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

1. Name of Property

historic name GORHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number _____

2. Location

Portions of College Ave., Main, Maple, School, and
street & number State streets. N/A not for publication

city or town Gorham N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04038

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Earl S. [Signature] SHPO 8/27/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper entered in the National Register Date of Action 10/2/92

Gorham Historic District
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
42		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
42	0	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)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store
Social/Meeting Hall
Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store
Social/Meeting Hall
Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Greek Revival
Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite
walls Wood/Weatherboard
Brick
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Commerce
- Community Planning and Development
- Social History

Period of Significance

c.1766-1942

Significant Dates

c.1820

c.1875

c.1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kimball, Charles H., Architect

Lowell, George W., Architect

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Gorham Historic District
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 25

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	383240	4837120
Zone	Easting		Northing
2	19	383600	4837310

3	19	383740	4837030
Zone	Easting		Northing
4	19	383340	4836870

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1992

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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The Gorham Historic District is an irregular L-shaped area of some twenty-five acres located along College Avenue, Main, Maple, School, and State Streets in the village center. While it is predominantly residential in character, the district's eastern edge contains a concentration of significant commercial, fraternal, and religious buildings. The vast majority of these structures are of frame construction, but there are also five notable buildings constructed of brick. There are forty-two (42) contributing resources in the district and no (0) non-contributing resources. The numbers on the map correspond to the property described and similarly numbered in the Inventory List.

Architecturally, the district's resources reflect a wide variety of stylistic forms popular from the turn of the eighteenth century through the 1930s. Predominant among these are one and two-story Federal and Greek Revival style buildings, along with a substantial number of structures exhibiting Italianate style detailing. There is a single Queen Anne building and a handful of Colonial Revival houses including a pair of "square houses."

Tradition holds that there are two pre-revolutionary buildings in the district: the Thacher-Russell House (13) erected in 1766 and the Robie-Lincoln House (28) believed to have been built in 1763 and moved into the district about 1838. Subsequent remodeling of the two houses has probably left little more than their frames as evidence of the early dates of construction. Thus, the earliest visible architectural style represented in the district is that of the Federal period. As is typical throughout Maine, the earliest examples are either one-and-a-half-story side gable capes (34) with center chimneys or much larger two-story buildings covered by shallow hip roofs (40) (probably 16), both types of which have a five-bay division of the facade. Later Federal houses (36, 37, 38) universally adopted side gable orientations for both one and two-story configurations, generally with interior end chimneys. Doorway designs throughout the period consist primarily of broad pilasters framing a six-panel door and transom, above which is a modest entablature. There is only one visible fanlight in the district; that found on the Nahum Chadbourne House (38). This house is also notable because of its long ell that links the house and large barn into the district's largest connected complex. A number of other outbuildings are joined to the principal dwellings in this fashion making it a significant characteristic of the district's architectural resources.

Greek Revival architectural forms appear to have been introduced in the district in the mid to late 1830s on the houses erected along State Street. Although subsequent historic alterations may obscure some of the defining characteristics of the style, they are evident in the cornice detailing of the Crockett-Robie House (25) and Robie-Lincoln House (28). Typical Greek Revival doorways employing sidelights in a frame of pilasters and entablature

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can be seen on the Lewis Files (33) and Frank Phinney (31) houses. The Phinney House also illustrates the use of a side hall plan as well as a steeply pitched roof with broad overhanging eaves, the latter of which is commonly employed in the Gothic Revival. The largest Greek Revival dwelling in the district is the cruciform plan Charles Frost House (29), a once more architecturally impressive building prior to the recent installation of vinyl siding. An extensive c. 1850 remodeling of the Nahum Chadbourne House (38) introduced a particularly unusual form to a Maine Federal house; a full width two-story portico that evokes comparison to Southern architecture of the mid-nineteenth century. Greek Revival features were also employed during the 1848 remodeling of the First Parish Congregational Church (6), and are evident in the tower as well as the broad pilasters and frieze/cornice.

The Italianate style is well represented in the district principally in commercial, fraternal and religious structures. Among the most notable of these are the former Masonic Hall (3) and the Lewis McLellan Block (17) both of which were erected in 1875 from plans drawn by Portland architect Charles H. Kimball. The use of round or segmentally arched windows with corbeled hoods in the latter and ornate brackets in the former are two of the most distinctive features of the style that are visible elsewhere in the district. Italianate characteristics on residential buildings occur principally in the additions made to earlier houses such as entry hoods (28), bay windows (42), or vestibules (22). The most notable of the alterations were those made to the McLellan Family House (16) consisting of the addition of a third story, brackets, porch, and cupola.

Other architectural patterns represented in the district include the Queen Anne style Congregational Church Chapel (5) with its asymmetrical massing and square corner tower. The Colonial Revival is represented largely in alterations, the most extensive and impressive being those made in 1939 to the Thacher-Russell House (13). A variant of the more commonly defined Colonial Revival style is the "square house" form utilized in the Methodist Parsonage (39) and a House (10) on School Street.

The historic district's topography ranges from an elevation of about 230 feet above sea level along the eastern and one-half of the southern boundary to a height of over 260 feet at the northwestern corner. Within this area the buildings establish three distinct siting patterns. The commercial buildings at the southeastern corner of the district rise from the inside edge of the adjacent sidewalks which in turn meet the curb of the street. The setbacks increase considerably along State Street where they obtain a residential scale featuring median strips between the sidewalk and road and relatively narrow front yards. This pattern changes noticeably along the south side of College Avenue where, with the exception of the Alexander McLellan House (40), the setbacks are quite deep and there is no intervening

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sidewalk or curbing. In contrast, the two houses on the north side of the street are sited closer to it. With only a handful of exceptions, the residential lots contain either foliage or evergreen trees or shrubs and at times a combination of both. Landscaping features are most numerous around the Thacher-Russell House (13) where there is also a conspicuous dry laid, field stone wall with granite coping between the house and driveway. Ashlar retaining walls are located in front of the McLellan Family House (16) and Crockett-Robie House (25), while a low field stone wall delineates the edge of the property at the Harding-Bolton House (26).

Inventory List**1. Commercial Block, by 1885 - C
14 Main Street**

This two-and-a-half-story wood frame store is sheathed in weatherboards. Its front elevation has a center door and flanking display windows on the first story, a pair of widely spaced, replacement one-over-one windows on the second story, and a pair of six-over-six sash in the gable peak. The building has thin gable returns, and narrow corner boards and frieze.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps clearly show the existing building as early as 1885. However, a structure is also indicated on this site on the 1871 atlas map. Whether they are one and the same is uncertain.

**2. Commercial Block, by 1885 - C
8 Main Street**

Sheathed in weatherboards on the side elevations and wave-cut shakes on the facade, this two-story wood frame block features a three-bay storefront with a recessed entry. It rests on a brick foundation. The non-historic storefront is asymmetrically composed with a larger display window to the right and a smaller one at left. A trio of doors are located off-center. There are two symmetrically placed three-sided bay windows on the second story which feature denticulated cornices. They are probably turn-of-the-century additions which appear in a 1909 photograph of the street. A double round arched window formerly located in the gable peak has been removed. A variety of double-hung sash windows punctuate the west side.

