

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **NOV 15 1979**

DATE ENTERED

15

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cornish House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bowdoinham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maine

CODE

023

COUNTY

Sagadahoc

CODE

023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

David Tarpinian

STREET & NUMBER

Box 43

CITY, TOWN

Bowdoinham,

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bath,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cornish House in Bowdoinham, Maine is a highly ornate and late example of domestic rural architecture in the Italianate style. Built in 1885, the house is two stories high, of frame construction, with cross-gabled roofs, clapboard siding, and brick foundation. Fenestration is 6/6, save on the facade (2/2) and east bay window (1/1). The cornices are elaborately bracketed, and the window trim follows suit, with gabled lintels containing miniature carved barge-boards.

The 3-bay facade, which faces south, contains a central entrance of double doors. A one-story porch covers the first floor of the facade. This carries a denticulated and bracketed cornice, supported by carved posts square in section.

A two-story projecting 3-sided bay dominates the east side of the house. Ornamentation here consists of brackets and a carved panel beneath each window.

An ell with identical detail runs from the rear (north) end of the house to a one-story shed which connects with an attached 2-story frame carriage house. The latter atypically repeats the decorative detail of the house to a remarkable degree.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1885	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	George Curtis, Bowdoin
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Probably no more striking example of "Gingerbread" decorative detail exists on any other Italianate house in Maine. Yet with all of this, the basic scheme of ornament is pleasingly well conceived and reasonable in proportion. Added to this is the fact that virtually no alteration or loss of detail has taken place.

Designed by a local architect, George Curtis of Bowdoin, the house attracted considerable comment at the time of its construction. The Bowdoin Advertiser of September 11, 1885 commented that, "It is one of the best residences in town and an ornament to the street, reflecting great credit on the skill and ability of its designer..... We congratulate Mr. Cornish in the possession of his beautiful home..."

The present owner is in process of restoring the house to pristine condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ames, John Wallace, Bowdoinham Was My Home Town. Kennebunk, 1975.

Adams, Silas, History of Bowdoinham. Fairfield, 1912.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Gardiner

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 427670 4873100
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Assessor's Map 10, Lot 33

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

October, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta,

STATE

Maine 04333

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Earle S. Shelton

TITLE

D.H.P.O.

DATE

9/11/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Sally G. Deane
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Robert L. Bradley
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11/13/80

DATE

5/19/80