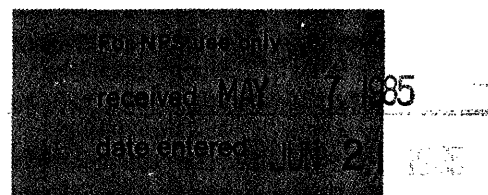


EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic PLANK HOUSES OF GOSHEN, ^{TR}NEW HAMPSHIRE (TGN)and/or common Plank Houses of Goshen, New Hampshire (TG-N)

2. Location

street & number (see individual inventory forms) n/a not for publicationcity, town Goshen n/a vicinity ofstate New Hampshire code 019 county Sullivan code 011

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sullivan County Registry of Deedsstreet & number Sullivan County Courthouse
Main Streetcity, town Newport, state New Hampshire 03773

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural and Historic Resource
Survey, Goshen, New Hampshire has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1982 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☒ localdepository for survey records Office of Town Clerkcity, town Goshen, state New Hampshire 03752

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The plank houses of Goshen, New Hampshire, are a group of 1½-story buildings (two of them originally schoolhouses) which dispense with all vertical wall framing members and utilize vertical three-inch sawn pine or hemlock planks as the principal component of the wall fabric. These vertical planks, pierced at appropriate intervals by window and door openings, are mortised into sills at their bottoms and into plates at their tops. Thus bound together at top and bottom, the wall planks are further stiffened into a rigid membrane by means of dowels which connect adjoining edges at intervals.

In most instances, rafters of plank buildings are also sawn from two-or three-inch stock, are placed at relatively close intervals, and are attached to the plates of the buildings by simple bird's-mouth joints.

The plank houses of Goshen thus represent an almost complete reliance on sawmill-derived materials. Inasmuch as the circular saw had not been introduced into the Goshen area when plank houses were being constructed, all sawn components of plank houses were cut on upright (reciprocating) water-powered sawmills, of which many existed in Goshen and neighboring towns during the early nineteenth century.

The later plank houses of Goshen reflect the vernacular Greek Revival style in having eaves which are raised well above the tops of the first-story windows. In such houses, the tops of the wall planks extend to plates which are several feet above the attic floors. The attic floors thus require a system of support which, in the absence of vertical framing timbers, must be tied to the plank walls themselves. This is accomplished by running two parallel girders through the depth of the houses on each side of the central hallway or chimney. The ends of these girders are supported in holes cut through the front and rear planks of the buildings. The girders, in turn, provide support for joists which run parallel to the long axis of the houses, their outer ends being supported by holes or mortises cut in the planks of the end walls of the buildings.

The plank houses of Goshen reflect at least two distinct stylistic periods. The first, the Federal period, is represented in a traditional "Cape Cod house" proportioning of dwellings, with eaves only a few inches above the first-floor door and window openings. Interior and exterior joiner's work is a simple reflection of the detail seen in larger and more ambitious houses of the same era, with delicate quirked mouldings, four- or six-panel doors, and other features which reveal a basic influence from the early books of Asher Benjamin. The second period, the Greek Revival, is reflected in the raised rooflines, sometimes accompanied by a wooden entablature across the fronts of the houses and by widened corner boards which suggest antae. Doorways dating from this era may include sidelights, antea, and entablatures with ornamented tablets or with slightly pitched tops (see #4, Garber House; #7, Burford House; and #5, Seavey House). Detailing of this period is a simple reflection of plates in the later books of Asher Benjamin or in those of Minard Lafever. Stylistic features of either the Federal or Greek Revival eras are applied independently of the underlying plank construction.

All of the fully-developed plank houses represented in this survey have load-bearing walls of three-inch stock and are 1½ stories high. One house included here, Welcome Acres (#9) is 2½ stories high but is atypical in possessing a box frame covered with horizontal planking. Walter R. Nelson, who first drew attention to the plank houses in New Hampshire, mentioned one former 2½ story Goshen building erected by the Rev. Eleazer D. Farr as a girl's academy; this utilized fully developed plank construction, and Nelson illustrated the method by which second floor and attic floor framing were supported in such a structure.¹

continued.....

