north and east elevations. The main entrance is at the east corner of the Union Street facade. It has cast stone Tuscan pilasters with an entablature. There is a second entry nearly centered on the façade and flanked by paired awning windows. The second floor of the façade has four equally spaced wood framed 15/10 windows with flush, splayed brick lintels, cast stone keystones and cast stone sills.

On the east side of the building there is an entry in the concrete block foundation. There are two 15/10 windows on the first floor of the east face with splayed brick lintels, cast stone keystones and cast stone sills. The second floor has three 15/10 windows the same lintels and sills.

The west side of the building has an exterior chimney at the north end. There are four equally spaced 15/15 windows at the basement level, and two on the first floor. The second floor has three 15/10 sashes on the west side and four on the south side, and all of the windows have wood surrounds and cast stone sills. The south side of the building has had some additions, one of which appears in a circa 1945 photograph. There is a basement level shed roof brick addition with an overhead garage door and wood clapboard sheathing on the east side. There is a second wood framed double shed roof addition on top of the first addition. It has vinyl siding and a row of single pane windows beneath the first shed roof.

There is a concrete retaining wall, topped by a fence, adjoining the building on the east side of the station just north of the basement entry. At the back of the parcel is a concrete block retaining wall, with a fence that progressively steps down as it heads west.

New Hampshire architect Chase R. Whitcher of Manchester, a prominent and prolific designer of public buildings in the state, designed the Fire Station for the Town of Pembroke<sup>21</sup>. Whitcher's career spanned the period between the 1880s, when he designed the Pembroke Grade School, and the 1930s. The Balsams in Dixville, New Hampshire is included among the many notable works of this architect. The building was originally constructed to house the Pembroke Fire Department in 1930 to replace the livery and stable that the

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<sup>21</sup> Town of Pembroke. "Annual Report of Selectmen and Treasurer, 1930"

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fire department had occupied on this site since 1917.<sup>22</sup> The Pembroke Police Department had offices in the basement of the building in the mid 1960s while the fire department used the upper floors during that time.<sup>23</sup> The building still has the original granite surround of the main entry and the second floor's plan has remain unaltered, but the three arched engine bays on the north façade were filled-in in 1977 as is evidenced by the lighter color brick.<sup>24</sup> When the new fire station opened in 1976 the police department officially took over the building and moved their offices out of the basement to the first floor.<sup>25</sup> The police department moved to a new location in June 2004 and the Fire Station is currently unoccupied.

**7. Suncook United Methodist Church, 156 Main Street, 1911. Contributing building**

The Suncook United Methodist Church is located at the northwest corner of Main and Union streets and faces Main Street. The Late Gothic Revival style church is a two-story gable roofed brick building, with an offset three-story pyramidal hipped roof bell tower at the southeast corner, and is resting on a granite foundation. There are two large gable roofed wall dormers, centered on the north and south walls. All of the roofs have wide eaves with brackets and are sheathed in asphalt shingles. There are small brick buttresses, with sandstone accents, at the corners of the building and flanking the windows on the north and south wall dormers. The east gable end roof is asymmetrical, due to the bell tower. The west gable end has a large rectangular brick chimney centered on the wall.

The church has a high water table topped by a granite stringcourse. The water table has a grouping of five 1/1 double hung windows with plain wood surrounds centered on the east, north and south gable ends. There are additional paired 1/1 double hung sashes on the water table along the north and south sides, plus single 1/1s on the west gable end and the tower. There is also a granite corner stone at the southeast corner of the tower with two dates: 1884 when the first church was built on this site, and 1911 when the current church was constructed.<sup>26</sup>

The first floor has inset stained glass Gothic arch windows with sandstone surrounds: one on the east face, four on both the north and south faces, and two on the west side. The east gable end and the wall dormers each have a large wood framed Gothic arch with a sandstone surround that nearly fills the wall. The large arches are multi-paned stained glass windows with wood muntins that create five narrow Gothic arches with tracery above them. The east gable has a small stained glass Gothic arch window with sandstone surround above the large arch.

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<sup>22</sup> Bellerose, Edgar. "Brief History of the Fire Department", Pembroke Bicentennial 1759-1959, Town of Pembroke.

<sup>23</sup> Police Department staff, phone conversation June 2003

<sup>24</sup> Town of Pembroke. "Annual Report of Selectmen and Treasurer, 1977", p. 46

<sup>25</sup> Town of Pembroke. "Annual Report of Selectmen and Treasurer, 1976", p. 37

<sup>26</sup> "Methodist Church Burned", *Suncook Press*. February 18, 1911.

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There are single entries on the east, west and north sides of the church. The main entrance is a tall ogee arch with a granite sill on the east face of the tower. It has a sandstone surround that projects along the curve of the arch with a projecting Greek cross at the point of the arch and scrolled acanthus leaves along the top of the curve. The entrance is a pair of glass doors with wood trim with a stained glass ogee arch transom trimmed in sandstone. The church has granite steps leading up to the main entrance.

On the west face near the south corner is a Gothic arched entry with a sandstone surround that stops at the granite stringcourse of the water table. It has a 9-pane wood panel door with wood trim and a Gothic arched stained glass transom with sandstone trim. On the north side is a wheel chair ramp that leads from the Main Street sidewalk to a gable roofed entry porch with the same style gothic arched entry as on the west end.

The first floor of the tower serves as the church entrance and the second floor has stained glass Gothic arch windows with sandstone surrounds on the east and south sides. The third floor is the bell chamber, and it has a large brick Tudor arch opening with a granite sill and keystone on all four sides. Each bell chamber arch has widely spaced wood louvers divided into three Gothic arches with tracery at the top. A gold colored Latin cross tops the tower.

The Suncook United Methodist Church acquired the current site at the corner of Union Street and Main Street in 1884 after their first church, located on Church Street burned in 1882. The original wood framed church on this site burned down in February of 1911 and the corner stone of the current structure was laid in October of the same year with construction being completed in July of 1912.<sup>27</sup> Edwin T. Chapin of Worcester, Massachusetts designed the church while the Osgood Construction Company of Nashua, New Hampshire served as the contractors, and Spence, Bell & Company of Boston, Massachusetts made the stained glass windows.<sup>28</sup>

**8. Joseph Wilkins' Block, 155-161 Main Street, c. 1878. Contributing building**

The Wilkins Block is located at the northeast corner of Main and Central streets and faces west. It is a two-story building constructed of brick in a common bond pattern resting on a brick foundation. It has a very shallow sloped shed roof sheathed in asphalt. The transitional Italianate and Renaissance Revival style commercial block has an asymmetrical, roughly ell-shaped footprint with an angled bay at each end of the 7 bay Main Street façade. The façade is symmetrical

There are three recessed entries on the Main Street facade and one recessed entry on the angled bay at the corner of Main and Central streets. The northern Main Street entry has a wooden door with a single glass pane over wood panels, and a transom with a wood surround. There is a narrow sidelight on the south side of the door and the narrow angled walls of the entry bay have 1/1 fixed sashes. Display windows flank the northern entry bay. The window north of the entry is part of the angled bay at the corner of the building and is a single

<sup>27</sup> "Dedication Exercises of the New Methodist Church at Suncook, N.H.", *Suncook Press*, July 27, 1912.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

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large pane of glass with narrow trim, while the window to the south has a 4-light fixed sash with wood surround. Both windows rest on paired glass panels at the base that are covered with metal screens. The central entry has a wood panel door with a single light and a plain wood door surround. Flanking the door are angled walls with square 1/1 fixed sashes over wood panels. To the north of the central entry bay is a large 2/1 fixed sash display window over two glass panels with metal screens with a painted, cast iron engaged column on a plinth topped by an acanthus leaf capital on the south side of the window. Next to the central entry bay, to the south, is the third entry with a wooden door that has 6 lights over 3 vertical wood panels and a multi-pane transom. A large aluminum awning covers these two entries. To the south of these entries is a pair of 2/1 display windows over paired glass panels with metal screens. The windows are divided by another engaged cast iron column, with another column on the south side of these windows.

The Main Street façade has a wide, plain granite frieze that continues on to the angled bay at the north corner. The angled bay at the south corner has a slightly recessed entry with a metal awning over a glass door and plain with a full-length sidelight on the west side and a metal framed transom. There are two fixed single pane windows on the first floor of the south side that have brick segmental arches with large, projecting, rough faced granite keystones and sills. Towards the back of the building on the easternmost end is another glass door entry with a narrow transom and metal surround that has a small metal awning. The northernmost wall of the building has no openings and unadorned.

The second floor windows on Main Street and Central Street are 2/2 double hung with wood surrounds. They have brick segmental arches with large, projecting, rough faced granite keystones and sills. On the Main Street façade (west), including the angled northern bay, the second floor window area is inset and there is a dogtooth course at the bottom over the granite frieze of the first floor. On both the west and south sides there is a pair of dogtooth courses above the windows. There is a molded wood cornice on the west and south sides with a heavily corbelled brick frieze and more decorative corbelling below it.

The rear of the building is much plainer with right angles forming an ell. There are a variety of window shapes and sizes, most of which are 2/2 double hung with granite sills. There is a second floor entry with metal stairs off of the east wall at the reentrant corner.

The Wilkins Block was built on the former site of the Baptist Church that burned in the fire of 1878. Joseph Wilkins had taken up photography after the Civil War and had a photography studio in this building for many years.<sup>29</sup> There was also an American Express Company office through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Aldrich, p. 47

<sup>30</sup> Sanborn Map Company. "Suncook, Merrimack Co., New Hampshire 1906". (New York: 1906). Sanborn Map Company. "Suncook, Merrimack County, New Hampshire 1912". (New York: 1912)

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**9. Municipal parking lot, Central Street. Noncontributing site**

This lot at the southeast corner of Main Street and Central Street provides angled parking on Central Street. This corner is the former site of a wood framed building owned by Joseph Wilkins, which was torn down sometime during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**10. Greene-Wilkins' Block, 149 Main Street, c. 1892. Contributing building**

The Greene-Wilkins building is a 3-story, narrow 3 x 4-bay rectangular commercial block built of brick in a common bond pattern (every ninth row headers) with a shallow sloped shed roof sheathed in asphalt. The Renaissance Revival style building rests on a brick foundation and adjoins the John G. Bartlett building (#11) to the south.

There are two entries on the Main Street façade. The entry at the north end is slightly recessed and has a wood panel door, with a large single light transom, leading to the upstairs apartments. There is also a commercial entry roughly centered on the façade. This recessed entry has a glass door with metal surround and a rectangular transom. Flanking the door are angled walls with fixed single pane windows that have a reflective black enameled metal panel at the top and bottom with metal trim. To the south, parallel to Main Street is a large display window, with an enameled black panel above it, resting on a brick base. There is a plain granite frieze dividing the commercial floor from the apartments above. The second and third floors on the west facade have three segmental arched windows with granite keystones and slightly projecting granite sills. The windows are 1/1 double hung replacements.

