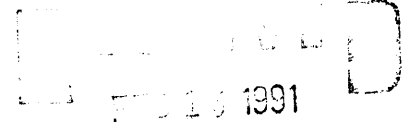


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Main Street Historic District

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

2. Location

street & number Main Street from Portland St. to about Swans Falls Rd  not for publication

city, town Fryeburg  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04037

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>34</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>35</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

2/8/91

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

National Register

[Signature]

2/22/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Financial InstitutionDomestic/Single DwellingReligion/Religious StructureEducation/SchoolCommerce/Trade/Specialty Store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Financial InstitutionDomestic/Single DwellingReligion/Religious StructureEducation/SchoolCommerce/Trade/Specialty Store**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FederalGreek RevivalItalianateColonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/WeatherboardWood/Shingleroof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Fryeburg's Main Street Historic District is a narrow elongated rectangular area of some fifty-five acres located astride the village's principal street. Primarily residential in its character, the district also contains three historic commercial properties, one significant religious structure, a park, and a private academy. There are thirty-five (35) contributing and five (5) non-contributing resources as indicated in the inventory list by the letters C and NC respectively.

Main Street runs in a southwest to northeast path across a level ridge that rises about twenty feet above the flat sandy intervalles of the nearby Saco River. Spaced along this broad avenue is a group of frame and masonry buildings that represent many of the popular architectural styles from the late eighteenth through the early twentieth century. The earliest of these structures are the Federal style houses erected from about 1790 to around 1820. With but one exception, the Squire Chase House (31), these examples utilize side gable roof configurations and symmetrically composed five-bay facades with central entrances. Despite their general similarities, however, each building is distinguished by varying characteristics such as doorways, eave and cornice treatments, and the change in scale between single and double pile configurations. Among the most notable houses of the period are the James E. Osgood House (40), the Robert Bradley House (10), the Barrows-Steadman House (6), and the hip-roofed Squire Chase House (31).

By the mid-1830s the Greek Revival style had been introduced into the district resulting in a marked change to the existing architectural pattern. Three extant houses and two religious structures were built in this fashion, and all of them present a gabled facade to the street. Two of the houses (11, 25) employ side hall plans whereas the third (32) has a back hall arrangement whereby entrance is gained from one side and the hall is located behind the front rooms. All three are quite modest in their use of Greek Revival detailing with elaboration limited to the use of wide door surrounds and cornices. The Congregational Church (5) and vestry (7) were also designed in the Greek Revival style. The most monumental of these is the church with its Doric columns and paneled pilasters rising to a full pediment above which is a three stage tower. Curiously, this building features board-and-batten sheathing on its side elevations, one of the most evident characteristics of the Gothic Revival style to be found in the district.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce  
Community Planning & Development  
Education

Period of Significance

c. 1770-1941

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bryant, Gridley J. F.

Stevens, John Calvin

Thomas, John P.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Fryeburg's Main Street Historic District is composed of a mix of residential, commercial, religious, and educational buildings constructed from about 1800 through the early twentieth century. Arrayed along both sides of the village's principal street, these buildings convey the historic development patterns of a community whose growth was tied to its position as a rural trading and educational center. The district meets National Register criterion A for its association with commerce, community planning and development, and education, as well as criterion C for its architectural significance. Criteria considerations A and B also apply by virtue of the existence of religious properties and moved buildings.

**1764-1800**

The Town of Fryeburg was permanently settled by whites beginning in 1764, although tradition recounts that its intervals along the Saco River had been used for pasturage of cattle in the winter of 1762-63. However, the area which later developed into Fryeburg village had long been the site of an Abenaki Indian settlement called "Pequawket". European contact with this village had been made as early as 1642. In 1725 the settlement was attacked at nearby Lovewell's Pond by a group of Dunstable, Massachusetts residents and shortly thereafter the village was abandoned by its original inhabitants. Resettlement did not take place until after the hostilities of the French and Indian War had ceased.

As envisioned by Col. Joseph Frye, the grantee of much of present day Fryeburg - and its namesake, the town was to have developed in such a way that its principal village would have been more geographically centered. However, settlement gravitated toward the existing village site because it lay on the path of a road constructed through Franconia Notch in New Hampshire as well as the favorable natural site; a condition that had undoubtedly been a factor in its selection for the site of "Pequawket". The roadway linked interior agricultural areas with the urban market and seaport of Portland. Thus, the first frame houses were soon joined by other buildings housing a variety of tradesmen and professional people.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Barrows, John Stuart. Fryeburg, Maine: An Historical Sketch. Fryeburg: Pequawket Press, 1938.

Mitchell, Davis, & Daggett. Town Register: Fryeburg, Lovell, Sweden, Stow, and Chatham. Brunswick, ME: H. E. Mitchell & Co., 1907.

Maine Register. 1871-1930. Augusta, ME. Various Publishers.

See continuation sheet

### 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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Approximately 55

### UTM References

A 

1	9	3	4	1	7	8	0	4	8	7	6	5	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

1	9	3	4	2	1	7	0	4	8	7	6	3	2	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

1	9	3	4	1	4	3	0	4	8	7	5	2	2	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

1	9	3	4	1	0	0	0	4	8	7	5	4	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

See map.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces a diverse collection of largely intact buildings which, taken as a group, depict Fryeburg's historic development. Beyond them lies open non-related agricultural land to the west; areas of more recent development to the north; a much altered business district with visually intrusive gasoline stations to the south; and residential areas to the east which lack the historic and/or architectural significance of Main Street.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission

date 1/91

street & number 55 Capitol Street

telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta

state Maine

zip code 04333

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Italianate style buildings are fairly numerous in the district, the most significant of which is Fryeburg Academy (15), a two-story brick structure with a hip roof. Its use of stone quoins, a corbeled cornice, pronounced stone hood moldings and round-arched windows are notable, as is the Gothic profile of the window enframements. Characteristics of the style as they appear in residential buildings (3, 4, 36) include bracketed cornices, bay windows, hoods over side entries, and porches with chamfered posts. The Italianate houses were the first in the district to have employed porches. They were constructed from about 1860 into the 1880s.

Neither the Second Empire, Stick, or Queen Anne styles of architecture are evident in the district. Nor are there any bungalows. On the other hand there is a notable Shingle Style dwelling (27) which is clearly architect designed. During the early 1900s a number of Colonial Revival style houses (23, 34, 38) were built some of which mimic the Federal period structures of a century before. Finally, a handsome Colonial Revival style brick and stone bank building (1) was added to the district in 1922, and now forms the anchor at the southwest end.

Despite the wide range of building types and dates of construction found in the district there is a considerable degree of consistency in setbacks and lot size. Some variation does occur, however, such as at the southern end where the commercial properties occupy smaller lots with more shallow setbacks. A trio of houses (26, 27, 29) on the west side of Main Street have more generous setbacks and spacious lots, a visual characteristic made more evident by the adjoining open space of Peary Park (28).

Landscape features are more varied in their occurrence than setbacks or building materials. A mix of evergreen and deciduous trees are scattered throughout the district, although a more dense pattern of evergreens partially conceal a number of the houses at the north end. The present trees replace, but certainly do not replicate, the historic image of Main Street with its lofty elm trees. Likewise, smaller-scale plant materials range widely with foundation plantings typically comprised of low evergreen shrubs. There is one notable stone wall that delineates the boundary of the Nichols house (38), and wooden fences of different design at four properties (21, 31, 32, and 36) on the west side of Main Street.

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## INVENTORY LIST

1. **Casco Bank and Trust Company, 1922 - C**  
122 Main Street  
John P. Thomas, Architect

One of two significant masonry buildings in the district, this tall one-story Colonial Revival style structure has a five-bay facade that features a central three-bay rusticated block of limestone. A pedimented entrance in the center of this facade is surmounted by a round-arched window and framed by tall round-arched double-hung windows. Small double-hung windows below decorative stone panels occupy the slightly recessed brick walls of the outer bays. Broad limestone quoins rise from the prominent foundation to the entablature, above which is a parapet wall featuring enriched details and an inscription. The building's secondary south elevation has an overall composition similar to that of the facade, but a large Palladian window replaces the entrance and flanking windows.

The present bank is the successor institution of the United States Trust Company of Portland which established a branch in Fryeburg in 1907. Apparently, the bank thrived in the community, and in 1922 the directors commissioned Portland architect John P. Thomas to design a more appropriate building. Thomas was one of Maine's leading early twentieth century architects who was particularly accomplished in the various revival styles. The Fryeburg commission appears to be the first of at least six bank buildings in which he became involved during his career.

2. **Burnham Jewelry Store, between 1903 and 1911 - C**  
124 Main Street

This modest two-story frame building is one of the most intact historic commercial buildings in Fryeburg. Its first story has a recessed central entrance flanked by large multi-pane display windows. There are two symmetrically placed two-over-two windows on the second story below the parapet wall that made a gable roof. The building is sheathed in weatherboards. Although its original owner has not been positively identified, from 1907 until the 1940s the building housed the jewelry store of Henry K. Burnham. He made his residence on the second floor of this structure.

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**3. Dr. D. Lowell Lamson House, c. 1860 - C**  
128 Main Street

The Lamson house is a one-and-a-half-story wood frame building with a steeply pitched front gable and Italianate style detailing. It has a side entrance sheltered by a flat roofed porch and an adjoining three-sided bay window. A trio of double-hung windows occupies the upper story and a fourth is located in the gable peak. The window hoods, porch and bay are detailed with closely spaced brackets. A one-story recessed ell extends from the west side where it meets a one-and-a-half-story block recently enlarged such that it is equivalent in size and detailing to the main house. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards. According to local tradition this house was first occupied by Dr. D. Lowell Lamson, M.D. (1834-1894) who had moved to Fryeburg in 1857 from Center Conway, New Hampshire. Sanborn fire insurance maps show that he maintained his medical office in a small building which stood to the west of the house. It was here that he also operated a Western Union telegraph office and pharmacy.

**4. William H. Tarbox House, c. 1868 - C**  
130 Main Street  
William H. Tarbox, Builder

The largest and most elaborately detailed Italianate style residence in the district, the Tarbox house is composed of a two-and-a-half-story, L-shaped main block which is connected to a carriage barn by way of a two-story ell. Its handsome features include a wraparound porch with chamfered posts and a sawn balustrade, a two-story bay window on the facade, and a bracketed cornice. The porch shelters a side entry with a two-leaf round-arched door. A second bay window occupies the first story of the wing, and a partially enclosed porch extends across the west side of the ell. The barn retains its original door and window openings. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards. This well proportioned dwelling is believed to have been built by William Henry Tarbox, who, according to local sources, was a carpenter by trade. Tarbox occupied the house until his death. It was subsequently the residence of his unmarried children Clara and James Tarbox.

**5. First Congregational Church, 1848-50 - C**  
132 Main Street  
Charles K. Kirby, Architect  
Oliver S. Hurd, Builder

Fryeburg's First Congregational Church is a very handsome and well proportioned Greek Revival style religious edifice featuring a three-stage tower crowned by an octagonal spire. Its front elevation is composed of a central portico framed by broad pilasters and infill panels all of which are

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surmounted by a flush sheathed pediment. Two Doric columns support the entablature of the portico. A square tower base supports a louvered belfry with projecting pilasters offset at the corners. The third stage houses a clock whose faces are surmounted by a denticulated cornice and shallow pediments. An unusual feature of the church is its board-and-batten sheathing on the four-bay side walls; apparently an original feature. The building rests on a granite foundation.

The Congregational Church was organized in Fryeburg in 1775, and its first meeting house was erected three years later. In 1795 a second meeting house was built in the village, and it was this building, known as the "South Meeting House", which was utilized until the existing church was completed. The first tentative steps were taken toward erecting a new building in 1847 when a Ladies Circle fair was held to benefit the new church. Early the next year the Church proprietors engaged Charles K. Kirby to design the new edifice and on March 1<sup>st</sup> advertised for bids. Oliver S. Hurd of Brownfield was awarded the contract on July 29<sup>th</sup>. The dedication was held on July 10, 1850.

**6. Barrows-Steadman House, c. 1809 - C**  
134 Main Street  
NR 4/12/82

[The following description and statement of significance are excerpted from the National Register nomination.]