This building is shown on its present site in the 1885 edition of the Sanborn map. It may, in addition, be the same structure that appears on the 1871 atlas map. A number of enterprises have been housed in it including a boot and shoe store, grocery store, and a drug store.

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**3. (Former) Masonic Hall, 1875 - C
2-4 Main Street
Charles H. Kimball, Architect**

The most elaborately detailed frame commercial building in the district, the (former) Masonic Hall is a long two-story Italianate style structure sheathed in weatherboards and wood shingles. It stands on a brick foundation. The front elevation is divided into five bays on the first story with the recessed entrance located at the southwest corner. Highly decorative iron posts separate the bays, the central and eastern two of which are now covered by shingle infill. An original display window survives near the entry and has a large single pane window surmounted by a two-light transom. A narrow pent roof shelters the bracketed cornice between the first and second floors. On the upper story, a trio of windows are symmetrically placed across the facade. The center unit has paired one-over-one sash with a decorative triangular hood. Broad paneled pilasters frame the windows and rise to the broad gable end returns. The east side is unornamented, but the prominent seven-bay west side features large brackets and triangular window hoods with decorative sawn details. The cast iron posts continue on this side with most of the bays now infilled. The two bays nearest the entry retain their original fenestration pattern similar to the one on the facade.

Constructed in 1875, this handsome building was occupied by a number of businesses in the three separate stores provided on the first story. In addition, it housed the post office and town offices for a number of years in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, respectively. The Masons used the second story until sometime between 1909 and 1922 when they moved to the brick Narragansett Block (18). At present it houses an auto parts store.

**4. United Methodist Church, 1880 - C
29 School Street
George W. Lowell, Architect
Lowell and Shackford, Builders
E. H. Whitten, Frescoes**

One of two churches in the district, this Italianate style edifice features a corner bell tower with opposing spirelets, round-arched windows, a bracketed cornice, and pronounced hood moldings. Originally sheathed in weatherboards, the building is now covered in aluminum siding. The front elevation is divided into three unequal bays by a paneled pilaster that rises to an overhanging spirelet and the projection of the tower. A two-panel door surmounted by a round-arched transom is located in the center bay whereas a single double-hung round-arched window is positioned in the other two bays. A prominent stringcourse separates the two stories where the fenestration

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pattern is repeated except that a pair of long windows occupy the center bay in place of the door. There is a small rose window below the gable peak and an elliptical window in the upper level of the tower. The paired belfry openings feature elaborate wooden screens and the tower is crowned by a pyramidal roof with small dormers. Symmetrically placed windows divide the nave walls into four bays. An incongruous one-story gable roofed brick addition was made to the church's north side in 1963. It occupies the site of a former commercial building turned dwelling.

On March 1, 1804, the Methodist Society in Gorham, Buxton and Standish was incorporated by an Act of the General Court (Massachusetts). For a number of years thereafter meetings were held in members' houses, and in 1812 a church was erected at White Rock. It was not until 1821, however, that the Methodists in Gorham village had their own meeting house, which was also used by the Baptist and Universalist congregations. In 1840 they erected their own edifice on a lot along College Avenue. This was utilized until 1880 when the present church building was erected.

5. Congregational Church Chapel, 1897 - C
39 School Street
C. T. and R. D. McFarland, Architects

Erected in 1897, this two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne style brick building has a corner tower and a high hipped slate roof. The symmetrical fenestration pattern of the three-bay facade consists of a door at the southwest corner, a pair of nine-over-one windows in the center bay and a similar window in the tower. A multi-pane transom is located over the door the whole of which is sheltered by a bracketed overdoor. Six-over-one windows are positioned on the second story above those below. A trio of narrow windows occupies the third story of the tower and a gabled dormer with an eight-over-eight window is centrally placed. Additional features include the very broad, denticulated cornice, quoins at the tower corners, granite water table and window sills, and the bell cast shape of the tower's pyramidal roof. The building's south side has three windows on the first story, four on the second, and an exterior chimney at the southeast corner. On the north side, a second entrance is located in the tower with windows similar to those on the facade repeated above it. The balance of the elevation has four windows on each story, two of which are grouped in the center bay.

Documentary references pertaining to the construction of this building found in the New England Master Builder reveal that plans had been developed by the architects in 1896. It was not until May of the following year, however, that bids were sought for what was expected to be a \$10,000 project. The successful contractor was the local firm of Shackford and Dolley.

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Dedicatory services were announced in the January 20, 1898, edition of the Portland Daily Press.

**6. First Parish Congregational Church, 1797 - C
School Street**

Originally built in the manner of an eighteenth century meeting house, this gable roofed wood frame building was subsequently enlarged and remodeled a number of times thereby achieving its present appearance. This consists of a projecting pedimented entrance vestibule attached to the west end of the original block with doors located on the sides, the whole of which is surmounted by a square three-stage tower. In addition to the configuration of the tower and vestibule, which were added in 1848, the Greek Revival appearance of the church is conveyed by the use of broad entablatures, and flush sheathing on the tower. The second stage of the tower contains louvered openings with triangular heads, whereas the third stage has clock faces installed in 1868 below a triangular break in the cornice. A polygonal spire crowns the tower. The nave sidewalls are symmetrically divided into three bays with long eight-part stained glass windows in each.

Construction of a meeting house was among the first actions discussed by the proprietors of Gorham. In 1760, the Orthodox Congregationalist Society, which worshipped in Fort Hill, separated into two groups, the other centered in Gorham village. Here a small meeting house was built on the site currently occupied by the Congregational Chapel (5). This structure served until 1798 when a new church was built on the present lot. The frame of this second building remains under the Greek Revival finish from the 1848 remodeling.

**7. (Former) Shaker House, c. 1806 - C
57 School Street**

The (former) Shaker House is a one-and-a-half-story three-bay cape that is sheathed in weatherboards and stands on a granite block foundation. An ell which extends to the rear is linked to a garage of relatively recent vintage. The symmetrically composed facade has a central projecting entrance vestibule that is covered by a low hip roof and flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows. Each gable end of the front block has two similar windows on each story, whereas the ell has a variety of door and window openings.

According to tradition, this modest cape was originally part of the Shaker community located about 1.5 miles distant. After the settlement was abandoned in 1819, the building of which this was part was acquired by Rev. Asa Rand and Robert McLellan. McLellan moved his piece to its present

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location at 57 School Street where it apparently became a rental property for a number of years thereafter. Numerous owners have held the property since then including its present occupants, the Ayers family, who acquired it in 1959.

8. House, c. 1850 - C
65 School Street

Similar in scale to its neighbor (6) to the south, this one-and-a-half-story, three-bay cape features interior end chimneys and a rear ell with large gabled wall dormers. It is sheathed in weatherboards. The front elevation has a central Greek Revival style entrance with a later Italianate style bracketed hood. Two-over-one double-hung windows flank this doorway. There are four similar windows - two on each story - at each gable end. The building has a rather broad roof overhang and no entablatures or gable end returns.

9. House, c. 1900 - C
63A School Street

Standing in close proximity off the southeast corner of number 7 above, this two-story frame building was erected between 1871 and 1909, apparently as a second dwelling on the lot. Now sheathed in aluminum siding, the building's three-bay front (west) elevation features a door at one side and six-over-six windows in the flanking bays. There are two windows on the second story. A deeply recessed two-story ell projects from the north side; two brick flues punctuate the roof; and the south side has five windows - including a modern bow window - on the first story and six on the second.

