United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 Belfast Commercial Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number	Main Street Betwe	en Church and Cross	Streets	not for publication
city, town	Belfast	vicinity of	congressional district	First
state	Maine code	e 23 county	Waldo	code 027
3. Clas	sification			
Category <u>X</u> district building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public X private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted 1 yes: unrestricted 1 yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture _Xcommercial educational entertainment _Xgovernment industrial	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation
4. Own	er of Prope	rty · · · ·	sas is suuriy i	and a set
name Multi	ple ownêrship (see	continuation sheet)		∑1 ≤ aq
street & number				- +
city, town		vicinity of	state	
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Descriptio	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Wald	o County Registry of	Deeds	
city, town B	elfast,		state	Maine
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing S	Surveys	
title		has this pro	perty been determined e	legible? yes no
date			federal sta	te county local
depository for su	irvey records			
city, town			state	· · · ·

7. Description

Condition		Check one
<u>X</u> excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
X good	ruins	<u>X</u> altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one __X original site ____ moved date ___

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Belfast Commercial Historic District is comprised of 47 architecturally significant buildings primarily commercial in nature and spanning a period from 1823 to 1909. The district is a cohesive grouping spanning two blocks on both sides of Belfast's Main Street as well as entering side streets. All major styles of the period are represented and the work of several important architects is exhibited. The buildings are well maintained and with the exception of typical first floor modern overlays are little altered from their original state. In scale, proportion and materials the structures are highly compatible. In almost its entirety it retains itslate 19th century character of the period when Belfast ranked as the major seaport in Penobscot Bay. At its southern extremity the district virtually abuts the Church Street Historic District (N.R. 11/28/78) and the Primose Hill Historic District (N.R. 10/ 3/73), both residential areas which reflect the economic prosperity of 19th century. Belfast which was based in this commercial area.

The district lies along an acclivity that rises gradually from the harbor with each successive cross street along the hillside having a little greater altitude than the last.

The boundaries of the district are delineated to include all the commercial and public buildings of quality and architectural significance in the immediate area.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

- U. S. Post Office and Custom House, 1855-56.
 Ammi B. Young of Washington, D. C., Architect Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood, stone and metal trim.
- Block, c.1840, with later 19th century additions. Greek Revival, 3¹/₂ stories, brick with wood and stone trim, Italianate doorway overhang with bay window above, third story Mansard roof and fourth story gable roof.
- 3. Block, c.1850. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 4. Daniel and John Haraden Block, 1850. Greek Revival and Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, third story added by 1912.
- 5. Waldo County Court House, 1853. Benjamin S. Dean of Bangor and Edwin Lee Brown of Boston, Architects. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2¹/₂ stories, brick with wood and stone trim, extension built 1899-1900, wooden belfrey removed in early 20th century.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of SignificanceC	heck and justify below		
1500–1599	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture	community planning conservation economics educatton engineering exploration/settlemen	 Iandscape architectur Iaw literature military music philosophy politics/government 	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

With possible exception of Portland's Waterfront Historic District, no other such uninterrupted concentration of worthy 19th century commercial architecture exists in Maine as that in the Belfast Commercial Historic District. Spanning almost all styles of the period, this rare grouping, with the exception of some modern veneer, appears essentially as it did at the end of the last century. The middle to late 19th century saw Belfast's heyday as a bustling seaport with a thriving shipping and shipbuilding industry. It was also the terminus of the Belfast and Moosehead Railroad which connected it with the Maine Central Railroad at Burnham Junction and thus with Portland and Boston. Steamboat service was also maintained with the latter two cities.

Although two major fires ravaged the city in 1865 and 1873, the commercial area was in both cases only partially destroyed leaving buildings from all earlier periods.

The prosperity of 19th century Belfast as reflected by the architecture of the commercial area is also attested to by the distinguished list of architects whose designs are represented in the district. Buildings by the best known among these include the Waldo County Court House, 1853 (5) and the City Block, 1850 (22) by Benjamin S. Dean (also designer of the Sedgwick Baptist Church - N.R. and the Wheelwright-Clark Block - N.R., in Bangor); the Post Office and Custom House, 1855-56 (1) by Treasury Architect Ammi B. Young (Waldoboro and Bath Custom Houses - N.R.); the Masonic Temple, 1877-78 (41) and the Belfast National Bank, 1878-79 - N.R. (49) by George M. Harding (Woodman, Rackleff and Thompson Blocks - N.R., in Portland); the Odd Fellows Block, 1888 (45) by Wilfred E. Mansur (Morse and Company Office Building - N.R., in Bangor); Memorial Hall, 1889 (6) by John C. Spofford (Lewiston City Hall - N.R. and 1889 addition to the Maine State House - N.R.).