The north wall has an approximately two-foot tall poured concrete base adjoining the brick wall with a 1 1/2-story high concrete block facing over wood clapboards attached to the brick wall. The north face has four windows evenly spaced on the east 2/3rds of the second and third floors (second floor windows appear half as tall due to siding), and there are two more 1/1 windows and a smaller 1/1 window on the third floor of the south wall. All of these windows have wood surrounds with a segmental brick arch and plain brick sills.

There is a low 1-story, flat roofed, poured concrete addition off the west side of the building with a door and window roughly centered on the wall. There is a metal awning over the entry and window. The flat roof serves as the floor for a porch on the second story and supports the wooden posts for the third floor porch, which has a shed roof. There are wooden steps up to the second and third floors. Both porches have wood rails and an off-center entry. There is a large arched opening to the north of the entries with paired 1/1 replacement windows and a single 1/1 replacement window to the south of the entries.

The Main Street façade has a large pressed metal cornice with curvilinear brackets, egg and dart molding and dentils. There is a large console at each end with a base for a finial on top. Just below the metal cornice is a pair of dogtooth courses running at opposite angles.

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This building was constructed circa 1892, which is when it is seen on an 1892 Hurd map.<sup>31</sup> According to a deed dated November 1893, Joseph Wilkins sold adjoining property to the south to John G. Bartlett (Bartlett Block, #11) who agreed to provide bricks for a shared chimney for a "building to be built".<sup>32</sup> In 1906 there was a barbershop on the first floor and later it was a variety store.<sup>33</sup>

**11. John G. Bartlett's Block, 145 Main Street, c. 1892. Contributing building**

The John G. Bartlett building is a small 3-story, 2 bay wide, brick structure resting on a brick foundation. It is clad in aluminum and T-111 siding. The building has a shallow sloped shed roof sheathed in asphalt and adjoins the Greene-Wilkins Block (#10) to the north and the Osgood Block (#12) to the south. It is a vernacular commercial block with Beaux-Arts decorative details.

The first floor has a recessed entry on the north end with a plain wood surround. The entry bay is little more than a door-width wide and the walls have T-111 siding. The entry has a wooden door with 9 panes over x-shaped panels. On the south portion of the first floor is a horizontal rectangular display window with wood surround and small wood lintel with T-111 siding below it. There is a wood shingled pent eave dividing the first floor from the upper floors.

The second floor has a small three-sided replacement bay window on a pair of brackets. It has 1/1 double hung sashes flanking a central picture window with a pent eave. There is a pressed metal frieze between the second and third floor with a small molded cornice and a rinceau pattern below it. The third floor has small 1/1 double hung vinyl replacement windows.

At the top of the building is a large pressed metal decorative element. It has a molded cornice with consoles at each end that have morning glories and another decorative plant pattern on them. The frieze has a series of swags and the architrave resembles bricks. Below the architrave is another small molded cornice with a rinceau-patterned frieze below it that abuts the top of the third floor windows. The swags, rinceau patterns, and flower details are common decorative elements found in the Beaux-Arts style.

There is a two-story addition off the back of the building with a poured concrete foundation, and it is sheathed in aluminum siding. A third floor deck, with a stockade fence, is on top of the addition. There is a wooden staircase leading to the second floor. There is a concrete block chimney at the north wall and a firewall along the south side with a brick chimney in the middle of it. This building is smaller than the rest of the buildings on this side of Main Street, being only half as deep.

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<sup>31</sup> Hurd, D. Hamilton. Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. (Boston: D.H. Hurd and Company 1892).

<sup>32</sup> Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Book 306, Pg. 391

<sup>33</sup> Sanborn Map Company, 1906 and 1912

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According to an 1893 deed Bartlett agreed with Joseph Wilkins to provide the bricks for a shared chimney with the Greene-Wilkins (#10) Block to the north.<sup>34</sup> According to a 1912 Sanborn Map, an undertaker occupied the first floor. A circa 1900 photograph shows the building with running bond brick and two 2/2 windows on the second and third floors. The original entry bay and 9-pane display window were in the same locations as the current entry bay and display window. There was also a projecting cornice with brackets at the first floor, which now has a pent eave. Despite alterations the building retains its commercial block form and decorative architectural details keeping its association with the historic period and continuing to contribute to the character of the district.

**12. Osgood's Block, 141 Main Street, 1879. Contributing building**

The Osgood Block adjoins the Bartlett Block (#11) to the north and the Gordon-Piper Block (#13) to the south. The Osgood building is Renaissance Revival style with early Queen Anne influences seen in the multi-surfaced walls and corbelling on the primary facade. It is a commercial block that is 3 stories tall on the front half while the back half is 2 stories; both have a flat roof with asphalt sheathing. The building is constructed of brick resting on a brick foundation and is 5 bays wide.

The first floor has a large metal awning across the entire storefront, which separates the first floor from the upper floors. The storefront has a single recessed, angled entry bay with a wood panel door that has a large glass pane and a plain wood surround. The walls of the entry bay are vertical plate glass with metal surrounds on plywood panel bases. North of the entry is a pair of vertical glass display windows with a metal surround over a horizontal plywood panel. To the south of the entry are two horizontal display windows on the top half of the wall with equal sized plywood panels beneath them, all with metal trim. At the base of this wall are smaller plywood panels.

The corbelled brick pilasters at the edges of the building, a heavily corbelled cornice at the top, and the awning on the first floor work together to frame the brick paneling of the upper floors. The second and third floors each have five equally spaced 1/1 wood-framed windows with granite sills, which are part of the alternating brick and granite sill courses on both floors. Between each window on the second floor and beneath each window on the third floor are alternating flush and recessed headers just below the brick and granite sill courses. The second floor window bank is slightly recessed from the third floor. The second floor windows have flush segmental arches with a header row over alternating soldiers and paired rowlocks, and a row of slightly projecting stretchers even with the bottom of the arches. About a quarter of the way down from the top of the second floor windows is another row of alternating flush and recessed headers between the windows. The third floor windows have slightly projecting brick segmental arched labels that are tied together by a continuous row of projecting headers running across the top along the whole face of the building, and stretchers between the labels.

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<sup>34</sup> Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Book 306, Pg. 391

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There is a molded wood cornice at the roof with a small gable roofed cap on top of the brick pilaster at the north end (one at south end is missing). The cornice has a row of narrow dentils with a heavily corbelled frieze below them, and a row of large dentils below the frieze. There is a corbelled brick chimney on the roof near the south wall. There is a one-story brick addition off the back, which adjoins the addition on the Gordon-Piper Block (#13). It has a shallow sloped shed roof with a wide eave and center entry on the east face, which has vertical wood paneling.

This building was designed at the same time as the two buildings to the south (#13, #14) and they were meant to appear as one large block, although they are three separate buildings. This was one of the many properties owned by A.N. Osgood. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century one of the first floor spaces served as auction rooms while the other half was a millinery.<sup>35</sup>

**13. Gordon-Piper's Block, 139 Main Street, 1879. Contributing building**

The Gordon-Piper Block is a commercial building constructed of brick resting on a brick foundation. The block is 4 bays wide and the front half is 3 stories while the back half is 2 stories, both have shallow sloped shed roofs sheathed in asphalt. It adjoins the Osgood Block (#12) to the north and the Tennant Block (#14) to the south. The building is Renaissance Revival style with Queen Anne influences seen in the multi-surfaced walls and corbelling on the primary facade.

The first floor façade has bright yellow enameled vertical panels with metal trim and a rolled awning above them. On the bottom fourth of the wall is a random course concrete block veneer, of various shades of gray, which also wraps around into the entry bays. There are two entries: the one at the north end is for the upper floors. The restaurant entryway is off center and flanked by square display windows with metal surrounds, resting on the concrete veneer. The enamel paneling is in the entry around the glass door with metal surround. The sidewalls have narrow vertical windows.

The corbelled brick pilasters at the edges, a heavily corbelled cornice at the top, and the yellow enamel panels at the bottom work together to frame the brick paneling of the upper floors. Both floors have four windows. The center windows are paired 1/1 double hung sashes, while the outer windows are 2/2. They are all wood-framed with granite sills, which are part of the alternating brick and granite sill courses on both floors. Between each window on the second floor and beneath each window on the third floor are alternating flush and recessed headers just below the brick and granite sill courses. The second floor window bank is slightly recessed from the third floor. The second floor windows have flush segmental arches with a header row over alternating soldiers and paired rowlocks and a row of slightly projecting stretchers even with the bottom of the arches. About a quarter of the way down from the top of the second floor windows is another row of alternating flush and recessed headers between the windows. The third floor windows have slightly projecting brick segmental

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<sup>35</sup> Sanborn Map Company, 1906

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arched labels that are tied together by a continuous row of projecting headers running across the top along the whole face of the building, and stretchers between the labels.

There is a pressed metal cornice at the roof with a small gable roofed cap on top of the brick pilaster at the south end (one at north end is missing). The cornice has a row of narrow dentils with a heavily corbelled frieze below them and a row of large dentils below the frieze. There is a corbelled brick chimney with a hood near the south wall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor roof and a second similar chimney on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor roof. There is a one-story brick addition of the back, which adjoins the addition on the Osgood Block (#12). It has a shed roof with a wide eave and vertical wood paneling with concrete block facing below it, same as concrete facing on the west face. Moving along the east face from north to south, there are two closely spaced entries, a single car overhead garage door, and a third entry at the south end. There is an exterior cinder block chimney with a hood on the north wall.

This building was designed at the same time as the Osgood Block (#12) to north and the Tennant Block (#14) to the south, and they were meant to appear as one large block, although they are three separate buildings. The building was owned by William H. Piper, but became known for its excellent pharmacist George E. Gordon who established his drugstore, the G.E. Gordon Company, in this building in 1880<sup>36</sup>. The George E. Gordon Co. continued business at this location until at least 1955.<sup>37</sup> The painted wooden sign "G.E. Gordon" is still on the second floor.

**14. Tennant's Block, 131-135 Main Street, 1879. Contributing building**

The Tennant Block is a two-part commercial block constructed of brick resting on a stone foundation. The Renaissance Revival style building is 7 x 5 bays and the front half is 3 stories while the back half is 2-stories, both have a shallow sloped shed roof sheathed in asphalt. It adjoins the Gordon-Piper Block (#13) to the north and the apartment building (#15) to the south. The building is Renaissance Revival style with Queen Anne influences seen in the multi-surfaced walls and corbelling on the primary facade.

The first floor has three equally spaced entries that are flanked by cast iron posts with decorative molding, plain capitals and resting on plinths. The central entry leads to the upper floors and is slightly recessed. It has a wood panel door with a large light over horizontal panels and topped by a two light transom with a molded-wood surround. The two commercial entries are deeply recessed and have the same door and surround as the central entry. The commercial entry bays have glass display windows on the sidewalls with 4 light fixed sashes above them and rest on molded wood panels. This window configuration is repeated on Main Street on each side of the commercial entries. There is a plain granite frieze across the tops of the columns and windows with a corbelled brick cornice above it.