10. House, c. 1910 - C
62 School Street

One of two "square houses" in the district, this two-story, two-bay example features a full width front porch, hip roof, and ornamental concrete block foundation. It is sheathed in aluminum siding. On the front elevation, the hip roof of the porch is supported by four posts, behind which is the side door and a single window. There are a pair of two-over-one windows on the second story, a sash pattern repeated throughout. A three-sided bay window is located on the south side, and a one-story ell projects to the rear. The brick chimney punctuates the south roof plane.

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**11. House, by 1871 - C
56 School Street**

This small one-story, three-bay cape is covered entirely with wood shingles. A concrete block foundation replaces the original. The principal entrance is to the right of the front elevation where it is flanked by a two-over-two window. A second window is located to the left, well along the balance of the wall. There is an asymmetrical fenestration pattern on the gable ends. A shed dormer is located on the rear of the house where a one-story ell projects westward.

The house appears on this location in the 1871 atlas map. At that time it was apparently occupied - or perhaps owned - by H. D. McLellan.

**12. House, c. 1860 - C
52 School Street**

Positioned with its gable end facing the street, this two-story, two-bay frame dwelling features a hip roofed porch on the first story with chamfered posts and turned balusters. It is sheathed in weatherboards. A side entry and two-over-two window are sheltered by the porch, and two similar windows are located above. Another smaller window lies below the gable peak. Both side elevations feature a variety of asymmetrically placed openings. To the rear of the lot is a hip roofed garage.

Tradition holds that this dwelling was formerly the ell of the neighboring Thacher-Russell House (10). It is said to have been moved to this site and converted to a single family residence. The 1871 Atlas map clearly shows a building on this site at that time.

**13. Thacher-Russell House, c. 1766, 1939 - C
46 School Street**

Occupying a large lot at the corner of School and College Streets, this large two-story dwelling has a frame which is believed to date from about 1766. At present, however, the house is largely Colonial Revival in appearance, the result of a 1939 remodeling. Its three-bay front (east) elevation has a large pedimented glass enclosed entrance vestibule that is flanked by three six-over-six windows, the north ones being coupled. Three similar windows are positioned on the second story. The south side, which was the original entrance, has a large centrally placed bow window framed by one window on each side. The pattern is repeated above but a blind Palladian window occupies the center bay. Two windows are located in the gable peak. A single chimney punctuates the roof, and a two-bay garage ell with living space above, projects from the north end. The property is heavily landscaped

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with a variety of evergreen trees and bushes as well as foliage trees and shrubs. In addition, a long fieldstone retaining wall lines the drive in front of the house.

This house has had a long and unusual history. It was built for Josiah Thacher, Gorham's second minister of the First Parish Church, and a representative to the General Court, a trustee of Bowdoin College, and a judge in the Court of Common Pleas. He died in 1799 and the property descended to his son Peter, an attorney who lived here until his death in 1811. It was subsequently acquired by Alexander McLellan, whose house (40) stands nearby, and Samuel Davis. McLellan, who gained full interest in the house, made additions and converted it into the Gorham Hotel. Following McLellan's death in 1838 the property changed hands a number of times, and late in 1938 it was purchased by Dr. Walter E. Russell.

14. Odd Fellows Hall, c. 1870 - C
School Street

This L-shaped two-story frame building retains many of its Italianate style characteristics despite some recent unfortunate alterations including the application of aluminum siding on the north side and infilled storefronts. At present, the first story of the front (east) elevation is divided into three distinct units with a door flanked by one or two windows in each section. The surrounding wall surface is clad in shakes. A bracketed cornice separates this level from the intact second story that features six symmetrically placed two-over-two windows beneath bracketed hoods and a bracketed cornice. There are two interior end brick flues on the elevation. The north side has a telescoping wing extending to the west, the narrower part of which has a gable roof and the other a hip roof. Fenestration on the elevation consists of three windows in the upper part of the main block, a door and three windows in the taller section of the ell, and two doors and eight windows in the balance.

The precise history of this building is uncertain. However, the 1871 atlas map clearly indicates the presence of an L-shaped structure on this lot at that time. The 1885 edition of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map denotes it as a grocery store, then a country store, and in 1909 it indicates the use of the upper floor as a hall. By 1922 it was used for furniture storage and in 1934 an automobile repair shop was located in the wing, and a movie theatre on the second floor. Tradition holds that the site was first developed in 1802 by Toppan Robie and Sewall Lancaster who erected a store. This early building may be the present ell that projects to the rear of the hall.

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**15. Gorham Historical Society Building, c. 1845 - C
28 School Street**

One of a trio of brick blocks that anchor this section of the district, this modest two-story three-bay Greek Revival style structure features a one-story frame ell. Its front elevation has a side entrance with transom, a pair of two-over-one windows on the first story and two on the second. A corbeled projection above the second story windows extends to the wooden gable returns thereby forming a pediment within which is a gothic opening now filled with a wooden louver. There are three windows on each level of the south side each of which, like those on the front, has granite headers and sills. A tall brick chimney punctuates the south slope of the roof. The ell, which appears to have been in place as early as 1871, is covered with weatherboards, and has two entrances on the south side.

From 1845-1868 the building is said to have housed the Maine Mutual Insurance Company, Gorham's first insurance company which had been incorporated in 1828. Their original frame building stood on this site, but was relocated when the present one was erected. From 1868 until 1904 it was occupied by the Gorham Savings Bank when it became a boys club then the town office sometime between 1922 and 1934. Since 1975 it has served as the quarters for the Gorham Historical Society.

**16. McLellan Family House, c. 1812, 1860 - C
24 School Street**

This handsome three-story, five-bay Italianate style dwelling originated as a two-story Federal period building. Remodelled and enlarged into its present state about 1860, the changes included bracketed window hoods, porch, and cornice as well as paneled corner pilasters and a cupola. No visual record of the earlier building exists. However, it probably had a double-pile rectangular footprint similar to the nearby Alexander McLellan House (40) and others in Gorham. In any event, the remodeling was, from the exterior at least, a dramatic one. The extensive Italianate detailing was probably also accompanied by the replacement of the windows with the present two-over-two units, and the addition of a bay window above the porch roof. Like the facade, the building's side elevations are symmetrically organized with three bays containing windows or doors in each story.

The McLellan house was built and first occupied by Samuel McLellan, a carpenter by trade and brother of Alexander McLellan. He and his second wife Tabitha (Flood) McLellan lived here until their deaths in 1853 and 1857, respectively. The property then passed to their youngest living son Lewis McLellan who remodelled the house. A long time selectman, Lewis was also responsible for the construction in 1875 of the adjacent McLellan Block (17).