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PLANK HOUSES OF GOSHEN CONTINUED.

The plank houses of Goshen do not exist in a single area of the township. They stand in widely-separated locations, most of them having originally been farmhouses associated with the region's nineteenth-century agricultural economy. In many cases the historical acreage or surviving farmland continues to be associated with the houses, maintaining the agricultural character of their origins. The township formerly supported a sufficient number of water-powered sawmills to ensure an economical supply of planks, joists and rafters necessary for this type of construction.

The present survey is based on data collected by the late Walter R. Nelson in the 1960s and published, in part, at that period.² The survey was sponsored and funded by the Goshen Historical Society and was conducted by Doris Nelson Newman, local historian and co-author of A Supplement to the History of Goshen, New Hampshire (Goshen, NH: Goshen Historical Society, 1976). She was aided by Robert E. Burford, a Goshen Historical Society member, retired teacher, and part time builder whose knowledge of the construction was crucial in evaluating the structural characteristics of local plank houses. Arthur Nelson, realtor, historian, and coauthor of "Foundations of Old Goshen," assisted with the survey and inventory and provided sketch maps of individual sites. Photographers were Robert Seavey of the Goshen Historical Society and Kate Day and Leslie Goat of the Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Council. Subsurface testing was not undertaken.

1 Walter R. Nelson, "Puzzle of the Plank Houses, 'New Hampshire Profiles', March, 1966, pp.34-40, 52-53, 56; Walter R. Nelson, "Some Examples of Plank House Construction and Their Origin," Pioneer America, Vol. I, No. 2 (July, 1969), pp 18-29.

2 Ibid.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications (telephone office)	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention each Settlement		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Specific dates	c1800-1850	Builder/Architect	Various	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The plank houses of Goshen, New Hampshire, are a group of some eighteen dwellings (two of them originally schoolhouses) which date between 1800 and 1860 and represent the final stage in the evolution of a sawmill-derived building technology that began in seventeenth-century New England. As seen in Goshen, this technology utilized sawn vertical planks of three-inch thickness, placed contiguous to one another, rebated into sills and plates, and dowelled together along adjoining edges to form the carcass of each building. As distinct from earlier phases of plank house evolution in New England, the dwellings of Goshen for the most part dispense with all vertical framing members; the dowelled planks, mortised at the top and bottom into binding timbers, are themselves load-bearing and provide all necessary vertical support for the second floor joists and for roof framing.

Architecture: The abandonment of vertical framing elements and the use of wall planks for vertical support in Goshen houses make these houses distinct from known seventeenth- and eighteenth-century prototypes in New England. In earlier uses of plank in the region, vertical boarding of varying thickness is used in conjunction with traditional braced box frames having vertical posts placed at intervals. In these earlier examples from coastal New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, vertical planking is generally thinner than the three-inches seen in Goshen; such planking merely serves to stiffen and infill a frame which could stand alone without its covering. In the buildings of Goshen, on the other hand, the planks have become the entire wall fabric, bound at their bottoms by sills and at their tops by plates, both of which are provided with mortises or rebates to receive tenons at both ends of the vertical planks.

The great majority of New England houses of the seventeenth and eighteenth-century utilized box frames composed of vertical post and horizontal sills, girts, plates, and rafter ties. These members were stiffened by diagonal braces which were mortised and pinned into horizontal and vertical framing members near the joints that link these members. Such frames provide a skeleton which could be covered in several ways. In most areas of New England, such frames are covered on the exterior by horizontal sheathing boards one inch in thickness, nailed to posts and studs, and these boards are in turn covered with clapboards. In some early Massachusetts and Connecticut examples, clapboards are affixed to the frames without underlying sheathing boards; in such instances, the clapboards are sometimes backed by brick nogging or other infillings to reduce air infiltration.¹ Lath and plaster are affixed to the studs on the interiors of such houses.