Considerable preliminary work at the local level is currently underway toward stimulating restoration and preservation activity by property owners in the commercial area. The movement has received support both from the Belfast Historical Society and from City officials.

Of the three intrusions, two (42, 43) are on a fringe of the district, and the third (15) is a modern structure no imcompatible in scale and materials.

The boundaries of the district were chosen to include all contiguous portions of the commercial area which contain structures of architectural worth and which are historically linked to the 19<u>th</u> century theme expressed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Williams, Joseph, <u>History of the City of Belfast in the State of Maine</u>, 2 V. Portland, 1887.

10. Geogra	nphical D	Data (DREAF RAME				
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	,	
RECEIVED JAN	2 9 1980	
DATE ENTERED	APR	4 1980

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE

Owners of Property

Building

- 1. United States Government Post order
- Paul T. & Myrtle McNeilly, Kent McNeilly, Rose Burkum, 33 Mayo Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- Richard W. Glass & Francis C. Marsano, 129 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 4. Same as Above
- 5. Waldo County, County Court House, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 6. City of Belfast, City Hall, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 7. Depositors Trust Company, 285 Water Street, Augusta, Maine 04330
- 8. Same as Above
- 9. Maine Hills, Jr., 9 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 10. Arnold & E. Frances Withee, 15 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 11. Same as Above
- 12. Lewis & Charlotte Weaver, 11 Grove Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 13. Robert D. Stover, 25 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 14. Richard Brown, 27 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 15. Norman & Shirley Hoar, Lincoln Road, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773
- 16. Lloyd & June Wentworth, 101 Waldo Avenue, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 17. Same as Above
- 18. Edward A. & Barbara C. Kobs, Searsport, Maine 04974
- 19. Austin W. Lunt, 107 High Street, Belfast, Maine 04915

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20. Frank & Suzanne Raftery, 101 High Street, Belfast, Maine 04915

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

Building

21.	Robert R. & Phyllis G. Gould (half owners), R.F.D. #3, Belfast, Maine 04915 World Enterprises (half owners), 97 High Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
	world Enterprises (half Owners), 37 high Screet, Berrast, halfe 04313
2 2.	Arthur B. Clark, 89 High Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
23.	Allen Horn, 81 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
24.	Dale C. & Eunice Palmer, 97 Congress Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
25.	Henry C. Stover, 1 Belmont Avenue, Belfast, Maine 04915
26.	Howard W. Hatch, R.F.D.#3, Belfast, Maine 04915
27.	Marion Preece, 63 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
28.	Same as Above
29.	Albert C. & Carolyn L. Nelson, 44 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
30.	Gordon P. Johnson, 74 Church Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
31.	Hall Hardware Company, 52-54 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
32.	Same as Above
33.	John C. Mohr, Liberty, Maine 04949
34.	Edward C. & Ruby L. Elwell, 68 Northport Avenue, Belfast, Maine 04915
35.	Douglas & Marion R. Tozier, 68 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
36.	Same as Above
37.	Same as Above

- 38. H. N. Stover Company, Incorporated, 70 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 39. Same as Above

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Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

- 40. Theodore & Owen Robbins and Byron Greenlaw (half owners), 68 Church Street, Belfast, Maine 04915 George & Eileen Estes (half owners), 74 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 41. Masonic Temple Association, c/o Manley Ellingwood, 140 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 42. Steven W. & Edna F. Hanscom, 52 High Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 43. Same as Above
- 44. Howes 1885, Incorporated, 28 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 45. Walter W. Fletcher et al., R.F.D. #3, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 46. Ronald R. & Suzanne A. Lemieux, 20 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 47. William Truxton Hurlbut, 14-16 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 48. William W. & Irene R. Johnson, 12 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 49. William S. Patton and Richard Saltonstall, Jr., 8 Main Street, Belfast, Maine 04915
- 50. Hayford Block Company, c/o Winfield Marriner, Sr., Church Street, Belfast, Maine 04915

