

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions if how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete 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 Calais Residential Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

Calais Avenue and Main Street From Calais Avenue  
street & number To Swan Street N/A not for publication

city or town Calais N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04619

### 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.)

Edward J. Skarpe Signature of certifying official>Title

9/21/94 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 of the Keeper

Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action

10.28.94

Calais Residential Historic District  
Name of Property

Washington, 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

18

2

20

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Religion/Religious Facility

Domestic/Hotel

Landscape/Park

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Religion/Religious Facility

Landscape/Park

Commerce/Business

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Italianate

Queen Anne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

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

Community Planning and Development

Landscape Architecture

### Period of Significance

c. 1800-1944

### Significant Dates

c. 1830

c. 1850

c. 1890

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Bassford, Asher B., Builder

### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Calais Residential Historic District  
Name of Property

Washington, Maine  
County and State

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## **10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Approximately 15

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	9	6	3	5	4	9	0	5	0	0	5	1	9	0	
Zone	Easting				Northing											
2	1	9	6	3	6	0	4	0	5	0	0	4	8	000		

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

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.)

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## **11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1994

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**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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Continuation Sheet****CALAIS RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**Section number 7 Page 2

The Calais Residential Historic District is an irregular L-shaped area of approximately fifteen (15) acres located along a portion of the south side of Main Street and both sides of Calais Avenue. It is primarily residential in character, but does contain a former nineteenth century hotel building, one church, and a park. There are twenty-four (20) contributing resources and zero (0) non-contributing properties.

The district is comprised of a group of nineteenth century buildings that include well preserved examples of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne style buildings. With the exception of two brick structures (6, 14), these buildings are of frame construction typically with weatherboard sheathing. The oldest house in the district is the Federal period Holmes Cottage (11), a one-and-a-half story, five-bay cape featuring a central chimney. A second Federal house (14) was built about 1830 of brick. Its two-story five-bay facade is centered on a recessed entry surmounted by a fanlight.

The traditional orientation of the Federal houses with their long symmetrical sides to the street and gables at the sides persisted in several of the Greek Revival houses (1, 2, 13, 16, 17). There was a notable variation, however, in the relocation of the main entry from the facade to one gable end. This "back hall" plan allowed for the arrangement of back-to-back parlors which frequently had long windows on the street elevation. One Greek Revival house (1) utilizes a full two-story pediment supported by Ionic columns. In addition to the "back hall" plan examples, two more modest houses (9, 10) utilize the gable front, side-hall plan which first appears in this period.

Unlike the numerous Greek Revival houses, the Italianate style is represented only in the Job Holmes House (12) and in the additions or lone details on several others. The Holmes house is a noteworthy example of the style with its well detailed bracketted cornice and the composition of the entry porch, similar examples of which appear elsewhere in Calais. After the Holmes house, the last major architectural style represented in the district is the Queen Anne. Three modest examples (18, 19, 20) of the form are located at the district's eastern end, their high hip roofs and two-story bay providing a distinct contrast to the nearby Greek Revival and Federal houses.

The physical characteristics of the district vary considerably, particularly between the area along Calais Avenue and that along Main Street. Calais Avenue is composed of a broad central greensward framed by deciduous trees and flanked by residential streets. It runs perpendicular to Main Street and mid-way rises forty feet in a steep grade. Two of the lots (1, 2) along the avenue feature handsome granite retaining walls on the front and north sides of the property to support the level plots on which the houses

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stand. In contrast to Calais Avenue, Main Street is relatively flat with only a slight grade evident in the park. These two areas of the district are also differentiated by the more frequent occurrence of mature leaf-bearing and evergreen trees along Calais Avenue with the widespread use of foundation plantings along Main Street. The rectangular park lot is interspersed with immature maples, relatively recent replacements of the elms which formerly occupied the site.

Lot sizes range from the relatively small ones on Main Street between the park and Calais Avenue where the buildings are also quite close to the street (following the pattern set by the Holmes Cottage) to the more expansive sites at the eastern end of the district and the middle of Calais Avenue. Set-backs uniformly increase in the former area, but are more varied in the latter.

**Inventory List**

**1. Sawyer House, c. 1840 - C**  
**7 Calais Avenue**

This impressive two-story, four-bay Greek Revival frame dwelling is notable for the full pediment which dominates the facade. Supported by five Ionic columns, the pediment shelters a flush sheathed facade punctuated by symmetrically placed long nine-over-nine double-hung windows on the first story, and an equal number of smaller six-over-six sash above. The main entrance is located on the pedimented north elevation, thus forming a back hall configuration. Two long windows flank it to the east and a trio of six-over-six windows are located on the second story. The south elevation has a more irregular fenestration pattern, which probably reflects subsequent alterations. There are three interior end chimneys and a large two-story ell which terminates at a carriage house turned garage. With the exception of the flush sheathed facade and tympanums, the house is sheathed in weatherboards. The property is further distinguished by the substantial granite block retaining wall which spans the front and part of the north side of the house lot.

According to local tradition, this house (as well as its neighbor to the south) was constructed by a Mr. Sawyer as a gift to one of his daughters. Sawyer is recognized to have been one of the leading carpenter/builders in Calais, although little is known about him including his full name.