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<sup>36</sup> Town of Pembroke. "Pembroke Bicentennial 1759-1959", Commemorative Booklet

<sup>37</sup> H. A. Manning Company. Manning's Pembroke Directory, 1955.

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The corbelled brick pilasters at the edges, a heavily corbelled cornice at the top, and the yellow enamel panels at the bottom work together to frame the brick paneling of the upper floors. The upper floors both have seven windows. The third floor windows are 2/1 double hung with wood frames, as are the windows on the north half of the second floor. The rest of the second floor has 1/1 double hung replacement windows. They are all wood-framed with granite sills, which are part of the alternating brick and granite sill courses on both floors. Between each window on the second floor and beneath each window on the third floor are alternating flush and recessed headers beneath each window. The second floor window bank is slightly recessed from the third floor. The second floor windows have flush segmental arches with a header row over alternating soldiers and paired rowlocks. There is a row of stretchers in line with the bottom of the arches that steps down from the third to the second floor, marking the transition between floors. About a quarter of the way down from the top of the second floor windows is another row of alternating flush and recessed headers between the windows. The third floor windows have slightly projecting brick segmental arched labels that are tied together by a continuous row of projecting headers running across the top along the whole face of the building, and stretchers between the labels. There is a pressed metal cornice at the roof flanked by small gable roofed caps on top of the brick pilasters at each end. The cornice has a row of narrow dentils with a heavily corbelled frieze below them, and a row of large dentils below the frieze.

On the south side of the building there is four 1/1 double hung replacement windows on the second floor with wide wood frames and two 2/2 double hung windows on the original brick third floor. All of these windows have a flush brick segmental arch and lintel. There is a firewall on the north side and three corbelled chimneys along the south wall. There is an irregular ell shaped third floor addition along the east wall of the original third floor, over part of the second floor, and extending east along the south half of the building. The addition has iron sheathing with a pressed brick pattern and is painted red. The third floor addition has two 2/2 double hung windows with wide wooden frames on the south side and one boarded over window on the west end. There are wood stairs up to the third floor addition. There is a second irregular addition, with vinyl siding, off the back of the building that is two stories where it adjoins the original block and drops to one story at the alley. It has a tall, corbelled brick chimney on the roof at the south edge of the wall.

This building was designed at the same time as the two building to the north (#12, #13) and they were meant to appear as one large block, although they are three separate buildings. Joseph Rainville bought the building in 1897 and he opened a shoe store, Rainville Shoes. The business is still in operation and run by his grandson George Rainville, making it the oldest continuously run business in Pembroke and Suncook<sup>38</sup>. George Rainville plans on having the storefront restored and renovating the upper floors on his half of the building in the near future.<sup>39</sup> The interior is also largely intact. The other half was occupied by a drug store in 1906 and dry goods in 1912.<sup>40</sup> Of the three grouped buildings (Osgood, Gordon-Piper, and Tennant), the Tennant Block has the least altered storefront.

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<sup>38</sup> Rainville, George. Interview, April 2003

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

<sup>40</sup> Sanborn Map Company

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**15. Vacant lot, 127 Main Street, Noncontributing site**

There was a two story wood framed apartment building built circa 1960 that was demolished in July 2004 because it was structurally unsound. The building was noncontributing due to its more recent design, materials and workmanship.

During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there was a wooden two-story building that housed a restaurant and bakery.<sup>41</sup> The property was eventually owned by the Georgi family who also operated a restaurant and bakery here, known as Georgi's Restaurant. When Georgi's burned for the second time in the 1950s it was replaced by the apartment building<sup>42</sup>. This lot is also the site of the former Caleb Stark House, a major general in the American Revolution who led a group at the Battle of Bunker Hill.<sup>43</sup>

**16. Commercial building, 125 Main Street, c. 1935. Noncontributing building**

The two-story shed roof wood clapboard building is a noncontributing structure. There is a recessed entry on the north end of the façade with an arched canvas awning. There is a historic marker to the south of the entry and a small fixed single light window on the south half of the façade. The second floor is nearly unadorned with just a plain cornice board at the top and a metal sign bracket projecting from the façade.

This building is more congruous with the district than the American Legion building (#20) because of the proportions and the form. The historic marker notes that it is the site where the Marquis de Lafayette stopped during his good will tour of 1824-1825. This is also the site of the former Caleb Stark House, a major general in the American Revolution, and Lafayette stopped to visit John Stark, Caleb's son.

**17. Jacob E. Chickering's Block, 121 -123 Main Street, 1868. Contributing building**

The Jacob E. Chickering building is a 3-story, 3 x 2 bay, commercial block with a low-pitched gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The Italianate style building is of wood frame construction with a brick veneer in a running bond pattern resting on a stone foundation. It adjoins the commercial building (#16) to the north, and has an enclosed staircase to the south.

The west façade has a recessed center entry bay topped by a double rowlock arch that springs from a pair of cast iron, fluted columns with acanthus leaf capitals that flank the entry. On each side of the columns is a double rowlock elliptical arched opening. It has a large wood enframed display window with an arched transom, and a

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<sup>41</sup> Sanborn Map Company, 1906 and 1912

<sup>42</sup> Rainville, George. Interview, April 2003

<sup>43</sup> Carter, N.F. History of Pembroke, N.H: 1730-1895/N.F. Carter, assisted by T.L. Fowler. I. History. (Allenstown, NH: Allenstown-Pembroke Bicentennial Committee, 1976). p. 390, 396

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wood sill on a brick base. The entry has a commercial glass door with a canvas semicircular awning over it. There is a granite stoop and the sidewalls of the entry bay have windows with wood surrounds, square transoms and wood sills on a short brick base.

The window bank on the second floor is inset with a double row of dentils at the top of the brick panel. There are three tall windows with 2/2 double hung sashes, wood surrounds and granite sills. The round arched windows have slightly projecting arched brick labels composed of rowlocks and stretchers with large projecting granite keystones and topped by a continuous projecting header row.

There is an overhanging wood cornice covering the gable end on the west façade with wood modillions and four large, ornate consoles beneath it. The frieze is brick with recessed rectangles between the consoles and a wood molded strip at the bottom.

The third floor of the north, south and east sides each have two windows with wood surrounds, brick segmental arch lintels and brick sills. There are three plain brick chimneys on the roof, one near the edge of the north wall and two near the edge of the south wall.

At the east side is a two-story concrete block addition with an asymmetrical gable roof and a wooden sliding double door entry on the east side, first floor. There is also a door on the second right above the double doors, and a single 1/1 double hung window on the north side. This addition extends north behind the small commercial building (#16). There is a covered passage located on Main Street between the Chickering Block and the Emery Block (#18) to the south. This entry is only a door-width wide and has a two-part shed roof with wood shingles. A sign on the wood panel door now states that 121 Main Street is located at the back of the property. Historically this space between the buildings has had a staircase leading up and back to the alley<sup>44</sup>.

The Chickering Block is the first brick covered building constructed on Main Street in Pembroke, and is the oldest block in the district. Chickering ran a jewelry store in the building and a jewelry store continued to operate in the space until the early 1920s. This building is also one of the most intact facades with few alterations.

**18. Natt B. and Joseph E. Emery's Block, 117 Main Street, 1869. Contributing building**

The Emery Block, located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Glass Street, faces west towards Main Street. It is a two-story, 7 x 7 bay building of wood frame construction with red brick veneer in a running bond pattern and rest on a brick foundation. The Italianate building has a flat roof sheathed in asphalt.

<sup>44</sup> Sanborn Map Company. Suncook, Merrimack County, New Hampshire (New York; 1906, 1912, 1923, and 1929)

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The first floor has three equally spaced recessed entries divided by display windows. There is a semicircular vinyl awning running along the whole façade. All of the entries have glass doors with metal frames. The north entry serves as the main entrance to the restaurant and has a decorative painted surround. There is a small vestibule before entering the restaurant through a second glass door. The main entry is flanked by large display windows over enamel panels, which have lost their enamel coating. Each window has black enamel panels at the outside corners, which have lost nearly all of their enamel coating.

The southern two entries have transoms above the doors. The central entrance leads to the second floor. Two display windows flank the southernmost entrance and are framed by black enamel panels. At the southern corner the paneling continues on the Glass Street façade around a single window. There is a large white panel with painted red characters above the window at the same level as the awning on the front. The second floor has seven evenly spaced 2/2 double hung sashes with metal storms and wood surrounds in round arches.

On the Glass Street façade (south side) there are six large double rowlock brick arch openings irregularly spaced on the first floor. The two openings towards the west end have plywood in the top half with fixed square windows in the bottom half and granite sills. The remaining four arches are towards the east end and one is a recessed bay, which formerly served as an entrance. It is a wider elliptical arch and rests on a pair of cast iron, spiral fluted columns. The other arches are round. The former entry bay now has a wall with an electrical box and meters, and the sidewalls are boarded over windows with molded wood panels. The two arches to the east are covered with plywood and have granite sills. The fourth arch has a wooden door and screen door with a transom in a plywood surround. The top of the arch has an earlier wood framed three-light arched transom.

The second floor of the south face has seven 2/2 double hung sashes with metal storms and wood surrounds in round arches, which are irregularly spaced. There are also five windows in round arches on the east wall, and according to Sanborn Maps there are two windows on the north wall. There is a plain molded metal cornice around all sides of the building.

There is a one story wood framed addition off of the east side of the building with a flat roof. It has wood clapboard siding and adjoins 6 Glass Street to the east. The addition appears on the 1906 Sanborn Map. The south side has a wood framed double door entry made of vertical boards with a person sized door next to it that has a small pent eave above it. There is a 2"x4" nailed over the smaller entrance which appears to have been used to access steps leading up to the shed roofed porch on top of the addition.

Natt Bartlett Emery and his brother J. Morrill Emery formed a partnership in 1859 and established the firm Emery Brothers.<sup>45</sup> They were in the mercantile business and the corner where the Emery Block is located was long known as Emery's Corner before the current building was constructed in 1869.<sup>46</sup> The Emery brothers

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<sup>45</sup> Aldrich, p. 63

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

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continued their business at this location into the early 1900s. Suncook's first bank was established in 1916 and occupied this building until 1955 when the Suncook Bank moved to a new modern building on Glass Street.<sup>47</sup>

**19. Sylvester Sullivan' Block, 9-15 Glass Street, c. 1878. Contributing building**

The Sylvester Sullivan building is a two-story, 8 x 4 bay, red brick building resting on a stone foundation with a shallow sloped roof sheathed in asphalt. It adjoins the American Legion building (#20) to the west and there is a parking lot to the east. The Italianate style Sullivan Block is built into a hill with the primary façade facing Glass Street to the north and it has an exposed basement level on the south side.

The north facade has corbelled brick pilasters at the corners and eight rowlock arch windows on the first floor with projecting corbelled brick pilasters around the two center arches. There are also four cast iron pilasters with decorative molding flanking the remaining arches on each side of the two center arches. There are paired 1/1 replacement windows in each arch with arched glass on top and a brick sill on a brick base. The top of the brick arches project slightly.