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**17. Lewis McLellan Block, 1875 - C
14 School Street
Charles H. Kimball, Architect**

A remarkable commercial building for its small-town location with unusual integrity, this gable front two-and-a-half-story, four-bay brick structure is ornamented with Italianate style detailing. The first story is comprised of a single, off-set doorway located below a transom which is framed by tall but rather narrow display windows. A fourth smaller window is located in the northern bay. The openings are linked by corbeled brickwork in the form of four segmental arches with corbeled consoles. The fenestration pattern is repeated on the second story utilizing a trio of two-over-two windows and a single narrow one-over-one. Each is surmounted by a corbeled segmentally arched hood. Two windows are positioned in the attic peak below a plaque with the initials "J McL" and the date 1875. The decorative cornice, which carries around the north side, utilizes a combination of paneled and denticulated brickwork in a striking effect. There is a single door and two windows on the first story of the north side and three windows on the upper story. They are framed by hood moldings similar to those on the second story of the facade. A one-story brick ell extends to the rear, and a chimney projects through the roof ridge.

The construction of this building was noted in the October 10, 1875, edition of the Portland Sunday Times. Built for Lewis McLellan, whose house (16) stands adjacent to it, the documentary newspaper reference stated that it was to be erected from plans of C. H. Kimball, a noted Portland architect. The building has housed a number of mercantile establishments including a dry goods store, jewelry store, grocery, and a restaurant, to name a few.

**18. Narragansett Block, 1903 - C
4-8 School Street
Porter and Burnham, Architects**

The largest and most visually dominant of Gorham's historic commercial buildings, the Narragansett Block is a three-story brick structure located at the intersection of State and School Streets. It has seven bays on both streets, further enhancing its significant position as an anchor to the district. This virtually intact building features large display windows on the first story with recessed entry doors and exposed steel lintels. Single and paired segmentally arched windows are located on the upper stories where fenestration patterns are symmetrical within each elevation although the two sides have variations. The State Street elevation, for example, includes a centrally-located group of three flanked by individual units. The east side on the other hand, contains three pairs on each story. There is a corbeled

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stringcourse between the second and third floors and broad cornice with console bracket.

The present building stands on a site long associated with Gorham's commercial district, simply by virtue of its location. Announcement of the construction of the present building was made in the March 13, 1903, edition of the Portland Daily Press, and the paper continued to carry accounts of the progress throughout the year. Further reference appeared in the Banker and Tradesman (Boston) on June 6th when it announced that the Gorham Real Estate Association was erecting the 66X75 block at a cost of \$10,000 from the plans of Portland architects Porter and Burnham. It has housed numerous commercial enterprises and includes the Masonic Hall on the third floor. The interior of the block was completely destroyed by fire in 1916, but the subsequent reconstruction did not alter its exterior appearance.

19. (Former) Gorham Grange Hall, c. 1876 - C
19 State Street

One of a number of frame commercial buildings in the district, this remarkably intact two-and-a-half-story example is sheathed in weatherboards, has an enclosed side entry, and a two-story addition at the rear. The front elevation has a recessed central entry flanked by large six-pane display windows. A narrow awning extends over the storefront. There are two six-over-six windows on the second story and a single one in the gable peak; all three have pronounced hoods. Paneled corner boards frame the elevation and rise to the narrow frieze and overhanging eaves. The flat roofed, enclosed entry has a two-panel door on the lower level and a single window above. There are five windows and a door on the first story of the main block's east side and six windows above. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate that the ell was originally a one-story hip roofed building that was raised after 1944.

According to tradition, this building was originally located on Depot Street and later removed to this site. Sanborn maps show it was here by 1885 where it was utilized as a Grange Hall and a store selling drugs and crockery. By 1897 it was labeled as a country store, but between 1903 and 1909 it appears to have been converted entirely to serve the Grange. It served this function as late as 1944.

20. Ed Harding Coat Manufactory/Store, c. 1860 - C
27 State Street

This two-and-a-half-story frame building, which is covered with weatherboards, has, like its neighbor to the east, a gable front orientation and an enclosed side entry. The front elevation features a three-sided bow

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window and a two-over-two unit on the first story, a trio of two-over-ones on the second, and a pair in the gable peak. A door and one window are located in the side entry. The building has overhanging eaves, gable returns, and hip roofed dormers on both sides. A two-story rear ell extends to an outbuilding whose gable is oriented perpendicular to the main block.

Although a building is believed to have been standing on this site as early as 1845-50, it is uncertain as to whether the present structure is that early. Architecturally, it appears to be somewhat later. The building has served a number of purposes, most notably as the location of a small-scale coat manufactory and store operated by Ed Harding. He acquired the property in 1873 and owned it until 1906 when it was transferred to William Lane, a carpenter by trade. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate, however, that the first floor had been converted to a carpentry shop between 1897 and 1903. Sometime between 1909 and 1922, the entire building became a dwelling which it remains today. The Sanborn maps also show that while the present ell existed as early as 1897, the outbuilding was not added until sometime between 1903 and 1909.

**21. Ed Harding House, c. 1850 - C
35 State Street**

This modest two-story frame dwelling has a two-bay, gable front orientation with the entrance located on the east side elevation. The house is sheathed in weatherboards. Two widely spaced six-over-six windows are located on each story of the front elevation. The three-bay east side has a center doorway with original windows to the left and smaller replacements to the right. A small shed addition at the northeast corner is of more recent origin.

Although little is known about the history of this house, it is believed to have been owned at one time by Ed Harding, presumably the same person who operated a coat manufactory in the adjacent building (20). Sanborn maps indicate that as early as 1909 the ell (which is not extant) of this building housed a harness making shop.

**22. Harmon-Harding House, c. 1837, c. 1870 - C
45 State Street**

The Harmon-Harding House is a two-story, five bay, L-shaped frame residence which features a projecting two story entrance vestibule. A number of Italianate style details, including the vestibule, are apparent additions to an earlier building. There is a one-and-a-half-story ell at the rear which extends to a large barn/garage. The front elevation is dominated by the center bay vestibule. This feature includes large ornate brackets that

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support a broad overhang on top of which is the enclosed second story section. This latter part has a tri-partite window below a triangular hood. Six-over-six windows flank the entrance on both stories. Additional characteristics of the house include its broad eaves, interior end chimneys, a wrought iron balcony and elaborately detailed wooden hood on the east side, and a trio of gabled dormers in the ell. The barn has a large centrally located door on the lower level and an unusual window above that has a three-sided cap.

In 1837 Toppan Robie sold the lot on which this house stands to blacksmith Phineas Harmon. He is believed to have erected a house on it shortly thereafter; the first house built along State Street. It is unclear what part of the existing house was built at that time, although conceivably it could have been most of what is here today. Acquisition of the property in 1870 by Edward Harding probably indicates the time frame after which the Italianate alterations were made including, perhaps, the roof overhang. Harding was a prominent local citizen, having served in both the Maine House and Senate. He was also the postmaster for some years. His widow Sarah sold the property in 1935.

23. **Paine Family House, c. 1837 - C**
53 State Street
Daniel Crockett, Builder (Alleged)

The Paine House is a two-story, five bay frame dwelling covered with weatherboards. It stands on a granite foundation. The symmetrically composed front elevation has a central entrance sheltered by a gable porch with turned balusters. One-over-one windows flank the entry on both stories. The broad overhang of the eaves suggests that modifications may have been made to it. There are a pair of interior end chimneys and a recessed two-story ell.

