

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Brunswick Square
Other names/site number: Gardiner Common
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: bounded by Brunswick, Dresden, Lincoln Avenues and School Street
City or town: Gardiner State: Maine County: Kennebec
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Kurt F. Mahoney, SHPO</u>	<u>5/6/2021</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title Government State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

for Roger G. Reed

June 28, 2021

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u> _____	_____	sites
_____	<u>2</u> _____	structures
<u>4</u> _____	<u>1</u> _____	objects
<u>5</u> _____	<u>3</u> _____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/plaza

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/plaza

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Brunswick Square is a flat public greenspace at the top of a small hill with downtown Gardiner and the Kennebec River to the northeast. Brunswick, Dresden, and Lincoln Avenues and Church and School Streets form the boundaries of the Square. The district, which contains a vernacular landscape and multiple objects is 2.75 acres and roughly 350' on each side. Two churches and a gas station border the Square in the otherwise residential neighborhood. The perimeter of the Square is enclosed by a granite and wood fence and a gravel walk. The north quadrant is covered with mature trees and other sections have more widely scattered trees. The south and west sections of the Square are largely open lawn. The district consists of a site, two structures (a gazebo and a playground), four monuments, a fountain, and various lesser features like benches, paths and a flagpole. The Square was laid out in 1808 and given to the city in 1824 for use as a public greenspace or park. The various structures and objects were added over time from the 1875 Civil War Monument to the 2007 playground. The two structures and the fountain do not contribute to the district, but the remaining four objects and the site itself with less prominent contributing features retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a landscaped recreational green space for the city.

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Narrative Description

Setting

The Square is in the residential area of Gardiner two to three blocks south of the commercial and industrial sections near the Kennebec River and the Cobbosseecontee Stream. The Square is set among a grid of streets with a largely north/south and east/west configuration. The grid is skewed slightly along a north-northwest and south-southeast alignment. For description purposes, the Dresden Street side of the park will be identified as east, the School Street side as south and so on. (See Figure 4.) Brunswick Avenue/US 201 is an angled street out of line with the grid that runs northeast/southwest. The street meets the Square near the middle of its north and west sides and is routed around the corner of the Square with only the slightest rounding of the Square's northwest corner. The street is a major route through the city and has a much higher traffic flow than the other residential streets surrounding the Square.

There is one commercial building to the north of the Square on Brunswick Avenue, a modern gas station. Two churches are present Christ Episcopal Church (NRIS # 73000129) to the east and St. Joseph's Church to the south. The remaining buildings facing the Square and in the surrounding blocks are primarily residential with lawns and mature trees on moderate sized lots.

Brunswick Square – 1808, contributing site

The Square is a level city block surrounded on all sides by paved streets with asphalt sidewalks on the side of the street opposite the park. There is no defined curb between the streets and the lawn of the park which is surrounded with a fence of granite posts with two 4" x 4" wood rails between posts. There are entry points at the northeast, southeast and southwest corners and at the midpoint of the north, east and west sides. Each of these simple openings in the fence provides access to a path of crushed stone. A continuous path extends around the perimeter of the Square just inside the fence. Several paths diverge from the perimeter path to cross the lawn of the Square at an angle from the northeast and southwest corners and from the north and west mid-point openings. The paths converge near the center of the Square between the gazebo and the Civil War Monument. The paths provide access to park features and align with general pedestrian traffic from residential areas to the city's commercial center to the northeast. Deciduous trees are planted primarily along paths. Tree cover is the densest to the north with more open lawn to the south and west where there are fewer paths. Scattered across the Square along the paths are twenty-five benches. There is also a flagpole centered in the Square which was erected in 1941. See Figure 4 for a sketch map of features and photos 1-4.

Civil War Memorial -- 1875, contributing object

This memorial was the first added to the Square in 1875. It is a tall granite obelisk of three parts with a square base, a smaller tapered mid-section with a plaque on each of its four sides, and an upper tapered octagonal obelisk that terminates in a finial. (See photo 6.) The plaques on three sides list names of war dead. The fourth side says: *In Memory of the Men of Gardiner who died in the War of 1861 that their country might live. Erected by the City AD 1875.* Stars, rifles and wreaths are carved in the transitional space between the plaques and the octagonal

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obelisk. The memorial was sculpted by C. H. Clary of the Hallowell Granite Company and has not been altered since its construction. A cast iron fence was installed around the monument by 1905, but it was removed for scrap during WW II.