The main entry is now centered on the east wall and faces the adjoining parking lot. It has a gable roof entry porch and a modern commercial glass door with metal surround and full-length sidelights. There are two plain segmental arch window openings to the south of the entry.

The second floor of the Glass Street façade (north side) is divided from the first by a granite stringcourse. There are seven arched window openings on the second floor with 1/1-replacement windows and wood surrounds with granite sills. The center arch is wider than the rest with paired 1/1 double hung windows. Above each window is a wood panel with a decorative molded pattern in the center. The windows are topped by a row of projecting brick label mold arches with large projecting granite keystones and corbelling at the springline. There is a plain pressed metal cornice with a heavily corbelled frieze and rows of projecting brick courses above the second floor windows.

On the east and west walls the second floor has 1/1 replacement windows with segmental arch lintels and brick sills. The east and west walls step down from the north to the south. Both of these walls also have remnants of painted wall advertisements. The west wall has a door with wooden steps leading to the shed roof wooden porch addition off the back of the building (south side), which includes the basement floor making it a 3-story veranda style porch. The basement and first floor of the south side each have three segmental arch openings, including doors that are boarded over. The third floor has six segmental arch openings, also boarded over.

The Sylvester Sullivan Block was built after a fire in 1877 destroyed the two buildings at the southeast corner of Main and Glass streets. There was a billiards hall in one half of the building during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The

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<sup>47</sup> Town of Pembroke

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building was renovated during the late 1990s, which is when the entrance was moved to the east side and the two entries on the north were made into windows.

**20. American Legion, 1 Glass Street, c. 1894. Noncontributing building**

The J. J. McGuire Post No. 28 American Legion at the southeast corner of Glass Street and Main Street is a 1 1/2-story flat roofed building with an ashlar-styled random course concrete block facing resting on a stone foundation. The block is topped by vertical wood paneling around the north and west faces. The building faces north with a recessed entry centered on the 1 1/2-story portion of the façade. The eastern half of the building is one story high and adjoins the Sylvester Block (#19) to the east. The western side has concrete block facing with a metal entry door and a very small fixed square window on the first floor. The upper story has three irregularly spaced window openings; a small square fixed sash, and two sets of tripartite windows with 1/1 double hung sashes. The south side has clapboard siding on the western 1 1/2-story portion with a small 1/1 window on the first floor, while the one story eastern half is cinder blocks.

The American Legion purchased the main portion of this site in 1922 when it bought the hardware store that was originally on this corner.<sup>48</sup> The American Legion itself was established in 1919 making the Suncook post, established in 1922, one of the earliest to be chartered.<sup>49</sup> The building has undergone several major alterations that have completely changed its original appearance.

The American Legion building is non-contributing due to extensive changes circa 1970. It was originally a wood framed two story building housing a hardware store and adjoined by a two story wood framed building to the south and a one story wood framed building to the east, which was originally Ira Morgan's harness shop, and became known as the cobbler's shop<sup>50</sup>. The legion eventually acquired all three properties and the current building has combined the original hardware store's footprint with the adjoining property to the east while demolishing the cobbler's shop to the south. Although no longer architecturally significant, the American legion is still important as representing the village's social and civic activities.

**21. Eleazer Baker's Store, 19 Mill Falls, c. 1870. Contributing building.**

Baker's Store is a two-story wood framed, Italianate style commercial block sheathed in vinyl siding with a shallow sloped roof and rests on a stone and brick foundation. The 3 x 4 bay building faces west on Mill Falls, which used to be part of Main Street (and runs at a slight angle from Main Street and down to the river).

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<sup>48</sup> Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Book 460, Pg. 256; and Sanborn Map 1929

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.legion.org>. History page

<sup>50</sup> Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Book 1077, Pg. 15

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The west face of the building has a recessed entry flanked by plate glass display windows with vinyl surrounds and projecting lintels. There is a granite step and wooden steps to the entry bay, which has been tiled. The door is wood with a large window over horizontal panels with a plain wood entablature and a stained glass transom. There is a pent eave cornice with brackets dividing the first and second floor. The second floor has four 1/1 replacement windows with vinyl surrounds and projecting lintels.

The north side of Baker's store is unadorned because it used to adjoin Ira Morgan's harness shop (later known as the "cobbler's shop") on this side. The south side has a small rectangular fixed window and a 1/1 double hung window on the first floor. The second floor has three equally spaced 1/1 replacements, same as those on the west elevation, and a hipped roof, three sided bay window at the east end. According to Sanborn Maps there was a wooden staircase leading to an entry at this location.

At the rear of the building, east side, there is a shallow bay window with four single panes and a pent eave, and a paired window on the first floor. The second floor has a single 1/1 replacement window. There is a plain brick chimney on the roof near the edge of the south wall.

According to a circa 1935 photograph (owned by George Rainville) the building has the same overhanging cornice and frieze on the second floor with the same pent eave cornice on the first floor. The window placements are the same, including the size of the display window openings. The second floor vinyl lintels of today look the same as the wood lintels in the photograph. The major difference is that there appears to have been a rectangular transom window below the pent eave above each bay division. The building housed a 225-seat movie theater, Bijou Theatre, in 1912 according to the 1912 Sanborn Map. Although it has undergone alterations and was recently sided it is still important to the district because it is the last surviving wooden building on Main Street that dates back to the district's most prosperous period. It represents the typical buildings that existed before all of the brick blocks were constructed. Baker's store maintains its commercial form and association with the commercial district.

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**Significance Statement**

Suncook Village Historic Commercial/Civic District is eligible for the National Register under criterion A as a locally significant example of commerce, community planning and development, and social history in a small rural mill village in the state of New Hampshire and the industrial corridor of the Merrimack River Valley. It is a local example of the importance of water-powered mills during the United States' industrial revolution and the resulting growth and development of river-based communities in the nineteenth century. Historically Suncook Village has served as the center of commerce and social activity for the towns of Pembroke and Allenstown. The district is also significant under criterion C as representative of the commercial architecture found in small New Hampshire mill centers during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The styles represented are the revival styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries - Italianate, Renaissance, Gothic, and Colonial. The period of significance for the Suncook Village Commercial/Civic Historic District starts in 1868, the construction date of the oldest surviving building in the district, and continues through 1954, the National Register's fifty year cut-off date, due to the continued use of Suncook Village as a commercial and civic center and the integrity of its appearance during the time period. The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period of significance.

The architecture and the evolution of the small commercial center are reflections of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial growth of mill towns in New Hampshire. "By mid-nineteenth century, Suncook's status as an active regional mill town paralleled similar development throughout the Merrimack River valley corridor. Communities such as Concord to the north, Manchester, Nashua, and Lowell and Haverhill, Massachusetts to the south all became the locations of significant mill construction along the Merrimack River. Suncook is part of this significant industrial corridor".<sup>51</sup>

Suncook Village Historic Commercial/Civic District is one of the best examples of a small mill town center in southern New Hampshire, and "despite its seemingly remote location today, it would have been perceived at the time as a northern outpost of the already substantial Merrimack Valley".<sup>52</sup> It is also representative of the influence of the industrial revolution in the Merrimack Valley, which had become the social, political, and economic center of the state as the seacoast areas declined in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>53</sup>

Other small mill towns developed in New Hampshire during the same time period as Suncook Village, 1860s-1890s, but they lack a commercial center as developed as Suncook's. The towns of Greenville, with three mill complexes, and New Ipswich, with one large mill complex, located in the Souhegan River Valley are examples of similarly sized mill towns of the same era. They both have a setting similar to Suncook's with hilly terrain rising up from the Souhegan River. The town centers have a town hall and a concentration of housing but are

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<sup>51</sup> Preservation Company. "Suncook Village Historic District Area Form (Area SV)". (Kensington, NH: Preservation Company, 2001). p. 2

<sup>52</sup> Preservation Company, p.25

<sup>53</sup> Wilson, p. 7

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lacking in commercial buildings and a well laid out, simple street plain. They do have some associations and feelings of a small mill center, but they lack a cohesive center with concentrated commercial development. Therefore, Suncook Village is significant as an example of a small mill town with a well-developed commercial and civic center that has retained its historic integrity.

Criterion A

The district is significant under the area of commerce as a reflection of the typical commercial growth patterns of small rural communities in the Merrimack River Valley of New Hampshire in response to the industrial revolution, which utilized waterpower for mill development. The mills and brickyards supported the development and growth of Suncook Village as a commercial center positioned between the state capital of Concord and the larger mill city of Manchester. The Suncook Village Historic Commercial/Civic District illustrates how commerce influenced the growth of small mill towns by increasing the demand for goods. A larger labor force was required to meet this increased demand and created population growth in the once sparsely populated rural areas. The larger population also created a greater demand for services and stimulated growth of social organizations

Suncook Village's location on the Suncook and Merrimack rivers made it a prime location for the development of trade, commerce, and services for the outlying agricultural areas. Suncook's commercial district began to emerge as early as 1738 when John Cochran agreed to build a gristmill and saw mill to provide for the needs of the early settlers in the area.<sup>54</sup> The waterpower available from the Suncook River and Merrimack River was harnessed by mills and brickyards, which fueled the development of the village. The rivers also initially provided a transportation route for products. The Suncook Village Commercial/Civic Historic District is a product of the growth that took place in New Hampshire's small industrial mill villages of the mid to late nineteenth century. The buildings of two of the three textile mills that operated in the village are still extant near the district.

The district also reflects the trends of community development and planning during America's Industrial Revolution with its concentration of commercial buildings along the main thoroughfares, the use of brick and firewalls in building construction, and the widened streets. The village provided all the desired amenities within walking distance for the new, more urban population. Main Street and Glass Street served as the center for commerce, entertainment, and civic activities for Suncook Village and the Town of Pembroke and Allenstown. There were meeting halls for several social clubs on the upper floors of the buildings, two churches, restaurants, saloons, drug stores, jewelry stores, and grocers and dry goods stores. The services and activities developed around the mill worker housing still extant along Front Street and Glass Street.

The street layout and density pattern of buildings reflect the development of a village located in a river valley with limited land suitable for building. The district grew independently of Pembroke and Allenstown as a separate and distinguishable entity with a cohesive core of buildings that provided needed spaces for trade,

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<sup>54</sup> Mann, p. 1

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business transactions, and social and civic gatherings, such as the American Express Company (formerly at #8), the Suncook Bank (formerly at #18), Rainville Shoes (#14), billiards hall (formerly at #19) the International Order of Odd Fellows (formerly at #4), the Masons (formerly at #1, now at #5), drug store (formerly at #13), jewelry store (#17), and dry goods/grocer (formerly #3, #18) and the United Methodist congregation (#7). These buildings, which are still extant and intact, provided essential services to the immediate village residents as well as those of the surrounding towns and to the many travelers who passed through the village during its heyday.

