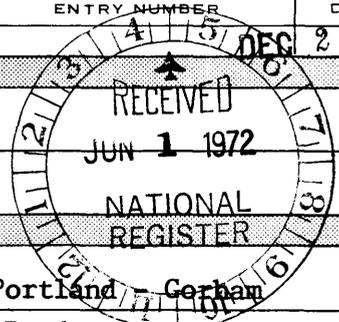


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 27 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Art Gallery

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Free Meeting House (1822); Town House (1845)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Gorham Campus of the University of Maine at Portland - Gorham

CITY OR TOWN:
**College Avenue at intersection with Entrance Road
Gorham**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Cumberland** CODE: **105**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Art Gallery</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
University of Maine at Portland - Gorham

STREET AND NUMBER:
96 Falmouth Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE: _____

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Cumberland**

ENTRY NUMBER: **DEC 27 1972**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Art Gallery is located on the Gorham Campus of the University of Maine at Portland - Gorham, on the northeast corner of the intersection of the main entrance road to the campus with College Avenue. It faces southeast. The building was erected in 1821 and dedicated on May 18, 1822, at the "Free Meeting House", to be used by any denomination wishing to hold services in it.

↘ The one story, gable roof, wooden frame structure is 42 feet wide and 60 feet long. It is painted white. It sits on a fieldstone foundation; there is no basement. The roof is shingled in asphalt.

↘ Although built during the Federal Period, the Free Meeting House had the simple design of a Colonial meeting house. The facade of the building was altered around 1845, but the other elevations retain their original features. The right and left sides and the end wall are finished with narrow shiplapped clapboards. There are six windows evenly spaced along each side. (The rear window on the left side has been boarded over. At one point, there was a one story addition attached to the building here which shows in a photograph dating prior to 1920.) There are three main windows in the rear. The two outside windows are at the same height as the side windows; the center window is raised and has a fanlight over it. There is a smaller window in the gable. All the windows are trimmed with a narrow molding set flush with the clapboards. They are double hung, 20 over 20.

↘ A 10 foot deep entrance porch was added to the building shortly after 1845 when the Free Meeting House became the "Town House", used for town meetings. The porch consists of the roof gable extended forward as a pediment, supported on a wide entablature by four wooden fluted Doric columns. It is approached by a flight of wooden stairs. There is a rectangular window in the pediment. The meeting house steeple was removed at this time, and other features were added to the building to give it a more contemporary and public appearance. The entrance door and the single window to either side of it were given wide entabulatures. Flat pilasters were added at the front corners of the building below where the entablature of the porch met the side wall. Probably the overhanging cornice which extends down either side of the building was reworked at this time; it matches the raking cornice of the pediment. These Greek Revival features gave the building a more monumental and public appearance. The exterior of the building has not been altered since these changes were made.

Like the exterior, the interior of the present Art Gallery has undergone changes. Some of the original features of the Free Meeting House are still evident. The wooden moldings of the indented window openings remain. The gently arched hung ceiling is intact above the modern suspended ceiling; it spans the entire 42 foot width and is covered with pressed tin, a later addition.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1821

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Free Meeting House was originally built because the Handel Singing Society of Gorham needed a place to sing after their break with the Hayden society. The Handel Society provided musical accompaniment for any group holding ~~services~~ in the Meeting House, and it was used until the 1840's by many religious groups. In 1844, the Meeting House was sold at public auction to Toppan Robie, a prominent citizen of Gorham. He gave it to the town in exchange for the old Town House on Fort Hill, allowing the town to use it for as long as town meetings were held in it. As the Town House, the building served the town well until 1960. It reverted back to the heirs of Toppan Robie, who then gave the building to the state.

The Art Gallery is a building of straight forward design. The original Meeting House was well-proportioned. Its interior, although unpretentious, must have been light and spacious, a very pleasing room. The Greek Revival entrance porch gives the building a somewhat heavy appearance, masking the original simplicity of the exterior. However, it was a good solution to the problem of giving the building the public dignity necessary for its use as the town meeting place. This exterior appearance and the large unbroken interior space make the building well suited for its current use as the Art Gallery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berry, Kenneth W.: "Historic Building May Revert to Early Use" in Portland Maine, Sunday Telegram, Sept. 3, 1961, p.10A
Eastern Argus, Vol. XIX, No. 999, Portland, May 7, 1822.
Eastern Argus, Vol. XIX, No. 1003, Portland, June 4, 1822.
 McLellan, Hugh D: History of Gorham, Me., Portland, 1903.
 Pierce, Josiah: A History of the Town of Gorham, Maine, Portland, 1862.
 Thornton, John R.: "Gorham Art Gallery New Chapter in State's Cultural Growth" in Portland, Maine, Evening Express, Feb. 23, 1967, p.15.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 40' 47.5N	70° 26' 53.0W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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 AND TITLE:
Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.** DATE: **March 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Lawrence Stuart

Title Commissioner, Parks, Recreation

Date May 22, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/27/72

ATTEST:
William H. Hunt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 12-27-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER DEC 27 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

When the building became the Town House, a town hall, in 1845, the pews were removed. Probably at this time the vertical panelling of narrow boards which covers the plaster walls up to the height of the window sills was added. This panelling can be seen behind the present walls.

In the late 1930s the town meetings were transferred. The building was given to the state in 1961. It was used by the Gorham State Teachers' College as an interfaith chapel and converted into an art gallery by the college in 1967. Today it is still used as an art gallery by the University of Maine at Portland - Gorham. The floor is modern. There is a new suspended ceiling. Partitions for hanging paintings cover the walls and windows and divide the interior space.