Silas C. Stinson Memorial – 1906, contributing object

This memorial drinking fountain is located in the northeast corner of the park. It is a low granite structure with a granite bowl and a metal drinking fountain standing to the east. The memorial has a temple form with a two-part granite base consisting of a plain sub-base and a smaller upper section with inscriptions on two sides. The base supports four large square columns at the corners which support a solid granite slab with a hipped roof configuration. Within the covered center of the monument is a granite bowl. (See photo 7.) The bowl was originally the fountain with water piped into its center. Currently there is a standalone fountain installed inches to the east of the Memorial in a small concrete slab. The drinking fountain is a metal tube with a small bowl at its top with a push button to release a stream of water. The monument is dedicated to Silas C. Stinson (1835/36-1901) by his wife Ellen Stinson. Silas Stinson was a local painter, photographer, and deputy sheriff.

E.A. Robinson Memorial – 1936, contributing object

The monument has a restrained classical style that is reminiscent of a large gravestone. The memorial is an upright granite slab with a laurel wreath carved into the base. Square pilasters support a low gable top that has an oil lamp carved in the pediment and acroteria at the corners. (See photo 8.) The focus of the memorial is the large central panel on the north side which states:

TO THE MEMORY OF
EDWIN ARLINGTON
ROBINSON
1869 1935
THINKER SEER POET
WHOSE CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH
WERE SPENT IN GARDINER
A MAN OF HEROIC CHARACTER
STEADFAST PURPOSE AND
SHINING GENIUS
WHOSE POEMS HAVE KINDLED
IN MANY HEARTS AN UNDYING
FLAME
THIS TABLET IS DEDICATED
AD MCMXXXVI

The memorial was designed by architect Henry R. Shepley. Shepley had a local connection to Gardiner and, was also a distant cousin of Robert Hallowell Gardiner who donated the land for the Square.¹

War Memorial – 1955, contributing object

¹ Kennebec Journal. October 8, 1969.

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This memorial is a tall granite slab supported by a low base and sub-base. The plain memorial is only decorated with incised carvings and text. (See photo 5.) The north side has a carving of crossed United States flags with the following memorial text:

IN PROUD MEMORY
OF THESE MEN OF
GARDINER AND THE
NEIGHBORING TOWNS
WHO GAVE THEIR
YOUNG LIVES IN
THE SERVICE OF OUR
COUNTRY FOR THE
CAUSE OF FREEDOM
* AND PEACE *

Inscribed below the above text, near the base, and in smaller text is:

GREATER LOVE HATH NO
MAN THAN THIS. THAT A MAN
LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS
FRIENDS

carving on the south side is limited to the names of fallen soldiers from the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The names of the Vietnam War soldiers were added to the memorial after its construction.

Palmer Fountain – 1894, 1977, non-contributing object

The fountain was originally constructed in 1894 but was altered in the 1940s and again in 1977. It currently has a one-and-one-half-foot high circular granite base that encloses a pool. The twenty-five feet diameter base is encircled by a concrete walkway. A low stone base in the center of the pool supports the current bronze sculpture of a slender nude woman with upraised arms circled by birds. A spray of water is projected from the base to the full nine feet height of the sculpture. (See photo 9.)

The fountain was originally donated by Susan C. Palmer in memory of her husband Dr. Gideon Stinson Palmer (1813 - 1891) a local physician, Civil War veteran, and professor at Howard University. When the fountain was constructed, it consisted of the current granite base and pool but had a sculpture of Neptune. The base was crafted by the Hallowell Granite Company, and the Neptune sculpture was cast by J. W. Fiske Company of New York from an original Roman design according to the *Gardiner Dailey Reporter Journal* of June 14, 1894. The Neptune sculpture, several cannons and a fence around the Civil War memorial were recycled for scrap during WW II. The current sculpture *The Lady with the Birds* was designed by Norman Therrien in 1976 and installed in 1977. Due to the age of the replacement sculpture, which is the principle character defining feature, this object does not contribute to the district.

