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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Broad Street Historic District (Boundary Increase)
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Church & Park Streets not for publication
city, town Bethel vicinity
state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04217

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>23</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>24</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Carol S. Hatheway* Date 12/15/89
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

Beth A. Savage 02-09-90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single DwellingEducation/SchoolReligion/Religious StructureLandscape/Park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single DwellingEducation/SchoolReligion/Religious StructureLandscape/Park**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek RevivalGothic RevivalColonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/WeatherboardBrickroof Asphaltother Houses have ells extending to carriage barns

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Broad Street Historic District (Boundary Increase) is an irregular rectangular area of approximately seventeen acres extending to the northwest of the existing district. Its twenty-three (23) contributing buildings, one (1) contributing site, and three (3) non-contributing buildings (denoted by C and NC, respectively in the inventory list) are located along the north-south Church Street and the double loop Park Street that projects from the west side of the former. Church Street runs along a gentle slope that rises north to south from 700 to 730 feet above sea level. The topography along the west boundary, particularly in the Kimball Park area, changes more rapidly from about 720 to 700 feet in the direction of east to west.

Landscaping features in the district vary widely. A majority of the buildings along Church Street are framed or in some cases partly obscured by deciduous trees. They combine to create a tree-lined streetscape. Many of the structures here are also accompanied by a variety of evergreen foundation plantings and flowering shrubs of varying heights. The houses fronting on Kimball Park typically feature small-scale plant materials although the park itself is studded with tall maple trees that form a canopy over most of this open space. Granite curbing and retaining walls are sparingly used, with the significant examples located at the southwest corner of the Kimball-Twitchell Double House (24) property and along the west property line of the John Phillips House (18).

Although lot sizes vary throughout the district, the uniformity of scale, in proportion to the lots, materials, and setbacks combine to create visual continuity. This pattern of property variation is most prevalent along Church Street, especially with the large open lot accompanying the Burnham-Park House (5) and the Gould Academy buildings (7, 8, 9). A much more regular siting pattern is evident around Kimball Park. This public open space is the focus of seven cottages of near similar dimension and detailing.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Planning & Development
Education

Period of Significance

c. 1830-1939

Significant Dates

c. 1860

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Various

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The area embraced by the Broad Street Historic District (Boundary Increase) contains buildings that depict Bethel's religious and educational history as well as its broader pattern of nineteenth and early twentieth century development. Furthermore, the concentration of buildings, most of which are of Greek Revival, Gothic Revival and Italianate form, illustrate periods of architectural history that match those found in the existing district (N.R. 12/28/77). The boundary increase has been determined to meet criteria A and C based upon survey work conducted in the area since the original district was created.

Bethel Hill, a nineteenth century name given to the area that now forms Bethel Village, was not heavily settled until well into the 1800s. As late as 1814, for example, it was noted that there were only four dwellings here, one of which was the 1813 Moses Mason House that still stands facing Broad Street. However, the "Hill" was in close proximity to an abundant water power on the stream known as Mill Brook. A mill is believed to have been established here soon after the privilege was acquired in 1774 by Joseph Twitchell. His son Eleazor Twitchell, who took charge of his father's property in the 1780s, is credited with founding Bethel Hill when he built a road to the hill from his mill and erected the first house there in 1797. Two years later, James Walker opened a full-time store in one room of Twitchell's dwelling making it the first such business in town and the only one until 1837.

In 1835, Bethel Hill consisted of a cluster of less than twenty houses, a schoolhouse and the store. These buildings were arranged along four roads which came together at the Bethel Common, a public space deeded to the West Parish Congregational Church. Church Street, which was opened in 1819, began at the northeast corner of the common and extended in a northerly direction to Barker's Ferry and beyond to Mayville. At this early date only the schoolhouse and the Oliver-Littlehale House (11) are believed to have been standing in the boundary increase area. The first Gould Academy building was yet to be erected, although the town's secondary school had been organized.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bennett, Randall H. Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture.
Bethel, ME: Oxford County Historic Resource Survey, 1984.

Lapham, William B. History of the Town of Bethel, Maine. Facsimile of The 1891
Edition. Somersworth, NH: New England History Press, 1981.

Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: G. M. Donham, various
editions.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 17

UTM References

A 1 9 | 3 5 7 | 2 6 0 | 4 9 | 1 8 | 5 1 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1 9 | 3 5 7 | 1 9 0 | 4 9 | 1 7 | 9 9 0

B 1 9 | 3 5 7 | 4 6 0 | 4 9 | 1 8 | 1 3 0
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1 9 | 3 5 7 | 0 0 0 | 4 9 | 1 8 | 3 9 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See map

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of this district is formed by a combination of factors. Beginning at the south end, the line of demarcation adjoins the north boundary of the existing Broad Street Historic District (NR 12/28/77). The east side is formed by the rear property lines of the buildings facing Church Street which separate them from the altered commercial buildings along Main Street and a row of more recent modest dwellings along Elm Street. Modern alterations

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 10/89
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
 city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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The area of the boundary increase contains only a small sampling of the various styles of domestic architecture popular in the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. This is primarily due to the rather rapid development of the neighborhood beginning in the late 1840s and 1850s. Examples of the Greek Revival style include the modest gable front Dr. Almon Twitchell House (14) and the two-story side gable Oliver-Littlehale House (11). Its most forceful expression, however, is realized in the 1847 West Parish Congregational Church (6) and (former) Universalist Church (3) of 1853. These two substantial religious buildings feature pedimented facades.

Due to the ornamentation of a number of the cottages facing Kimball Park, the district contains an unusually high concentration of buildings with Gothic Revival features. Although the true Gothic Revival house does not exist here, decorative sawn vergeboards convey the association with the style. The vergeboard and steeply pitched roof of the John Twitchell House (4) make it one of the most conspicuous examples. Its counterparts (17, 22, 23, 24) in the Kimball Park area are more modest in appearance, but nonetheless employ two additional variations of vergeboard ornamentation.

Buildings with Italianate style details include the Burnham-Park House (5) and the Freeman-Gordon House (13). The former is a handsomely detailed residence featuring pronounced quoins, a cornice fitted with scroll modillions, an entrance with a bracketed hood and segmentally arched central windows in the second story. The latter is somewhat less ornate.

The last major architectural style represented in the district is the Colonial Revival. Two brick buildings erected on the campus of Gould Academy in the 1930s are impressive examples of the style. Hanscom Hall (8) is a rigidly symmetrical U-shaped dormitory building of three stories. Diagonally across the street is Gehring Hall, a building whose central portico and crowning cupola evoke the spirit of its predecessors on this site. A third building (7) erected in the 1930s by the academy was a gambrel roofed residence for the headmaster. This feature was lost during a major remodeling undertaken in the 1950s.

With the exception of the four brick buildings of Gould Academy concentrated at the north end of the district, the area is filled with wooden frame buildings. A surprisingly high percentage have a gable front orientation featuring facades of two or three bays with side entrances. A number of them also have front porches. Most of these houses are of a modest one-and-a-half-story, feature smaller eaves, and frequently have attached carriage houses. There are only three houses, each a full two stories in height, that have their gables oriented parallel to the street. With only two exceptions these frame houses are sheathed in weatherboards.

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INVENTORY LIST**1. Rev. Charles Frost House, c. 1850 - C
Church Street**

Believed to have been built about 1850, this one-and-a-half story three-bay frame house has a gable front orientation and a barn attached to the rear. Its symmetrically composed facade has a central entrance behind a prominent hood whose roof and balustrade are supported by ornate Italianate brackets. Six-over-six windows flank the door and similar windows, with the exception of a narrow central unit, are utilized on the second story. A lancet arched vent occupies the gable peak under the broad eaves. Two shed wall dormers are located on the south side above a trio of windows. A porch surmounted by a screened sleeping porch are attached to the south side of the recessed ell. The gable roofed barn that is offset from the ell features a large opening on the lower story of the facade and a window in the peak.

The Frost house is named for its earliest known occupant, Rev. Charles Frost, the first minister of the nearby West Parish Congregational Church (6), built in 1847. Frost's widow lived here until 1859 and the house changed hands a number of times thereafter. In 1905 it was given to Gould Academy and became the principal's residence until 1930 when a new dwelling (7) was erected. At present it is used for faculty housing.

**2. Phineas Stearns House, c. 1850 - C
Church Street**

The Stearns house is a modest one-and-a-half-story three-bay frame building that has a long ell and barn. Its three-bay gable front features a side entrance with narrow sidelights, a pair of six-over-six windows in the first story, and a trio of openings in the second. There are four symmetrically placed windows on the south side below a wide shed wall dormer. The two-level ell has an enclosed porch at its southeast corner. The barn may be original. Weatherboards cover the entire building.

Although tradition holds that this house was built about 1820 by Phineas Stearns, its architectural features suggest a much later date of construction. It may be that the existing building replaces an earlier one. Stearns was a saddle and harness maker, one of the first to operate such a business in the village. The Stearns family owned the property until the 1930s. It was subsequently acquired by Gould Academy for faculty housing.

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**3. (Former) Universalist Church, 1853 - C
Church Street**

Erected in 1853, the former Universalist Church is a pedimented wooden frame building surmounted by an octagonal spire. The three-bay front elevation features a central entrance located behind a shallow gabled entrance porch added at the turn of the century. The flanking stained glass memorial windows were added in 1893 when a substantial remodeling was undertaken that included the addition of a two-bay block at the rear whose pedimented roof is perpendicular to the original. A square base supports the open belfry and its octagonal spire. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards.

The Universalist Church was the second religious structure built in Bethel village, thereby joining its neighbor to the north (6) in giving meaning to the name of "Church Street". It was erected at a cost of \$2,000. The first pastor was Zenas Thompson. The Society became inactive in the 1920s and the church building was closed. During the 1950s the Church of the Open Bible met here, and sometime later it was acquired by the Nazarene Church.

