

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 12 1986

date entered SEP 11 1986

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

1. Name

historic Crosby Street Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Crosby Street, Crosby Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Augusta,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine

code

23

county

Kennebec

code

011  
~~015~~

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Various

street & number

city, town

N/A vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town

Augusta,

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

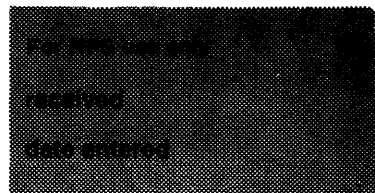
The Crosby Street Historic District is an L-shaped district consisting of seven buildings fronting Crosby Street and Crosby Lane. Located in the center of Augusta, it is sited on a hill above the central business district and the Kennebec River. The surrounding area is heavily built up, predominantly with multi-family residential structures. These buildings range in age from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century and are not of the same period of significance identified for the nominated district.

List of buildings contributing to the historic district:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Building</u>
1	37 State Street	John Hartwell House, c. 1806 Federal style, 2 story, wood frame with brick rear wall, aluminum siding over clapboard, hipped roof, 6/6 double hung-sash, doorway with pilasters, pediment and fanlight. Colonial Revival portico over entrance and enclosed porch on south side of east wing.
2	Crosby Lane	George Crosby House, c. 1802 Federal style, two story wood frame with rear wall of brick, clapboarding siding on wooden elevations, hipped roof, 1½ story wing with gable roof on west side, 6/6 double-hung sash, doorway with pilasters, pediment and fanlights.
3	17-19 Crosby St.	Wales/Hunt House, c. 1810-20/c. 1855-60 Federal period house remodelled with transitional Greek Revival and Italianate trim. Two-and-a-half story wood frame building with gable roof, clapboard siding, 6/6 or 2/2 double-hung sash, pedimented gable end entrance vestibule with pilasters, round arched windows, denticulated cornice.
4	13 Crosby Street	Piper House, c. 1840-50 Greek Revival style, 2½ stories, wood frame with gable roof, vinyl siding, large corner pilasters supporting pedimented gable ends, bay window with round arched windows, brackets and dentils on north side, early 20th century vestibule over main entrance, modern windows.
5	7 Crosby Street	J. B. Shaw House, c. 1845-50 Greek Revival style, 2½ stories, wood frame, gable roof, vinyl siding, large corner pilasters, entry with pilasters supporting an entablature, 6/6 double-hung sash, 1½ story ell on north side with 1/1 double-hung sash.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



CROSBY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

<u>No.</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Building</u>
6	8 Crosby Street	Eben Fuller House, c. 1833 Transitional Federal-Greek Revival style, 2 stories, wood frame, clapboard siding, hipped roof, 6/6 double-hung sash, four chimneys, palladian window over entrance, pilasters with Greek Keys supporting an entablature enframing the doorway, two story ell with gable roof on north side.
7	20 Crosby Street	William Hunt House, c. 1830-35 Federal style, 2 stories, wood frame, hipped roof, clapboard siding, 6/6 double-hung sash, sidehall plan with elaborate entryway consisting of pilasters, louvered fan, cornice and bead and reel molding.

The following building does not contribute to the period of significance for this district:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Building</u>
8	12 Crosby Street	House, c. 1910-20 Arts and Crafts style, 2½ stories, wood frame gable roof with eaves supported on exposed rafters, shingled upper story, clapboard first story covered in vinyl, veranda across east side with Tuscan columns, windows with 8/1 double-hung sash.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates      Various      Builder/Architect      Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Crosby Street Historic District is architecturally significant as the last major enclave of residential buildings in Augusta which represent the city's important early nineteenth century period of development. These houses were erected by prominent merchants and entrepreneurs such as John Hartwell, George Crosby, William Hunt, and Eben Fuller. Located on the hill above the central business district, this neighborhood offered physical prominence and close proximity to the central business district.

The two earliest homes were built facing what came to be called Crosby's Lane on the east side of State Street, the principal north-south thoroughfare. John Hartwell, a carpenter and auctioneer, and George Crosby, a successful merchant located next to each other in identical houses. Within a few hundred yards was the Congregational Church (now demolished), begun in 1807 under the direction of Hartwell and Stephen Jewett. With the exception of the Wales/Hunt House, Crosby Street itself did not develop for another ten or fifteen years. New construction there was no doubt initiated after the Crosby House served as the Augusta residence of Governor Samuel Smith in 1832-34. At that time William Hunt and Eben Fuller erected substantial homes.

These Federal style residences were followed by two in the Greek Revival style for J. B. Shaw, a carpenter-builder, and Joseph Piper, a grocer. The men who built these houses were characteristic of Augusta's early history in that they were a group of aggressive entrepreneurs who prospered beyond the normal bounds of their trades. John Hartwell was a carpenter and store clerk who became a successful auctioneer. William Hunt was a tailor who acquired a great deal of property and erected a block of stores on Water Street, and George Crosby was a noted inventor of industrial machinery. Eben Fuller was a druggist on Water Street for over 50 years.

Architecturally, the buildings in the Crosby Street Historic District are typical of early residential structures in Augusta. The Hartwell and Crosby houses have doorways designed after a plate from Asher Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant. The elaborate doorway on the Hunt House is a variation of several late Federal style designs found in this area. Thus, the architectural significance is based on their survival as a group of period structures.