Gazebo – ca. 2012, non-contributing structure

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The current gazebo was built in this location in 2012. It is an octagonal structure with a low deck supporting simple square columns at each angle of the octagon. The base of the structure is enclosed with lattice work. A simple balustrade between columns encloses three sides on the west and two sides on the east. One bay at the north side of the octagon has a ramp to access the deck. Two of the south bays have stairs. The octagonal roof is steeply sloped, and asphalt shingled. An octagonal lantern with louvered sides has a similar steeply sloping asphalt roof. (See photo 5.) This gazebo replaced a 1977 gazebo which was itself a replacement for a ca 1920 shingle style one that was located further east toward Dresden Avenue near the current playground's location. Based on the age of the current gazebo it does not contribute to the Square.

Playground – 2008, non-contributing structure

The current playground equipment replaces the first playground installed on the common in 1989. The current installation includes two swing sets and a combination play structure. (See photo 2.) The equipment's steel supports are anchored into the ground which is covered in wood chips beneath and around the equipment. The current playground design and equipment date to 2008 and do not contribute to the Square.

Overall Integrity

The 1808 survey plan confirms the location is intact and the size has been maintained. The 1824 deed conveying the property to the town of Gardiner called for maintaining it as a public parade ground with walks and add a surrounding fence. The Square retains integrity to the original appearance with few changes. The 1856 map of Gardiner and later maps also show the consistent appearance of the Square and in some cases show the locations of the paths. Historic photos from as early as 1875 show the common with the Civil War Memorial, perimeter fence, gravel paths and lawn interspersed with trees. Features have been added over time, but the overall appearance of the grass covered, fenced Square with a few shade trees is intact. The setting, feeling and association of the Square and surrounding neighborhood have been maintained. The relatively small-scale structures and objects added since 1875 have little negative impact on the overall expanse of green space as originally laid out and later donated to the town for use and enjoyment by its people.

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8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Entertainment / Recreation

Period of Significance

1808-1971

Significant Dates

1824, 1875, 1936, 1955

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

Brunswick Square in Gardiner, Kennebec County, Maine is a three-acre greenspace laid out during an 1808 survey and given to the city in 1824 for public use as a public walk and parade ground. The Square is significant under Criterion C for landscape architecture as a good example of its type of landscape architecture. The Square is significant under Criterion A for community planning and development for its early creation and prominent place in the development of Gardiner's surrounding residential neighborhoods. The Square is also significant in the area of entertainment and recreation for its use as recreation space for individuals and a wide variety of community events. The period of significance is from 1808 to 1971. The end date reflects the importance and continued development of the Square over time. The addition of monuments and structures reflects changing trends in civic treatment of municipal greenspace, and these features reflect continuing significance in the areas of recreation and community planning up to 1971.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Brunswick Square is significant in the area of landscape architecture as a property type. It is the earliest known residential square in Maine.² The residential square is created as an enticement to the development of a residential neighborhood around this public amenity. The square may share some features with the earlier meetinghouse common or town common of New England, but it was created with the intent of selling lots and encouraging construction on them.³ Brunswick Square shares elements of both the residential square and the public square which are discussed in detail in the following text.

The Square is also significant for its role in community development and planning. Robert Hallowell Gardiner inherited a significant amount of land from his family, and he worked diligently to plan, develop and improve the town which became the City of Gardiner. Brunswick Square is an important feature in the 1808 survey and plan of the town that Gardiner commissioned. The survey and later construction around the Square illustrate his vision for the community's growth. His construction of Christ Church and a school on the Square reflect his continued intention of developing a community center for the town separate from the

² Based on the resource survey form and the report *Unravelling the Layers*, both are products of the 1991 statewide survey of Maine's historic designed landscapes by the Maine Olmsted Alliance for Parks and Landscapes. The documents are held by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine Historical Society.

³ John William Reys. *Town Planning in Frontier America*. Columbia, Mo: University of Missouri Press. 1980. p. 16.