The two-and-a-half-story house is of frame construction, with gable roof, two large internal chimneys, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation. The facade, which faces northwest, is five bays wide with twelve-over-eight fenestration and a central entrance. This entrance consists of a single door with fan and sidelights flanked by Doric pilasters, the whole surmounted by an entablatured lintel. The ends of the house are three bays wide, and a secondary entrance faces southwest; here fenestration is six-over-six in the first story, twelve-over-eight in the second. In the half-story is an arched window in the Italianate style. This, along with large brackets in the roof overhang, is a result of minor exterior embellishments of the mid-nineteenth century. A large two-and-a-half-story ell, built in 1910, extends from the rear of the house toward the southeast. This has two doors facing southwest, and it is four bays long. Although of much later date than the house, this ell is fully compatible in its color, size, materials, and detail.

The Barrows-Steadman Homestead is a straightforward rural Federal style house built c. 1809. More outstanding than its architecture, however, are the murals in its "Tree Room," the upstairs back bedroom. These murals, painted about 1830 and attributed to the itinerant artists Rufus Porter and



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Jonathan D. Poor, are in an outstanding state of preservation rivalling any in New England. The house has been owned by successive generations of the Barrows family since 1820. The Barrows family has included a noted lawyer, a successful doctor, as well as a pioneer Home Economist.

**7. Congregational Church Vestry, 1837 - C**  
136 Main Street

Originally built to house the congregation during the winter months, this pedimented frame building features an entrance vestibule and a short belfry. It is sheathed in weatherboards. The flush sheathed pediment has an elliptical louvered fan, and the side walls are symmetrically divided into three equal bays with twelve-over-twelve windows in each one. As first built, there were two doors with transoms on the principal facade. This configuration was changed about 1870 when substantial interior alterations were undertaken which turned the building into one primarily for church-related social activities. At this time the bell was added.

**8. Percival Kennerson House, c. 1960 - NC**  
138 Main Street

This long, low one-story house has a broad gable roof which is intersected by two cross gables. The wood frame dwelling, which features an exterior stone chimney on the facade and wide wood shingles, is said to have been built over the remains of a potato storage facility constructed about 1905.

**9. Apartment House, c. 1985 - NC**  
140 Main Street

This one-and-a-half-story frame building was constructed on the site of a c. 1900 house that burned in 1984. Its six-bay facade features entrances at the corners and a pair of gabled dormers. A wing projects to the rear.

**10. Bradley Family House, c. 1808, c. 1838 - C**  
142 Main Street

The two-story, three-bay Bradley house is typical of Greek Revival houses of the period with its side hall plan, pedimented front gable orientation, and pronounced pilasters and door surrounds. At the rear is a two-story ell whose narrow boxed cornice is more like those common in the Federal period. The facade of the main block is composed of the recessed side entrance framed by a broad surround and symmetrically located six-over-six double-hung sash. A later Italianate style double window with round arches punctuates the tympanum. Weatherboards cover the entire building.

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Tradition holds that this house consists of two distinct parts built some thirty years apart. The earliest segment is believed to be the present ell; a fact that seems plausible given the Federal style exterior appearance. Presumably, this section was built for Samuel A. Bradley who acquired the lot on which the house stands in 1808. Bradley was a land agent by profession. In 1838 Samuel Bradley sold the property to his nephew Alexander Ramsey Bradley. Alexander Bradley was a lawyer and occupied the house until his death. In 1880 it was sold to the Congregational Church for use as a parsonage which it retained until 1947.

**11. Robert Bradley House, c. 1810 - C**  
144 Main Street

One of a number of substantial Federal period houses in the district, this two-story, five-bay dwelling features an enclosed entrance porch and a one-story rear ell with a similar porch. The building's symmetrically composed facade has centrally-located doors on both levels flanked by six-over-six double-hung sash. It is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite foundation. A pair of chimneys rise through the roof ridge of the front block.

A great deal of conflicting information exists about the history of this house. Some sources believe that the existing structure, or a portion of it, was built by Moses Ames in the late eighteenth century. Others have concluded that it was built by Robert Bradley, its long-term occupant during the first half of the nineteenth century. Stylistically, the house appears to support this latter conclusion. It is agreed that the house was moved from a location diagonally across from its present position sometime after 1880.

**12. Frye Hall, c. 1970 - NC**  
Main Street

Frye Hall is a two-story, nine-bay brick building used for a dormitory. Set back considerably from Main Street, the structure features a central pedimented entry framed by a pent gable. Similar gables are repeated near the ends. The building was constructed on the site of the Frye House, a two-story frame dwelling erected about 1890 for Jane W. Frye.

**13. Ward-Cook House, c. 1820 - C**  
Main Street

Constructed about 1820 for merchant Timothy C. Ward, this two-story five-bay frame dwelling is now used as the infirmary for Fryeburg Academy. It features a central entry with narrow sidelights below a pent gable of more

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recent vintage. A two-story ell and attached porch projects to the rear of the building. The house is covered with aluminum siding. As shown on the 1880 atlas map, the Ward-Cook House had a carriage house connected to the rear of the ell. Ward's estate still owned the house in 1880, but it was subsequently occupied by Amos Cook, a manufacturer of chisel handles and dowels.

**14. Dormitory, c. 1950 - NC  
Main Street**

This low two-story brick building was erected about 1950 for use as a dormitory. It has a flat roof punctuated by a large chimney and a projecting entrance vestibule with a prominent swan's neck pediment. The building stands on or near the site of a nineteenth century public school building that is shown on both the 1858 and 1880 maps of Fryeburg.

**15. Fryeburg Academy, 1852-53, 1930 - C  
Main Street**

Gridley J. F. Bryant, Architect of 1852-53 Block  
John Calvin Stevens, Architect of 1930 Wings

The main building on the Fryeburg Academy campus is one of the most architecturally significant institutional buildings in western Maine. It was built between 1852-53 by Lovell mason Ammi B. Cutter from plans drawn by Boston architect Gridley J. F. Bryant. The present building is the Academy's third since its founding in 1792, the second one being located on this site where it was destroyed by fire on May 28, 1851. Its replacement is a striking two-story brick Italianate style building that is covered by a hip roof crowned by an octagonal belfry. The three-bay facade features a projecting entrance vestibule and flanking bays composed of narrow paired windows vertically separated by wooden panels and framed by arched hood moldings. Stone quoins provide definition to the corners as does the corbelled cornice that carries around the building. In 1930 a pair of classroom wings, named Curtis and Cutter Halls, were added to the original block by way of long one-story connecting passages. Designed by John Calvin Stevens, Maine's most prominent architect, these brick, hip roofed wings are clearly inspired by the original but are not replicas. This creation of two eminently talented architects underscores the significance of this handsome building.