The History of Gorham states that this house was erected in 1837 by carpenter/builder Daniel Crockett, apparently on a speculation for Toppan Robie. Robie sold the property later that year to Daniel Clark who only retained ownership for four years. At that time it was acquired by merchant Dominicus Jordan. A decade later Charles Paine purchased the house, and it remained in his family into the early twentieth century. Sanborn maps clearly show that the present building was once joined to a two-story outbuilding that was in turned linked to a second barn by way of a one-story connector. A large L-shaped courtyard was formed by this complex of buildings.

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Continuation SheetGorham Historic DistrictCumberland, MaineSection number 7 Page 16**24. House, c. 1934-44 - C**
57 State Street

This modest two-story, two-bay frame house has a gable front orientation and wide weatherboard siding. Its front elevation has a side entrance sheltered by a gable porch, a large eight-over-one window on the first story, and a pair of six-over-ones on the second story. A brick chimney rises through the center of the roof. Sanborn maps show that it was built between 1934 and 1944.

25. Crockett-Robie House, c. 1838 - C
63 State Street

The only brick residence in the district, the Crockett-Robie House is a two-story, three-bay structure which has a brick and frame ell that extends to a frame barn. Its front elevation has a wooden vestibule sheltering the center entrance which is detailed with oval side windows. Two-over-two windows with granite sills and lintels are symmetrically positioned on the remainder of the elevation and in the gable ends. There is also an interior chimney at each of these ends. The brick portion of the ell features another vestibule similar to the one on the front as well as three unusual segmentally arched wall dormers. A fourth is located in the wooden extension. This section of the building, as well as the barn, are sheathed in weatherboards.

McLellan's History of Gorham states that the original owner of this handsome dwelling was William Crockett, a carriage maker by trade. However, he only occupied it for about four years when his mortgage on it was foreclosed. In 1851 it came into the possession of George Robie, the son of Toppan Robie who had held Crockett's mortgage. Members of the Robie family subsequently owned and/or occupied this house until 1916.

26. Harding-Bolton House, c. 1837, c. 1870 - C
69 State Street

Probably constructed in two separate building campaigns, this two-story, two-bay frame house has an Italianate style front block and a remnant of the earlier cape in the ell. The front elevation is distinguished by the two-story, three-sided bay windows that are detailed with bracketed cornices and shallow pediments. There are four one-over-one windows in each story of the bays with paneled surfaces below. A wide frieze and cornice with brackets at the corners carries around the house. Two-over-two windows are located on the gable ends, and a door is positioned on the east side. This was originally sheltered by a porch with turned posts and a flat roof. As late as 1976 this porch and the one-and-a-half-story five-bay ell were still in

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place. The ell was clearly an older building which appears to have been rotated and moved back from the road when the front block was added about 1870. The ell has since been radically altered - if not completely replaced - by a lean-to extension of the main roof and a recessed, gabled projection to the rear.

The unimproved lot on which this building stands was acquired in 1837 by Charles Harding from Toppan Robie. A promissory note made in 1839 between Harding and Robie makes reference to the existence of buildings, thereby suggesting that the original house had been erected by then. The property changed hands a number of times between 1843 and 1868 when Mrs. S. C. Bolton acquired it. Judging from the architectural characteristics of the front block of the house, it seems likely that she had the improvements made. It remained in the Bolton family until 1896.

27. House, c. 1934-1944 - C
73 State Street

This modest two-story frame dwelling has a side entry porch on the front elevation and a shed roofed ell. The house is sheathed in weatherboards and has an ornamental concrete block foundation. Its front elevation contains a tripartite window on the first story employing four and six-over-one sash, and a pair of coupled six-over-ones on the second story. The pedimented entrance porch features square posts and an enclosed balustrade wall. The side elevations have an asymmetrical fenestration pattern. Sanborn maps indicate that it was built between 1934 and 1944.

28. Robie-Lincoln House, c. 1763(?), c. 1838 - C
79 State Street

One of the best preserved capes in the district, this one-and-a-half-story five-bay Greek Revival style dwelling has a one-story ell that extends to a small barn. Sheathed in weatherboards, the house stands on a granite foundation. Its symmetrically composed facade has a central entrance that is sheltered by a projecting Italianate hood and flanked by six-over-six windows. A wide frieze and denticulated cornice carries around the house. One somewhat unusual feature are end chimneys located considerably forward of the roof ridge. There is an asymmetrical fenestration pattern on the endwalls and the ell which has an enclosed porch along the east side. The gable roof of the barn faces the road and lies perpendicular to the main block.

According to tradition, some or all of this building originally stood along South Street where it was erected for Dennis Larry in 1762-63. The

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house is said to have been acquired by Toppan Robie in 1838 through a mortgage foreclosure on Larry's son Stephen Larry. Robie then moved the building to its present site where it was extensively remodeled and subsequently occupied by his son Francis B. Robie. In 1887 the property was acquired by Dr. Albert W. Lincoln, M.D. His wife owned it until 1939.

29. Charles Frost House, c. 1851 - C
87 State Street

This large, cruciform plan Greek Revival style dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height and has a short ell that extends to a barn. The entire building, which stands on a granite foundation, has recently been covered by vinyl siding. Its front elevation contains paired triple-hung sash on the first story, double-hung sash on the second and a single window below a round-arched panel in the gable peak. Wide hood moldings are located above the windows; wide, paneled pilasters frame the elevation; and a broad entablature carries around the building. Hip roofed porches featuring square posts extend along the sides of the projecting front block to the deeply recessed one-bay wide wings. Both of these sections have two six-over-six windows on each side with a crowning pediment. The corner pilasters continue to be used here and on the rear projection.

In 1851 Toppan Robie sold the lot on which this house stands to Charles Frost, a sea captain. He owned it until his death in 1859 when it passed to his wife Eunice. She occupied it until 1874. The property has had a number of owners since then including Richard and Dorothea Lopez, the latter of whom added the synthetic siding.

30. Zelotes Moulton House, c. 1840 - C
9 Maple Street

The Moulton house is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay frame building that is covered with wooden shakes. It has a gable roofed porch over the center entrance on the facade, flanking six-over-six windows, and a shed roof dormer with three windows spanning the elevation. Interior brick chimneys are located at each end where the gable endwall is punctuated by four six-over-six windows. A two-part, gable roofed one-story ell projects to the rear.

According to the History of Gorham, this dwelling was built for Zelotes Moulton (1814-1880), probably after his marriage in 1835 to Almeda Weeks. The house was still owned by the Moulton family as late as 1871. Its shed roof dormer was added prior to 1909 when the present height of the building is shown on Sanborn maps.

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**31. Frank Phinney House, c. 1858 - C
38 College Avenue**

Exhibiting a combination of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival characteristics, this two-story frame building has a gable front orientation with a side entry. It is covered with weatherboards and rests on a granite foundation. The Greek Revival style entrance features full length sidelights framing a four-panel door. A single six-over-six window is located to the left of the entry and a pair of smaller ones are positioned on the second story. The steeply pitched roof has broad overhanging eaves. A chimney rises through the east slope of this roof. Projecting to the rear is a flat-roofed, one-story garage ell with balustrade.

In 1857 Zelotes Moulton sold this building lot to Lothrop L. Files for \$75. Files in turn transferred it to Theodore B. Edwards in 1859 for \$1,200 "with buildings." In 1863 it was acquired by James Phinney who sold it six years later to Frank Phinney. He and his wife Addie owned it until 1881. A barn historically associated with the property was removed by Marjorie B. Eames who acquired the house in 1950.