Most vertically-clad or plank-framed houses of New England also utilize a box frame. The essential difference between the majority of these dwellings and stud-framed houses with their thin horizontal sheathing is the fact that in planked houses most or all of the vertical studs are omitted. A primary function of studs is to provide nailing for horizontal sheathing and or clapboards; since the planks of a plank-framed house provide a base for clapboards on the exterior and for lath and plaster on the interior, studs are rendered unnecessary except perhaps at door and window locations.

continued.....

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The use of plank framing has been traced to several seventeenth-century locations in New England, but appears to have originated in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.² From the settlements near Plymouth, the technique spread eastward along Cape Cod and westward to the northern portion of present-day Rhode Island.³ Perhaps by diffusion from Rhode Island or through direct influence by Plymouth agents, the technique spread further westward into Connecticut, where it vied with stud-framed construction.⁴

Planked framing is seldom seen in the Boston area, but occurs with some frequency in Essex County to the north and in coastal New Hampshire and Maine.⁵ The Seth Story House of Essex, Massachusetts of ca. 1684 (of which a room is installed in the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum) was so built, as were the Sampson Doe House (ca. 1706) in Newmarket, New Hampshire, and others nearby.⁶ The Jackson House of ca. 1664, the oldest in New Hampshire, is clad with vertical boards one inch in thickness, nailed to a box frame.

Perhaps reflecting Connecticut influence, planked framing is seen in Deerfield, Massachusetts, an early settlement on the Connecticut River Valley, as early as 1733.⁷ More significant, however, is the appearance in the vicinity of Deerfield of the Capt. Jonas Locke House ca. 1790. This building utilizes load bearing vertical planks two inches thick and dispenses completely with studs and post. Except for the fact that it has a gambrel roof, the Locke House provides a close prototype for the plank houses of Goshen, New Hampshire.⁸

The immediate origins of the plank houses of Goshen cannot yet be determined. Settlers from parts of Connecticut arrived in the late 1760s in neighboring communities from which the territory of Goshen would eventually be set off.⁹ Others came to the area from the Piscataqua region of the New Hampshire seacoast.¹⁰ Either Connecticut or the Piscataqua area could have supplied the prototypes from which the true plank house eventually evolved.

Since the plank house is dependent upon the availability of sawmills, the mills of Goshen and surrounding communities may have served as a catalyst in the development of this building form. William Lang of Portsmouth purchased a proprietor's lot in the area in 1770, eventually building a mill there.¹¹ Amos Hall of Stonington, Connecticut, purchased land in neighboring Newport at the same time, maintaining mills there.¹² Other mills were built in Goshen in the early 1800s, providing raw materials necessary for the construction of plank buildings.¹³ One of these mills belonged to John Chandler (1804-1904), who is known to have built some of the later plank dwellings and schoolhouses of Goshen.¹⁴

Thus far, the plank houses of Goshen represent the only coherent group of buildings with load bearing plank walls yet identified in New England. General references suggest the sporadic appearance of comparable construction in nearby New Hampshire towns, but no investigation has yet been undertaken to determine whether such buildings utilize load-bearing plank walls or whether these are merely buildings with planked or vertically-boarded box frames.¹⁵ Future surveys may reveal a more widespread distribution of buildings with load-bearing plank walls, and may suggest the origins of such construction either in Goshen, in neighboring communities, or in areas of New England which were settled earlier.

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The present survey documents fifteen structures (two of them originally schoolhouses) of load-bearing vertical plank construction. Also included is one house (#14, Scranton House) with thin vertical boarding not more than 1½ inches thick; this is probably an instance of vertical cladding of a standard box frame. In addition, two houses (#1, Windswept Acres and #9, Welcome Acres) with horizontal planking over a standard frame are included in the survey as examples of alternate construction using sawmill-derived technology.

The results of the present survey have been used by a committee which is currently developing a Master Plan for Goshen. A town committee has been formed to study the feasibility of a local historic district and is utilizing survey data on plank houses in defining the boundaries of that district.

Footnotes continued on page 4-8-4.