The street patterns, density of buildings and overall appearance of the buildings in the district have changed very little since their construction and easily convey their associations with the history of the village. Business in the area decreased during the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to a combination of factors: the decline in textile manufacturing and the resulting decline in population; the Route 3 bypass which diverted traffic running between Manchester and Concord away from Suncook Village in 1931<sup>55</sup>; the closing of the railroads further decreasing travelers and commerce through the village; and finally the construction of Interstate 93 which bypassed Pembroke all together.

Criterion C

The district meets the criterion for significant architecture due to its representation of the commercial revival styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries - Italianate, Renaissance, Gothic, and Colonial; and the exceptional workmanship of the brick architectural detailing on many buildings. The architecture of the district reflects the prosperity of the village and its role as an important trade center.

Many buildings display a combination of the Italianate and Renaissance Revival styles since much rebuilding occurred during the early stages of Renaissance Revival in the late 1870s to 1880s. The most architecturally significant building is the Clock Tower (#1) constructed in 1879, which is probably individually eligible. Overall the building is a transitional style before the final development of the Renaissance Revival style (horizontal division and banding, window architraves) with elements of the Late Victorian Italianate (round arched windows) and Queen Anne styles (brick panels and heavy corbelling) and minor Second Empire influences. This building set the precedent for the brick buildings constructed after the fires of 1878 and 1886. The continued use of corbelling, brick panel details and arched openings are used on many of the commercial buildings creating unity and cohesion.

The oldest surviving buildings in the district, Jacob Chickering's Block (#17) and the Emory Block (#18), were constructed in 1868 and 1869 respectively. These buildings are examples of the Italianate style seen throughout the district with their symmetry, low pitched roofs, arched openings and cornices. The one remaining wooden commercial building, Baker's Store (#21) built circa 1870, is also in the Italianate style with a wide overhanging bracketed cornice. Later buildings such as Sylvester's Block (#19), built 1878, and

<sup>55</sup> <http://granitehighways.com/>

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Otterson's (#3) and Osgood's (#4) blocks, built 1886, feature the arcaded first floor showing a transitional element of the Renaissance Revival style.

Many of the buildings in the district were constructed after the two major fires during the 1870s. The east side of Main Street features the three buildings constructed in 1879 designed to look as one large block. The Osgood Block (#12), the Gordon-Piper Block (#13) and the Tennant Block (#14) were constructed in the early Renaissance Revival style with their formal symmetry and heavily corbelled cornices. These buildings also show influences of Queen Anne style with the use of projecting and inset brick details creating a more textured façade.

The later Greene-Wilkins Block (#10), and the Bartlett Block (#11) were constructed in the early 1890s and are less ornate than the earlier buildings. The Greene-Wilkins is fully Renaissance Revival with its formal square appearance, symmetry, and the pressed metal cornice with dentils and egg and dart molding. The Bartlett Block is a more vernacular building that has Beaux-Arts detailing with swags and rinceau patterns on the pressed metal cornice and friezes indicating the builder was aware of other styles.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century structures represent the architecture of their period. The Suncook United Methodist Church (#7) built in 1911 is Gothic Revival with its buttresses, pointed arches, and wall dormers. The Fire Station building (#6) built in 1930 is a late Colonial Revival with a roof balustrade, door entablature, and multi-paned windows.

The noncontributing buildings are of the same scale or smaller than the contributing buildings and detract little from the appearance of the district. Several storefronts were altered in the 1950s in an attempt to bring life back into the business district by modernizing their look. Although some of the first floor detailing has been lost, the forms and character of the noncontributing buildings remain in tact and still contribute to the overall historic feeling and associations of the district.

The buildings form a cohesive whole that is distinguishable from the surrounding residential neighborhoods and one of the two last surviving mill complexes. The district incorporates a range of building types and styles representing the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Historical Background

In 1725 Captain John Lovewell led a group of colonists into battle against a tribe of Native Americans led by Paugus near Lake Winnepesaukee to assert their rights to the territory. The "white survivors of the battle petitioned the Province of Massachusetts Bay...to allow them to settle" on land in the area now known as Pembroke, parts of Allenstown, Hooksett, and Bow.<sup>56</sup> They were granted the land on the following conditions: 50 families were required to settle in the area; build an eighteen square foot house and cultivate five acres of

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<sup>56</sup> Mann, p. 1

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land within a five year period.<sup>57</sup> The land was divided into lots in 1730, and the first permanent settlers began to arrive. The new settlers called their township Suncook Plantation and set aside Lot #1 for mill development due to the available "supply of fast moving water" provided by the Suncook and Merrimack rivers.<sup>58</sup> This lot is the area now known as Suncook Village. In 1759 the Town of Pembroke was incorporated and included the area of Lot #1 on the north side of the Suncook River.

John Cochran acquired rights to Lot #1 in 1738 after agreeing to build a gristmill and saw mill to provide for the needs of the early settlers in the area.<sup>59</sup> By 1773 Samuel Daniel operated a fulling mill.<sup>60</sup> The Cochran family continued to own the land of Lot #1 until 1796, when it was sold to Christopher Osgood who divided it into parcels.<sup>61</sup> Several saw mills and gristmills, and a nail factory were developed in the early 1800s and by 1810 John Lewis and Leonard Pratt built a paper mill to profit from the growing demand for paper in New England.<sup>62</sup> The large demand for paper during this time, due to a great increase in record keeping and letter writing resulted in the building of four more paper mills in Suncook by 1820.<sup>63</sup> From its founding Suncook Village was seen as an ideal location for mill development and the townspeople quickly made use of the readily available waterpower.

Entrepreneurs found the new Suncook Plantation a desirable location for trade and business. John Cochran was also the earliest trader on record, trading a wide variety of goods through Suncook Village as early as 1770.<sup>64</sup> During that time goods were still moved by teams of oxen originating from Portsmouth, Newburyport, Salem, and Boston due to lack of improved turnpikes or river navigation.<sup>65</sup> It is believed that Joseph Farnum Foster was first to keep a store in Suncook Village, established in 1813 at the northwest corner of Main and Church streets just north of the historic district boundaries.<sup>66</sup> There were over fifty individuals or firms in business in Pembroke and Suncook Village between the years 1805-1894.<sup>67</sup> Some of the men who were in business the longest are the Emery Brothers, J.E. Chickering, Eleazer Baker and Joseph Wilkins, responsible for building #18, #17, #21 and #8 respectively.

Improvements in transportation coincided with the growth and development of Suncook Village as a commercial and civic center for the Town of Pembroke and Allenstown. The earliest travel paths developed

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<sup>57</sup> Ibid

<sup>58</sup> Mann, p. 1

<sup>59</sup> Carter, p. 349

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, p. 349-50

<sup>61</sup> Mann, p. 2

<sup>62</sup> Carter, p. 350-52; Mann, p. 3

<sup>63</sup> Mann, p. 3

<sup>64</sup> Carter, p. 341

<sup>65</sup> Ibid "

<sup>66</sup> Ibid, p. 346

<sup>67</sup> Ibid "

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along property lines, with the first road through Suncook running parallel to the Merrimack River and known as Town Road (now Pembroke Street).<sup>68</sup> Before bridges were built there were ferries operating across both the Merrimack and Suncook rivers to transport passengers and goods across.<sup>69</sup> In 1802 a bridge was built, through private funds, to cross the Suncook River along Main Street, (believed to be where the current Main Street bridge stands today).<sup>70</sup> During the same time, 1802-1804, the Chester Turnpike and Turnpike Bridge were built by Asa Robinson to create a reliable travel route between Manchester and Concord that passed through Pembroke.<sup>71</sup> It significantly increased trade and traffic in Suncook Village. Buck Street (now called Glass Street) was laid out in 1817 directly connecting the turnpike with Main Street in Suncook Village.<sup>72</sup> Beginning in 1807, a system of canals and locks constructed on the Merrimack River eased trade between Concord to the north of Suncook and Boston to the south.<sup>73</sup>

The most important industry in the development of Suncook Village was the textile mills along the Suncook River, and brick manufacturing along the Merrimack River became the second most prosperous industry. Caleb Stark founded the Pembroke Cotton and Woollen Company in 1814 and it was at this time that Suncook Village Commercial/Civic Historic District began to see its first residential and commercial buildings.<sup>74</sup> The number of mills was also growing more rapidly as the population of the country continued to increase and created a greater demand for goods. The availability of water power in New England served the developing mill industry well and made New England a manufacturing center. In 1839 the Suncook Glass Works, also known as Chelmsford Glass, established a shop along Buck Street to manufacture window glass using the cylinder method and continued in operation until 1869 when high quality European glass became more affordable due to lower tariffs.<sup>75</sup> By 1830 Caleb Stark had sold his company to Joseph Dykes who eventually sold to Charles Nichols and George Brownell.<sup>76</sup> Nichols and Brownell combined this property with the purchase of a Lewis mill along with Osgood's sawmill and built a larger building creating the Suncook Manufacturing Company in 1847.<sup>77</sup> They then acquired the rest of Osgood's property and combined it with the Suncook Manufacturing Company to create the newly incorporated Pembroke Manufacturing Company in 1859.<sup>78</sup> Pembroke Manufacturing Company then purchased Lewis' and Pratt's paper mills in 1860 leading Suncook Village into the lucrative textile industry.<sup>79</sup> The paper industry in New England was in decline because paper was being made elsewhere

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<sup>68</sup> Mann, p. 2

<sup>69</sup> Ibid “

<sup>70</sup> Carter, p. 318

<sup>71</sup> Ibid “

<sup>72</sup> Ibid, p. 321

<sup>73</sup> Preservation Company, p. 25

<sup>74</sup> Mann, p. 3

<sup>75</sup> Preservation Company, p. 25

<sup>76</sup> Mann, p. 3

<sup>77</sup> Ibid “

<sup>78</sup> Ibid “

<sup>79</sup> Ibid “

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at a lower cost. With technological advancements in cotton harvesting America was now in a position to produce and supply its own textiles, and New England entrepreneurs began to expand this industry.<sup>80</sup>

Up until the 1830s the Town of Pembroke was primarily an agricultural community with a small supporting industrial base in Suncook Village. However by 1860, agriculture began to decline in the area and Suncook Village's increased industry and prosperity made it the "hub of all town activity".<sup>81</sup> In general, "Pembroke followed closely the trends of other New England factory towns, and rapidly adjusted itself to what was most successful elsewhere".<sup>82</sup> From this point through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Suncook Village diverged from the Town of Pembroke, although it was still the local trade center for the outlying agricultural areas.

The Suncook United Methodist Church was originally located on Church Street in 1849 and burned in 1882. The church relocated and rebuilt at the corner of Union and Main streets in 1884, before it burned again in 1911 and was replaced by current the church #7. A Baptist church, which is no longer extant, was built across the street at the corner of Central and Main.<sup>83</sup> In 1869 the town voted to create a "fire district" in Suncook Village and provided money for the purchase of "hose and fixtures to connect to pipes laid in the village".<sup>84</sup> The churches and the addition of fire equipment reflect the population growth of the village and the increase in the number of buildings.