**32. Robinson Family House, c. 1850 - C
36 College Avenue**

The Robinson Family House is a one-and-a-half story five-bay cape that features a central entrance, two-over-two windows and a two-part ell. The front block of the building is sheathed in aluminum siding. It has a twentieth century exterior end chimney on the west side and a large shed dormer on the front section of the gabled ell.

In 1849 Toppan Robie sold the lot on which the house stands to Daniel Libby, a blacksmith, for \$175. Four more transfers of the property were made before 1853, making it unclear if a building existed. An 1865 deed from Charles Robie to James R. Hunnewell does make reference to buildings. However, as in a number of other instances in the district, this may be an earlier building that was moved to the site sometime in the 1850s or early 1860s. The property continued to change hands quite frequently until it was acquired by George M. Robinson in 1898. It remained in the ownership of his heirs until 1969.

**33. Lewis Files House, by 1850 - C
32 College Avenue**

This two-story three-bay frame dwelling features a Greek Revival style central entrance, six-over-six sash windows, and a two-story ell. It is sheathed in weatherboards. Although the profile and detailing of the gable

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ends has more of a Federal period configuration, the window openings and doorway are clearly later. A single chimney rises through the roof of the main block behind the ridge. The present gable roofed garage replaces an earlier barn torn down during the ownership (1939-1960) of Henry L. Watson.

An 1851 deed reference to an adjacent property describes this lot as having been occupied by Isaac Libby. His widow, Susan (Rounds) Libby acquired the house in 1854 from Toppan Robie, leading some to believe that the Libbys had previously rented the dwelling. The property is known by the name of the owner who acquired it in 1911, and whose heirs sold it in 1939 to the Watson family.

**34. Peter Fogg House, c. 1800 - C
30 College Avenue**

Although the origin of this one-and-a-half-story, five-bay cape is uncertain, a number of its features suggest a relatively early date of construction. These include the low posting, small window openings (which now contain two-over-two sash), and the large chimney which is located just off-center. The house is clad in weatherboards and rests on a granite foundation. Attached to the southwest corner is a one-story gable roofed ell. A detached outbuilding lies beyond. A shed porch of relatively recent origin shelters one-half of the west gable end of the house.

The precise history of this house and the improvement of the lot on which it stands are not entirely clear. In 1827, for example, Toppan Robie transferred the lot for \$340 to Thomas Webster including the rights to a nearby well. Robie again held title by 1841 when he sold it to Russell Linell with the buildings. It changed hands numerous times thereafter until Benjamin Greely Fogg acquired it in 1874. In 1902 Benjamin Fogg transferred it to his son Peter who remained here until 1937; thus becoming its single longest occupant. The architectural features of the house suggest that it dates to the late eighteenth or very early nineteenth century. It is conceivable, therefore, that the building was moved to this lot, perhaps during Thomas Webster's ownership.

**35. Staples-Bacon House, by 1838, c. 1860 - C
28 College Street**

Like its neighbor (36) to the east, the lot on which this two-and-a-half-story house stands appears to have been developed at an early date, possibly with a portion of the existing building. However, the present appearance, particularly the configuration of the roof and eaves, is more typical of the 1850s or 1860s. Now covered in asbestos shingles, the two-bay dwelling has an entry at the northwest corner sheltered by a large

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enclosed porch and six-over-one windows. There are two windows on each story of the east side, a broad one-story ell at the rear, and a relatively recent detached garage.

An 1838 deed conveying the property from Toppan Robie to Mary Staples references the existence of buildings on the lot. Their appearance is unknown. In 1862 the property was acquired by Samuel F. Bacon (c. 1817-1883), a former town clerk and selectman. It is likely that the house was substantially remodeled during his residence.

36. Josiah Shaw House, c. 1820, c. 1910 - C
24 College Avenue

Although the exterior appearance of this house suggests a date of construction in the first decade of the twentieth century, documentary sources point to its probable existence as early as about 1820. The two-story, three-bay dwelling, now covered in aluminum siding, features a shed roof entrance porch and a high hipped roof. The porch has turned posts, and shelters a central doorway. It is flanked to the east by a two-over-one window and to the west by a picture window. A trio of three-over-one windows are located on the second story. Two similar windows occupy each story of the side elevations. An ell of two stories with an enclosed porch on the east side extends to a small gabled barn and attached garage.

Deeds to the property indicate that the original house was probably built for Josiah Shaw, a saddler and innkeeper, sometime after he purchased the lot in 1820 for \$500. A building is clearly shown on the site in the 1871 atlas map, and it appears on the earliest (1909) Sanborn Fire Insurance map that covers the area. This map, however, also indicates that it was a one-and-a-half-story dwelling and had a one-story ell. By 1922 the house was two stories in height and one-half of the ell had been raised to two stories.

37. George Hight House, c. 1819 - C
20 College Avenue

Presumably constructed about the same time as the neighboring Chadbourne house (38), this two-story, five-bay frame structure has a mix of Federal and Greek Revival style features. It is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite block foundation. The front elevation is symmetrically composed with a central entry below a transom and typical early Federal surround, and flanking windows (recent replacements of historic units) on the first story with five on the second. Paneled corner pilasters rise to an entablature and a rebuilt central chimney rises through the roof ridge. There are a variety of windows on the east gable end and a short one-story ell and connected gable roof barn off the west side.

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In 1819, blacksmith George Hight acquired the lot for \$337.50 from Toppan Robie, and it is presumed he built here shortly thereafter. He sold it in 1835 to Thaddeus Pomeroy, a clergyman, for \$1,820. The property changed hands a number of times thereafter and its owners included another member of the clergy and a physician.

38. Nahum Chadbourne House, c. 1819 - C
16 College Avenue

Among the most unusual of the historic buildings in Gorham, the Chadbourne house is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay Federal period dwelling that features a full height portico on the facade and a telescoping ell that meets a large barn. The frame complex is sheathed in weatherboards. Its front elevation is dominated by the portico. This feature is composed of two shallow hip roofed sections each supported by four square paneled posts that are linked by a large central triangular dormer that extends out to the edge of the portico. Behind it is a central entrance with a round-arched fanlight and a pilaster enframingent. A pair of long six-over-six windows are positioned on either side of the entry and three smaller ones are located on the second story. There are two windows on each story of the side elevations where the pedimented gable rises in a steep pitch that matches that on the front dormer. Two interior end chimneys punctuate the roof ridge. The ell consists of a two-story section near the front block and a shorter but longer two-story extension that meets the barn. The scale of this large outbuilding is unusual in Gorham village today. Its broad gable roof is surmounted by a cupola.

The deeds to this property support the conclusion that the house - in some form - was constructed about 1819 when Chadbourne acquired the lot from Toppan Robie for \$425. He apparently owned the house until 1839 when it was transferred to Amos Brown, the principal of Gorham Academy from 1835 to 1847. Upon leaving his position, Brown sold the property to Joshua Phipps who then conveyed it in 1850 to Jonathan Stevens (1812-1867) in whose family it remained until his second wife's death in 1889. It is not certain which of the owners of the house, besides Chadbourne, was responsible for the seemingly extensive alterations to the exterior. Although it is certainly conceivable that Brown made the changes, in all likelihood it was Stevens whose career as a sea captain could easily have exposed him to other regional architectural traditions, particularly those in the South. A rare tintype photograph of the house taken about 1875 shows that at that time the body of the house was painted a very dark color, and that two small pieces of statuary were located above the door, very ornate trellises were positioned on either side of the walk, and an elaborate fence bordered the front yard.