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6 (Footnotes)

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8

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1Abbott Lowell Cummings, The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725 Cambridge, MA.: (Harvard University Press, 1979, pp. 127-140, 168-172; J. Frederick Kelly, The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924), pp. 81-86

2Richard M. Candee, "History of Plymouth County Architecture," Old Time New England 60 (Fall 1969), pp. 39-53.

3Earnest Allen Connally, "The Cape Cod House: an Introductory Study," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 19 (May 1960), pp. 47-56; Antoinette Forrester Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1937), pp. 14-17.

4Bertha Chadwick Trowbridge, ed., Old Houses of Connecticut (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1923), passim.; Kelly, The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, pp. 40-41, 61

5Cummings, The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, pp. 89-92.

6Richard M. Candee, Wooden Buildings of Early Maine and New Hampshire: A Technological and Cultural History, 1600-1720, unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1976, pp 231-235.

7Amelia F. Miller, The Reverend Jonathan Ashley House, Deerfield, Massachusetts (Deerfield, Mass.: Heritage Foundation, 1962), pp. 74-85.

8Walter R. Nelson, "Some Examples of Plank House Construction and Their Origin," p. 18.

9Edmond Wheeler, The History of Newport, New Hampshire, from 1766 to 1878 (Concord, NH: Republican Press Association, 1879), pp. 14-23.

10Walter R. Nelson, History of Goshen, New Hampshire (Goshen, NH: the author, 1957), pp. 27-31, 66-99.

11Ibid., pp. 30, 88.

12Ibid., pp. 92-93

13Ibid., pp. 168-172, 177.

14Ibid., pp. 170-172, 177; obituary, The Republican Champion (Newport, NH), July 7, 1904.

15(Elgin Jones,) "Marlow (NH), mimeographed notes, New Hampshire Historical Society; Walter R. Nelson, "Puzzle of the Plank Houses," New Hampshire Profiles, March, 1966, p. 56.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Walter R. Nelson "History of Goshen, New Hampshire" pub. by author 1957 Evans Printing Co.,
Concord, New Hampshire.
Walter R. Nelson "Puzzle of the Plank Houses" pp34-56 N.H. Profiles Vol.XV No. 3 March 1966.
Walter R. Nelson "Some Examples of Plank House Construction and Their Origin" Pioneer
America Vol. I No. 2 July 1969.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property (see individual survey forms)

Quadrangle name Sunapee Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References (see individual survey forms)

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(see individual survey forms)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Doris Nelson Newman

organization Goshen Historical Society date March 1983

street & number Box 733 telephone (603) 863-3698
(603) 863-3399 or

city or town Goshen, state New Hampshire 03752

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

title New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date

APR 26 1985

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered _____

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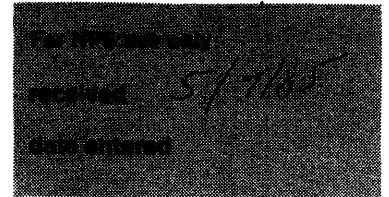
Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

		<u>THEMATIC RESOURCE</u>	
Name	<u>Plank Houses of Goshen New Hampshire Multiple Resource Area</u>		
State	<u>Sullivan County, NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>		
Nomination/Type of Review		Comm	<u>6/21/85</u>
			Date/Signature
1. Backside Inn	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
2. Burford House	Substantive Review	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Accept Patrick Andrew</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
3. Cote House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
4. Covit House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
5. Durham House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
6. Garber House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
7. Giffen House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
8. Janicke House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
9. Knights-Morey House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	
10. Lear House	Entered in the National Register	<u>for</u> Keeper	<u>Shelores Byers</u> 6/21/85
		Attest	

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Plank Houses of Goshen New Hampshire Multiple Resource Area
State Sullivan County, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Pike House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

12. Purnell House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

13. Scranton House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

14. Seavey House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

15. Stelljes House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

16. Welcome Acres

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

17. Williamson House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

18. Windswept Acres-
Powers House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/85

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Plank Houses of Goshen New Hampshire TR

Garber House

Sullivan Co., NH

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Keeper

Beth A. Savage 9-7-89