

201. 12/81/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received FEB 23 1984
date entered

1. Name

historic (Stephen) Longfellow House

and/or common Longfellow Farm

2. Location

street & number Longfellow Road N/A not for publication

city, town Gorham, Vic. N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert R. Lowell

street & number Box 156

city, town Gorham, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04038

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Portland, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stephen Longfellow House is a large Georgian style structure two-and-one-half stories high with a massive central chimney. The house has a gable roof and five bay facade with six-over-six double-hung sash. The main entrance located in the center of the south elevation, is enframed by pilasters supporting an entablature and pediment. Attached to the northeast corner of the house is a one-story ell with a gable roof and Greek Revival cornice returns.

Original interior woodwork exists throughout the house. The central hall and two flanking parlors, as well as a second floor bedroom, have at least one wall with floor to ceiling panelling. All of the doors, architrave trim and mantelpieces have moldings with simple profiles. In the front hall is a central staircase with a balustrade consisting of heavy turned balusters and newell posts supporting a gracefully carved handrail.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1761 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stephen Longfellow House is particularly significant for its fine and rare Georgian interior which rivals and is similar to the Tate House (N.R.) in Stroudwater, only a few miles away. Additionally Stephen Longfellow and his descendants, who were the immediate ancestors of the poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, were community leaders and active in many walks of life.

Stephen Longfellow, great-grandfather of Henry, a Harvard graduate who had been a schoolmaster in Portland, purchased the Gorham farm in 1775 when his home was burned in the fire resulting from Captain Mowatt's naval bombardment of the city. With him came his son, Stephen, Jr., at this time 25 years old with a wife and family. Quite evidently he inherited his father's intellectual talents, for in a very short time he started upon a successful law practice and became an active participant in town affairs. The Gorham history says of him that he had "industry, perseverance and uprightness" and that "he was modest and unassuming". These general statements find definite proof in facts from the town records. Only nine years after he had come to Gorham we find him elected selectman, a position that he filled again and again. He was judge of the Court of Common Pleas for years, a representative and then senator in the General Court of Massachusetts, a member of the first Board of Overseers of Bowdoin College and one of the first trustees of Gorham Academy. In his old age he was a well-known figure on the streets of Gorham since he persisted in wearing 18th century dress with a cocked hat and knee britches long after they had passed out of style.

One of his six children was also named Stephen and, like his grandfather, he graduated from Harvard and following his father's footsteps became a lawyer. He, however, settled in Portland, married Zilpha Wadsworth, and became the father of the famous poet. The young Henry spent all his vacations while growing up at his grandfather's farm and was doubtless influenced by the old man. It is said that he wrote his first poem there, a teenage product known as "Mrs. Phinney's Turnip" which does not appear in his collected works.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McLellan, Hugh D., History of Gorham, Maine. Portland, 1903.

Maine Writers Research Club, Historic Churches and Homes of Maine. Portland, 1937.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Gorham

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	8	17	2	16	10	4	18	3	15	8	10	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 11, Lot 16

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. Thetford*

title S.H.P.O. date 2/16/84

For NPS use only

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

for Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 3/22/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration