

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

MAY 23 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 27 1979

**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

Searsport Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Searsport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Waldo

CODE

027

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Waldo County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

CITY, TOWN

Belfast,

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Searsport Historic District is a compact and cohesive grouping of thirteen 19th-century buildings, predominantly commercial in nature, which are in an excellent state of preservation. There is just one intrusion present.

Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

Map

1. Merrill Trust Bank Building: by 1891, Italianate with a Mansard roof and central facade tower, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
2. Sargent Block: 1869; Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and granite trim.
- 2A. Nichols Block: 1868; Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and granite trim.
4. Ice Cream Parlor: by 1900, 1 story, frame with clapboard siding and false front.
5. Richard Smart Building: by 1849, Greek Revival (with Gothic Revival niche in the half-story), 2 stories, brick with wood and granite trim.
- 6 & 7. Merrithew Block: 1847, Greek Revival, 2½ stories, brick with wood and granite trim.
9. Methodist Church: 1840, Greek Revival, 2 stories, with central facade tower, brick with wood and granite trim.
11. Smart Block: 1853, Greek Revival-Italianate, 3½ stories, brick with wood and granite trim.
12. Leach Block: 1834, Federal, 2½ stories, brick with wooden trim.
- 13 & 14. Pendelton Block: c.1845, Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and granite trim.
15. Whitcomb Block: c.1850, Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and granite trim.

13

Nonconforming intrusion detracting from the integrity of the district:

3. Al-Rose Superette, contemporary, 1 story, cement block.

14

8. This wooden structure was demolished in December, 1978.
10. The building originally given this number was not included in the district.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in an area once part of the Muscongus Patent (1630) and later Franklin Plantation (1756), Searsport was first settled in the 1750's by members of the garrison at Fort Pownal in Stockton Springs. As early as 1791 shipbuilding took place in the community reaching its peak 1845-66, when six full time yards were in operation and twice that number on a seasonal or sporadic basis. The prosperity derived from these operations is reflected by most of the buildings in this district which were built during this period.

Nowhere outside of Portland can be found finer examples of the heavy granite post and lintel facade than in the buildings which range along Main Street in Searsport. The sturdy brick Methodist Church clearly expresses the economic confidence of mid-century Searsport.

Also known as the "Home of Famous Sea Captains", Searsport produced no less than 286 men in this profession. In 1885 one tenth of all full rigged ships sailing under the American flag were commanded by men from this small community. The unusually sophisticated architecture of the Merrill Trust Bank Building may very well be attributable in part to the cultivated tastes acquired by these cosmopolitan seafarers.

The buildings are not only well maintained, but they are so little altered from their original state that the flavor of the mid-19th century seaport is retained. The heavy commercial pressures exerted by their geographic location on Maine's principal summer travel artery strongly suggest that every effort should be made to insure the preservation of these buildings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Searsport, Maine, 125th Anniversary Committee, Searsport, Maine, 1845-1970.
Belfast, 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,9 | 5,0,5 | 9,5,5 | 4,9 | 2,2 | 6,7,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,9 | 5,0,6 | 0,0,0 | 4,9 | 2,2 | 5,7,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,9 | 5,0,5 | 8,6,5 | 4,9 | 2,2 | 5,0,0

D 1,9 | 5,0,5 | 8,1,0 | 4,9 | 2,2 | 5,6,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the easterly corner of Main and Mosman Streets, the district boundary runs southerly along the east side of Mosman Street to the southerly corner of the Merrill Bank Building (1) lot where it turns easterly following the rear property lines of the buildings on the south side of Main Street to the southeasterly corner of the Methodist Church (9) lot. The line then runs northerly to Main Street and westerly along said street to a point opposite the westerly side of Knox Brothers Avenue where it turns northerly following said street to the northeasterly corner of

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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

April, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta

STATE

Maine

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

Charles S. [Signature]

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

5/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles S. [Signature]

DATE

7-27-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RELEASE BY THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

7/26/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>
1	Merrill Trust Company Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974
2	Milford Grant 10 Quaker Lane Southington, Connecticut 06489
2A	Robert J. Perdrizet 87½ Grassy Plain Bethel, Connecticut 06801
3	Alex Narofsky Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974
4	Sidney Campbell, Heirs c/o Inez Campbell Steamboat Avenue Searsport, Maine 04974
5	Sidney Campbell, Heirs & Mary c/o Inez Campbell Steamboat Avenue Searsport, Maine 04974
6	William H. McElvain Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974 and Karen Murphy Harris Road Stockton Springs, Maine 04981
7	Searsport Historical Society Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974
9	Searsport Methodist Church Searsport, Maine 04974