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**2. Sawyer House, c. 1840 - C  
9 Calais Avenue**

While less formal than its neighbor to the north, this two-story, four-bay Greek Revival style house is noteworthy for its wraparound porch supported on Doric columns, its pedimented gable ends, long first story facade windows, and back hall plan. It is sheathed entirely in weatherboards. The symmetrically composed front (east) elevation features four nine-over-nine windows on the first story and an equal number of six-over-six sash on the second story. Separating these two levels is the porch which extends across the south end of the main block (where it has been enclosed), across the facade, and along the north end. Its columns rest on a river stone balustrade wall and the central section of the facade bows outward. Interior end chimneys rise through the roof ridge at each end of the house, and an off-set two-story ell extends to the rear. A modern three stall garage is located at the rear of the lot, whereas the front is distinguished by a granite block retaining wall which matches the one to the north.

Tradition maintains that this substantial dwelling was built by the local carpenter.builder Sawyer for one of his daughters. Sawyer is said to have also erected the adjacent Greek Revival dwelling (1) to the north for another daughter.

**3. Calais Avenue, c. 1830, c. 1873 - C**

Calais Avenue is comprised of a grass median about forty feet in width which extends from Main Street on the north to Washington Street on the south, a distance of nearly one-thousand feet. It is bordered throughout its length by paved streets each of which is about twenty feet in width. An asphalt paved walkway runs through the middle of the grass median which is lined through much of its length by leaf-bearing trees. Curbing exists only at the north and south abutting road edges.

At the head of this Avenue a Congregational Church was built in 1826. According to Reverend I. C. Knowlton's book, Annals of Calais, Maine. "The lot of land and the avenue leading to it, were given in equal shares by Deacon Samuel Kelley and Jones Dyer, Esquire. The money and material were furnished by the citizens generally, without regard to sect or belief. The building committee were Honorable Anson G. Chandler, Dr. S. S. Whipple (then living at the Job Holmes Cottage), and Captain Jarius Keene." In 1849 the Congregational Church was too small for the congregation so it was remodeled and enlarged. In 1871 the parish decided to erect a new church and the old one was sold to W. W. Pike and moved to Church Street, converted into an opera house, City Hall and public or dance hall. The last meeting was held

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on May 26, 1872. The new church erected on the west side of Calais Avenue was dedicated in August, 1873. This made it possible for the Avenue, to connect with Washington Street from both sides, and for the center walkway to reach Washington Street instead of the Church.

On October 29, 1829 Deacon Kelley made a deed to the "Inhabitants of Calais" for an enlarged area around the "avenue of the new meeting house." Although the purpose for doing this is not clearly stated, it appears that Deacon Kelley's intent may have been to provide a more traditional "town common" setting for the church. Such a setting may have indeed existed for the period of time prior to the removal of the church with Greek Revival style buildings erected along the streets leading up to the church from the north, and the Union Church (8) built at the northeast corner in 1836. The relocation of the Congregational Church in 1873 to a site north of the Sawyer House (2), probably indicates the point in time after which Calais Avenue was extended to Washington Street thus assuming its present configuration. Although this created a notable urban design feature for a Maine community, it resulted in the final loss of any vestige of the "town common" landscape.

**4. Murchie House, by 1857 - C  
14 Calais Avenue**

Originally constructed as a two-family house, this large transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style building has a two-and-a-half-story front block and a two-story ell. It is sheathed entirely in weatherboards. The two-bay west gable end fronting on Calais Avenue has a side entry sheltered by a Queen Anne style wraparound porch. A pair of double-hung windows occupy both the second story and the peak, the latter of which are framed by the wide cornice and pronounced gable end returns. The recessed ell features a secondary entrance sheltered by an Italianate bracketed hood and two windows on each story. The north elevation features a broad central cross gable, whereas the east elevation is generally similar in its configuration to the west side.

The early history of this house is uncertain although it is believed to have been standing here by 1857. Tradition holds that its original owner (a Mr. Flint or Finch) had the house built in a manner which allowed him to occupy one side and his wife and daughter the other.

**5. Ross-Murchie House, c. 1890 - C  
12 Calais Avenue**

The Ross-Murchie House is a two-and-a-half-story, two-bay frame dwelling which is covered by a hip roof. Its west elevation features two pairs of six-over-six windows on each story and a centrally-located dormer. A hip

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roofed, one-story porch extends across the north elevation, and a second dormer punctuates the roof. There are two large interior chimneys and a rear ell. The porch and dormers are said to have been added in 1928. There is a hip roofed, two-stall garage located to the northeast of the house.

This dwelling is believed to have been built in 1890 for Henry B. Ross, owner of the Ross Brothers store. Sometime later it was occupied by Maine Chief Justice Harold H. Murchie.

**6. Calais Temperance House, 1835, 1888 - C  
6 Calais Avenue**

One of only two brick buildings in the district, the Calais Temperance House is a three-and-a-half-story, nine-bay building that is covered by a gable roof. Its front (east) elevation features a central entry behind a pedimented porch, a trio of small dormers, a full height, three-sided bay window at the northeast corner, and one-over-one windows. Its three-bay able ends are punctuated by symmetrically placed one-over-one and six-over-six windows. Tradition holds that an addition was made to the original block in 1888, probably the northern two bays including the bay window. The present entrance is one of two adjoining entries shown in historic photographs, both of which were sheltered by a narrow second story balcony. Alteration of these features is believed to have taken place in the early 1900s.

When built in 1835 it was the only brick hotel east of Bangor. The hotel had many different owners, and under the ownership of James Shepard Pike, from 1845 to 1852 the name was changed to the Calais House. In 1876, under the management of Dan Gardener, the name was changed to the American House. The hotel was closed in 1910-1911, and remained vacant until the St. Croix Masonic Association purchased the building in 1918. It is currently known as Masonic Hall. When it was the American House there was a ballroom in the basement.

