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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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(Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 1. NAME Dr. Henry K. Woodbrey AND/OR HISTORIC: Gov. Israel Washburn House	ATE	436.71
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3. CLASSIFICATION		
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBI		
(Check One) TO THE PUB	IBLIC	
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Public Public Acquisition: ☒ Occupied Yes:		
☐ Site ☐ Structure ☑ Private ☐ In Process ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Restricte		
☐ Object ☐ Both ☐ Being Considered ☐ Preservation work ☐ Unrestric	cted	
in progress 🔯 No		
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		1
☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments		1
Commercial Industrial X Private Residence Other (Specify)		
Committee (openity)	•	
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious		
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This building is a classic example of the Greek Revival style. It rests on a 115' X 500' plot fronting on the main street of Orono, in an area containing several fine examples of early nineteenth century American homes. It is a single residence with attached barn. The basic plan is rectangular with side wing. There are two stories with an attic and a partial basement. The basement has brick floors and stone, mortared walls. The surrounding foundation is of cut granite slabs.

The gable end and front of the north wing are faced with horizontal plank while the remainder of the house has clapboards. Corners are adorned with Doric pilasters and the front porch and study alcove are topped with balustrades. The two original porches, front and south side, are supported by Doric columns. The eaves of the main house and the porches are cornice boxed with ribbon bracket supports and frieze decorated. The gable end roof is cornice boxed pedimented. The main entrance is recessed with lights, surrounded with sides of pilasters and elaborately carved wooden transom panels. The four original chimneys still stand, with three in use. Four of seven original fireplaces are in use, with the other three restorable.

The interior features a generous hallway with a double formal parlor at the front of the house, containing two fireplaces of black marble and decorative cast metal. The original oak floors are in excellent condition and have a unique double strip of mahogoney inlaid around the periphery. Joining the parlor to the north is the wing, originally used as a study. This room has the original leather ceiling and a secret escape door. The Indian shutters remain intact throughout the front of the house, as do most of the old wavy panes of glass. The original dining room, now used as a kitchen, contains the china closet with leaded glass windows. Upstairs remains basically unaltered, with the exception of added bathrooms and closets. The three bedrooms in the front of the house have the old fireplaces, in good condition.

The attahced barn has had the doors altered, and the horse stalls have been removed.

Aug 3 19/2

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
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☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	REGISTER
☐ Communications	☐ Military	Theater	3
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	0/16

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is of interest historically. It was built in 1840 by the Hon. Israel Washburn, Jr. for his bride. Washburn was prominent in both state and national politics. He was admitted to the bar in Bangor in 1834, at the age of 21, with no formal education. He began his practice in Orono at the beginning of the mid-century logging era and land boom in eastern and northern Maine. He served on numerous committees and boards. He was elected to Congress in 1851, where he served with distinction until 1860. While in the House of Representatives, he was a leader in drafting anti-slave legislation. He helped in the organization of the Republican Party and suggested the name "Republican" for the new party. He played a leading role in the formation of the Republican Party in Maine, holding some of the initial meetings in this house.

In 1861, Washburn became governor of Maine and served two terms during Lincoln's administration. He declined a third term and was appointed, by President Lincoln, as Collector of the Port of Portland. This was a position he held from 1863 until 1877, when he retired.

In 1874, he returned to Orono to give a historical address before the citizens on the 100th anniversary of that settlement. It was a labor of love because here he spent his early manhood, her he married and became the father of four children, and here he achieved his first success.

In 1879, he prepared for the Historical Society an elaborate and thorough investigation of a question, which for many years hung heavy over the state of Maine, that of the dispute over the Northeastern Boundary of the state.

The great work of his live was his contest against extension of slave power in America, and later against slavery itself. He was known as an exceptional orator, writer and man, loved and esteemed by all.

Israel Washburn was born in Livermore in 1813 and died in Portland in 1883. He was one of seven brothers, all of whom gained prominence. One brother was Governor of Maine, another of Wisconsin. One brother

9. MAJOR	BIBL IOGRA	APHICAL	RF	FERENCES						_		
Deeds dating back to 1839-Penobscot County Registry of Deeds.												
"My Seven Sons" by Israel Washburn, Sr.												
Information gathered at the Washburn Memorial Library at "The Norlands",												
Livermore, Maine.												
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Penobscot	
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JAN 1	2 1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

was Minister to France, another to Paraguay. Three of the brothers were members of Congress at the same time, from three different states, a record yet to be equaled. Two of the brothers became millionaires. "My Seven Sons", by Israel Washburn, Sr., as told to his niece, tells of this amazing family. Stephen Hess, in his book, "American Political Dynasties", devotes a section to the Washburn family. The old family homestead at Livermore provides a wealth of historical information.