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**39. Methodist Church Parsonage, 1927 - C
12 College Avenue**

An intact example of an early twentieth century "square house," this two-story, two-bay hip roofed dwelling is sheathed entirely in wood shingles. The front elevation features a side entrance that is sheltered by a pedimented porch, and a wide rectangular bay window with a trio of double-hung windows. Two pairs of six-over-one windows are located on the second story. There is an enclosed one-story porch on the east side and an original, hop roofed garage located off the southwest corner.

Originally built for a Methodist parsonage, which it continues to be, this house occupies a lot which appears to have been formerly developed. Both the 1871 Atlas map and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate the presence of a building here well before the 1927 date of construction. The Sanborn maps show that the earlier structure was one-and-a-half stories in height with a long one-story ell. Evidently, it was removed prior to the erection of the present house.

**40. Alexander McLellan House, 1803 - C
8 College Avenue**

The two-story, five-bay McLellan house is the most substantial and least altered Federal period house in the district. Sheathed in weatherboards and supported by a dressed granite block foundation, the building is covered by a low hip roof punctuated by two brick chimneys. The symmetrically arranged facade features a central entry surmounted by a transom and framed by pilasters and an entablature with broad cornice. Two-over-two windows flank the entry and similar units are located on the second story. Each side elevation has three bays, the east one of which has a central doorway on the first story. A two-story shed roofed ell extends across most of the rear elevation.

Alexander McLellan (1780-1838) was a member of one of Gorham's most prominent and earliest families. A merchant with interests in a number of businesses, McLellan operated a store and was postmaster in a portion of the building (13) which he developed into a hotel. McLellan occupied the house until his death when it passed to his son Josiah. It remained in the family until about 1920.

**41. Johnson Family House, c. 1856 - C
7 College Avenue**

A handsome and relatively intact Greek Revival frame dwelling, the Johnson Family House is two-and-a-half stories in height and two bays wide.

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The gable front dwelling is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a brick foundation. Its primary entrance, now sheltered by a shed porch, is on the long east elevation. The symmetrically composed front elevation has two six-over-six windows on each story with those in the upper one close together. Paneled corner pilasters rise to a full entablature. The long east side is formed by the two-bay front block and the extension of the wall plane by a two-story ell. An interior end chimney is located in this ell which meets an attached carriage house that has a cupola and a pair of garage doors on the east side. There is a one-story enclosed porch on the west side of the ell.

In 1851 Robert Johnson purchased the lot on which this house stands from Eunice Perry. According to local historians, Johnson had the dwelling erected in 1856. He sold it to his son Robert Johnson in 1873 reserving right of occupancy of "the southwestern parlor and bedroom" for he and his wife. The property remained in the Johnson family until the early twentieth century. A number of families have owned the house since then, and it is now part of the University campus.

**42. (Former) Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage, c. 1830, c. 1845 - C
19 College Avenue**

The former Methodist parsonage is a one-and-a-half-story two-bay frame house which has a gable front orientation, shed and gable roof dormers, and a one-story ell with porch. The house is sheathed in aluminum siding. Its facade features a side entrance sheltered by an ornate bracketed hood and a three-sided bay window detailed with a bracketed and denticulated cornice and small pediment. Four one-over-one windows are utilized in the bay whereas three two-over-twos are located on the second story. A long shed dormer is situated on the east side and two gabled dormers are positioned on the west elevation. The shed roof of the ell porch is supported by three posts. A brick foundation underlies the entire building.

Tradition holds that the existing building was originally a vestry built in 1830 on a lot adjacent to the Town House. It was apparently moved to the present location and converted to a parsonage about 1845 when the Church acquired the property. This use was retained until 1881 when the Methodists sold the house to John G. Watson. In 1938 it was acquired by the University. Architecturally, this house appears to have been built - or perhaps extensively remodeled - in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. At present, it is difficult to recognize an 1830 building if it does indeed still exist.

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The Gorham Historic District is comprised primarily of nineteenth and twentieth century residential buildings, but also contains both commercial and religious structures that depict the growth of the village center. Viewed in context with the existing South Street Historic District (NR 4/20/88, principally residential) and Gorham Campus Historic District (NR 5/5/78, University grounds), the subject district largely completes the picture of Gorham villages historic pattern of development. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for the manner in which it illustrates patterns of commerce, community planning and development, and social history as well as criterion C for the representative examples of architecture.

Initial settlement of the town of Gorham is believed to have begun in 1736 with the arrival of John Phinney from Barnstable, Massachusetts. Enough other families had arrived by the early 1740s to have created the need for a meeting house, and a simple building was erected in 1742. However, renewed native Indian hostilities commencing in 1745 stymied further settlement at this time and for a period of some ten to fifteen years thereafter. By the late 1750s renewed immigration to Gorham had slowly begun and in the early 1760s attempts were being made to gain incorporation. This was finally accomplished on October 30, 1764.

The town itself was organized along a grid pattern that had been surveyed as early as 1751, with principal avenues labeled King Street, Queen Street, Hamblin Street, Gorham Street, Phinney Street, and Pain Street. King Street, now known as School Street, forms the principal North-South axis of the district. The present Main Street was original called Gorham Street and College Avenue was named Hamblin Street. Thus, at this very early date, the future direction of development in the district, with the exception of State Street, was largely defined.

This early period of settlement is represented in the district by the present Thacher-Russell House (13) and in the site of the community's second meeting house. The former is believed to retain the frame of the residence erected for Pastor Josiah Thacher in 1766, whereas the meeting house site is now occupied by the Congregational Church Chapel (5), built in 1897. It seems likely that additional buildings occupied some of the lots in what is now the core of the commercial district, but their histories are less certain.

Like so many other Maine communities, Gorham's population expanded rapidly after the Revolution. It has been estimated that in 1780 there were 1,146 inhabitants of the town, a more than twenty-five percent increase from five years before. Ten years later the figure had nearly doubled to 2,244 persons. The increased settlement during the last decades of the eighteenth

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century was accompanied by an expansion of services and the founding of other institutions. Gorham's first physician, Dr. Stephen Smith, established his practice in 1770; the Free Will Baptist Society was organized in 1781; a fulling mill was built about 1788; a schoolhouse was constructed in 1796; and the post office was established in 1797. During the early 1790s two tanneries were in operation.

Of the extant buildings erected in Gorham in this period only the First Parish Congregational Church (6) is located in the district. Originally built in the manner of a traditional meeting house, it was substantially remodeled in 1848. Its construction across Church Street from the 1760 building underscores the district's continued association with religious activities.

The first half of the nineteenth century witnessed a continued expansion of both the number and type of business in the town as well as the founding of new educational and religious institutions. Among the small-scale manufacturing enterprises established in the period was a clock works operated by Samuel Edwards and founded about 1808; an organ shop founded about 1825 by Samuel's brother Calvin Edwards; and a carpet manufacturing business that commenced operation in the 1830s under the guidance of David H. McKenney. In 1849 Gorham had eight general merchants, two carpet plants and one each of a boot and shoe manufacturer, a chair maker, an edge tool shop, and a powder making facility. The continued future health of the local economy was substantially enhanced by the completion to Gorham in 1850 of the York and Cumberland Railroad. By 1850 the town's population stood at 3,086 persons, a modest gain of approximately 500 since the turn of the century.