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downtown commercial and industrial center along the Cobbossee Stream and Kennebec River.

The creation of the Square and donation of it to the town by R. H. Gardiner as a "public walk and parade ground" reflects the third area of significance of the Square. As the Square was developed according to Gardiner's deed requirements and later added to by the City, it is a central outdoor recreational and entertainment focal point for the town. With its early paths and open lawns, the later gazebo and monuments, and more recently the playground, it has continued to be an important public ground and meeting place throughout its existence.

Early Development

The current City of Gardiner was initially developed by Dr. Silvester Gardiner who was one of the Proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase. He founded Gardinerstown Plantation in 1754 at the confluence of the Kennebec River and Cobbosseecontee Stream. Gardiner saw the industrial and transportation potential of the location based on the river access to the Atlantic Ocean and the waterpower potential of the stream's 130' elevation change. While Gardiner was able to encourage some settlement and construction of a grist mill in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War, Gardiner's royalist stance slowed development of the town after 1776. In that year he returned to England, and as a loyalist, Dr. Gardiner's property was under threat of confiscation. He died in 1786, and his land holdings passed to his grandson Robert Hallowell Gardiner in 1787 who was only five at the time. R. H. Gardiner was able to recover ownership of the Gardiner property, but the town grew slowly while Robert matured and settled ownership disputes. In 1801, he moved to Gardinerstown Plantation, settled disputes with squatters and worked to develop the area which had little inland settlement away from the river and few roads. The Plantation of 1754 became a town in 1803 with a population of 650.

As his grandfather had initially encouraged millers, builders, and farmers to move to Gardiner, R. H. Gardiner set about developing and expanding the town by laying out residential and farm lots. Planning and development of the town was aided by a survey that R. H. Gardiner commissioned to lay out lots and roads for future development. Brunswick Square is identified on the 1808 Soloman Adams Survey Map which also defined town and farm lots. (See Figure 5.) At that time, the Square and surrounding property are owned by Robert Hallowell Gardiner. Also, in 1808, R. H. Gardiner began advocating for a post road to Portland which was not finished until 1812. By 1810 the population of Gardiner was 1,029 although the land base included parts of present-day West Gardiner and Farmingdale.⁴

After the 1808 survey, the town continued to grow and there was infill around the Square. In 1820 Christ Episcopal Church (NRIS# 73000129) was completed to the north of the Square. This monumental building created an anchor on the Square. By 1820 the population was 2,053 almost doubling in ten years. It was shortly after construction of Christ Church near the Square that Robert Hallowell Gardiner decided to give the Square to the town with certain conditions and the right to repossess it if the conditions were not met. The following quote from the deed states his gift:

⁴ Gardiner has a current population of 5,650.

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In consideration of my desire to promote the convenience of the inhabitants of the town of Gardiner and with the intent of ornamenting said town, do hereby convey to said Inhabitants the piece of land called Brunswick Square as delineated upon the plan of survey of the Cobbossee Contee tract by Soloman Adams, Esq., dated Dec. 30th, 1808. Upon condition that said Inhabitants shall never allow any building to be thereon, but shall keep the same in good order as a public walk and parade ground, shall keep and preserve rows of trees on said Square and shall put and keep a neat fence between that part of Square used for road and that part used for walks.

His required improvements like an enclosing fence, walking paths, rows of trees and an open parade ground are similar to typical improvements to greenspaces of the time identified as commons, but Gardiner specifically identified this property as a Square.

Square

Brunswick Square may appear to be a common which it is often called, but there are distinct differences among these two types of open space. Naming the area as a "square" among the lots on the survey map identifies Gardiner's vision of the property and the community to be developed. Various names are used for public green space in New England. Common, town common, square, and green share visual characteristics but have different historic origins and intents. The earliest New England commons were typically associated with the meetinghouse lot and owned by the trustees or pew holders. This type of common is seen less often in Maine due to later settlement here than in southern New England. The town common as opposed to the meetinghouse common was owned by the municipality. These commons might be donated or sold to the town for a minimal price. In the case of a donated common, there was often a requirement that the town improve the land to retain use. Similar to the town common is the square although the square is associated with residential development by an individual or group. A major difference being that the square, while often open to the public, is created to encourage development often speculative by a developer and is the creation of an individual not a group whether of church members or townspeople. In addition to these types, there were later village greens that were developed more as parks but with the intent to evoke the appearance of an idealized colonial village common.