**4. John Twitchell House, c. 1854 - C
Church Street
John Twitchell, Builder**

Thought to have been built in 1854, this one-and-a-half story two-bay frame house has a gable front orientation and a recessed one-story ell. A detached barn stands at the rear of the lot. The house has a deeply recessed side entrance and a three-sided bay window on the first story of the facade as well as a pair of windows above. These openings are capped by shallow triangular hoods and framed by an ornate sawn vergeboard. The four-bay south elevation features two shed roofed wall dormers probably added at the turn of the century. A porch carries across the south side of the ell. The gable roofed barn now contains apartments.

John Twitchell, who was one of Bethel's foremost house carpenters, acquired the lot on which this house stands from James Walker in 1854. It is presumed that he built the house soon thereafter. Members of the Twitchell family occupied it until the 1880s. During much of the early part of this century it was the residence of local druggist William E. Bosserman.

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5. Burnham-Park House, 1867 - C
Church Street

The Burnham-Park House is a two-story three-bay Italianate style frame dwelling sheathed in weatherboards. It has a two-story ell that connects to a gable roofed barn. The symmetrically arranged facade has a two-leaf door located behind a projecting bracketed hood that is crowned by a balustrade. Long six-over-six double-hung windows flank the entrance whereas shorter six-over-six units are located on the second story on either side of paired round-arched windows. Substantial wooden quoins decorate the corners of the main block. The gabled side elevations have symmetrical fenestration patterns, and the south side of the ell features a porch whose roof is supported by five Tuscan columns. The barn retains its original fenestration pattern as well.

According to tradition, the construction of this house was begun by Newton Grover in 1867. It was completed, however, by Pinkney Burnham, the proprietor of a small-scale carriage manufactory located on Elm Street. In 1892 the property was acquired by Ellery Park. Park was an attorney in partnership with Addison E. Herrick and a long-time trustee of Gould Academy. He lived here until his death in 1949.

6. West Parish Congregational Church, 1847, 1897 - C
Church Street

Raised in 1847, the West Parish Congregational Church is a handsome Greek Revival style frame edifice whose gable front nave is surmounted by an octagonal open belfry. The pedimented facade is sheathed in flush boards and separated into three bays with paneled pilasters. Each of the three entrances consist of two-leaf eight panel doors within bold paneled surrounds and shallow triangular hoods. The belfry, which is a 1937 John Calvin Stevens replica of the original, rests on a square base and is crowned by an octagonal spire. A trio of paired arched windows with Gothic hood moldings occupy the north side. This pattern is repeated on the south elevation except where the 1897 chapel wing meets the nave at the southwest corner. This four-bay building repeats the Gothic detailing of the original block and features a pedimented portico over the arched entrance.

Bethel's Congregational Church was organized in 1796. Its first settled minister was Rev. Daniel Gould of Topsfield, Massachusetts, for whom the community's academy was renamed in 1843. The congregation erected its first church building in 1806 at the western side of the village. Forty years later the present site was selected for a new, more commodious structure which was dedicated early in 1848.

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- 7. Headmaster's House, 1930, 1958-59 - NC**
Church Street
Coolidge & Carlson, Architects of 1930
Barr & Barr, Architects of 1958-59 Remodeling

The Headmaster's House is a large two-story four-bay brick building with classical features. Its existing appearance is the result of a substantial 1958-59 remodeling of a 1930 gambrel roofed brick dwelling. During this reconstruction the original projecting central pavilion with its semi-circular entrance porch and gambrel roof was altered by the removal of the central window and the addition of the pediment. The porch and entrance were retained. Pilasters were added at each of the corners, and the recessed side bays were carried to a full two stories and the side gable was added. Eight-over-eight double-hung sash were used throughout. The fenestration on the gable ends was also largely preserved.

This house stands on the lot formerly occupied by the dwelling of John Kimball. In 1927 the property was acquired by Gould Academy, and it subsequently sold the house alone to Hugh Thurston who removed it to the corner of Summer and Elm Streets. The Boston architectural firm of Coolidge and Carlson designed the house that was built here in 1930. Despite the retention of some of its early characteristics, the house cannot be considered a contributing element of the district because the remodeling has not acquired historical significance.

- 8. Gehring Hall, 1924-25 - C**
Church Street
Coolidge & Carlson, Architects

Gehring Hall is an impressive three-story brick building erected in 1924-25. It is comprised of a pedimented main block with pedimented pavilions together forming a U-shaped facade. The pavilions feature single twelve-over-twelve windows surmounted by round-arched panels on the first story, two eight-over-eights on the second story, and a smaller pair at the third story placed between a prominent stringcourse and the heavily detailed cornice. Entrance is made through a pair of doors located behind pedimented porticos on the inside walls of the pavilions. The main block has four large round-arched double-hung windows in the first story, and a similar pattern on the third. The fenestration pattern of the ends and rear is less symmetrical, but similar to the facade. Large lunettes occupy the stuccoed tympanums of the principal block. Tall brick interior chimneys rise through the gable ends and the slate roof is crowned by a square clock tower with a dome roof.

