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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oaklands in Gardiner is a large granite Gothic Revival House designed in 1835-36 by Richard Upjohn.

The house consists of a main house of two stories and an ell of twoand-a-half stories which is set on bedrock. The exterior of the building is faced with granite ashlar quarried in nearby Hallowell. The finish is hammered. Buttresses or octagonal towers occur at all corners and are of a smooth finish. The second story is topped with an embattled parapet.

There are several stone chimneys of groups of one, two and three octagonal stacks.

The windows of the house are of varied size with a various number of lights. The windows in all major rooms have inside shutters. There are no shutters on the exterior.

There is a combination of mansard, gable and flat roofs with a variety of coverings. There is no cornice or eave on the main house.

There are no outbuildings in the immediate vicinity of the house; these are elsewhere on the estate. The landscaping is informal with numerous walls and drives.



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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) Design	ned 1835-36	
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The Oaklands was designed by Richard Upjohn, one of America's leading 19th century architects, for Robert Hallowell Gardiner.

The building is not only of unusual architecture for the State of Maine, but is more important for the fact that it was one of Richard Upjohn's early commissions. It was one of the early commissions that started Upjohn's rise to fame as one of America's great architects.

The founder of Gardiner was Dr. Sylvester Gardiner, one of the proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase. Dr. Gardiner was a Tory and his estates were confiscated when the Revolutionary War broke out. They were later restored to his heir and grandson, Robert Hallowell, on the condition that he take the name of Gardiner as specified in Dr. Gardiner's will. This he legally did in 1802 and took possession of the Kennebec estates.

Robert Hallowell Gardiner (1782-1864) was born in England but became Gardiner's wealthiest and most influential citizen. When the Town of Gardiner became a city in 1850 the citizens honored Robert Hallowell Gardiner by naming the city for him and electing him the first mayor.

It was Robert Hallowell Gardiner for whom Oaklands was built. It remains as a monument to the Gardiner family who in many ways were personally responsible for the 19th century prosperity of Gardiner. Oaklands remains to this day in the hands of the Gardiner family.

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