**16. Alfred F. Richardson House, c. 1885 - C  
156 Main Street**

According to tradition this house was built for and first occupied by Alfred F. Richardson, the principal of Fryeburg Academy from 1883 to 1889. It bears further distinction as having been erected on or near the site of

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the 1795 South Meeting House which was replaced by the existing First Congregational Church (5). The modest two-story two-bay frame dwelling features a three-sided bay window on the facade and an enclosed porch along its south side. A two-story ell extends to the rear. The building is sheathed in weatherboards.

**17. Charles H. Tibbetts House, c. 1870 - C**  
158 Main Street

Built about 1870, the Tibbetts house is a two-story Italianate style frame dwelling that features an enclosed side porch, two-story ell and a connected carriage barn. The front elevation has a side entrance and an irregular pattern of windows including one in the gable peak that is capped by a round-arched louver. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards and the barn has an octagonal cupola. This dwelling was built for Charles H. Tibbetts who operated a dry goods store in the center of the village along Portland Street.

**18. Catholic Church, 1990 - NC**  
William Whited, Architect

The district's most recent addition, the Catholic Church is located in a grove of pine trees deeply recessed from Main Street. The rambling frame structure has a series of intersecting gabled blocks anchored by the nave at the north end and a long entrance passage projecting to the south. A classroom and office wing extends to the east. It is sheathed in weatherboards.

**19. Philip Page House, c. 1800 - C**  
164 Main Street

One of a number of buildings in the district that was moved during the nineteenth century, this two-story Federal period house originally stood near the center of the village. It is believed to have been built for Philip Page, one of the original settlers, who is thought to have been a manufacturer of potash. During his residence the house was moved across the street from its first site, and then around 1810 to the present location. At that time or shortly thereafter the ell and attached barn were added. By 1858 the property was occupied by J. Atwood. The building's five-bay facade features a central Greek Revival style entrance and six-over-six windows. It has two interior end chimneys and a one-story ell. The building is sheathed in weatherboards.

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**20. (Former) Gasoline Station, 1935 - C  
Main Street**

This low one-story frame building was constructed in 1935 as a gasoline station and supposedly a drug store. It features a projecting carport and a T-shaped main block, the south end of which has a garage door surmounted by a clipped gable roof. The building is sheathed in novelty siding. It retained its original use until 1976.

**21. Wilson O. Brown House, 1910 - C  
121 Main Street  
Wilson O. Brown, Builder**

Local contractor/builder Wilson O. Brown erected this two-story frame dwelling in 1910 for his own residence. The house occupies the site of the Serena Weeks house which burned in the fire of 1906. Its very traditional two-story gable front configuration includes an asymmetrical two-bay facade, gable end returns, and an offset one-story ell that joins a barn. A wrap-around porch carries across part of the front and along the west side elevation. It is sheathed entirely in weatherboards. The house was acquired in 1922 by Arthur C. Pendexter who subsequently built the gasoline station (20).

**22. Seth W. Fife House, 1907 - C  
125 Main Street**

The Fife house is a two-story gable front frame building that features an engaged front porch and a one-story ell that is connected to a carriage house. Its traditional form is enhanced by the short gable end returns visible on the facade and the configuration of the ell and barn. A side entrance and picture window are located behind the porch and its low balustrade wall. Unlike most other houses in the district this one is sheathed in wood shingles. The fire of 1906 destroyed the residence of merchant and attorney Seth W. Fife which stood on this site. However, shortly thereafter the existing dwelling was built in its place. Among his numerous local activities Fife was the proprietor of the E. W. Burbank Seed Company, which had been founded in 1880.

**23. DeWitt Nester House, 1911 - C  
127 Main Street  
Milton Dana Morrill, Architect**

The Nester house is a telescoping one-and-a-half-story frame cape erected in 1911 from plans drawn by Washington, D. C. architect Milton Dana Morrill. It stands on the parcel of property formerly occupied by the dwelling of E. Payson Weston which was destroyed in the 1906 fire. The house

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has a three-bay main block with a shed dormer and interior end chimneys. Adjoining this at the south end is a recessed three-bay ell to which is attached a garage built in 1980 to replace a shed. The 1980 work also included the application of vinyl siding over the original weatherboards.

**24. Page Family House, c. 1820 - C**  
129 Main Street

According to local tradition, this two-story five-bay Federal style house was built, probably about 1820, by Captain John Page. It was subsequently occupied until the 1920s by Russell Page and then his daughter Abby Page. The house has a summetrically composed facade featuring a central entrance surmounted by an elliptical arch and six-over-six windows. A two-story ell projects to the rear where it meets a one-story shed and connected garage. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards.

**25. Dr. Ruel Barrows House, c. 1840 - C**  
133 Main Street

Although it is thought that this dwelling dates to about 1820, its exterior architectural features strongly suggest that a date some two decades later is more likely. It may be, however, that some portion of an earlier house is contained within the existing Greek Revival style building. These stylistic features are clearly evident in the side hall plan, window and door surrounds, treatment of the eaves, gable front configuration, and steep roof slope. A recessed two-story wing projects to the west side and a much remodeled ell extends to the rear. A large attached barn is located at the northwest corner. Weatherboards cover the entire building. The original owner of the house, Dr. Ruel Barrows, removed to Fryeburg in 1820. He resided here until his death in 1857. The property was subsequently acquired by Thomas C. Shirley, a merchant and one of the founders of the Fryeburg Water Company.

**26. Dr. Earl P. Gregory House, 1923 - C**  
135 Main Street

Tradition holds that physician Dr. Earl P. Gregory moved the former Frank Merrill carriage repair shop to this site in 1923 and remodeled it into the existing house. The resulting building has a two-story five-bay configuration with a side gable orientation. Its vague Colonial Revival style is strengthened by the gabled entrance porch with its elliptical arch and paired columns. A two-story ell projects to the rear, and a detached garage stands off of the northwest corner. The building is sheathed in weatherboards.