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Designed by the Boston architectural firm of Coolidge & Carlson, Gehring Hall was named in honor of Marion True Gehring, the wife of prominent Bethel resident Dr. John George Gehring. Its construction was financed by William Bingham II of Cleveland, who made his summer residence in Bethel. The hall stands on property formerly occupied by the 1871 Gilman Chapman House.

**9. Hanscom Hall, 1934 - C
Church Street
Coolidge & Carlson, Architects**

Hanscom Hall is a handsome two-story brick building of Colonial Revival design that features a portico and cupola. The front elevation is comprised of the principal three-bay core defined by the portico and flanking bays containing twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows. Four Corinthian columns support the portico whose frieze bears the inscription 1836 GOULD ACADEMY 1933 and modillions below the cornice. A bulls-eye window is located in the stuccoed tympanum. The centrally-located two-leaf door is surmounted by a transom and framed by an entablature that consists of Tuscan pilasters and a segmentally arched pediment. Twelve-over-twelve windows flank the entrance, whereas eight-over-twelve units are located above. The elaborately ornamented cupola rests on a square base that features quoins, a cornice with modillions and a balustrade with urns at the corners. Each side of the square cupola has a tall multi-pane round-arched window behind a Tuscan pediment surmounted by urns. A round dome crowns the cupola. The gable ends of the front block are four bays wide with symmetrical fenestration patterns and a large semi-circular three-part tympanum window. A recessed two-story ell with long shed dormers projects to the rear.

Hanscom Hall houses the administrative offices of Gould Academy. It was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Coolidge and Carlson and completed in the spring of 1934. This is the third building on this site and serves as the focal point of the Academy. The first structure was a Greek Revival building erected in 1836, the year after the founding of Bethel's first secondary school. In 1881 this early building was replaced by a two-story frame structure that subsequently underwent a number of alterations achieving a decided Colonial Revival appearance in the twentieth century. In many respects the design of the present building evokes the spirit of this earlier campus centerpiece.

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10. **Walters Infirmary, 1955 - NC**
Church Street

The Walters Infirmary is a one-story brick building whose pedimented west end faces Church Street. Its symmetrically composed five-bay front (north) elevation consists of a central entrance whose recessed door is framed by an entablature and pilasters, flanking narrow bay windows with trios of double-hung sash, and six-over-six windows in the outer bays. A brick chimney rises through the slate roof. The west elevation has a pair of windows below the pediment whose tympanum features a lunette.

The building occupies the site of a house which was standing here in 1858 when it was the residence of George H. Robertson. Gould Academy acquired the property in 1951 and subsequently demolished the house.

11. **Oliver-Littlehale House, c. 1819, c. 1840 - C**
Church Street

The Oliver-Littlehale House is a two-story Greek Revival style frame residence whose gable ends are parallel to Church Street. Its west facing street facade has four six-over-six windows on each story grouped in pairs. The lower windows are capped by shallow triangular hoods. Wide paneled corner pilasters rise to the broad entablature. The south entrance elevation has a deeply recessed door framed by sidelights at the east corner, a pair of windows to the west and three across the second story. The door and first story window surrounds match those on the west side. Corner pilasters rise to a pediment that features a single window in the tympanum. The recessed two-story ell is five bays wide and connects to a low one-and-a-half-story carriage house and large barn. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards. A portion of the principal ell is believed to contain the c. 1819 building that was moved here from Broad Street and overbuilt in the Greek Revival period.

According to tradition, the oldest portion of the house had originally been erected on the lot now occupied by the Bethel Public Library. It had been built there about 1819 by John Oliver, a hatter. By 1830 this dwelling had been moved to its present site where it was occupied and subsequently enlarged about 1840 by Isaac B. Littlehale. Littlehale appears in the 1857 Maine Register as a carpenter, and he may very well be the designer of the remodeling. During the late nineteenth century it was the residence of the Cross and Bean families, local merchants. In 1938 it was acquired by Gould Academy for use as faculty housing.

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**12. George W. Chapman House, by 1852 - C
Church Street**

This one-and-a-half-story gable front frame dwelling has modest Greek Revival style detailing. Its ell is connected to a carriage house that in turn extends to a modern garage giving the building an L-shape. The two-bay facade is comprised of a full width hip roofed porch (in place by 1924) that shelters a side entrance and the lower part of a two-tier bay window. Four square posts linked by a slat balustrade support the porch roof. A small window flanks the projection of the bay below the gable. Two pairs of one-over-one double-hung windows are located in the south side elevation, of which the set at the southeast lie below a shed roofed wall dormer. A porch spans the deeply recessed ell but ends at the point of intersection with the carriage house. The breezeway extends from the south side of this original block to the more recent gable roofed one-stall garage. There is a second bay window on the north side (added between 1924 and 1935) and a chimney in the front block. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards.