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ITEM NUMBER

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<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>
11	Rolf Jettinghoff Prospect Street Searsport, Maine 04974
12	Dr. Fred G. Johnson East Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974
13	Knox Brothers, Incorporated Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974
14	Paul Staples, Heirs c/o David Staples Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974
15	Epsteins, Incorporated Main Street Searsport, Maine 04974

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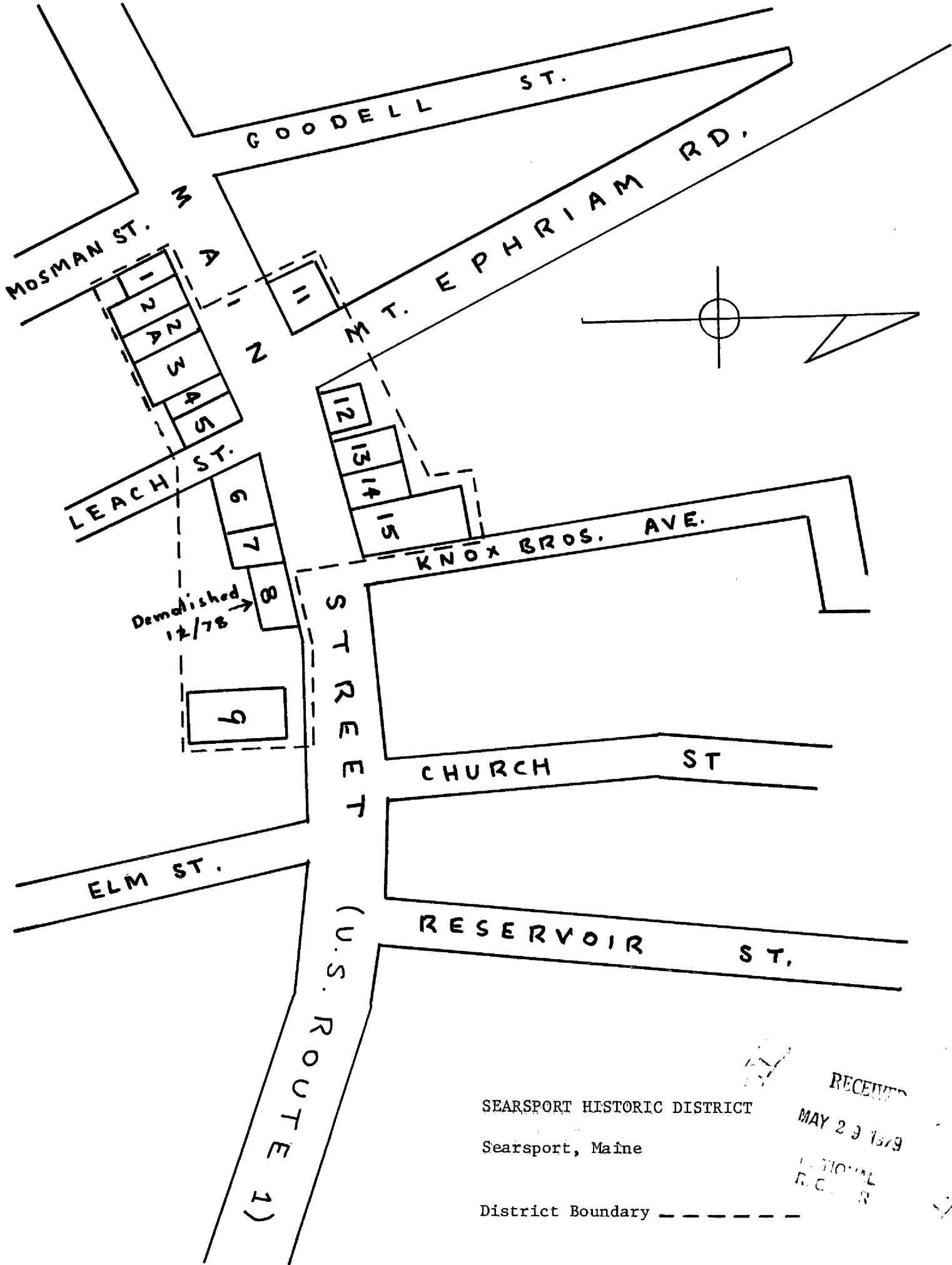
08 27 76

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Whitcomb Block (15) lot. From here it runs westerly following the rear property lines of the buildings on the north side of Main Street to the north-westerly corner of the Smart Block (11) lot where it turns southerly following west line of this property, crosses Main Street and runs westerly following the south side of Main Street to the point of beginning.

The district is delineated to include all buildings of the mid to late 19th century in the commercial center of Searsport. The church is included as historically associated with the period and compatible architecturally in style, scale and materials.



SEARSPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT

Searsport, Maine

District Boundary - - - - -

RECEIVED
MAY 29 1979
NATIONAL
H.C. R.