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**27. Charles F. Goodnow House, 1895 - C**  
137 Main Street

One of the finest Shingle Style residences in the whole of Oxford County, the Goodnow house is a two-and-a-half-story dwelling featuring a wraparound porch, dormers, and exterior sheathing of wood shingles. Unfortunately, the architect of this handsome building has not yet been identified. The front elevation has an asymmetrical fenestration pattern including a side entrance defined by a pediment that meets the porch. At the southwest corner is a recessed bay that is sheltered on the second story by the broad overhang of the roof. Tuscan columns support the porch roof. A pair of gabled dormers are symmetrically placed on the roof. The house's original owner, Charles F. Goodnow, was the proprietor of a greenhouse, about which little else is known.

**28. Peary Park, c. 1880, c. 1958 - C**  
Main Street

Peary Park is the only green space in the Main Street Historic District. However, its significance derives not from this aspect, but rather by virtue of the fact that it contains two granite markers placed there by Robert E. Peary. For a brief period in the late 1870s the future arctic explorer was residing in Fryeburg with his mother. He was engaged in the business of taxidermy and land surveying. In connection to this latter occupation he set out two granite markers some 350 feet apart to mark the north meridian. In 1934 the Women's Literary Society was given the deed to the parcel of property containing the northern-most marker. At an as yet unknown date the existing plaque was erected on the still privately owned parcel containing the other marker. There is some disagreement as to when they were set out. The local history published in 1938 states that they were placed there between 1877 and 1879. However, this is contradicted by the plaque which states that they were set out in 1883. Efforts were made in 1958 to improve the northern parcel by grading, planting shrubs and flowers, and placing benches. These latter features are not evident today.

**29. Warren-Wiley House, c. 1904 - C**  
145 Main Street

Thought to have been constructed in 1904 for Charles H. Tibbetts as a wedding gift to his daughter Edith (Tibbetts) Warren, this two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival house features a hip roof and front porch. It has a symmetrically composed three-bay facade with a central entry flanked by three-sided bay windows. Four Tuscan columns support the wide entrance porch. There are three windows on the upper story, a Palladian window in the central dormer, and a balustrade surmounting the peak of the roof. Pent gables are located on the side elevations. A two-story ell is connected to

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the large barn. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards. The Warren family occupied the house only until 1906 at which time it was sold to Serena Weeks. Upon her death in 1913 it passed to her daughter Mrs. James Wiley who made it her residence for many years. The barn is thought to have been added by the Wileys.

**30. Rev. Carlton Hurd House, c. 1850 - C**  
Main Street

The Hurd House is a large two-and-a-half-story frame dwelling that features a gable front orientation, front porch, and a long two-story ell connected to a barn. Its four-bay facade is composed of a first story porch that has an entrance vestibule as well as chamfered and bracketed porch posts. There are four windows on the second story as well as a door and window in the gable peak. The building's broad roof overhang is decorated with brackets at the corners. Large shed roofed dormers are located on both sides of the roof. One-story flat and shed roofed non-historic additions have been made to both sides of the main block and ell. Local tradition maintains that this house was built for the Rev. Carlton Hurd, the pastor of the First Congregational Church from 1823 until his death in 1855. Hurd acquired the property in 1831, apparently with some type of building already standing. Although he may have enlarged this building at an early date, the existing structure probably achieved its present form in the 1850s. It has for many years been a dormitory for Fryeburg Academy.

**31. Squire Chase House, c. 1767, c. 1820 - C**  
151 Main Street  
NR 5/7/79

[The following description and statement of significance is excerpted from the National Register nomination.]

The first settler on lot 6 of the original "seven lots" was Nathaniel Merrill, who built by 1767 a house of the required size which comprises approximately 2/3 of the present ell (that part attached to the later Federal portion). In 1799 Merrill sold the house to James Osgood, son of another of the original settlers, whose daughter, Mary, married Stephen Chase, a lawyer from Bridgton. "Squire" Chase, as he came to be known, together with his wife, inherited the house in 1824 and very shortly thereafter moved the large square Federal house from a site across the street about a quarter of a mile north to its present location. The structure was probably new and unfinished at the time since the present interior is Greek Revival in style throughout. In 1848, one week before her death, Mary Chase conveyed the property to her three children, who, being married and living elsewhere, sold the property in 1854 to Ebenezer Weeks. Ten years later Weeks sold to David R. Hastings,



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a prominent lawyer. Evidently desiring a residence in the latest fashion, it was Hastings who extended the eaves in order to add a bracketed cornice and topped the roof with the elaborate Italianate belvedere. Unlike many such restylizations, the effect is aesthetically pleasing. After passing through several hands, the house was purchased in 1908 by Hattie A. Pike, a direct descendant of James Osgood. It has remained ever since in the Pike family.

The house is rectangular in plan and is of frame construction with two stories and a hipped roof. A long two-story ell is attached to the southwest corner of the house and runs south to an attached barn. Both ell and barn are of frame construction with gabled roofs. Siding is clapboard for all elements, save for the east-facing facade of the house proper. One internal brick chimney protrudes from the roof of the house, and one from that of the ell. The house's facade is five bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance consists of a Federal style single doorway with red Bohemian glass sidelights and fanlight. Fenestration here as elsewhere is six-over-six with external wooden louvered shutters. The cornice of the house is bracketed and an ornate rectangular cupola sits atop the roof peak. These features derive from the Italianate style remodeling. A one-story porch covers the south side of the house, and another covers much of the east side of the ell. The barn is three stories tall and faces east, like the other elements of the residence.

**32. Osgood Family House, c. 1800, c. 1860 - C**  
153 Main Street

The Osgood House is a two-and-a-half-story four-bay frame structure with a two-story ell and a telescoping wing. Its symmetrically composed facade features four six-over-six windows on each story and two in the gable peak. The entrance is located on the south side where it is sheltered by an entrance porch with chamfered porch posts. Two similar porches are located on the deeply recessed two-story wing. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards.