A key factor in the growth of industry and commerce in Suncook Village was the introduction of railroad service. The Concord-Portsmouth line was established in 1852 with a stop in Pembroke on Exchange Street in Suncook Village. This line linked Pembroke with Concord and Portsmouth via Hooksett and Candia (in 1861 the Candia track was removed and the line went via Manchester) and created the needed capacity to bring in large amounts of cotton and send out finished textile products. It also increased travel and commerce through Suncook Village. In 1869 the Suncook Valley Railroad completed construction of its line, which ran along the south side of Suncook River, connecting Pittsfield with the Concord & Portsmouth line. The line ran via Chichester and Allenstown, where there was a station, and connected Suncook Village with points north and east.<sup>85</sup> This line was important because it provided increased consumer traffic into Suncook Village. The arrival of trains at the station was the "big social event of the day".<sup>86</sup>

During the 1860s two more large textile mills were constructed in addition to the Pembroke Mill, established in 1860. The Webster Mill was built in 1865 followed by the China Mill built in 1868 (in Allenstown). The three

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid, p. 4

<sup>81</sup> Ibid "

<sup>82</sup> Ibid, p. 6

<sup>83</sup> Meet me in Suncook

<sup>84</sup> Town of Pembroke, p. 28

<sup>85</sup> Carter, p. 329

<sup>86</sup> Town of Pembroke, p. 24

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mills were managed by B.K. Weld of Boston as treasurer and David L. Jewell of Pembroke as agent, under the name Suncook Mills Company.<sup>87</sup> These three large mills alone required a labor force of more than 1500 workers. Mill owners first hired workers from England and Ireland, as well as the local farmers' daughters. The company constructed boarding houses and tenement apartments, such as Webster mill's housing on Corporation Street (now called Crescent Street), which were adequate for single laborers needing a room. These workers were usually looking for temporary jobs, and mill owners provided needed goods on credit in company owned stores.

During this same time period, the Town of Pembroke also had a substantial brick making industry along the Merrimack River including three yards operating in Suncook Village at the same time by the 1890s. The brickyards were located along the Concord & Montreal Railroad on Exchange Street just north of the train depot and owned, from north to south respectively, by F.S. Whitehouse, H.T. Simpson, and G.N. Simpson.<sup>88</sup> The brick making industry in Pembroke began around 1870 and continued into the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>89</sup> The Merrimack River provided most of the clay necessary for brick making, although there were also brickyards located on the Soucook and Suncook rivers. Pembroke brickyards provided bricks for construction of local textile mills, commercial buildings and houses, and they were sent downriver on barges to build the Amoskeag Mill complex in Manchester.<sup>90</sup>

The French Canadians provided a large part of the labor force working in the brickyards.<sup>91</sup> With the an increasing demand for labor to operate the new larger textile mills, many of the French Canadians already present in the brickyards sent home for family and friends. Canada was experiencing an agricultural depression and land shortage during this time and people needed work.<sup>92</sup> The railroad made travel from Montreal to New England easy, and this new group of workers arrived as families, who required different housing arrangements than the previous laborers.

The appearance of Suncook Village was changing rapidly. A lot of construction took place in Suncook on both the Pembroke and Allenstown side during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting the prosperity of the period. The Pembroke side is less steep than the Allenstown side providing easier building sites and resulting in the development of the commercial and civic center at its present location. Additional streets were also laid out during this time, including Front Street and Exchange Street in 1864, the location of the train depot, and Union Street in 1876.<sup>93</sup> Site #2, a narrow alley, served as the beginning of a street providing access behind the Pembroke Mill housing on Front Street in the 1860s. In addition, the tracks of the Concord-Portsmouth line

<sup>87</sup> Carter, p. 354

<sup>88</sup> Hurd, Map of Suncook Village, 1892

<sup>89</sup> Mann, p. 19; <http://www.pembroke-nh.com/history.asp>

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.pembroke-nh.com/history.asp>; Preservation Company, p. 25

<sup>91</sup> Pembroke Bicentennial, p. 3

<sup>92</sup> Mann, p. 5-6

<sup>93</sup> Preservation Company, p. 28

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were extended to facilitate movement of textile products and coal for power generation. They ran directly past China and Pembroke mills, and ended at the Webster Mill.<sup>94</sup> The new mill workers required more permanent housing suitable for families. The mill owners, wanting to create a stable work force, accommodated them by building multiple family dwellings along Glass and Front streets, as well as providing land in 1873 for the St. Jean-Baptiste Catholic church built in Allenstown.

As Suncook's population exploded in the late 1860s, businessmen began to open more shops along Main Street and Glass Street to provide dry goods and other amenities for the new population and the increased number of visitors arriving by train.<sup>95</sup> By 1867 many wooden buildings lined Main Street and Glass Street. They housed businesses and halls providing meat and dry goods, jewelry, stationary, entertainment, and social halls.<sup>96</sup> In 1868 Jacob Chickering built a brick veneer framed building to house his jewelry store, becoming the first brick business on Main Street (#17). This was immediately followed by the Emery Brothers' brick veneered store (#18) right next to Chickering's Block in 1869 on the corner of Main Street and Glass Street, where they had been operating a mercantile business since 1858.<sup>97</sup> Eleazer Baker's Store (#21) was also established circa 1870 on Main Street. Suncook Village had become the center for nearly all business transactions with the exception of town business controlled by the original families of Pembroke in the town hall on Pembroke Street, built in 1840 (burned in 1965).<sup>98</sup> Photographs of Main Street in the late 1860s-1870 show both sides of the street lined with adjoining buildings, almost all of wood construction.<sup>99</sup> The new permanent residents of Suncook Village lived within walking distance of the train station, shops, saloons, and social halls.

Suncook was also "well represented by fraternal, social, and benevolent organizations" during this time reflecting its importance as a civic and social center as well as a commercial center.<sup>100</sup> The two most prominent organizations were the International Order of Odd Fellows, established by Howard Lodge 31 in 1849, and the Masons, established in 1879.<sup>101</sup> The I.O.O.F. had the upper floor of Osgood's Block (#4) when the building was constructed in 1886 and remained there until 1914 when a fire destroyed the third floor addition.<sup>102</sup> The Mason's Jewell Lodge, No. 94 A.F. & A.M. was housed on the third floor of the Clock Tower from its inception in 1879 and still exists with a hall now located on the second floor of Osgood's Inn (#5). Other societies present by the 1890s: Pembroke Grange, Catholic Order of Foresters, Society of St. John the Baptist, United Order of the Golden Cross, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Suncook Improvement Society. The French Canadians formed the French Brass Band in 1874, and Le Cercle Dramatique et Litteraire

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<sup>94</sup> Ibid, p 27

<sup>95</sup> Mann, p. 5-6

<sup>96</sup> Ibid, p. 6

<sup>97</sup> Walling, Map of Suncook Village 1858

<sup>98</sup> Mann, p. 6. <http://www.pembroke-nh.com/history.asp>, date of town hall construction.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid, p. 10, 12

<sup>100</sup> Aldrich, p. 18

<sup>101</sup> Ibid, p. 18-19

<sup>102</sup> Meet Me in Suncook

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in 1885, which performed plays into the twentieth century and established its own library with over 800 volumes.<sup>103</sup>

Suncook's prosperity peaked from the 1880s to early 1900 with the population (including both the Pembroke and Allenstown sides) increasing from 1,727 in 1860 to a high of 4,679 by 1900, with nearly 70% of that population living on the Pembroke side.<sup>104</sup> The Pembroke farmers distrusted the French Canadians and refused to improve streets in Suncook Village or to provide a police officer.<sup>105</sup> There was some conflict between the mill owners and laborers with the established rural residents of Pembroke due to religious differences, difficulties in communication due to language differences, and differing social activities. These conflicts eventually led to a series of fires targeting saloons and the French Canadians, and these fires changed the face of the village.<sup>106</sup> The first significant fire in the historic district took place January 25, 1876, destroying the buildings on the western side of Main Street, between Front and Union streets. The town widened the street before three new large brick blocks were built, including a large five-story hotel and an adjoining four-story block.<sup>107</sup> The fire of August 14, 1878 consumed the buildings on the eastern side of Main Street from the Baptist Church, no longer extant (now Wilkins' Block, #8), at the corner of Central Street south to a point just north of Chickering's brick block (#17). The Town of Pembroke voted to widen the street again.<sup>108</sup> The current brick blocks on the east side of Main Street were built shortly after this fire (#8, #10, #11, #12, #13 and #14), bringing this side of the street largely to its current appearance. Then, December 11, 1886, another fire destroyed the ten year old brick blocks on the west side of Main Street, except the clock tower (#1). They were replaced with the three smaller brick blocks currently standing north of the clock tower (#3, #4, #5).<sup>109</sup> As of 1886, little has changed along the Main Street block.

By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the mills and commercial activity were experiencing a slight decline compared to the peak production of the 1880s-1900. The three major textile mills were consolidated in 1895 and became known by the name Suncook Mills Company in 1910; they continued to produce textiles into the 1940s.<sup>110</sup> Despite the decline in outside commercial activity Suncook Village was still the center of business, civic, and social activities for Pembroke and outlying areas into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the original businesses and functions from the 1880s continued to operate at their original locations providing all of the basic amenities

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<sup>103</sup> Preservation Company, p. 29

<sup>104</sup> Ibid, p. 28

<sup>105</sup> Mann, p. 6

<sup>106</sup> Ibid "

<sup>107</sup> Meet Me In Suncook Committee

<sup>108</sup> Ibid

<sup>109</sup> Ibid

<sup>110</sup> Suncook Mills Inc. (1910) listed in Manning's directories as a cotton and rayon manufacturer until 1946 and became a division of Textron by 1947, H.A. Manning Co. Manning's Concord and Pembroke (New Hampshire) directory vols. 33, 35, 39, 41 and 43 (Springfield, MA: H.A. Manning Co.)