**7. House, c. 1840 - C  
4 Calais Avenue**

Although it has been altered by the application of asbestos shingles, this two-story, five-bay frame dwelling still exhibits features of its Greek Revival style form including a pronounced cornice and long six-over-six first story windows with hooded surrounds. Its projecting central entrance vestibule may be an original feature, an element which historic photographs show to have possessed two pairs of Doric columns framing the doorway and sidelights. On the second story of the facade, four six-over-six windows survive only the central one having been recently replaced. There is one large interior end chimney (as well as a modern concrete block), a bay window

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on the north gable end, and a telescoping one- and two-story ell at the rear. The broad gable ends are punctuated by a variety of window openings containing both two-over-one and six-over-six sash.

**8. United Methodist Church, 1834 - C  
231 Main Street**

Although this is the oldest extant religious building in Calais, the gable roofed rectangular frame structure was subjected to extensive alterations in the 1960s. As originally built, the church was relatively typical in its overall form, but was notable for its Gothic Revival style detailing including large tracery windows and slightly projecting frontal tower with a crenelated base and first stage. This tower was removed in the remodeling and the large tower window above the entry covered over. In addition, the building was covered with wide aluminum siding. Among its important surviving features are the tall, narrow windows flanking the entry, the lancet arched windows on the nave endwall as well as those along the four-bay sidewalls. The church rests on a tall basement which is punctuated on the west side by two doors and by groups of three four-over-four sash; four of these groupings are located on the east side; a narrow rectangular apse is attached to the rear elevation.

The old Union Church, now the United Methodist Church of Calais, is the oldest standing church in Calais. It was begun in 1833 and dedicated on May 14, 1834. Its first minister was a young Harvard graduate, Reverend William A. Whitewell, and the congregation included some of this city's most notable early citizens. These included Dr. Shilomette S. Whipple, third owner of the Holmes Cottage and Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, fourth owner of the Holmes Cottage and brother to Hannibal Hamlin. Other early citizens of some local renown who were founders of this church include James S. Cooper, Esquire, Benjamin King, M. B. Townsend, Esquire, Otis L. Bridges, Esquire, and the Honorable Joseph Granger. The architect of this wooden gothic structure is unknown, but its original design was very similar to the Congregational Churches in both Machias and East Machias. These three buildings were all built at approximately the same time.

**9. Brogan Family House, c. 1845 - C  
233 Main Street**

The Brogan Family House is a modest two-story, two-bay frame Greek Revival style building with a pedimented facade and telescoping rear ell. It has a side entrance framed by a shallow pedimented surround and a later three-sided bay window in the first story with a pair of six-over-six windows above. There are four symmetrically located windows on the east side (two on each story) and two on the west side. The house is covered in vinyl siding,

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and a carriage barn formerly located at the rear of the lot has been removed.

Although its original owner is unknown, by 1856 it was owned by M. Vickery.

Sometime during the 1870s it was occupied (probably rented) by Thomas Horton, who owned a block of stores on Main Street and operated a coal business and his wife Minerva King Horton, the daughter of William D. King and brother of Willard B. King, both prominent Calais citizens and businessmen in the nineteenth century. After the death of Thomas Horton, Minerva King Horton married the widower, Dr. Charles E. Swan and moved, with a large quantity of furniture from the King family to Dr. Swan's handsome residence on Swan Street which, at that time, was known as Grovenor Street. Dr. Swan was an apprentice with Dr. Job Holmes, and later went on to Medical School of Maine at Bowdoin College. upon his graduation he went into practice with Dr. Holmes and they were associated in medical practice for sixteen years. He was one of the earliest Calais physicians along with Drs. Holmes, Whipple, and Hamlin.

**10. House, c. 1860 - C  
235 Main Street**

This gable fronted, two-story, two-bay frame dwelling features a granite foundation and two story rear ell. Its facade contains a recessed side entry framed by a pedimented Greek Revival style surround and a trio of symmetrically located six-over-six double-hung windows. It has six windows on the west side of the main block and seven on the east side. An enclosed one-story porch extends across a portion of the ell's east elevation. The house is sheathed in weatherboards and features two interior chimneys in the main block.

Little is known about the history of this building, although its original owner may have been I. Brackett.

**11. Holmes Cottage, after 1805 - C  
245 Main Street  
N. R. 4/4/88**

The Holmes Cottage is a one-and-a-half story five-bay wooden fame building covered by a gable roof. A two-story vestibule and small dormers are located on the front elevation and a large center chimney rises through the roof. The house rests on a rubble stone foundation and is sheathed in clapboards and wood shingles. Facing north, the building has a symmetrically composed facade dominated by the late nineteenth century vestibule addition. The vestibule's steeply pitched gable roof frames a six-over-six double-hung

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sash window and a paneled and glazed door or framed by a bracketed hood. Paired nine-over-six windows with molded surrounds flank the vestibule. The shallow pedimented dormers, containing six-over-six windows are located above the inner windows. These consist of nine-over-six sash on the first story and six-over-six sash in the half story. The rear elevation, which is sheathed in wood shingles, contains a trio of asymmetrically placed openings including a door and two windows of unequal size. The windows are undoubtedly later alterations, but the door may be an original opening.