This house is named for its 1850s occupant George W. Chapman. Although its original owner has not yet been determined, the house was apparently standing here by October 20, 1852, when three young men etched their names in a window pane of the ell. Local historians have speculated that they may have been boarding here while attending Gould Academy.

**13. Freeman-Gordon House, 1859 - C
Church Street
Thomas Holt, Architect**

The Freeman-Gordon House is a two-story two-bay frame dwelling with a gable front orientation. It has a one-and-a-half-story ell that links the main block to a large barn. The fenestration pattern on the facade is comprised of a side entrance whose doorway is framed by sidelights, a transom and a simple entablature, a six-over-six window to the south, and two similar windows above. A round-arched double-hung gable window and the denticulated cornice lend the building its Italianate style characteristics. The porch spans the south side of the recessed ell and projecting barn whose front gable end is punctuated by a large door and two six-over-six windows. A square cupola is mounted atop the roof ridge. The building is sheathed in weatherboards.

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The July 29, 1859, edition of the Bethel Courier carried the notice that "Benjamin Freeman has nearly completed a fine residence on Church Street. It is built in the Italianate style after a plan drawn by our skilled artist, Mr. Thomas Holt." Freeman was apparently one of the partners in the general mercantile firm of Freeman, Barker and Company. He sold the property in 1861 to Dr. Charles Gordon and it remained in the family until 1940. The house gains additional significance as a documented example of the work of Thomas Holt, few of whose commissions have been identified. Holt is chiefly recognized for his Italianate religious buildings including the Central Parish Church in Yarmouth (N.R. 6/23/88).

**14. Dr. Almon Twitchell House, c. 1845 - NC
Church Street**

Although this one-and-a-half-story pedimented Greek Revival style cape has an elaborately detailed entrance and its early porch, recent alterations have significantly reduced its integrity. These include replacement of the six-over-six wooden windows with smaller vinyl units, a vastly enlarged ell and the demolition of the carriage house. Surviving historic features include the hip roofed porch with its three fluted columns, symmetrically molded window surrounds with corner blocks, and early twentieth century shed roofed wall dormers on the south elevation. Historic photographs show that the original ell had a narrow configuration with a door, three windows and a gabled dormer. The barn was attached to the southeast corner of the ell. A nineteenth century stereo view of the house shows that gabled dormers were located in the same location as the existing shed dormers, although at a point slightly higher on the roof.

This house was built about 1845 for Dr. Almon Twitchell, one of Bethel's most prominent nineteenth century physicians. Twitchell's medical office was located in a building on the adjoining lot to the south, but it had been removed prior to 1924. It was here that Dr. William B. Lapham, now best known for his local histories, studied medicine. The house remains in the ownership of Twitchell's descendants.

**15. Dr. R. G. Wiley House, c. 1865 - C
Church Street**

This two-story three-bay frame building has a gable front orientation and a recessed wing that terminates at a barn. The facade is composed of a side entrance whose door is flanked by sidelights and framed by a simple entablature and pilasters. There are two six-over-six windows to the south

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of the door, three on the second story and one below the gable peak. Each opening is bordered by a wide molded surround and surmounted by a narrow hood. Wide corner boards rise to the gable end returns. An enclosed shed porch carries across the west side of the two-story ell. The gable end of the barn is punctuated by two large historic openings and an upper window as well as a small first floor entrance of more recent origin. Weatherboards cover the entire building.

Constructed about 1865, this house was apparently built for Dr. R. G. Wiley, a surgeon and physician. Wiley's widow was still residing here in 1880. It changed hands a number of times during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

16. Store, by 1878 - C
Church Street

This modest two-story gable front frame building features a hip roofed awning on its facade and a shed addition at the rear. It is sheathed in weatherboards. The awning, which is supported by four thin brackets shelters two entrances and a pair of recently installed bow windows. A trio of asymmetrically placed two-over-one windows are located across the second story and a single six-over-six is positioned below the gable peak. A variety of windows punctuate the side elevations. Sanborn maps show that a portion of the rear shed addition was attached to the northeast corner as early as 1924. It was enlarged to its present configuration by 1935, the same period in which the awning was added.

Tradition holds that the existing store occupies the site of Bethel's first school building which was erected in the early 1800s. The 1858 Atlas of Oxford County shows that the property and building upon it were owned by W. Gerrish. At what date the existing structure was constructed is uncertain. However, it does appear in the 1878 birds-eye view of Bethel. Subsequent occupants of the building included J. Lucas, a boot and shoe maker, grocer R. E. L. Farwell, and S. S. Greenleaf, the operator of an ice cream parlor. Its commercial use continued until the 1970s when a fire destroyed much of the interior. At that point it was rebuilt into two apartments.