The idea of a residential square originates in seventeenth century Europe. The square was surrounded by residences and provide a greenspace shared by those owners. The houses around these squares were usually more closely packed than around Brunswick Square. There were also public squares intended for public gatherings, often with a significant religious or governmental building, and additional residential or commercial infill. Brunswick Square is residential in that it anchors a residential neighborhood and encourages development. The Square is also similar to the public square and a town common in that it is open to all. As buildings were constructed around Brunswick Square, it developed an appearance similar to commons and a public square. It is expressly a residential square in its intent to develop the residential area, but it has visual links to the meetinghouse common with the presence of a monumental church. This church building though was constructed years after the Square was laid out and is Episcopalian and not Congregational as was the typical church on a meetinghouse common in the 17th or 18th century. The presence of Christ Church as well as

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later churches and a school⁵ give the space the feeling of a public square. By 1856 there were three churches and a school across the street from the Square and by 1879 a fourth church joined them. Intermixed with these were around ten residences. This Square with its mixed qualities of both public and residential squares created a religious and educational center for the neighborhood.

Continued Development

The typical appearance of the various types of public greenspace up to about the 1840s was largely unimproved. If the area was altered it was usually by leveling for militia use, tree planting or possibly fencing. Those are the same improvements that R. H. Gardiner required in his 1824 deed. Those improvements took the town around sixteen years to achieve. In 1839 after no improvements to the Square, Gardiner moved to retake possession. In 1840 his son-in-law Francis Richards delivered an impassioned speech to the townspeople encouraging them to care for the Square as required by the deed. At around the same time period many New England commons receive increased care and improvement. The Town of Gardiner funded the stone and wood fence around the Square in 1844-45 based on that year's town report. After the required improvements, the Square was solidly under Town ownership and direction.

Brunswick Square has many later additions and alterations that are typical of New England greenspaces. The Square like the meetinghouse commons and town commons evolved to a current day appearance that includes fences, paths, memorials, and other aspects of a park like appearance. The evolution of these spaces is set apart from later village greens created around the 1890s or later in Maine. These later greenspaces which were often donated by Village Improvement Societies or wealthy donors were designed to look like the earlier public space's organic development that evolved over many years.

The first major alteration to Brunswick Square after the fencing, path making, and tree planting was the construction of a Civil War monument. The monument is a typical feature of many Maine public green spaces with 137 known monuments built statewide.⁶ Gardiner's monument was erected in 1875 and dedicated in 1876. In addition to recognizing sacrifices made during the Civil War, the dedication in the United States' Centennial year suggests another layer of symbolism. This most prominent construction on the Square is also a sculptural piece of public art.

Maine Public Landscapes: 1719 – 1950, a draft Multiple Property Listing written by historian Shary Page Berg, discusses the prevalence and significance of Civil War monuments as part of a designed public landscape context statement as follows:

The Civil War had a profound effect on the state of Maine, with unprecedented loss of life...Civil War monuments and their associated grounds are by far the most common type of public landscape in the state, found in some form in at

⁵ The Gardiner Lyceum was built and operated here from 1822 until 1832. The building was later used as the town high school.

⁶ Figure from the *Maine Civil War Sesquicentennial* website. <https://www.maine.gov/civilwar/monuments/sentinels.html> Accessed February 2021.

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least 71 communities (Civil War Centennial Commission). Commemoration began even before the war ended. The Bangor memorial erected in 1864 in Mount Hope Cemetery is reported to be the first monument to the Union dead in the U.S. Additional monuments were erected immediately after the war and in the years that followed, with many around the fiftieth anniversary of the conflict. Monuments were provided by municipal governments, veteran's organizations, public subscription, private donor or some combination of the above...