Although tradition holds that this dwelling was erected before 1805 by Edward H. Robbins, stylistically it seems to be somewhat later. Thus it was probably built for Artemus Ward, the property's second owner. The house remained in the possession of Mr. Ward until May 22, 1831, when he sold it to Dr. Shilomette S. Whipple, the first physician known to have practiced medicine in Calais. Dr. Whipple was also one of the founders of Union Church (8) and later, after moving to Boston, is supposed to have become a famous physician in that city. In 1833, Dr. Whipple sold the house to Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, the second of Calais's first physicians, another founder of Union Church and the brother of Hannibal Hamlin, vice president under Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Hamlin owned the house for only one year, selling it in 1834, to his sister and her husband, Dr. Job Holmes. Therefore, this cottage is connected to each of the three earliest Calais physicians. Dr. Holmes lived and practiced in this house for sixteen years, until 1850, when more substantial means allowed him to build the more elegant house (12) next door, now known as "The Holmestead." After moving from the "Cottage," he rented it to his daughter, Agnes, and her husband, Edward Moore. At the death of Dr. Holmes in 1864, Agnes and Edward moved their family into the "Holmestead," but rented the Cottage. In 1954 the Holmes Cottage was deeded to the St. Croix Historical Society by Agnes' and Edward's daughter, Miss Josephine Moore. It had been unoccupied at that time. The Society has undertaken an extensive restoration of the first floor and the exterior while work proceeds on the second floor.

12. **Job Holmes House, 1850 - C**  
**247 Main Street**  
**Asher B. Bassford, Builder**  
**N. R. 4/5/90**

The Dr. Job Holmes House is a large two-story with attic, three-bay frame dwelling with pronounced Italianate style features. A two-story ell and attached shed project from the rear elevation. Weatherboards cover the entire building which rests on a rusticated granite slab foundation. Facing northeast, the symmetrically composed front elevation features a central paneled door and sidelights sheltered by a broad hood. The hood is supported by four over-scaled brackets with ornate pendants. Low balustrade walls

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composed of short, squat balusters and large square corner posts define the edge of the porch. Flanking the porch are single six-over-six double-hung sash windows framed by bracketed hoods and sills. A trio of similar windows are arranged across the second story, although the center unit is capped by a segmentally-arched hood. Operable shutters, which are original, are still in place on these as on all the windows. Closely spaced shaped brackets support the broad roof overhang, and wide corner pilasters extend from the wooden water table to the narrow cornice. Two interior end chimneys rise through the roof. The gable ends of the main block have identical fenestration patterns consisting of two-six-over-six windows on each story and a smaller six-over-six in the attic. Bracketed sills similar to those on the facade are utilized here whereas they are surmounted by shallow triangular hoods. The wide corner pilasters are repeated and the short cornice returns are bracketed.

The Job Holmes House is among the most architecturally significant Italianate style dwellings in Calais. It was constructed in 1850-51 for Dr. Job Holmes, a physician who had established his medical practice in the second quarter of the nineteenth century in what was at that time a booming lumber shipping port. Construction of the house was undertaken by local architect/builder Asher B. Bassford, although it is not certain that he designed the building. It is one of only three extant documented projects in Maine by Bassford, all of them in Calais. A graduate of Maine Medical School, Holmes married Vesta Hamlin, the sister of Vice President Hannibal Hamlin. Another brother, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, was a class-mate of Holmes at medical school and established his practice in Calais about 1830. Holmes and his wife followed Hamlin some years thereafter where they initially settled in the Holmes Cottage. Their subsequent prosperity is reflected in the size and detailing of the new house built in 1850-51. Upon the deaths of Job and Vesta Holmes, the property passed to their daughter Agnes and her husband Edward Moore. It subsequently descended to their maiden daughter Josephine who willed it to a non-profit organization charged with maintaining the house for elderly men and women. This use is continued today.

**13. Swan-King House, c. 1835 - C  
249 Main Street**

The Swan-King House is a two-story, two-bay Greek Revival frame dwelling featuring front bay windows, a side porch, and two-story ell. It is presently sheathed in asbestos shingles. The symmetrically composed facade contains the three-sided bay windows on the first story and replacement one-over-one windows under narrow hoods on the second story. Both pedimented gable ends feature a triangular multi-pane window in the tympanum. The porch on the east side shelters a long double-hung window and a door which opens into a vestibule. There are two windows above the porch and four on the

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opposite end, two of which are reduced in size from the originals. The ell has a variety of window openings.

This house was occupied by F. K. Swan in 1856, probably a relative of Dr. Charles Swan, whose father was Francis Swan, but no verification of this possible relationship has been discovered by our research. The house later was owned by Willard Bancroft King, brother of Minerva King Horton Swan, wife of Dr. Charles Swan. Mr. King was a prominent businessman who died in 1897.

**14. Elias Barbour House, c. 1830 - C  
255 Main Street**

Among the most handsome and virtually unaltered Federal period houses in Calais, this two-story five-bay dwelling is also distinguished by its brick construction. Its symmetrically composed facade features a recessed central entry which is located behind an elliptical arch and is framed by a fan light and narrow sidelights. Two-over-two double-hung sash windows beneath splayed lintels complete the fenestration pattern. A narrow cornice spans the elevation and extends to short gable end returns. Each gable end is punctuated by a symmetrical pattern of five windows, two on each story and one in the gable peak. A wooden one-and-a-half-story ell projects to the rear. Brick interior end chimneys are located forward of the roof ridge in the main block.

This house was built about 1830 for Elias Barbour, but by 1856 it belonged to Mr. J. Ames. For many years the house was owned by Dr. Miner, who lived in the house and practiced dentistry. After retiring in 1976, he sold the house to its present owner, the Kendals, and moved to his farm in Robbinston, where he now resides.