In the years after the Civil War when the mills in Augusta began to expand, the Crosby Street area became less fashionable as merchants built on more ample lots elsewhere in the city. The area's close proximity to the mills and steep terrain ensured that surrounding development would consist of multi-family residential units rather than single family homes. Although several Crosby Street buildings have been converted into apartments, their survival is remarkable.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The History of Augusta, by James W. North, Augusta, 1870.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2  
 Quadrangle name Augusta

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 

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

  
 C 

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

  
 E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
 G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

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

  
 D 

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

  
 F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
 H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at the northwest corner of the property of Building #1 on State Street, the district boundary runs along the rear property lines on the north side of Crosby Lane, crosses Crosby Street and follows the north property line of Building #3. From the end of that line it runs along the

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

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 July, 1986  
 street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132  
 city or town Augusta, state Maine

# 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 *James S. Fitzsimons*  
 title S.H.P.O. date 8/5/86

For NPS use only

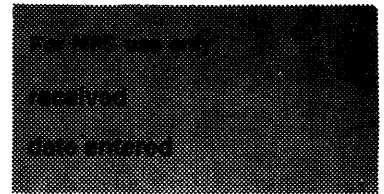
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Belmont Byron* date 9-11-86  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

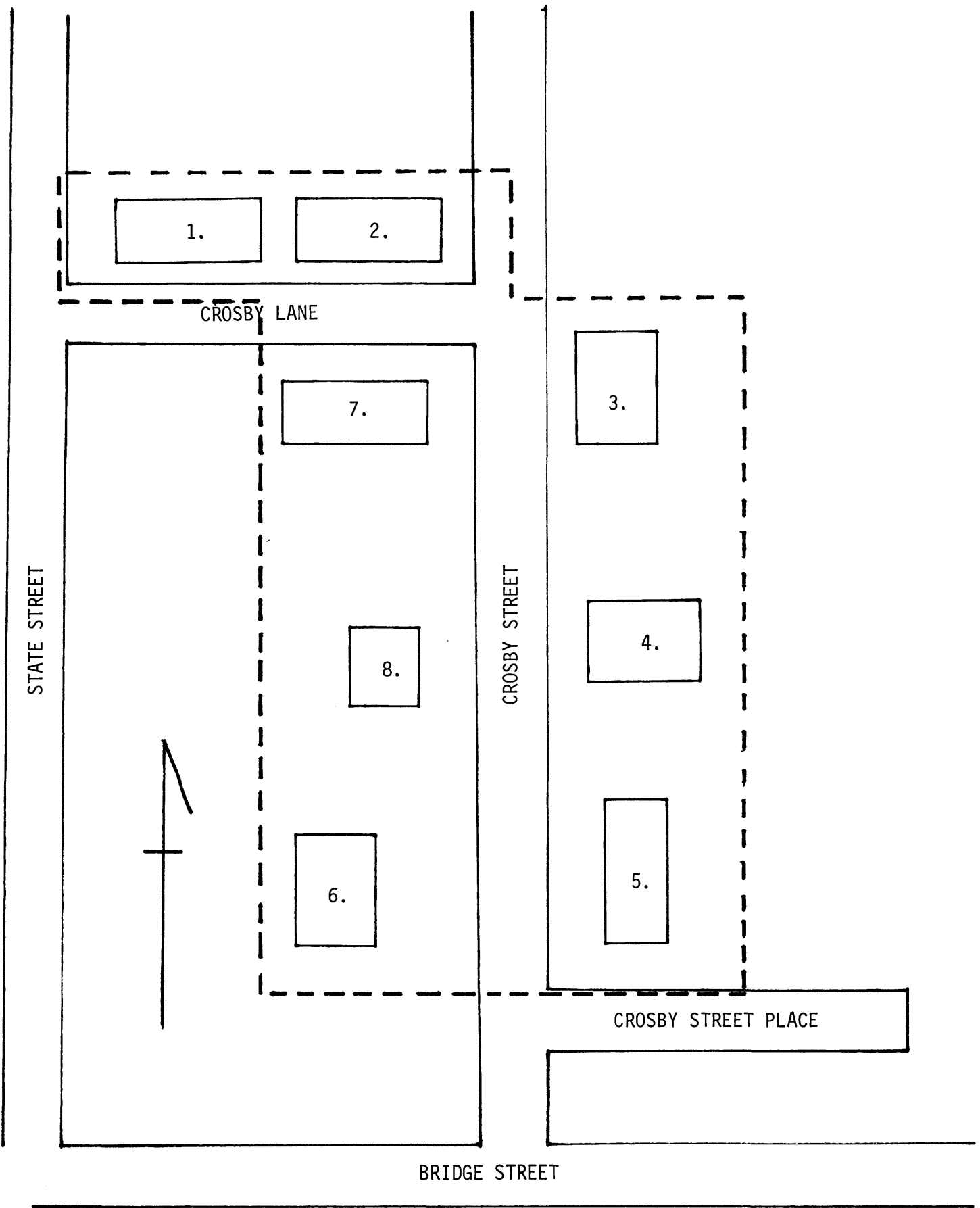


Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

rear property lines on the east side of Crosby Street to the southeast corner of the property of building #5. Following the south line of this property and that of building #6 across the street, it then runs northerly along the rear property lines on the west side of Crosby Street to Crosby Lane which it follows westerly to State Street and thence northerly to the point of beginning.



CROSBY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Augusta, Maine

District Boundary - - - - -