orm No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED AUG 1 4 1978

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

I	NVENTORY -	- NOMINATION	FORM DAT	E ENTERED	
-	SEE INS			NAL REGISTER FORMS	S
		TYPE ALL ENTRIES	COMPLETE APPLICA	BLE SECTIONS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1	NAME				
	HISTORIC				
		Baxter House			
	AND/OR COMMON				
	LOCATION				
	STREET & NUMBER				
	OTTLET & NOW BETT	South Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
	CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
		Gorham	VICINITY OF	1st	
	STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Maine	23	Cumberland	005
	CLASSIFICA	TION			
	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
	-	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X_MUSEUM
		PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
		_вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
		IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	-	BEING CONSIDERED	XYES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
			NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
	OWNER OF P	PROPERTY			
	NAME				,
	NAME	Town of Gorham			
	STREET & NUMBER	TOWN OF GOLITAM			
	CITY, TOWN			STATE	
		Gorham	VICINITY OF	Maine	
Ţ	LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
ŀ	LOGITION	or Height Decor	11011		
	COURTHOUSE,				
	REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Cumberland County	Registry of Deeds		
	STREET & NUMBER				
	CITY, TOWN			STATE M	laine
	CITT, TOWN	Portland		SIAIE E	laine
g	DEDDECENT	ATION IN EXIST	INC STIPVEVE		
U	KEI KESEN I	Allon III Exior	MOUCKILIU		
	TITLE				
	DATE				
			FEDERAL _	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
	DEPOSITORY FOR				
	SURVEY RECORDS				
	CITY, TOWN			STATE	



CONDITION

X

_EXCELLENT __DETERIORATED __UNALTERED __MOVED DATE_____

_GOOD __RUINS __ALTERED __MOVED DATE_____

_FAIR __UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baxter House, built c. 1805, is a two and a half story wooddframe 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.

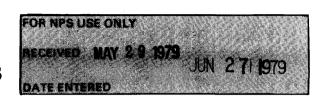
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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					
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	X MUSIC	THEATER		
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_other(specify) Philantrophy		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	3° 2. 60.					
SPECIFIC DAT	es c. 1805	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Isaac Gi	lkey		

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.

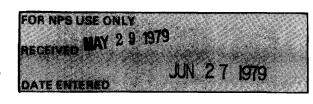
On September 23, 1908, James P. Baxter donated the Baxter House to the Town of Gorham as a museum in honor of his father, Dr. Elihu Baxter.

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 14 UTM REFERENCES A 1,9 3 8 3 7 0 0 41 8 31 6 71 91 5 ZONE D VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION GEE G/24/74 Truethour REPORT LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES CODE CODE STATE COUNTY CODE COUNTY CODE STATE TIFORM PREPARED BY Frank A. Beard, Historian, Lisa Hallee, Student Intern David E. Fortin, Student Intern ORGANIZATION DATE July, 1978 Maine Historic Preservation Commission STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE (207) - 289 - 2133242 State Street CITY OR TOWN STATE Maine Augusta, 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: NATIONAL ____ STATE 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 TITLE FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER C-27.70 DATE KEEPER OF THE DATE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

2

8

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.