**15. Memorial Park, c. 1891 - C  
Main Street**

City Park is a square area of about two acres bounded by Main, Germaine, Peace, and Lafayette Streets. Its level grass surface is punctuated by a variety of recently planted shade trees, and three structures: a Civil War monument, fountain, and reconstructed wooden bandstand. The monument, erected in 1891, is its most impressive ornament. Its sculpted and polished tripartite granite base supports a shaft of eight columns on which is mounted an infantryman with his rifle held crosswise to his body. This pose is an unusual one among Civil War monuments in Maine. Like the war memorial, the fountain is of polished dark granite, in this case featuring a shaft rising from the trough that is surmounted by a sphere. The hexagonal bandstand has an enclosed lower half above which are six posts linked by a balustrade and supporting a polygonal roof.

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**16. Col. E. D. Greene House, c. 1830-40 - C  
267 Main Street**

The Green house is a two-story, four-bay frame dwelling featuring a wraparound porch and two-story ell. It is sheathed in weatherboards. Like several other Greek Revival style houses (1, 2, 13) in the district this building employs a back-hall plan configuration as well as long double-hung (in this case six-over-six) windows on the first story of the facade. The shallow-hipped roof porch, which is supported by Tuscan columns, extends across the front elevation and along the west side where its southern half is enclosed. This porch is probably an early twentieth century addition. There are four small six-over-six windows on the second story of the facade. The pedimented gable ends frame an irregular pattern of windows on the west end and a more symmetrical fenestration pattern including the entrance on the east end. The tympanum on the east end also displays a multi-pane triangular window which appears in several other houses in the district. There are two interior end chimneys located forward of the main block's roof ridge.

The present Dr. Gould house was built around 1840. It later belonged to Col. E. D. Greene and was in his possession in 1856. Col. Greene lived in this house with his daughter. The next owner was the Nickerson family who occupied the house until 1915 when they sold it to Henry Peterson. Mr. Peterson owned the house for many years until it was sold to Dr. Gould.

**17. Thomas Hill House, c. 1840 - C  
269 Main Street**

This substantial two-story, three-bay Greek Revival frame house is distinguished by the four broad pilasters which grace its facade, the wide entablature, and the original projecting central entrance vestibule which repeats the detailing of the facade. This vestibule features a door framed by narrow sidelights in addition to long, narrow six-over-nine double-hung sash on the sides. It is flanked by the large first story windows whose surrounds have acanthus leaf corner blocks. Unfortunately, the original sash configuration has given way to a single pane of plate glass. Double-hung windows occupy the second story. Of further note are the acanthus leaf decorations on the pilaster capitals. The two-bay gable ends have a symmetrical fenestration pattern utilizing the modern plate glass glazing in the first story, with double-hung windows in the second story and gable peaks. A pair of chimneys punctuate the roof ridge, and a one-story ell extends to the rear. The house is covered in aluminum siding.

This house was built in 1840 for Thomas Hill, the oldest son of Daniel Hill, one of the founders of Calais. The house was occupied by the Hill family until Mabel Hill sold it to her brother, Richard, in 1944. Richard

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Hill lived in Boston and purchased his family home from his sister with intent of restoring it for retirement. However, this was never accomplished and in 1960 he sold the house to Catherine Winship. She lived in the house with her husband and family until 1969 when she sold it to Leonard Scott and returned to Massachusetts. Information from papers found in the attic by Mrs. Winship state that Thomas Hill had been a sea captain who gathered a variety of material for building the house on his voyages. Supposedly the white marble for the right parlor mantel was brought by Hill from Italy. The mahogany for the staircase was brought from South America and a pewter chandelier for the front hall, from Paris. Legend has it that Thomas Hill intended his house to be a real showplace and spared no cost to accomplish this. The windows were set in hand carved wooden panels extending from ceiling to floor with interior folding shutters. These remain in the house today. An artisan was hired from Boston to create the molded ceilings of the parlors and lower hall. A circular staircase was installed using his South American mahogany and a fireplace was built in each of the house's eight rooms. The woodwork was carefully designed utilizing fluted panels on the sides and top with square corners containing a different hand-carved flower for each room.

**18. Albion H. Eaton House, c. 1885 - C  
271 Main Street**

The Eaton house, so named for a turn-of-the-century occupant, is a modest two-story, three-bay Queen Anne style dwelling that is sheathed in weatherboards and wood shingles and covered by a tall gable on hip roof. Its front elevation features a full width porch whose shed roof is supported by four posts. Behind the porch is a central entry, paired two-over-two double-hung sash, and a three-sided bay window which continues up to the second story where it appears to have been originally surmounted by a short tower. The balance of the facade's second story contains a single central window and another pair over the one below. Both side elevations have asymmetrical fenestration patterns in addition to a two-story bay at the southeast corner.

**19. George Lord House, c. 1880 - C  
273 Main Street**

This two-story, two-bay Italianate style frame house is covered by a hipped roof and is sheathed in wide aluminum siding. Its front (north) elevation contains a two-story rectangular bay window in its eastern bay, and a paired double-hung window below a single double-hung in the west side. Paired brackets support the broad eaves and narrow cornice which carries around the house. A small hip roofed dormer is centered on the roof. A shed roofed porch (which is not the original) on the west elevation shelters the entrance located in the recessed projecting block.

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This house was owned by George Lord, a native of Ellsworth, Maine, who operated a grocery and ship chandlery store on Main Street which he established in 1871. He had spent sixteen years at sea before coming to Calais. He also carried on a ship building business supervised by his brother-in-law, H. A. Rideout, who was a marine architect and ship builder, having built the famous clipper ship ANNIE H SMITH. In addition to being a businessman, Mr. Lord was a director of the Calais National Bank, and an alderman in his ward in 1855.

