

PH 365220

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 16 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 16 1977

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

Freeport Main Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Freeport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

--- VICINITY OF

CODE 23

1st. Hon. David Emery

COUNTY

Cumberland

CODE

005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership (See continuation Sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

142 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Portland

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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Main Street Historic District, Freeport, comprises nine architecturally significant buildings which line both sides of the street. Dating from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries, the district's buildings have not undergone major alteration. The district is strictly residential in nature and contains no intrusions. From the earliest to the latest, the buildings are stylistically very compatible and represent the prosperous and self-assured society which built them. The Main Street Historic District's good state of preservation is remarkable, given its position on much-used U.S. Route 1.

- A. Belcher House (31 - 33 Main Street): 1828-29 Federal, 2 stories with monitor, hip roof, clapboarded, frame construction.
- B. Gould House (35 Main Street): 1922 Modern 2 stories, gambrel roof, shingled, frame construction.
- C. Pratt-Soule-Mitchell House (39 Main Street): c. 1829 Federal with Greek Revival ell, 2½ stories, gable roof, brick, fan over doorway.
- D. Harrington House (45 Main Street): c. 1830, Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2½ stories, gable roof with double facade dormer, brick, arched entrance in gable end, non-functional Neo-Classical portico with Ionic columns on facade.
- E. Mitchell-Soule-Davis House (49 Main Street): c. 1790, Post-Colonial cape, 1½ stories, gable roof, vinyl clapboarding, frame construction, central chimney.
- F. B.H. Bartol Library (30 Main Street): c. 1906, 1967, Colonial Revival, 1 story, hip roof, brick, compatible modern addition, George Burnham, architect.
- G. Estes House (32-34 Main Street): c. 1889, vernacular, 2½ stories, gable roof, clapboarded, frame construction, 2 facade doorways.
- H. Andrews-Brewer House (36 Main Street): c. 1840, Federal Cape, 1½ stories, gable roof, brick fan over doorway.
- I. Congregational Church (38 Main Street): 1895, Shingle style, 1 story with tower, gable roof, shingled, frame construction. Will S. Aldrich, architect.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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			Community Development

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area represented in part by the Freeport Main Street Historic District is particularly interesting in that it demonstrates a recurring phenomenon in the evolution of some older New England towns. There is mounting evidence to indicate that the present "centers" of such communities were often not the areas first settled or if they were, only sparsely so. Most early coastal communities in Maine depended largely on water transport for communication between one another and such roads as existed in the early 18th century were primitive at best and more often mere footpaths. Furthermore the early settlements were mainly agricultural or oriented toward maritime activities.

Such was the case in Freeport where the earliest settlement was primarily on the ocean fringe where the convoluted coast with rivers and bays offered ample shoreline for saltwater farms, fishing and shipbuilding. The villages of South Freeport, Porter's Landing and Mast Landing all lay within this area. The present center, based on Main Street and first called Freeport Corner, began to emerge only after a stage route developed on the road from Yarmouth to Bath and Brunswick in the later 18th-century. Even then what industry existed, and this was mostly shipbuilding, continued to be carried on in the coastal strip. It was not until the 1880's that shoe manufacturing, introduced by Freeport's great benefactor, E.B. Mallet, changed Freeport Center into an industrial area.

As the community matured, however, by the end of the 18th century, the Main Street section, largely because of improved transportation, began to draw to it business and professional men as evidenced by some of the houses in the Freeport Main Street Historic District. These substantial houses reflect this maturation and the real beginning of the development of the modern town.

The impressive Belcher House, for example, was built by Richard Belcher, a lawyer who practiced in Freeport from 1825-70. His son, John, became a civil engineer, a newly developed profession which could not have been carried on in the earlier rural community.

Evidently Main Street soon became the center of respectability as evidenced by the Pratt-Soule-Mitchell House which was owned by a succession of prosperous sea captains, shipowners and shipbuilders. Most notable among these was Henschman Soule who built and owned a large fleet of merchant vessels.