Forms of commemoration varied....most communities erected sculptural monuments in outdoor settings. Many were located adjacent to public buildings such as court houses (Auburn, Bath, Ellsworth), city or town halls (Belfast, Biddeford, Winthrop), or on library grounds (Houlton, Machias, Madison, Pittsfield). Others were located in cemeteries, such as in Clinton, Hallowell, Litchfield, [and] Portland... Union, Freeport and Thomaston were among the towns that placed their monuments in an older common. [In several communities] new public spaces were created. In other communities monuments were located either in the village or along the main road in a visible location....Civil War monuments and their associated landscapes, prominent and visible throughout the state, are often the only sculpture or public landscape in smaller towns....Many communities have World War I and later monuments, but these are almost always smaller, less elaborate and sited in a subordinate way...⁷

As in other communities, Gardiner erected additional monuments on the Square including the All War Memorial which is smaller and subordinate as Berg suggested is typical across Maine. The City also allowed three memorials to individual citizens: Silas Stinson, Edwin Arlington Robinson and Dr. Palmer. The first two are also small, simple and placed in less prominent locations like the All War Memorial. The Palmer Fountain while placed in a less visible location is large and arguably more visually engaging than the Civil War Memorial. As a fountain with representational sculpture, whether the original or the current replacement sculpture, this memorial has a decidedly different feel than the more static and staid Civil War Memorial.

In addition to the war memorials, flagpoles have been erected on the Square. The most recent flagpole was erected in 1941 as reported in the *Kennebec Journal* of August 9. However, the *Gardiner Independent* reported erection of a flagpole in its May 26, 1900 issue. That flagpole and encircling flowerbed were not mentioned in the 1941 article and appeared to be largely forgotten.

Entertainment and Recreation

The monuments and structures constructed on the Square observe Robert Gardiner's original restriction precluding buildings particularly when a building is defined per National Register standards as, "created principally to shelter any form of human activity." Based on this definition, the National Register program classifies a gazebo as a structure. Each structure, object and feature of the Square provides some aspect of entertainment and recreation for

⁷ Shary Page Berg. "Maine Public Landscapes: 1719 - 1950." Draft Multiple Property Listing. (Maine Olmsted Alliance for Parks and Landscapes), October 2, 1992. Copy on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine. 10 – 12.

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users while also maintaining the original intent of an open greenspace for general public use as a parade ground, gathering space, or walk. Each of the memorials have a place as public art creating interest along the walks that R. H. Gardiner envisioned for residents' entertainment and enjoyment. The gazebo and the playground while non-contributing to the Square add to the sense of an entertainment and gathering space that commons and early squares have evolved into.

The Civil War Memorial was dedicated on May 30, 1876, Memorial Day. That dedication likely ensured the Square's inclusion in future Memorial Day activities. Various Gardiner newspapers from 1893 through 1913 continued to report later Memorial Day processions from church, to cemetery, to hall and to the Memorial on the Square. Gardiner's Heath Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was particularly involved in the events and the GAR as a national organization was a major advocate of the holiday activities.

Other town gatherings and holiday celebrations also took place on the Square. The first community Christmas tree was erected on the Square in December of 1913. The *Reporter Journal* newspaper of December 26, 1913, reported that a 30' tall lighted tree was erected and six church local choirs sang to a reported crowd of 2,500. It appears that the tradition of a Community Christmas Tree on the Square was an annual event until 1925. The newspaper reported the practice was discontinued in 1926. During a similar time period, the *Gardiner Journal* reported events of the annual Chautauqua on the Square. The six-day program was an annual event from 1919 through 1930 and may have been held in additional years. A large tent was erected on the Square for the various musical acts, lectures, and other entertainments.

In addition to use for ceremonial events, holiday gatherings, or casual walks, the Square was used for play as well. Even after tree lined walks and the Civil War Monument were constructed, baseball was played in the Square as reported in 1887 editions of the *Gardiner Home Journal*. The games were organized inter-community events with reported box scores. It seems these serious games soon found a more suitable location. As the August 3, 1887 edition noted, the Square was not the best field due to the trees surrounding the limited open space.