**20. Percy Lord House, c. 1900 - C  
1 Swan Street**

An asymmetrically massed Queen Anne style building which exhibits a number of noteworthy features, this two-and-a-half-story frame house has a large entrance porch on its front (east) elevation and a pair of expansive bay windows on the north (Main Street) elevation. The three-bay facade is dominated by the porch and projecting two-story bay which forms a portion of the vestibule and is surmounted by a large, ornately decorated gabled dormer. Paired columns resting on tall plinths support the porch roof which shelters the entrance and its large stained glass side windows. A pair of double-hung windows occupies the second story and a single one is located in the dormer. The outer bays of the facade contain long double-hung windows on the first story with smaller ones above. Rivaling the principal elevation is the north side facing Main Street. Its wall surface is articulated by a broad three-bay projection featuring large, curved corner windows and wider central picture window units. This feature is capped by a high hipped roof that meets the main side gable and which has a gabled dormer on the north slope. A second full height bay with large windows occupies the balance of the elevation. On the first story of the west gable end is yet another bay window. A two-story ell projects to the rear. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards.

Tradition maintains that some part of this house was standing on this site in the mid-nineteenth century. From the west side one can imagine that the form visible here may be a trace of the earlier structure. If this is the case, then the house was subjected to a radical turn-of-the-century remodeling which largely transformed it. This may have been carried out by Percy Lord, the owner of a drug store. Members of the Lord family owned the house as late as 1935.

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The Calais Residential Historic District embraces the largest and most intact concentration of the city's historic non-commercial architecture. Although primarily residential in character, there are several other property types including two designed landscapes, the whole of which serve to illustrate a distinct aspect of the community's nineteenth century development. The district is eligible for nomination under criterion A for the manner in which it illustrates patterns of community planning and development, as well as criterion C for architecture and landscape architecture. Criteria Consideration A applies by virtue of the presence of one religious structure.

**1790-1865**

In 1790 the Federal census of the Calais area enumerated the names of only sixteen heads of households. In 1809 the Town of Calais was incorporated and by 1820 the population had risen to 418 persons. Beginning in the 1820s, however, Calais witnessed a phenomenal rate of growth predicated on its development as a lumber milling and shipping center. In the thirty year period between 1820 and 1850 its population soared to 4,749 persons.

Calais was admirably located on the west bank of the St. Croix River with access to the tremendous forest resources on the interior. Its rapid development beginning in the 1820s fostered the establishment of the "Calais Club" literary society in 1827, the Calais Bank in 1831, the formation of the Calais Railway Company in 1832 (the line was not built until 1837-39), and the founding of the Calais Advertiser in 1834. By 1859 A. J. Coolidge and J. B. Mansfield would note in their History and Description of New England that:

Lumbering has ever been and still is the leading pursuit, and as a consequence, a great amount of capital is invested in the trade. There are eight single saw-mills, ten gang saw-mills, eighteen lath-mills, besides clapboard and shingle machines, in active operation. (p. 82)

The authors also made reference to the once active ship building industry that had recently undergone a rapid decline, a pattern evident throughout Maine in this period due in large part to the Panic of 1857. The industrial activity stimulated an attendant rise in other commercial and service-oriented businesses. For example, in 1855 there were thirty-six general merchants, two music stores, six dealers in millinery and fancy goods, and eight insurance agents.

Calais' physical development reflected the importance of its riverine location with industrial facilities and wharves built on the riverbanks and

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the commercial district (see nomination form for the Calais Historic District, N. R. 12/20/78) located above. Beyond this concentrated area of development were the residential neighborhoods. House lots appear to have initially been developed along Main Street south of the commercial district, which was the road leading to neighboring communities to the south. The Holmes Cottage (11), which is believed to be the oldest extant dwelling in Calais illustrates this early settlement pattern as does the subdivision of Lawrence Pettigrove's one-hundred acre property on Hinckley Hill among his children in the 1820s (see Hinckley Hill Historic District nomination). With the community's explosive growth beginning in the 1820s, the present grid pattern of streets running parallel and perpendicular to Main Street appeared.

From a planning perspective, the single most significant element of the emerging street pattern was Calais Avenue (3), which is composed of a pair of narrow streets separated by a wide grass median and extending from Main Street to Washington Street. Its original appearance was, however, quite different than what is evident today. In 1826 a Congregational Church was erected at the crest of the rise located about midway along and in the center of the avenue. Three years later the area between the church and Main Street was given to the "Inhabitants of Calais" thereby creating the broad open space around which development would subsequently take place. Thus, it appears that essential characteristics of a "Town Common" had been created. They would last until the 1870s when the Congregational Church abandoned its old building for a fashionable new Italianate style edifice built adjacent to the Sawyer House (2) and the avenue was extended to Washington Street.