Tradition holds that a portion of this house, presumably the ell and wing, were built shortly after James E. Osgood acquired the property in 1799. Osgood's son and heir to the property, James E. Osgood II, having been absent from Fryeburg for some years, returned in 1850 and moved the original front block of the house to its present location (40) where he made his residence. It is thought that the present front part of 153 Main Street was not added until 1882 by William Bradley. Stylistically, however, it would appear to be from the 1860s, and its footprint seems evident on the 1880 map of the village. At that time it was occupied by J. E. Osgood.

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**33. House and Barn, c. 1880, c. 1900 - C**  
Main Street

This connected group of buildings includes a very modest one-and-a-half-story, two-bay gable front frame house and a large barn with an attached carriage house. An enclosed porch wraps around two sides of the house. The barn appears to be the earliest element of the complex since it is shown on the 1880 map without the house. At that time it was owned by J. E. Osgood who resided in the adjacent house (32). The dwelling would appear to have been added about 1900.

**34. House, c. 1930 - C**  
Main Street

This gambrel roofed two-story Colonial Revival house appears to have been built about 1930. It has an asymmetrically composed four-bay facade with an off-center entrance and porch, as well as a slightly recessed two-story wing. The broad roof encompasses the entire block without an interruption. A two-stall garage is attached to the north side. Wide weatherboards cover the entire building.

**35. Amos Cook House, c. 1800 - C**  
159 Main Street

Like a number of houses along Main Street, this dwelling may be composed of an early section as well as one of later origin. Deed research on this property indicates that a house and barn was standing on the lot as early as 1776 when Moses Ames purchased it from John Evans. It may be that a portion of the existing house, possibly the two-story ell, contains this early dwelling. The appearance of the narrow cornice suggests an earlier period than that of the main block. This latter two-and-a-half-story, five-bay section may have been built as late as the 1820s, or perhaps went through a major remodeling about that time. Its cornice, projecting entrance vestibule, and the placement of the chimneys suggests the later date of construction. From 1807 until prior to 1858 the property was owned by Amos Cook. He was probably responsible for the appearance of the main block.

**36. House, after 1880 - C**  
161 Main Street

Although not indicated on the 1880 map of Fryeburg this intact two-story Italianate house must have been built shortly thereafter. Its two-bay gable front facade features a side entrance sheltered by a bracketed hood and a two-story bay window detailed with brackets. The house has quoins at the corners of the main block. A two-story wing with a full width screened porch

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on the lower level extends from the south side. It is linked to a carriage house. A second screened porch is attached to the building's north side. The house is sheathed in weatherboards.

**37. H. R. Virgin House, 1922 - C**  
163 Main Street

This two-story Colonial Revival style frame house is thought to have been built in 1922 for H. R. Virgin. The symmetrically composed five-bay facade has a central entrance with a louvered fan and flanking twelve-over-twelve windows. Interior end chimneys punctuate the gable roof. The house is covered with vinyl siding. It is deeply recessed from Main Street.

**38. A. A. Nichols House, 1905 - C**  
165 Main Street

The Nichols House is a handsome two-story five-bay frame dwelling constructed in 1905. Its front elevation features a full width screened front porch whose shed roof is supported by six Tuscan columns. The broad overhang of the roof is detailed with modillion blocks and the ends are pedimented. A narrow one-story addition is attached to the north side and an ell extends to the rear. The building is sheathed in weatherboards. A dry laid fieldstone wall delineates the front and part of the side property lines.

**39. William J. Lovett House, c. 1850 - C**  
167 Main Street

Names for its original occupant, William J. Lovett, this one-and-a-half-story cape is more commonly known as the Academy Farm or the Fessenden Place. It was apparently built about 1850, the year in which Lovett acquired the property. The four-bay gable front facade has a side entry and flanking six-over-six windows. Two smaller windows are located in the gable peak. A recessed one-story wing and garage extend from the south side. In 1940 Fryeburg Academy leased this house and its adjoining farm for use in their agricultural program. The Academy acquired title to it in 1955, but sold it seven years later when the program was discontinued.

**40. James E. Osgood House, c. 1800 - C**  
169 Main Street

Tradition holds that the main block of this two-story Federal period dwelling was originally attached to the ell of the present Osgood Family House (32) some distance to the west of here. It is thought to have been moved to this site about 1850 by Major James E. Osgood, the son of the original owner, Captain James E. Osgood. This unusual history is matched

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only by the elaborateness of its central entrance with its handsome multi-pane fanlights and pilasters, and the notable interior woodwork including a curved freestanding stair. Except for the treatment of the entry, the exterior is very modest in its detailing. Symmetrically placed six-over-six windows flank the entrance and five are located on the second story. A two-story ell, added to the house after it was moved, extends to the rear where it meets a shed-roofed garage of more recent origin. The house is sheathed in weatherboards.

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The village's late eighteenth century growth is evident in a number of ways. One of the most significant of these is the fact that in 1792 the residents of Fryeburg, Brownfield and Conway (New Hampshire) founded Fryeburg Academy. This institution was actually the formal successor of a grammar school organized the previous year and housed in a one-story hipped roof building that stood along Main Street but outside of the present district boundary. It was in this building that one of Fryeburg's most notable former residents, Daniel Webster, taught for a brief time beginning in 1802. The establishment of the academy was followed three years later by the construction of the village's first church building. Located near the junction of Main Street and the Bridgton Road (within the limits of the district) the "South Meeting House" was the precursor to the existing First Congregational Church (5) erected in 1848-50.

Fryeburg's physical appearance village in the late eighteenth century is difficult to ascertain since no visual or written descriptions are known to exist from the period. In addition, the subsequent loss by fire or demolition and the frequent moving of the earliest buildings leaves the researcher few clues. Nonetheless, significant features do survive. Among these is the street pattern defined by Main Street and intersecting roads leading south to Portland and north across the Saco River to North Fryeburg. Main Street, which was widened by one-and-a-half rods in 1805, takes a southwest to northeast path leading to Conway and Fryeburg Center, respectively. In addition to the roads, a portion of at least one extant house is believed to date from the last quarter of the eighteenth century. This is the ell of the Squire Chase House (31), which is thought to contain the original c. 1767 house of Nathaniel Merrill. One building, the Philip Page House (19) of about 1800, originally stood near the village center, but it was twice moved in the 1800s to different sites along Main Street. The owners of the so-called "Seven Lots" which comprise present day Fryeburg village are known to have erected houses on their property at an early date. These buildings undoubtedly established a linear pattern of development subsequently followed during new construction and still evident today.