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- Memorial Hall, 1889.
 John C. Spofford of Boston, Architect.
 Colonial Revival, 2¹/₂ stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 7. City National Bank, 1909. William R. Miller and Raymond Mayo of Portland, Architects. Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, later 20th century three story addition.
- Block, c.1890.
 Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, ornamental pressed tin cornice.
- 9. Block, c.1920. Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick with concrete trim.
- Block, c. 1850.
 Greek Revival and Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, ornamental pressed tin cornice, third story added in 1894.
- 11. Block, c.1850. Greek Revival and Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, ornamental pressed tin cornice, third story added in 1894.
- Block, c.1850.
 Greek Revival and Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, ornamental pressed tin cornice, third story added in 1894.
- Block, c.1890.
 Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, ornamental pressed tin cornice.
- Block, c.1890.
 Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, ornamental pressed tin cornice.
- 16. Block, c.1865. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- Block, c.1865.
 Italianate, 2 stories, frame with brick first story facade, remainder sheathed in wood siding.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 18. Phoenix Row, 1824, Rebuilt 1887. Federal and Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, ornamental pressed tin cornice.
- Block, c.1890.
 2 stories, frame with wood and asphalt shingles, ornamental pressed tin cornice.
- Block, date unknown.
 2 stories, frame with wood shingles.
- 21. Johnson Block, 1847. Greek Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- City Block, 1850, Built for J. Y. McClintock. Benjamin S. Dean of Bangor, Architect.
 E. Edwards, Mason; Thomas Marden and William Winslow, Carpenters. Greek Revival, 4 stories, brick with wood and stone trim, half story and cupola removed.
- 23. Block, 1847. Greek Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 24. Block, 1847. Greek Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 25. Block, 1847. Greek Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- Block, 1847.
 Greek Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 27. Block, 1847. Greek Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- William Crosby Block, 1829.
 Federal, 2¹/₂ stories, frame with asphalt siding.
- 29. Block, 1866. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 30. Block, 1866. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.

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- 31. Block, 1866. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 32. Block, 1866. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 33. Block, 1866. Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- Smith and Whittier Block, 1823.
 Federal, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 35. Block, c.1835. Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with stone facade and wood trim, facade covered by sign.
- Block, c.1835.
 Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with stone facade and wood trim.
- 37. Block, c.1835. Greek Revival, 3 stories, first 2 stories brick with stone facade and wood trim, 20th century addition of brick third story with wood and stone trim.
- 38. Block, c.1830. Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 39. Block, c.1830. Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 40. Block, c.1830. Transitional Federal-Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 41. Masonic Temple, 1877-78 (HABS, NR) George M. Harding of Boston, Architect. High Victorian Gothic, 4 stories, brick with wood, stone, metal, and tile trim.

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- 44. Howes Block, 1885.Franklin H. Durham, Builder.Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 45. Odd Fellows Building, 1888. Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, Architect. Romanesque Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 46. Bean and Fruber Block, 1844. Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- 47. Joshua Pickard Block, 1844. Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
- James P. White Block, 1844.
 Greek Revival, 2 stories brick with wood and stone trim.
- 49. Belfast National Bank, 1878-79, enlarged 1891 (HABS, NR).
 George M. Harding of Boston, Architect.
 High Victorian Gothic, 3 stories, brick with wood, stone, metal, and tile trim.
- 50. Hayford Block, 1866 and 1868 (NR) Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 4 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.

Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district:

15. Block, c.1950.
2 stories, brick with wood and concrete trim.
these have 42. Mobil Gas Station, c.1950.
1 story, concrete.

Hom the Homination 43. Garage, c.1950. 2 stories, brick. 4/3/80 ammended map and VBD.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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buildings #2, 3, and 4-to Church Street. Crossing Church Street, the boundary runs westerly along its northern side, thence northerly along the east side of Market Street and easterly along the south side of High Street to a point opposite the west property line of building #18. Crossing High Street at this point it follows this property line northerly and thence easterly and northerly along the rear property lines of buildings #18 through #28 to the south side of Washington Street which it follows easterly to the east side of Main Street. The line then runs northerly along the east side of Main Street to the north property line of building #29 which it follows easterly and then runs southerly along the rear property lines of buildings #29 through #41 to High Street/which omit it crosses to the north side. Following the north side of High Street easterly, and the boundary then runs westerly along the north side of Beaver Street to a point replace opposite the east property line of the Hayford Block (50) whence it crosses Beaver with continuat. Street and follows this line and the southeast property line to the north side of ion shed Church Street, northwesterly along Church Street to its intersection with Beaver received Street, thence southwesterly along Franklin Street to the point of beginning.) -413/80

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ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

Amended Verbal Boundary Description

Omit everything after "High Street" on the seventh line from the bottom on Item Number 10, page 2, and add the following:

Crossing High Street the line runs southerly along the east property line of building 44 and easterly along the north property line of building 45 to the northwest side of Beaver Street which it follows southwesterly to a point opposite the east property line of the Hayford Block (50) whence it crosses Beaver Street and follows this line and the southeast property line to the north side of Church Street, northwesterly along Church Street to its intersection with Beaver Street, thence southwesterly along Franklin Street to the point of beginning.