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**17. Kimball-Brooks House, 1861 - C
Park Street**

The Kimball-Brooks House is a two-story two-bay gable front frame dwelling with a long ell and attached garage. Its front elevation has a shed roof porch at the northeast corner behind which is a side entrance framed by sidelights. A pair of six-over-six windows occupies the bay to the south and two similar windows are located on the second story. An ornate vergeboard decorates the eaves. There are two pairs of six-over-six windows on the south side and the recessed two-story ell. A lattice screened breezeway links the ell to the modern gable roofed two stall garage. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards. Sanborn maps show that a two-story barn was formerly attached to the southwest corner of the ell.

This house was built on speculation in 1861 by Ira C. Kimball, one of the two developers of the Park Street area. Albert Gerrish, who was one of the principals in the Bethel Steam Mill, first occupied the dwelling and later it became the residence of Rev. D. Warren Hardy, minister of the nearby West Parish Congregational Church. For the past forty years it has been occupied by members of the Brooks family.

**18. John Phillips House, after 1858 - C
Park Street**

This one-and-a-half-story gable front frame house appears to be one of the earliest dwellings in the Kimball park development, a conclusion that is supported by the late Greek Revival style detailing of the broad cornice and corner pilasters. The front elevation has a later hip roofed porch that covers a six-over-six window and side entrance. A pair of six-over-six windows are located on the upper story. The south side elevation has a pair of widely separated windows. The recessed one-story ell extends to a large gabled barn which appears on Sanborn maps and is probably original. Weatherboards cover the entire building. A portion of the north boundary of this property is delineated by a granite block wall.

Tradition holds that the house was built and first occupied by John Phillips, but in 1867 it was transferred to Dr. J. A. Morton, a physician. Morton lived here until his death. In 1921 it was acquired by Edward P. Lyon, the owner of Lyon's Jewelry Store.

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**19. Asa Knight House, 1860s - C
Park Street**

The Asa Knight House is a one-and-a-half-story gable front frame dwelling that features a hip roofed front porch, a one-story ell, and an attached barn. It is sheathed entirely in weatherboards. The porch, an addition whose roof is supported by four turned posts, shelters two one-over-one windows and a side door. Two similar windows occupy the upper story. There are a pair of three-sided bay windows on the south side below shed roofed wall dormers. These appear to be turn of the century additions. The ell features a porch along its south side as well as two dormers. The barn is oriented with its gable perpendicular to the main house.

Asa Knight, a boot and shoe maker, probably built this house in the 1860s. He apparently retained ownership until 1891 despite the fact that he had removed to Washington, D. C. For many years thereafter it was used as a rental property. During the first half of the twentieth century it was occupied by veterinarian Sherman S. Greenleaf and attorney Isaac Dyer.

**20. Hastings Rental House, 1890 - C
Park Street**

This L-shaped one-and-a-half-story frame house has a two-bay gable front main block and a recessed wing. It is sheathed in weatherboards. The front elevation features a side entrance beneath a bracketed hood, a single two-over-two window to the west, and a pair of similar windows on the upper story. An enclosed porch spans two thirds of the wing.

According to tradition, this is one of two matching rental houses built in 1890 by local businessman William Hastings. Its counterpart (21) is on the adjoining parcel to the north. The house has had many occupants in its nearly one-hundred year existence including former Gould Academy professor F. E. Hanscom and photographer Eugene Van.

**21. Hastings-Rolfe House, 1890 - C
Park Street**

A somewhat less intact twin of its neighbor (20), the Hastings-Rolfe House is a one-and-a-half-story two-bay frame dwelling with a recessed wing. The front elevation features a side entrance sheltered by a bracketed hood, a paired two-over-two window to the north, and two similar windows on the upper story. An enclosed porch spans the wing. The house is sheathed in weatherboards. A recessed two stall garage with an attic apartment was added to the north side in the 1960s.

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Named for its builder and 1960s owner, the house was erected for rental purposes by William Hastings. Tradition holds that the first occupant, Edward Herrick, was a machinist and amateur musician who organized and performed with the Herrick Family Orchestra. The house was remodeled and the garage erected by Harold Rolfe.

**22. Ira Kimball Rental House, c. 1860 - C
Park Street**

The Kimball House is a one-and-a-half-story two-bay frame dwelling with a gable front orientation. A rear ell extends to the attached carriage house. The front elevation has a later porch with turned posts that shields a side entrance and replacement picture window. Two six-over-six windows are symmetrically located on the second story beneath the decorative sawn vergeboard. A pair of windows are located on the east side elevation. The barn is offset to the east of the house and has a trio of openings on its gable front. Weatherboards cover the entire building.

Tradition holds that this is one of two houses erected by Ira Kimball at the time he developed the park. The second house (17) does in fact resemble this in its detailing, although according to Sanborn maps their original footprints were somewhat different. The house was first occupied by William Gerrish, the co-operator of the Bethel Steam Mill, but Kimball apparently retained ownership. Subsequent owners included local carpenter Samuel W. Kilbourne, George L. Merrill, the manager of the spool and dowel factory, and Milland F. E. Russell, the superintendent of Bethel's schools beginning in 1920.