The development of Calais in the early and mid nineteenth century resulted in the construction of a large number of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and to a lesser degree, Gothic Revival residences. In addition to the Holmes Cottage, the other surviving Federal period building in the district is the Elias Barbour House (14) erected on Main Street about 1830. This house is distinguished by its brick construction, the district's only masonry residential building. The 1830s saw the local adoption of the Greek Revival style for both modest and more architecturally imposing dwellings including the Calais Temperance House (6) hotel, as well as the Gothic Revival for the Union Church (8). Although substantially altered from its original appearance, the church still reveals its large lancet-arched windows on the facade and nave sidewalls. Among the most notable Greek Revival buildings are the two Sawyer family houses (1, 2) on Calais Avenue, one of which employs a two-story facade pediment with Ionic columns. One pattern which is frequently evident in Greek Revival houses in Calais is the orientation of the gable ends containing the entry away from the street. This so-called "back hall plan" preserves the long street facade orientation used in the Federal period houses, but provides back-to-back parlors along

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the front and a longitudinal hall. The plan appears in four houses in the district (1, 2, 13, 16). While the Greek Revival style of architecture remained the predominant fashion through the 1850s, the Italianate style did emerge in the district, predominantly in the Dr. Job Holmes House (12). This striking two-story dwelling was built, if not also designed by, Asher Bassford.

Born in Mount Vernon, Maine in 1805, Asher B. Bassford removed to Calais in 1829 where he joined his brother as a house carpenter. Although undoubtedly engaged in a variety of projects soon after his arrival, Bassford's first known commission was for his own house (as yet unlocated) on Cooper Road, built in 1835. He built a second residence (altered) for himself in 1847-47 followed a few years later by the Holmes House and the Calais Academy (destroyed). A number of his subsequent commissions were obtained in neighboring St. Stephen, New Brunswick, most of which have been destroyed. By the late 1850s Bassford was advertising himself as an architect and builder, a fact which implies that he was probably the designer for the projects to which he is credited. In any case, Bassford continued his practice until at least the early 1860s, and remained in Calais until his death in 1887.

On the eve of the Civil War, the population of Calais stood at 5,621 persons. A correspondent to the Bangor Daily Whig and Courier reported finding Calais in the fall of 1861:

... a smart, enterprising, energetic, thriving place, much exceeding our expectations. Lumber is the great staple here, and lumbering and business connected with it, occupies the entire attention of the people. (September 5, 1861)

However, with the exception of the founding of a second banking institution, the Calais Savings Bank, little of significance appears to have taken place as the Nation devoted its energies to the war effort. The reduced pace of development is reflected in the absence of any new construction in the district during the period.

**1865-1900**

As reported in the St. Croix Courier (St. Stephen, New Brunswick) during the late 1860s, the immediate post-war period was one which saw growth in the residential building stock, but also an emerging concern about the city's future. Among the major houses built in Calais at this time was a "palatial mansion" of nineteen rooms in the "Grecian style" designed by the local builder/architect Matthew Baker. Further construction took place after a fire in August, 1870 destroyed much of the commercial district and several

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nearby dwellings. Despite these signs, however, beginning in March of 1872, the St. Croix Courier carried several articles lamenting the present economic conditions in Calais including the following excerpts from its March 28th edition:

Calais is declining in prosperity. Manufacture of lumber only large business, but is not expanding. No new sawmills built for ten years, no reinvestment of excess capital at home, no inducement for outside capital to enter. Lumber business maintains itself in hands of a few old families, not growing, not able to provide new jobs. Calais must attract outside capital; factories are only hope.

On May 16th it pointed out that "our lumber profits are being invested in other locales" and that the most intelligent and ambitious managers had migrated west. The influx of Canadian labor to replace workers moving away was seen as a sign of decay. This period of apparent stagnation was referenced in the Industrial Journal's March, 1910 profile on Calais in which it stated that "With the gradual decline of the lumber business, the city for a time halted in the march of progress...."

The economic doldrums in which Calais was said to have found itself in the post-war period, began to change by the end of the 1880s. Subsequent reports, such as the 1910 Industrial Journal article, pointed to the establishment of a more diversified industrial base as the reason for this reversal. The first such major development was the founding in 1887 of the St. Croix Shoe Factory which, by 1890, employed some 250 persons (I. J., November 7, 1890). Further opportunity for employment would be provided by a second shoe factory and the newly built St. Croix Cotton Mill in St. Stephen. By the spring of 1893, the Industrial Journal reported that:

The large number of buildings under construction in Calais indicate prosperous times for the Frontier City. A dozen new dwellings are going up on the west side of Lincoln Street, in Highland Park, and many tenements are being called for to accommodate the families that the new granite industry will bring there. (March 17, 1893)

In 1900, the census recorded the highest population figure in the city's history: 7,655 persons, a number nearly twice that of today's population.

Construction in the historic district during the post Civil War period was limited, being confined primarily to previously undeveloped lots at the eastern end of Main Street. Two of the most notable changes resulted from the relocation of the Congregational Church in 1872 (this National Register-listed building was destroyed by fire in 1992) with the subsequent extension

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of Calais Avenue, and the creation of Memorial Park (15) about 1891. The handful of dwellings erected in this period exhibit modest Queen Anne style characteristics including asymmetrical silhouettes, a variety of sheathing materials, bay windows, and porches.

**1900-Present**

In its 1910 promotional article about Calais, the Industrial Journal stated that the Border City was "... long famous for its lumber manufacturing and is now coming to the front as a center for the manufacture of shoes and other diversified industries." It went on to say that "The city abounds in attractive homes and it is a delightful city for residence." This echoed George Varney's description of three decades earlier in which he noted that "there are many tasteful and handsome residences." Finally, in the late 1920s the Chamber of Commerce called attention to the fact that "Calais has always been and is a city of homes."

Main Street in the early twentieth century certainly verified these descriptions, a fact that is evident in the scale, quality, and integrity of the buildings in the district. Although no new buildings were added in this period, modifications were made to several of the extant ones. These changes underscored the continued desirability of the neighborhood. However, in the second half of the century commercial development to the north and east of the district has substantially altered the integrity of the entire Main Street corridor isolating the subject district from the once contiguous group of dwellings that extended to the Hinckley Hill Historic District further east.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See map.