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through the 1920s. The Mason's Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, #1), Simpson, Miller & Co. grocery, dry goods, and market along with the I.O.O.F. in Osgood's Block (#4, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor burned in 1914 and I.O.O.F. moved), Osgood Inn (#5, until 1910s), United Methodist church (#7, burned in 1911 and rebuilt on same site), Wilkins' photography lab/studio and the American Ry Express office (#8), George E. Gordon Co. drug store (#13), Rainville Shoes (#14), Georgi's Restaurant, bakery and market (building no longer extant, #15), Chickering's jewelry store (#17), Emery Brothers mercantile business (#18, until 1910s), and a hardware store and barber shop (#20).<sup>111</sup> There was a post office in the Clock Tower building (#1) and the first home of the Pembroke Library, established 1896, was in a now extant building located in the empty lot east of the Sylvester Block (#19) on Glass Street. There was a billiards hall in the Sylvester Block (#19), a laundry and a barbershop in part of the American Legion building (#20) along with a hardware store and storage for fire equipment. There were two clothing stores on Main Street and a pool hall on Glass Street. In 1912 the Wilkins' block housed a circulating library in addition to picture framing, and the Bijou Theatre for moving pictures was located in Baker's building (#21).<sup>112</sup> In 1916, the Suncook Bank was established and was located on Main Street in the Emery Block (#18).<sup>113</sup>

There were also new businesses established such as a bowling alley in the basement of the Osgood Block (#5), Blanchette's variety store in Greene-Wilkins' block (#10), the Suncook Fruit Company run by William Tellou in Bartlett's Block (#11), First National Stores, Inc. grocery stores in Osgood's Block (#12) and Chickering's Block (#17), Walter Cass' hardware in the American Legion building (#20) as well as Lamy's shoe repair (building now extant) adjoining the rear of the American Legion, and Cofran's grocery in Baker's Store (#21). There were also other services such attorney and real estate offices like Almon Burbank's in the Clock Tower building (#1) and Kenneth Woodbury's in Osgood's Inn (#5), and by 1929 the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company was also in the Clock Tower building (#1). Barbers such as Edouard Chapdelaine and Antonio Dupont on Main Street and Joseph Taillifer on Glass Street also began their businesses in the 1920s.<sup>114</sup> The American Legion's J.J. McGuire Post No. 28 was established in the mid 1920s and located at 1 Glass Street (#20).

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century also brought new means of transportation. In 1903 the Manchester Electric trolley car line, built by Manchester Traction, Light and Power Company, ran from Manchester to Concord passing through Suncook Village along Main Street, and could be taken all the way to Boston through connections.<sup>115</sup> This line was responsible for a slight decline in commerce for Suncook since local residents could now easily head to Concord or Manchester to shop. Then in 1907, not long after the trolley car was introduced, the first permanent

<sup>111</sup> Businesses and dates based on Aldrich; Sanborn Map Company 1906, 1912, 1923, 1929; Union Publishing Co., Lothrop's Concord city directory and Merrimack County directory 1924, 1926, 1929, (Boston, MA: Union Publishing, Co.)

<sup>112</sup> Sanborn Map Company, 1912

<sup>113</sup> Town of Pembroke, p.33

<sup>114</sup> Union Publishing Co., 1924, 1926, 1929

<sup>115</sup> Mann, p. 7; Preservation Company, p. 31

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automobile arrived in Suncook Village.<sup>116</sup> Along with the automobile came a new service, Hillman's Auto Supply and garage (#9, building now extant) in 1929 into the late 1930s.<sup>117</sup> As automobiles increased in popularity the Route 3 bypass, constructed around Suncook in 1931, became the main thoroughfare between Manchester and Concord, reducing traffic through Suncook Village.<sup>118</sup> The increase in automobile use resulted in the closing of the trolley line in 1933 and the eventual closing of the railroad in 1952. Combined with the concurrent decline in mill production, these events resulted in a decrease in the amount of incidental travelers and traffic passing through the village. However, local business continued to thrive as they provided goods and services for the local population.

Suncook Village's commercial and civic center remained a vital part of the local economy and town life during the 1930s. Nearly all of the building spaces were occupied by locally owned businesses and the new fire station (#6) was built to replace the livery they had been using since 1917. Three cornerstone businesses were still in operation, the George E. Gordon Co. in the Gordon-Piper Block (#13), Rainville Shoes in the Tennant Block (#14, along with Veroneau's dry goods), and Georgi's Market & Café that moved to Osgood's Block (#3, moved after fire burned original building at property #15). In addition the Clock Tower building (#1) continued to house the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, Fremeau's barber shop and beauty salon, and Burbank's office. The Otterson Block (#3) now housed Suncook Hall on the second floor and the I.O.O.F. held meetings there. The first floor was Ed's Men's Shop and possibly a barbershop. The Osgood Block (#4) continued to house Whitney's Pharmacy, which also served as a Western Union office, and a ticket agent for the B&M Transportation Company. The Osgood Inn (#5) had the Suncook Bowling Alley, Woodbury's office, and probably a barbershop. It was during the 1930s that the Mason's moved their hall to the second floor of this building providing meeting space for the Hiram Chapter, Jewell Lodge, and the women's Order of the Eastern Star. Wilkins' Block (#8) had an optometrist's office, a tailor, a barber and Gedeon Petit Jr. began his undertaker career here. By 1937 the Suncook Post Office had moved to this block. Blanchette's variety store remained in business at the Greene-Wilkins' Block (10) while Bartlett's Block (#11) housed Albert Ritchotte's real estate and insurance office, and Osgood's Block (#12) was occupied by one of the First National Stores with the second one still at Chickering's Block (#17). The commercial block (#16) had the Thibault Brothers cigar and tobacco shop. The Suncook Bank remained in Emery Block along with Lemaire & Rainville's general store. The Sylvester Block on Glass Street had Turgeon's meat market and possibly a grocery store. The American Legion building housed the American Legion post and continued to house Cass' hardware in the main block with the adjoining buildings housing Lamy's shoe repair at the rear and Taillefer's barber shop to the east. By 1937 Baker's Store (#21) was home to the New Hampshire State Liquor Store No. 28.<sup>119</sup>

The depression, which devastated the New England textile industry, forced the Suncook Mills Company to close. During the 1940s, the mill buildings were purchased by Textron Manufacturing Company to produce

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<sup>116</sup> Pembroke, p. 19

<sup>117</sup> Sanborn Map Company 1929, Union Publishing Co., 1929

<sup>118</sup> <http://granitehighways.com/>

<sup>119</sup> Union Publishing Co., 1929; H.A. Manning Co., 1935, 1937, 1941

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high tech fabrics such as parachute cloth and fabric coverings for aircraft fuselages, which were critical for the war efforts.<sup>120</sup> Suncook was considered a high security area during World War II. After the war ended, industrial production in Suncook declined greatly in the 1950s. During that time the Emerson Lounge Company purchased the former Pembroke and Webster mill buildings from Textron, manufacturing lounges and couches until 1982. Textron maintained the China Mill buildings and continued to produce textiles until the 1970s.<sup>121</sup>

During the 1940s and into the 1950s Suncook Village continued to provide many services for the surrounding communities. Many of the buildings continued to serve the same functions with a majority retaining the same businesses from the 1930s. Still in existence were New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., Ed's Men's Shop (#1), Suncook Hall (#3, meeting space for local clubs and social groups), Whitney's Pharmacy, Georgi's Market (#4), Bunny's Alleys (replaced Suncook Bowling Alley), Dupont's barber shop, Masonic Hall (#5), Suncook Post Office and Woodbury & Woodbury attorneys (#8), Cass' hardware (moved to #9, building no longer extant), Ritchotte's insurance and paints (#11), George E. Gordon Co. (#13), Rainville Shoes (#14), Thibault Brothers (#16), First National Store (#17, down to one location), Suncook Bank (until 1950), Rainville & Daviault grocery (#18, Daviault replaced Lemaire), American Legion Post, Taillefer's barber shop, Lamy's shoe repair (#20), and the New Hampshire State Liquor Store No. 28 (#21, until 1949). Several other businesses in existence during that time were Monty's men's clothing (#1), the I.O.O.F. moved to the Clock Tower building (#1), Daneault & Viens meat market and Forcier's barber shop (#3), Ye Greene Barbershop & Beauty Salon and Saltmarsh & Cochran's office for fuel oil, ice, and coal supply (#8), C.H. Wells Co. variety store and sporting goods (#12), Menard & Coll dry goods (#14), Roger's Insurance Agency (#18), Pembroke Press, Suncook Café, and Gene's Sport Shop (#19). Also, during the 1940s the Pembroke Library was housed in Osgood's Block (#4).<sup>122</sup>

As the automobile took over the way people traveled more roads were built, including Interstate 93 in the 1960s. I-93 provided another route between Manchester and Concord bypassing Suncook Village and further decreasing the district's incidental traffic. Pembroke became a suburban commuter neighborhood between Concord and Manchester during the 1960s resulting in the decline of Suncook Village businesses as people shopped near where they worked or at places more convenient along their commuting routes.

Revival of the district began in the 1980s with the formation of the Meet-Me-In-Suncook Committee, which has been active in revitalizing the small business district and promoting the village's history and culture. The Pembroke mill was rehabilitated in the mid-1980s and the town clock was restored in 2002. The commercial and civic center continues to include local businesses such as restaurants, barbershops and beauty salons, antique stores, a bakery, flooring store, a variety store, and Rainville's Shoes still exists (#14). The village still includes civic and social organizations as well. The Suncook United Methodist Church (#7), the American

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<sup>120</sup> Preservation Company, p. 31

<sup>121</sup> Ibid, p. 32

<sup>122</sup> H.A. Manning Co., 1941, 1943, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1955

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Legion (#20) which has remained at its original location since 1922, the Masons continue to meet at the Osgood Inn (#5) and the Allenstown and Pembroke Interfaith Food Pantry is located in the Greene-Wilkins' Block (#10). Many of the upper floors of the commercial buildings also serve as apartments and several building owners occupy their own buildings.

Suncook Village Historic Commercial/Civic District is an important example of community planning and development, commercial development, and social history of a rural mill village in the state of New Hampshire because of the high integrity of its setting, location, design, workmanship, feeling and association. It is a reflection of the importance of mills in the industrial corridor of the Merrimack River Valley to the growth and development of small river-based communities in New Hampshire and the resulting growth of the state during the late nineteenth century. The architecture of Suncook Village's commercial center is a reflection of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial growth of rural mill towns in New Hampshire and is representative of the commercial architecture found in smaller mill centers during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The street patterns, density of buildings and overall appearance of the district has changed very little since the 1890s. The buildings continue to serve their original uses as commercial, meeting, and living spaces. The district remains essentially intact in its turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century form with the buildings forming a cohesive whole and providing a realistic look at the past.

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**Interviews**

Bickford, Glenn. Interview, April 2003

Police Department staff, phone conversation June 2003

Rainville, George. Interview, April 2003

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated Suncook Village Historic Commercial and Civic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying sketch map. The boundary follows the western property lines of the buildings on the western side of Main Street from Front Street north towards Union Street and west on Union Street to include 4 Union Street. The boundary line crosses Union Street and heads north along the property line of 156 Main Street and turns east crossing Main Street. The boundary continues along the eastern property lines of the buildings on the eastern side of Main Street towards the south to Glass Street and crosses Glass Street to include 9-15 Glass Street before heading west to Mill Falls and returning north to the starting point.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the proposed historic district has been drawn to include the concentration of buildings on Main Street, Mill Falls, Glass Street, and Union Street that characterize the development of Suncook Village's commercial and civic center from the late 1860s into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and retain integrity for that time period. Outlying resources were excluded due to the lower concentration of development and incidence of domestic buildings that are not consistent with the compact commercial development of the district.

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Property Owners (sorted by site no.)