**1800-1865**

In 1800 the entire town of Fryeburg had a population of just under 750 persons. This figure grew steadily, however, during the succeeding decades reaching 1,057 in 1820 and 1,523 by mid-century. Throughout the period agriculture was the chief occupation of the town's population. The village, meanwhile, continued to develop as a trading center and a place to obtain professional services. As noted in the New England Mercantile Union Directory of 1849, there were two attorneys, three physicians, two hotel keepers, and a variety of merchants. Manufacturing was limited to a shoe maker, a saddle and harness maker, two carriage builders, and an iron foundry.

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During the first half of the nineteenth century a number of buildings were erected along Main Street within the district boundary. Although most of these survive, a number of early houses were destroyed during a fire in 1906. Additionally, at least two of the dwellings were moved before 1900 to their present sites from other locations in the district. Of the houses built after 1800, one of the earliest is the James E. Osgood House (40). This very handsome two-story dwelling has a typical Federal period configuration with its symmetrically composed five-bay facade containing a central entrance. The detailing of the doorway and fanlight are particularly unusual for a house in this setting. The c. 1820 Page Family House (24) is similar in scale to the Osgood house, but considerably smaller than the double pile Hill-Cook House (35) and Robert Bradley House (11). These latter two examples were probably erected during the first decade of the nineteenth century. The Bradley house had been moved diagonally across the street sometime after 1880. Another important example of the more commodious Federal buildings is the Barrows-Steadman House (6), erected about 1809. Although subsequently altered with an Italianate style roof overhang and eave brackets, the house retains its earlier character including an impressive doorway.

The Greek Revival style appeared in the district during the mid-1830s. Extant examples employ a side hall configuration with gables facing the street; a notable change from the symmetrical facades and side gable orientations of the Federal houses. These characteristics are evident in the c. 1838 Bradley Family House (10) and the c. 1840 Ruel Barrows House (25). The same basic plan but with modest Gothic Revival and Italianate style detailing is evident on the c. 1860 D. Lowell Lamson House (3).

Growth on the Main Street corridor in this period was not limited to residential construction. In 1806, for example, Fryeburg Academy removed to its present site and a newly constructed two-story frame building. Some thirty years later a small pedimented building (7) was erected to house the Congregational Church during the winter months. For the balance of the year the South Meeting House continued to be utilized. However, this was finally replaced in 1848-50 by the existing First Congregational Church (5), a handsome Greek Revival style edifice designed by Portland architect Charles K. Kirby.

In 1858, a wall map of Oxford County was published which included detail maps of the important villages. The image of Fryeburg shows the well established linear pattern of development along Main Street and what became known as Portland Street. These early roads were joined by the more recently laid out Oxford Street (parallel to Portland Street) and Pine Street (intersecting Portland Street south of Main but running parallel to it). A short street linked Portland and Oxford Streets near the intersection of Pine, and a road branched off of Pine that led to the town of Denmark.

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A business directory accompanying the 1858 map indicates that there were 5 general merchants, 2 attorneys, 2 physicians, 2 shoe makers, 2 tanners, a harness maker, a jeweler, and a wheelwright. The commercial enterprises were primarily located along Portland Street and the middle portion of Main Street, with the H. M. Buswell tannery housed in three buildings on Oxford Street. A shoe shop was located about where the present Burnham Store (2) stands, and A. R. Bradley's law office was located between it and the church.

By the time of the 1860 census enumeration the Town of Fryeburg's population had risen to 1,625 persons. Four of its industries, all located in the village, were recorded in the Industrial Schedule. By far the most significant of these were the two tanneries operated by H. M. Buswell and Company and the firm of Allen and Warner. The former produced 6,742 hides of leather valued at \$19,000 whereas the latter tanned 9,100 hides with a \$21,000 value. John Evans' saddle and harness shop produced 50 harnesses and other work worth \$1,050, and shoe maker H. G. Morton made 600 pairs of boots and 400 pairs of shoes valued at \$2,300. The significance of the leather industry is further demonstrated by the 1862 Subscriber's Business Directory in which no fewer than ten different persons were listed as proprietors of leather related industries. Local histories state that Portland Street was known as "Leather Lane" for the numerous leather manufactories that stood along it.

The evident prosperity of the antebellum period is most noticeable in the district in one particular building: the substantial two-story brick structure (15) erected by Fryeburg Academy in 1852-53. Built to replace the 1806 school which burned on May 28, 1851, the quality of the new building suggests the trustees' optimism about the future. Not only was it the largest masonry structure completed to date in the village, but it was designed by Gridley J. F. Bryant of Boston, one of New England's leading architects of the period. In addition to its physical presence along the northern end of Main Street, the new building introduced the Italianate style to the neighborhood. This new architectural fashion was probably first applied to residential construction in the Dr. D. Lowell Lamson House (3). Although the steep roof pitch of this side hall, gable front house is suggestive of the Gothic Revival, its bracketed window hoods, bay window, and porch are clearly Italianate in their inspiration.

**1865-1906**

The immediate post Civil War period in Fryeburg was one of considerable change from the decade before. One of the most revealing aspects of this change was the decline in population between 1860 and 1870, from 1,625 persons to 1,508 persons, respectively. This pattern of out-migration from rural to urban and western areas was repeated statewide. Much of this loss

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was probably in the town's outlying agricultural areas, however, since Fryeburg village does not appear to have suffered any noticeable decline. Nonetheless, only one house was added to the district, the Italianate style William H. Tarbox House (4), built in 1868.