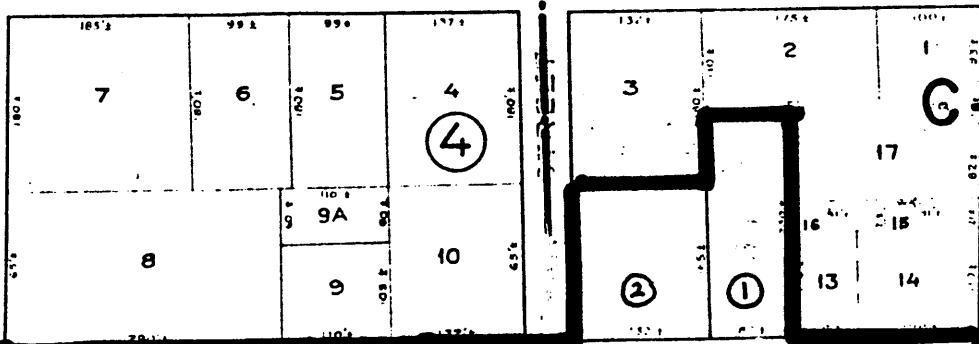
**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary is drawn so as to include the most significant and least altered concentration of historic resources adjoining the Calais Avenue/Main Street corridor. The limits of this area are defined by a variety of mid to late twentieth century development that have disturbed the integrity of the once larger neighborhood of which the district was historically part. These include the density of altered residential buildings on the north side of Main Street and behind the nominated properties on the south side, as well as extensive modern commercial development in the block east of the district and within the area on the north side of Main Street. A cluster of substantially altered commercial properties stands between the western edge of the district and the previously listed, commercially-oriented Calais Historic District.

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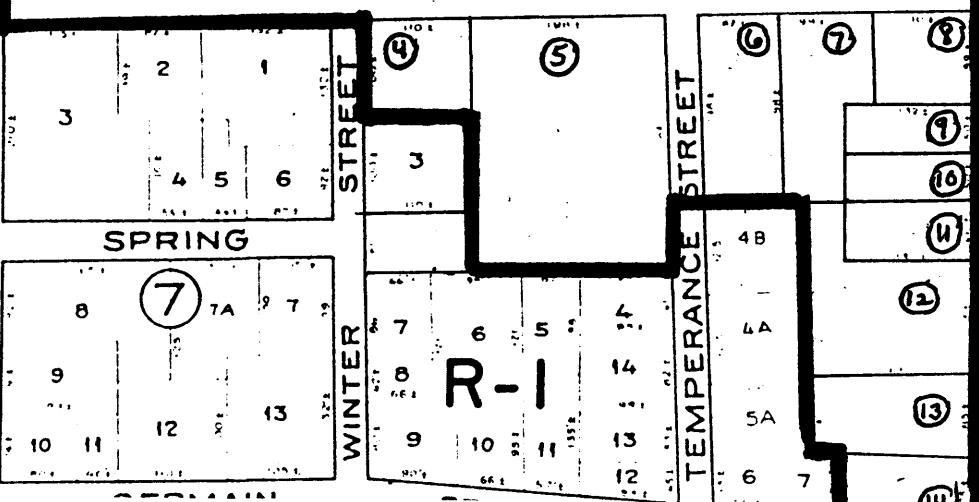
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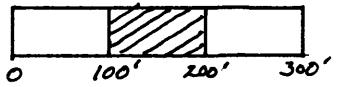


CALAIS AVENUE (3) PHOTO 3

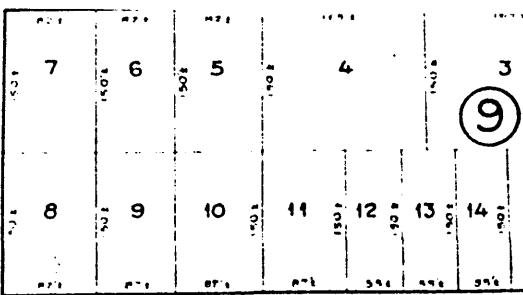
## WASHINGTON



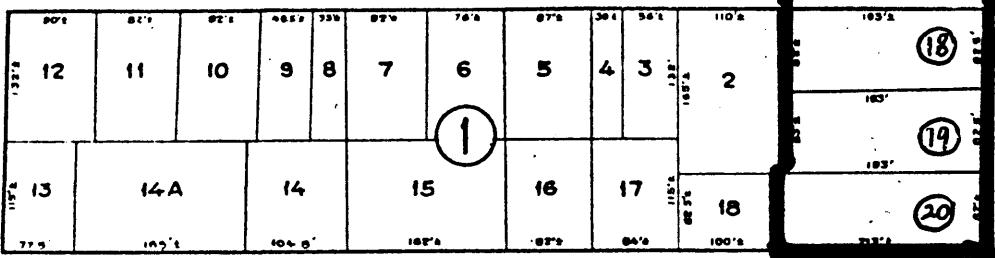
CALAIS RESIDENTIAL  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CALAIS, MAINE



SCALE: 1" = 200'



**DOWNES STREET**



## STREET

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IIA II 17A (5) 17 ET 62 150

STREET

100' x 100' WAY 150 FT

18 19

100' x 100' 10

20 21

100' x 100' 200' x 100' 9A

24 25

100' x 100' 8

26 27 28 29

100' x 100' 30 31

32 33 34 35

APPROVED AVENUE

36 38

PHOTO 1

PHOTO 4