Site Map#	Tax Map/ Parcel#	Location	Owner Name & Address
1	VW-113	116-122 Main Street	Troupakis, Costa 116 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
2	VW-114-1	Main Street	Owner unknown 311 Pembroke St. Pembroke, NH 03275
3	VW-114	130 Main Street	Després, Jacques & Paula 130 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
4	VW-115	132-138 Main Street	Cassidy, Francis J. 98 S. Main St. Rochester, NH 03867
5	VW-116	144-148 Main Street	Masonic Association C/o Wallace Emerson 12 Madison Ave. Hooksett, NH 03106
6	VW-117	4 Union Street	Town of Pembroke 4 Union St. Pembroke, NH 03275
7	VW-7	156 Main Street	Suncook Methodist Church 160 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275

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Property Owners (sorted by site no.)

Site Map#	Tax Map/ Parcel#	Location	Owner Name & Address
8	VE-152	155-161 Main Street	Petit, Ernest E. 167 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
9	VE-165	Central Street	Town of Pembroke Municipal Park 311 Pembroke St. Pembroke, NH 03275
10	VE-166	149 Main Street	Carlucci, Dana J. & Jocelyn D. 8A Prospect St. Pembroke, NH 03275
11	VE-167	145 Main Street	Hanna, Nader B. & Jacqueline E. 506 Pembroke Rd. Pembroke, NH 03275
12	VE-168	141 Main Street	Bickford, Lorraine & Glenn 141 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
13	VE-169	139 Main Street	Dellas, Fotios 139 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
14	VE-170	131-135 Main Street	Rainville, George & Pauline 22 Kimball St. Pembroke, NH 03275
15	VE-171	127 Main Street	Level Headed Properties, LLC 112 Jefferson Rd. Belmont, NH 03220

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Property Owners (sorted by site no.)

Site Map#	Tax Map/ Parcel#	Location	Owner Name & Address
16	VE-172-1	125 Main Street	Camacho, Leslie A. & Michael 123 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
17	VE-172	121 Main Street	Camacho, Leslie A. & Michael 123 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
18	VE-173	117 Main Street	Li, Su Ling & Tsang, Shui 117 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
19	VE-180	15 Glass Street	Allgeyer, Matthew B. & Carl 15 Glass St., Suite 202 Pembroke, NH 03275
20	VE-175	3 Glass Street	American Legion 3 Glass St. Pembroke, NH 03275
21	VE-176	19 Mill Falls	Mrock, Timothy R. 19 Mill Falls Pembroke, NH 03275

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**Property Owners (sorted alphabetically)**

Site Map#	Tax Map/ Parcel#	Location	Owner Name & Address
19	VE-180	15 Glass Street	Allgeyer, Matthew B. & Carl 15 Glass St., Suite 202 Pembroke, NH 03275
20	VE-175	3 Glass Street	American Legion 3 Glass St. Pembroke, NH 03275
12	VE-168	141 Main Street	Bickford, Lorraine & Glenn 141 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
16	VE-172-1	125 Main Street	Camacho, Leslie A. & Michael 123 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
17	VE-172	121 Main Street	Camacho, Leslie A. & Michael 123 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
10	VE-166	149 Main Street	Carlucci, Dana J. & Jocelyn D. 8A Prospect St. Pembroke, NH 03275
4	VW-115	132-138 Main Street	Cassidy, Francis J. 98 S. Main St. Rochester, NH 03867

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**Property Owners (sorted alphabetically)**

Site Map#	Tax Map/ Parcel#	Location	Owner Name & Address
13	VE-169	139 Main Street	Dellas, Fotios 139 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
3	VW-114	130 Main Street	Despres, Jacques & Paula 130 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
11	VE-167	145 Main Street	Hanna, Nader B. & Jacqueline E. 506 Pembroke Rd. Pembroke, NH 03275
15	VE-171	127 Main Street	Level Headed Properties, LLC 112 Jefferson Rd. Belmont, NH 03220
18	VE-173	117 Main Street	Li, Su Ling & Tsang, Shui 117 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
5	VW-116	144-148 Main Street	Masonic Association C/o Wallace Emerson 12 Madison Ave. Hooksett, NH 03106
21	VE-176	19 Mill Falls	Mrock, Timothy R. 19 Mill Falls Pembroke, NH 03275
2	VW-114-1	Main Street	Owner unknown 311 Pembroke St. Pembroke, NH 03275
8	VE-152	155-161 Main Street	Petit, Ernest E. 167 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275

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**Property Owners (sorted alphabetically)**

Site Map#	Tax Map/ Parcel#	Location	Owner Name & Address
14	VE-170	131-135 Main Street	Rainville, George & Pauline 22 Kimball St. Pembroke, NH 03275
7	VW-7	156 Main Street	Suncook Methodist Church 160 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275
6	VW-117	4 Union Street	Town of Pembroke 4 Union St. Pembroke, NH 03275
9	VE-165	Central Street	Town of Pembroke Municipal Park 311 Pembroke St. Pembroke, NH 03275
1	VW-113	116-122 Main Street	Troupakis, Costa 116 Main St. Pembroke, NH 03275

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**Photo List**

The following information applies to all photographs:

1. Suncook Village Commercial/civic district
2. Suncook, Merrimack County, New Hampshire
3. Photographers: Lynne Emerson Monroe; Joyce McKay
4. Date of Photographs: June 2003; August 2003
5. Negatives are stored at New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

Description of views indicating direction of camera:

<u>Photo Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	West side of Main Street showing sites #1, #2, #3, facing north
2	East side of Main Street showing sites #1 (in left foreground) and #18 (in right foreground), #16, #17, #18, facing north
3	West side of Main Street and south side of Union Street showing sites #3, #4, #5, and #6, facing southwest
4	East side of Main Street and south side of Central Street showing sites #8, #9, and #10, facing south.
5	#1 and #2, facing northwest
6	#2 and #3, facing west
7	#4, facing west
8	#5, facing west.
9	View of rear (west side) of properties on west side of Main Street (#5 in foreground, #4, #2, #1), facing south.
10	#6, facing southwest.
11	#7 east façade, facing northwest
12	#7 south façade, facing north
13	#8, facing northeast
14	#9, #10, and #11, facing southeast
15	#12, #13, #14, facing east
16	#15 and #16, facing east
17	#17, facing east
18	#18, facing northeast
19	View of rear (east side) of properties on east side of Main Street (#9 and #10 in foreground) facing southwest
20	#19, facing west
21	#20, facing southeast
22	#21, facing east
23	View looking down Glass Street and showing district boundaries on Front Street

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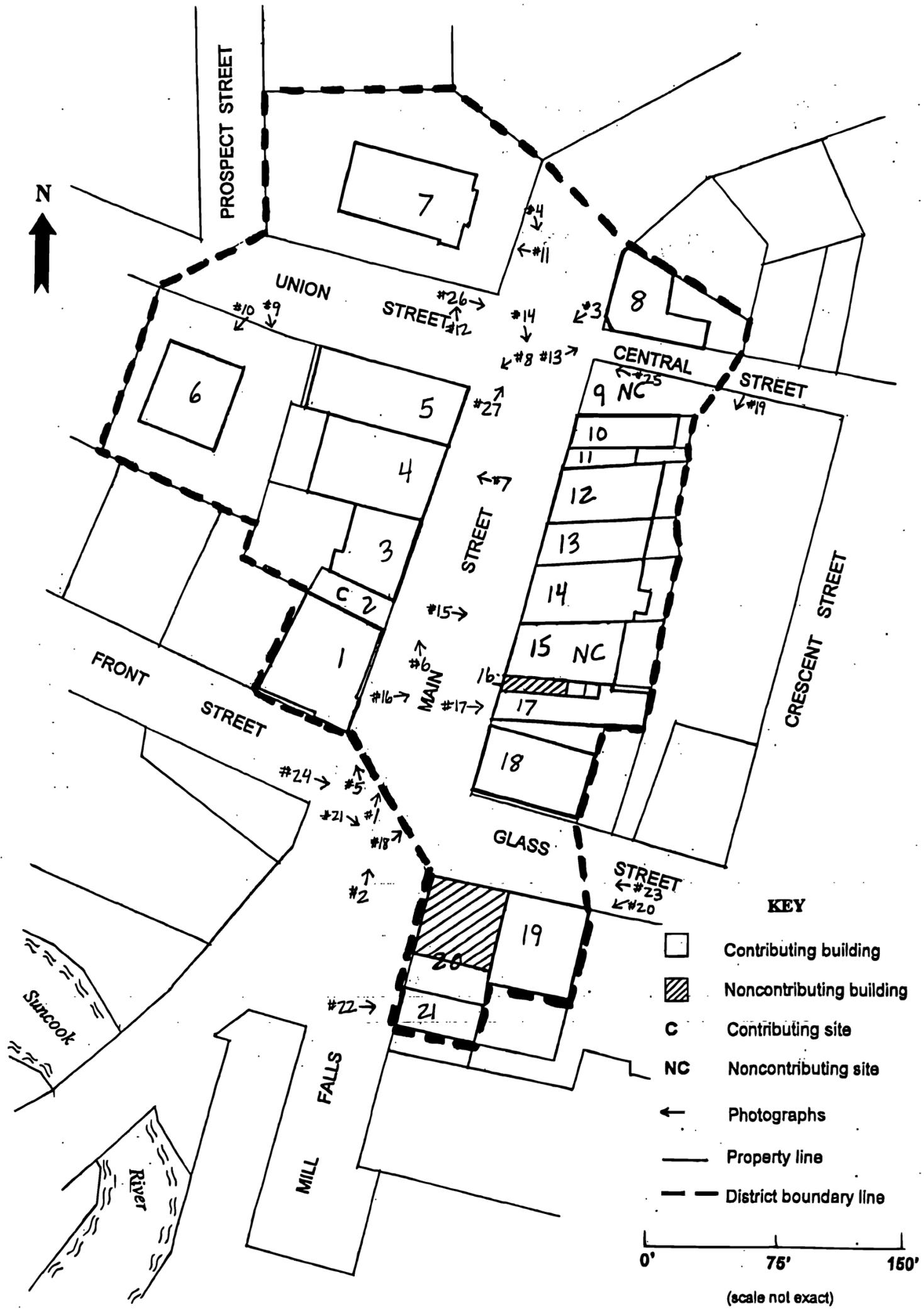
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- 24 View from corner of Main Street and Front Street showing district boundary on Glass Street, facing east
- 25 View from Central Street looking down Union Street showing district boundary, facing west
- 26 View from Union Street looking down Central Street and showing district boundary, facing east
- 27 View showing boundary at northern end of district, facing northeast

**SUNCOOK VILLAGE HISTORIC  
COMMERCIAL/CIVIC DISTRICT  
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**



**KEY**

-  Contributing building
-  Noncontributing building
-  Contributing site
-  Noncontributing site
-  Photographs
-  Property line
-  District boundary line

0'                      75'                      150'

(scale not exact)