

PH0682144

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 14 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUN 27 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Baxter House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Gorham

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1st

STATE

Maine

CODE  
23

COUNTY  
Cumberland

CODE  
005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Gorham

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Gorham

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input 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		

SEE NEW #7 PAGE #16 ↑

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baxter House, built c. 1805, is a two and a half story woodframe clapboarded structure with a gable roof, in the Federal style. The five bay main story of the east facade features a central doorway with upper half sidelights and a fan light above. The doorway is framed by a lattice-work wooden trellis and is flanked by pairs of six-over-six windows. The second story features a central six-over-six window over the doorway again flanked by pairs of similar six-over-six windows. The half story consists of two six-over-six gable dormer windows. The north and south sides of the house have one window on each of the stories, all six-over-six with the half story window slightly smaller than the others. All of the windows in the main structure have black louvre shutters. The attached two story ell features two six-over-six windows for each story on either side. The cornice on the main building and the ell features widely spaced paired brackets.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 29 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 27 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

---

In 1907, when purchased by James Phinney Baxter, the building was shifted onto a new foundation on the same site, about twenty feet back from its original location. This was to provide a more comfortable setback and, if anything, improved the ambiance of the property.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Philanthropy
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1805

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Isaac Gilkey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baxter House in Gorham was built by Isaac Gilkey, a well-known local carpenter-builder, c. 1805. Dr. Elihu Baxter, who established himself as a good citizen and a faithful and successful physician, bought the house in 1812. He lived there for about 20 years with his wife and four children.

After Dr. Baxter died the house was occupied for several years by Dr. N.H. Cary and family. Annie Louise Cary, the noted singer was his daughter.

James Phinney Baxter, son of Elihu, later purchased his former home in 1907 and had it moved to its present site. James' son, Percival P. Baxter (1876-1969), who lived in the house, was twice Governor of Maine. He bestowed two remarkable gifts on the State of Maine: Baxter State Park and the Baxter School for the Deaf on Macworth Island with sufficient funds to maintain each.

On September 23, 1908, James P. Baxter donated the Baxter House to the Town of Gorham as a museum in honor of his father, Dr. Elihu Baxter.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gorham Historical Society, Gorhamtown, 1977.

McLellan, Hugh D., History of Gorham, Maine, Portland: Smith & Sale, 1902.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4  
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 9	3 8 3 7 0 0	4 8 3 6 7 9 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*SEE 6/24/79 RECEIVING REPORT.*

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, Lisa Hallee, Student Intern  
David E. Fortin, Student Intern

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE July, 1978

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

*Carle S. Flettwood*

TITLE SHPO

DATE 7/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles A. Hurler*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Paul H. Dwyer*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-27-79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 6/25/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 29 1979
DATE ENTERED JUN 27 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The house is significant because of its association with the Baxter and Cary families. In addition to Dr. Baxter and his grandson, Percival P. Baxter, it should be noted that James Phinney Baxter (Dr. Baxter's son) was probably Maine's most prolific historical writer, was for many years president of the Maine Historical Society, served for six years as Mayor of Portland, and gave the funds for the construction of the Portland Public Library.

Although taking place less than 50 years ago, Percival Baxter's gift to the State of Maine in the 1930's of over 200,000 acres of wilderness including Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest peak, must rank as philanthropy of exceptional significance.

Architecturally the house, while not outstanding, is significant as a well proportioned Federal style house in what was, at the time of its construction an entirely rural setting. The generous proportions of the windows is unusual for a house in this context. The minor bits of Italianate decoration do not detract from the essential integrity of the house.