Enoch Harrington, the builder of house (D), was a successful local businessman who rose from clerk to partner in the store called Nye and Harrington and married the daughter of Nathan Nye, his partner and former employer. His daughter, in turn mar-

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Thurston, F.G. & Cross, H.S., Three Centuries of Freeport, Maine Freeport, 1940
- Saltzman, W.D., The Maritime Affairs of Henchman Soule (unpublished mss.)
- Larkin, Jack, Studying the Center Village, The Rural Visitor, Old Sturbridge Village, Vol. XIII, No. 1, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	411225	4856360	B	19	411260	4856285
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	19	411100	4856180	D	19	411060	4856220
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the corner of Main and Holbrook Streets, proceed northwesterly along the southwest property line of the Belcher House (A) to the rear property line, thence north-easterly along the rear property lines of the houses on the northwest side of Main Street to the northern corner of the Bartol Library (F) property. From this point proceed south-easterly along the northeast property line of the Library to its intersection with Main Street, thence southwesterly along Main Street to the northern corner of the Congregational Church property. Proceed southeasterly along the northeast church property line to its

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	DATE	April, 1977
ORGANIZATION	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	TELEPHONE	289 - 2133
STREET & NUMBER	31 Western Avenue	STATE	Maine
CITY OR TOWN	Augusta		

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 *Carole S. Shatteworth, Jr.* DATE *5/12/77*

TITLE *S. H. P. O.*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <i>Robert B. Rettig</i>	DATE <i>11/16/77</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE <i>11-11-77</i>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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Property owners in Freeport Main Street Historic District. All addresses are Freeport, Maine 04032.

- A. James P. and Madelyn R. McQuaid
- B. Marsha H. Nason
- C. John Printz and Angela B. Galanis
- D. Freeport Historical Society
- E. Herbert and Marion W. Weber
- F. Trustees of B.H. Bartol Library
- G. Lucy D. Hunt and Doris L. Tuttle
- H. Charles D. and Enid S. Chamberlain
- I. Freeport Congregational Church, c/o Rev. J.C. Sleeper

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ried John E. Belcher, supra., thus suggesting the development of a closely knit business and professional community.

Although of much later date, the Bartol Library clearly stamped the Main Street area as the accepted center of the town by the end of the 19th century. Similarly the Congregational Church of 1895, replaced an earlier structure located in what had become the commercial center at the crossroads and was built facing the homes which represented the "establishment" of 19th century Freeport.

Thus, from a dusty country crossroads in the late 18th century, the modern center of Freeport emerged over the span of a century. The visual evidence of the beginning of this development lies in the buildings that are a part of the Main Street Historic District.