**23. McCloskey-Rowe House, 1861 - C
Park Street**

This rambling one-and-a-half-story frame residence is comprised of an L-shaped main block and a rear ell connected to a carriage house. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards. An enclosed porch shields the first story of the two-bay gabled facade whereas an open porch spans the recessed wing. A pair of double-hung windows are located in the upper story of the facade and a shed dormer with two windows surmounts the side porch. The decorative sawn vergeboard lends the house a Gothic Revival quality. This feature is repeated on the rear gable end where it frames four windows. Turn of the century shed wall dormers have been added to the east side of the front block, the rear of the wing, and side of the ell. The latter has a porch on its east side. An enclosed porch added between 1924 and 1935 is attached to the rear of the barn. The other porch additions had been made by 1924 when they appear on that year's Sanborn map.

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According to tradition, this house was built in 1861 by Pat McCloskey, apparently as rental property. Sometime later it was acquired by Ceylon Rowe, one of Bethel's most prominent businessmen and a trustee of Gould Academy. It subsequently passed to his son Herbert C. Rowe and grandson Herbert R. Rowe. The property was sold out of the family in 1978.

**24. Kimball-Twitchell Double House, 1857 - C
Park Street**

This U-shaped double house, which is an unusual configuration for buildings of this type in Maine, consists of a pair of one-and-a-half-story gable front frame blocks linked by their deeply recessed wings. Both of the main sections feature porches sheltering side entrances and windows. The one to the east has paired six-over-six windows below a replacement shed roofed porch with thin square posts and a balustrade wall. Two windows on the upper floor have two-over-two sash below a sawn vergeboard displaying a wave motif. Large shed dormers project from both sides and a smaller dormer is located on the wing. A hip roofed porch stands at the junction of the front block and wing. The west unit mirrors its counterpart except that its porch is an earlier one featuring turned posts and sawn brackets (added in 1886), a single window flanks the side entrance, and two one-over-ones occupy the second story. There are no dormers on the main block, but a small one similar to that on the east wing is repeated here above an entrance sheltered by a hood. The double house is sheathed entirely in weatherboards.

In November of 1856 Ira Crocker Kimball and Daniel Twitchell acquired the lot on which this double house stands for \$130.00. The house was built soon thereafter because it appears on the 1858 Atlas of Oxford County. Kimball occupied the block to the east whereas Twitchell took up residence in the other one. Neither of them apparently lived here for an extended period of time and there were numerous owners during the remainder of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**25. Kimball Park, c. 1856 - C
Bordered by Park Street**

Kimball Park is a rectangular area of approximately one acre that is bounded on four sides by Park Street. The site, which slopes downward from east to west, features a T-shaped open lawn with the leg of the T extending westward. This latter area is framed on three sides by Maple trees. A nineteenth century bird's-eye-view of Bethel shows a more regular pattern with trees ringing the site.

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The small parcel of land upon which the park was laid out and the surrounding houses built was acquired in the late 1850s by Ira Kimball, one of Bethel's leading businessmen. Kimball apparently envisioned a small enclave of modestly scaled cottages built around three sides of a central open space, since early in the 1860s he built two similar houses (19) (24) for rental purposes. The 1858 Atlas of Oxford County shows a U-shaped road, the southern portion of which appears to follow the street pattern as it exists today. The precise path of this street must have been changed at an early date, however, since the orientation of one of Kimball's houses (24) clearly shows the established pattern. In the 1878 bird's-eye-view of Bethel the existing pattern is also shown with the landscaped park occupying a prominent position. The designation "Kimball Park" appears on the detail of Bethel as it appears in the 1880 Atlas. Presumably it was already a widely accepted name given to the park prior to that time. Today, the small residential subdivision around it is referred to as Kimball Park.

**26. Truman Crosby House, c. 1870 - C
Park Street**

This one-and-a-half-story gable front frame dwelling has a hip roofed wraparound porch and an ell connected to a garage. The house is sheathed in weatherboards. Its front elevation is comprised of a side entrance and a single replacement double-hung window on the first story and two above. Turned posts with sawn brackets support the porch roof that extends from the southeast corner around the north side to a narrow projecting wing. There are two windows on the south side. A second porch spans one-half of the ell. Attached to the rear of the ell and projecting in a perpendicular fashion from its south side is the short carriage house. A more recent two-stall garage has been added to its south end.

Tradition holds that this modest house was built for John Rowe sometime in the 1860s. Its first positively identified occupant was Truman Crosby whose name appears on the 1880 Oxford County Atlas. Crosby sold the property in 1887 to Timothy Chapman. There were a number of subsequent owners until Gould Academy acquired it in 1941 for faculty housing.

**27. Barn, by 1924 - C
Park Street**

This two-story frame barn is three bays in width and is oriented with its gable ends parallel to Park Street. The building is sheathed in weatherboards. Its south facade is comprised of three symmetrically placed track mounted doors on the first story and two openings at the corners of the upper level. There are two windows on the east gable end.

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Little is known about the origin and use of this building. It does not appear on nineteenth century maps or views of Bethel, but its presence was noted on the 1924 edition of the Sanborn map.