In 1868 Fryeburg subscribed \$30,000 toward the construction of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railway, a line whose development was motivated in great part by the increasing summer tourist traffic to the White Mountains. This railroad was completed to North Conway in 1873 with the first train running through Fryeburg in June. During the remainder of the decade a number of manufacturing enterprises were developed adjacent to or in the general vicinity of the railroad track. Among these were the steam mill of Shirley and Nutter, erected about 1874 for the production of staves and shooks; the grist and stave mill built by Jerome Fellows around 1878; and the Portland Packing Company, constructed about 1878 to can corn. The railroad also aided the development of Fryeburg's tourism industry, a trend that can be seen by the proliferation of local accommodations. For example, the 1871 Maine Register lists the Oxford House as the only hotel in Fryeburg at that time. Ten years later in addition to the Oxford House, there was the Lockwood House, and three summer boarding houses. Ready access to railroad connections must also have played a key role in the founding (prior to 1880) and subsequent growth of a Methodist camp meeting ground located along the Saco River some two miles north of the village.

As shown on an atlas map published in 1880, the physical appearance of Fryeburg had changed considerably from what it was in 1858. This later graphic representation shows that a large collection of dwellings had been added to the area south of Oxford Street along this and the more recently laid out Smith and McNeal Streets. Within the district boundary, Bradley Street had been constructed between the Robert Bradley House (11) and the present Academy grounds. Beyond the intersection of the Bridgton Road, an Italianate style house (17) had been built by general merchant Charles H. Tibbetts.

The duration of the century witnessed the development of the Fryeburg Water Company (1882), among whose founders was district resident D. Lowell Lamson (3); the founding in 1887 of the town's first newspaper, the Oxford County Record, published by R. Fult Wormwood; and the formation of the Women's Literary Club whose purpose was to maintain a library for use of the village. During the period Fryeburg's population dropped by nearly 300 persons although at the outset this figure had reached its highest recorded nineteenth century mark: 1,633 inhabitants. Annual editions of the Maine Register in this period continue to illustrate Fryeburg's primary position as a trading center, with a mix of small-scale industries. By century's close three of the town's four doctors resided here, as well as its only



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dentist and all three lawyers. One could shop at a number of general mercantile establishments as well as at a variety of specialty stores dealing in bicycles, cigars and confectionery, coal, fruit, and watches, and jewelry. The village also offered the services of taxidermist and future arctic explorer Robert E. Peary, who resided in town in the late 1870s. Like Daniel Webster before him, whose handwritten copies of deeds are on file locally, Peary left physical evidence of his brief residence in Fryeburg. In his capacity as a surveyor, Peary marked the north meridian with two granite blocks placed on an empty lot along Main Street. Peary Park (28) was subsequently established with these markers as focal points. The manufactories produced an equally wide range of products including boots and shoes, carriages, granite, and numerous wooden goods such as chisel handles, furniture, spools, staves, and shooks.

Although it stood just outside of the present district boundary, a large frame hotel building was erected in 1893 along Main Street. The Oxford was a substantial three-and-a-half story structure erected on the site of the Oxford House which had burned in 1887. Designed by Boston architect J. McArthur Vance, the construction of this building underscored the continued vitality of Fryeburg's tourism industry. As described in a promotional brochure the Oxford was within easy access of the Saco River's boating privileges with an all-day "Round the River trip... perfectly safe for ladies and children." In addition, the numerous surrounding ponds "afforded the best of gunning and fishing," and from the hotel's piazzas one could gaze upon the southeastern ranges of the White Mountains. Finally, it was but a short distance to the grove of the Maine Chautauqua Union (the successor to the Methodist Camp meetings) whose summer assembly "is steadily growing in popularity." One major building, the Shingle Style Charles F. Goodnow House (27), was added to the district in 1895.

On August 31, 1906, the most devastating conflagration in Fryeburg's history occurred. Beginning in the attic of the Oxford, the fire spread along Main and Portland Streets destroying a total of fourteen buildings and property valued at \$100,000. Among those lost, five were located within the limits of the historic district, including four dwellings and a store. Shortly after the fire, two of the former house sites were newly built upon. Seth W. Fife, an attorney and proprietor of the E. W. Burbank Seed Company, whose house and millinery store were burned, built the existing dwelling (22) on his property immediately afterwards. In 1910 contractor/builder Wilson O. Brown erected a frame house (21) for himself on the site of the former Serena Weeks residence. A number of additional houses were erected in the district prior to 1910. Two in particular, the Warren-Wiley House (29) and the A. A. Nichols House (38), reflect the new architectural fashion of the Colonial Revival style.

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Throughout the balance of its historic period, Fryeburg maintained its primary role as a trading center. It remained a destination for tourists judging by the continued listing of summer boarding houses in the Maine Register, but the industry appears to have had a diminished role in the local economy, at least initially. The very fact that the Oxford was never replaced underscores this fact, as does the decline of the Chataqua assemblies in the early 1900s. However, beginning in the 1920s the region's natural recreation facilities were developed and promoted as summer camps for children, and by 1930 one boys' camp and two girls' camps were in operation by out-of-state residents. Later in the 1930s, the first ski slopes were developed, thus extending the tourism business into a year-round venture. Although the town's population had declined by 1910 to 1,282 persons, two decades later it had risen by three hundred.

During the 1920s and early 1930s Fryeburg Academy experienced a period of growth whose impact on the district is evident today in the major additions to the 1853 building. These two brick wings were designed by John Calvin Stevens, Maine's preeminent architect, and erected in 1930. It was in this period that another major building was added to the district, the United States Trust Company branch office (1). Designed by prominent Maine architect John P. Thomas and built in 1922, the construction of this facility represented a significant reinforcement of the district's long-time commercial aspects, an association that had been strengthened some years earlier with the construction of H. H. Burnham's jewelry store (2) on the adjoining lot. A number of Colonial Revival houses were added to the district as well. One (23), a one-and-a-half-story cape designed by Washington, D. C. architect Milton Dana Morrill, was built in 1911 on a site made available by the 1906 fire. In 1923, according to tradition, physician Earl P. Gregory moved a former carriage repair shop to a site adjacent to the Goodnow House, and remodelled it into the present dwelling (26). The last significant building added to the district was the gasoline station and drug store (20) constructed in 1935 in front of the Brown House (21).

**1936-PRESENT**

Although a number of non-contributing buildings have been added to the district since 1935, one of which replaced a nineteenth century house that burned in 1984, Main Street has retained its historic integrity. There is well founded concern, however, that future commercial development threatens the area. The construction of visually intrusive gasoline stations to the south of the district dramatically illustrates this point.

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FRYEBURG, MAINE

SCALE: 1" = 300'