An important symbol of Gorham's early nineteenth century growth is the Academy Building (N.R. 1/18/73), an impressive Federal period educational facility completed in 1805. Its construction, let alone its remarkable survival, testifies not only to improved economic conditions, but also to the growing interest on behalf of the citizenry in providing a better opportunity for their children's education. (A separate Female Seminary was established in 1834 just outside of the northern boundary of the district.) Divergent religious interests organized a Methodist Church in 1804 and built a meeting house in 1812; a temperance society was also formed in 1812; and the town's services were expanded in 1804 with the construction of a cattle pound, and in 1812 through the purchase of a fire engine.

The majority of residential buildings in the historic district were erected between 1800 and 1860. A number of these stand along State Street which was opened in the 1820s and which now forms the southern boundary of the district. With the exception of a single brick house (25) erected for William Crockett, all of the dwellings are of frame construction with

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Federal, Greek Revival, or Italianate style characteristics. A number of the new houses were occupied by merchants or tradesmen. Among the more impressive of these was the 1803 Federal house (40) of merchant Alexander McLellan, the two-story dwelling (16) of carpenter/builder Samuel McLellan, built c. 1812 (which was enlarged and remodeled in the 1860s by his son), and the c. 1819 residence (38) of saddler and harness-maker Nahum Chadbourne. Two houses with important historical associations were moved into the district in this period. According to tradition, the Robie-Lincoln House (28) was originally erected about 1763 by Dennis Larry along South Street, but was relocated to its present site in the late 1830s. Although substantially remodeled thereafter, its existence places it among the handful of oldest buildings in Gorham. Prior to this undertaking Robert McLellan is believed to have hauled a remnant (7) of Gorham's Shaker community to his lot adjacent to the Congregational Church where it has since been known as the "Shaker House". Architectural evidence also suggests that the Peter Fogg House (34) was probably moved into its present location along College Avenue in the 1820s.

Much of the residential development at this time was made possible by subdivision of the property which is bordered by College Avenue, Maple Street, and State Street. This parcel of land had been acquired by Toppan Robie, a prominent local merchant, town official and former State Representative. Beginning about 1819, Robie sold off building lots along College Avenue and then others fronting on State Street when it was opened.

In addition to house construction and relocation, this period witnessed considerable commercial activity along the lower end of School Street. About 1802 a store is believed to have been built by Toppan Robie and Sewall Lancaster at the southwest corner of College Avenue and School Street. This may be the ell of the present Odd Fellows Hall (14). As early as 1810 Ebenezer Hatch had opened a store on a lot between the present Congregational Chapel (5) and Methodist Church (4), and in 1812 Alexander McLellan opened a store opposite Robie and Lancaster's. A decade later Nahum Chadbourn and David Harding, Jr. built two stores on the present Chapel lot. The commercial aspect of School Street was further solidified when Alexander McLellan purchased the Josiah Thacher House (13) and converted it into a hotel. The oldest brick commercial building (15) in the district was erected about 1845 for Gorham's first insurance company. In later years it housed a savings bank and in the early twentieth century the town offices.

With economic resources and the energy of its youth removed to the Union armies, little of consequence took place in Gorham during the first half of the 1860s. By 1870, however, Gorham's population stood at 3,351 persons, its highest recorded nineteenth century mark. Subsequent declines mirrored a general statewide trend of out-migration. nevertheless, Gorham continued to

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be a locally important commercial center. The 1871 edition of the Maine State Year-Book listed eight merchants, three lawyers, the Gorham Savings Bank, and the same small manufactories that appeared in the 1849 directory. An additional boost to the local educational facilities came in 1878 when the state legislature agreed to establish a normal school. A further commitment to education was demonstrated in 1883 with the organization of a free public library.

Significant additions were made to the commercial area of the district during the late nineteenth century. Chronologically, the first of these appears to have been the present Odd Fellows Hall (14) which appears to have actually been a substantial addition to the c. 1802 Robie-Lancaster store. In 1875 Lewis McLellan, who had previously made extensive Italianate style alterations to his father's house (16) erected a distinguished brick block (17) on an adjoining lot. This building is especially notable because it was designed by Charles H. Kimball, a prominent Portland architect. The year 1875 also witnessed the construction of the Masonic Hall (3) directly opposite School Street from McLellan's block. It too was designed by Kimball. The present United Methodist Church (4) was erected in 1880 on a lot behind the Masonic Hall, from designs by local architect George W. Lowell, a partner in the building firm of Lowell and Shackford. Originally, its interior was decorated with frescoes painted by E. H. Whitten of Saco. The last major building erected in the district during the nineteenth century was the Congregational Church Chapel (5). Built in 1897, this Queen Anne style brick structure was designed by the Boston architectural firm of C. T. and R. D. McFarland.

By the turn of the century Gorham's directory of business had increased from what it had shown thirty years earlier, and it also reflected a greater variety of specialized enterprises typical of the period. The six general merchants were joined by an apothecary, a meat market, a grocery store, and milk dealer, among others. In 1901 a branch of the Westbrook, Windham and Naples electric railroad was built to Gorham thereby providing another means of ready access to neighboring communities.

A number of important additions were made to the district during the early twentieth century. These include the large three-story brick Narragansett Block (18) at the corner of State and School Streets. This building, which is a significant anchor to the commercial part of the district, was designed by Porter and Burnham of Portland. Although its interior was totally destroyed in a 1916 fire, its exterior was apparently unchanged during reconstruction. In 1927 the Methodist Church built a shingled square house (39) on College Avenue. Substantial alterations were made in this period to three houses along this street, the most extensive of which were those carried out in 1939 on the Thacher-Russell House (13).

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These Colonial Revival style changes to the house preserved the frame of the original 1766 dwelling. Work on the grounds created the district's most extensively landscaped property.

The most dramatic change in the district since World War II has been the construction in 1963 of a one-story brick wing to the north side of the Methodist Church. Synthetic siding has also been applied to the church building as well as to a number of other structures in the district. Although these modifications have altered the historic appearance of the district to some extent, the overall integrity has been maintained.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Gorham Historic District is clearly defined by a number of surrounding features including modern development, vacant lots, heavily altered historic buildings, and an existing National Register historic district. Beginning at the southeastern or commercial edge of the district, the boundary is drawn to include the reasonably intact concentration of structures on the north side of Main and State Streets, but not those on the opposite corners which have been substantially changed. Modern commercial development is located to the east along Main Street. Outside of the southern boundary along State Street and the western border along Maple Street are numerous historic buildings which have been incompatibly altered, or lie somewhat isolated from the core of the district amidst houses of more recent origin. the boundary along College Avenue abuts the older section of the University campus much of which is already listed in the Register. North of the boundary on School Street are a series of presently vacant lots, a number of which were developed historically. Finally, the residential area bordering the eastern boundary line, although of historic vintage, does not possess the integrity or concentration of resources found within the district.

GORHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT
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