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Bethel continued to expand during the remainder of the nineteenth century. In 1871, for example, the Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual listed the names of four physicians (two of whom resided on Church Street), eight general merchants, and ten manufacturers. Among its three hotels was the Mineral Spring House, a name which suggests that Bethel was developing a tourist trade built around the Anasagunticook Springs first promoted by John S. Chapman in the 1850s. Ten years later, there were only six general merchants but a larger number of specialty stores including E. H. Young and Company who traded in fancy fowls, and S. M. Raymond who sold sewing machines. The Bethel Savings Bank had been founded in 1872, and in 1889 two significant municipal organizations were chartered: the Village Corporation, and the Bethel Water Company. Among the duties of the former was the improvement of the Bethel Common and Kimball Park. By 1890, the village's tourist industry was well established as indicated by the existence of seven summer boarding houses including the "Alpine Cottage" and the "Spring Grove House." It was also the decade in which Dr. John G. Gehring established his clinic for the treatment of persons with nervous disorders.

The early twentieth century witnessed the continued expansion of the summer tourist economy. This pattern is best depicted by the construction in 1912 of the Bethel Inn (which is located in the existing district) and its nearby golf course. During the 1920s and 1930s, Gould Academy undertook major building campaigns which had a significant impact on the boundary increase area. In 1924 it engaged the Boston architectural firm of Coolidge and Carlson to design Gehring Hall (8), a handsome Colonial Revival style brick dormitory for a lot on the west side of Church Street. It followed this in 1930 with the erection of the Headmaster's House (7) and in 1934 with Hanscom Hall (9), both of which were designed by the previously engaged architectural firm. This expansion of their facilities and the subsequent acquisition of a number of nearby houses for use as faculty housing underscores the important role that the academy continued to play in the development of the neighborhood.

Today, this area continues to be strongly residential in character although a handful of small businesses occupy portions of the houses. Gould Academy has the major impact not only from an architectural and educational standpoint, but also by virtue of the fact that it owns a number of the dwellings. This faculty housing has greatly increased the concentration of educators in the neighborhood than it was in the past. Fortunately, the majority of owners, whomever they are, have shown an interest in preservation by doing little to alter the exterior historic appearance of their properties.

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Development on Bethel Hill in the late 1830s and 1840s appears to have continued at a leisurely pace, despite the fact that with the founding of Gould Academy in 1836, the village became the area's most significant educational center. As late as 1848, for example, only 199 persons are recorded to have been residents here. In contrast, by 1855 this figure had more than doubled to 404, a fact that underscores the significance of the arrival in 1851 of the Atlantic and Saint Lawrence Railroad. The most apparent impact in the district of the community's growth prior to 1850 was the construction along Church Street of the West Parish Congregational Church (6) in 1847. This striking Greek Revival style building, which was the first religious structure erected in the village, immediately became its preeminent landmark.

The inset map of Bethel Hill in the 1858 wall map of Oxford County shows a community much changed from the settlement of some twenty years earlier. In this view, a great number of buildings now line the four principal roads while others stand along a host of new branch streets. Among the principal factors which supported this explosion of growth were the completion of the rail line through the north side of the village and the establishment in 1854 of a steam saw mill. The mill and its contemporary sash, blind and door factory was the first major wood products manufactory in Bethel Hill. A further measure of the village's rising prominence was the founding in 1858 of the Bethel Courier newspaper.

The community's expansion in the 1850s is clearly evident in the neighborhood along Church Street. A large number of houses were erected during the period as was the Universalist Church (3), only a few lots to the south of the Congregational Church. Among the new residents on the street were house carpenter John Twitchell, Dr. Almon Twitchell, and merchant Benjamin Freeman. Freeman's 1859 Italianate style residence (13), which was designed by the architect Thomas Holt, was one of the most significant houses built at this time. In addition to the new construction along Church Street, prominent local businessman Ira Kimball began the development of the small enclave of cottages fronting on the open space later known as Kimball Park (24). This residential subdivision is important not only for the shared architectural features of its constituents, but also for the manner in which it reflects a planned response to the need for more housing in this period.

Additional construction took place in the early and late 1860s. With the exception of two houses at its west side, the lots along Kimball park were improved whereas at the north end of the district the original 1836 Gould Academy building was replaced in 1861. Later in the decade the impressive Burnham-Park House (5) was erected upon the large corner lot adjoining the Congregational Church.

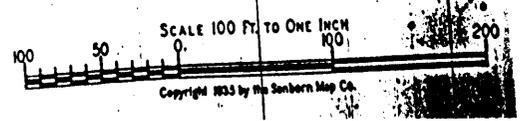
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to the Gould Academy Campus create a north boundary line that embraces the intact Gehring and Hanscom Halls. The east line follows the rear property boundaries historically associated with the buildings, beyond which is undeveloped land.

BROAD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
(BOUNDARY INCREASE)
BETHEL, MAINE



STALLS