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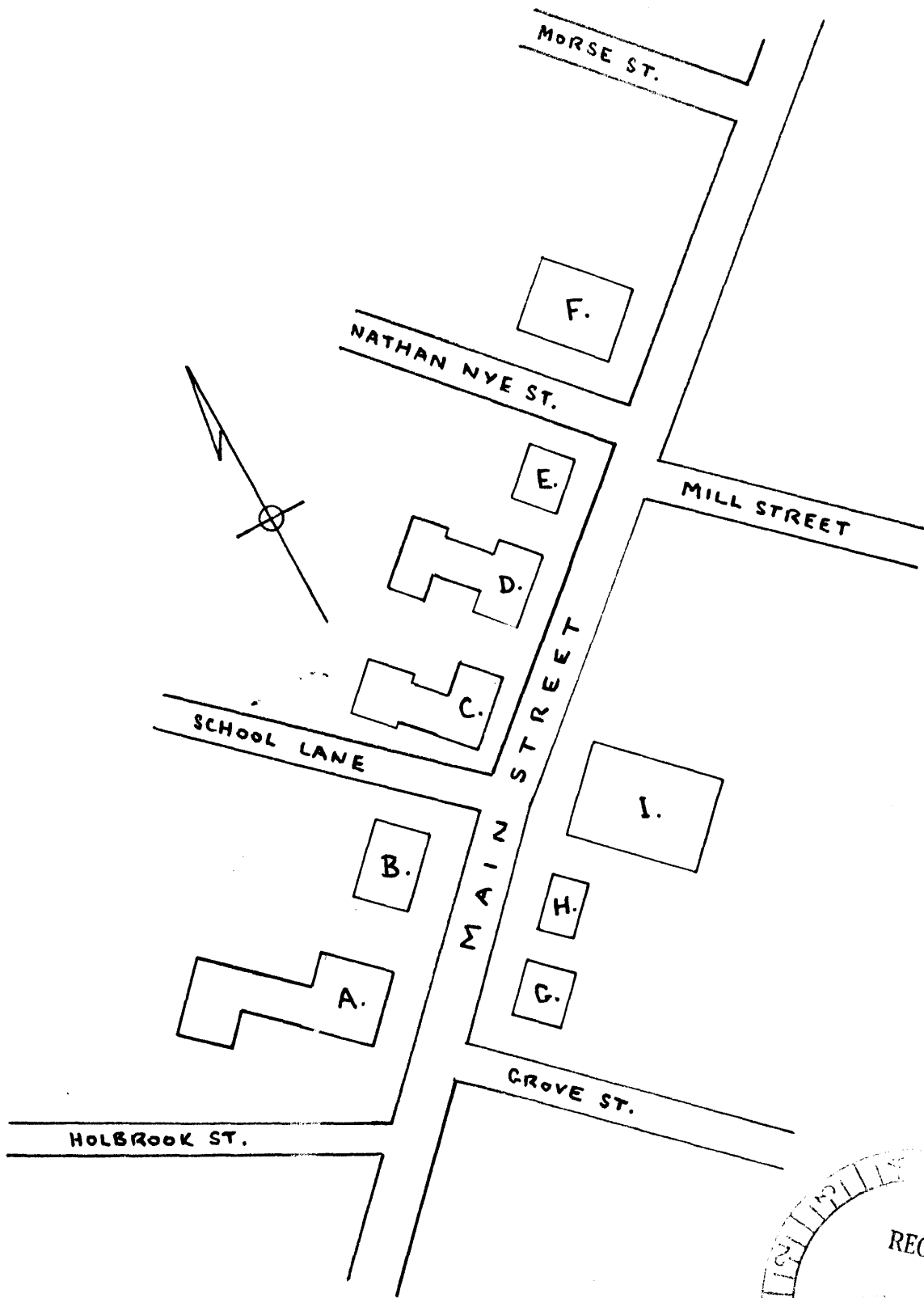
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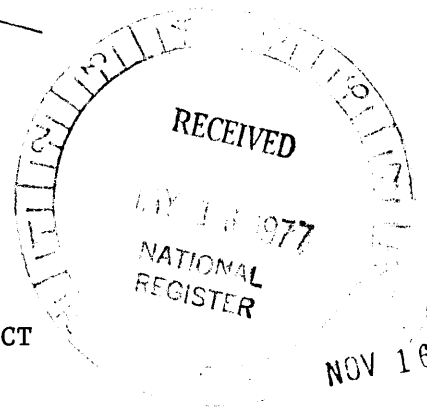
intersection with the rear property line and thence southwesterly along the rear property lines on the southeast side of Main Street to Grove Street. From this point proceed northwesterly on Grove Street and southwesterly on Main Street to the point of beginning.



FREEPORT MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

- A. BELCHER HOUSE
- B. GOULD HOUSE
- C. PRATT-SOULE-MITCHELL HOUSE
- D. HARRINGTON HOUSE
- E. MITCHELL-SOULE-DAVIS HOUSE

- F. B.H. BARTOL LIBRARY
- G. ESTES HOUSE
- H. ANDREWS-BREWER HOUSE
- I. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



NOV 16 1977