The Square was better suited for the play of younger children. *Gardiner's Daily Reporter Journal* in November 2, 1895, reported improvements to the Square including grass seeding, a playground and a swing. It is unclear if "playground" was meant to indicate equipment in addition to a swing or simply a defined area for children to play. In either case the report indicates both minor play infrastructure was present and that the Square was a destination for children's as well as adults' entertainment and recreation. A large elaborate playground was constructed in 1989. By 2008 that structure needed to be replaced. At that time the community debated the appropriateness of such a structure on the Square. The resulting playground has a smaller footprint and is less visually intrusive than its predecessor.

A gazebo is a feature typically found on community greenspaces and one that was present on Brunswick Square ca. 1920. A Shingle Style gazebo appears to be the first constructed on the Square. A July 7, 1880 article in the *Gardiner Home Journal* reported that the Gardiner Band

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played two concerts in the Square but were frustrated by the lack of a gazebo and having to carry their own chairs and lights to the Square. The article confirms the lack of a gazebo at the same time confirming the use of the Square for concerts. Once the Shingle Style gazebo was built it remained on the Square until the mid-1950s when it was removed. A second gazebo was built in 1977 but replaced by the current gazebo in 2012. Due to its age, the gazebo does not contribute to the district, but the continued presence of this type of structure reflects the public nature of the recreational space for music, celebrations, speeches, or a casual meeting.

The overall importance of the Square as a type of landscape architecture, a central part of planning the community and a recreational space is reflected in the overall integrity it retains. The City has added several monuments and structures to the Square, but they have maintained Robert Hallowell Gardiner's directions and the original layout. It is not unusual for a greenspace of this type and age to have been reduced in size or crossed by a street. In 1929, the Maine State Highway Commission felt the curve around the Square was hazardous. They advocated for straightening Brunswick Avenue by cutting through the corner of the Square. The *Gardiner Journal* of May 30, 1929, reported that a town meeting was overwhelmingly against the idea. If the idea was revisited later, it was denied again as confirmed by the Square's configuration. The Square's continued integrity which the City has maintained since the gift by Robert Gardiner allows it to convey its historic significance.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Wood, Joseph S. "Build, Therefore, Your Own World": The New England Village as Settlement Ideal." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 81(1) 1991, pp 32-50.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.75 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- 1. Zone: 19 Easting: 438094 Northing: 4897360
- 2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
- 3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
- 4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property nominated are represented by the City of Gardiner property tax map 034 lot 295..

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries as described above reflect the historic limits of Brunswick Square as laid out in the 1808 Adams survey and as deeded to the City of Gardiner in 1824.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain
organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
street & number: 55 Capitol Street, 654 State House Station
city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333
e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov
telephone: 207 287-5435
date: August 31, 2020

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Brunswick Square

City or Vicinity: Gardiner

County: Kennebec State: Maine

Photographer: Michael Goebel-Bain

Date Photographed: July 29, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 9 ME_Kennebec County_Brunswick Square_001.tif
View from northeast corner of Square. Visible from left to right portion of the Palmer Fountain, gazebo, Civil War Memorial and Stinson Fountain, facing east.
- 2 of 9 ME_Kennebec County_Brunswick Square_002.tif
Looking across perimeter path with gazebo at left and playground at right, facing north.

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- 3 of 9 ME_ Kennebec County_Brunswick Square _003.tif
View into Square from southwest corner, facing northeast.
- 4 of 9 ME_ Kennebec County_Brunswick Square _004.tif
View across Square from northwest corner, facing southeast.
- 5 of 9 ME_ Kennebec County_Brunswick Square _005.tif
View of gazebo and war memorial, facing south.
- 6 of 9 ME_ Kennebec County_Brunswick Square _006.tif
View of Civil War Memorial, facing north.
- 7 of 9 ME_ Kennebec County_Brunswick Square _007.tif
View of Stinson Memorial Fountain, facing north.
- 8 of 9 ME_ Kennebec County_Brunswick Square _008.tif
View of Edwin Arlington Robinson Memorial, facing southwest.
- 9 of 9 ME_ Kennebec County_Brunswick Square _009.tif
View of Palmer Fountain and *Lady with Birds* sculpture, facing northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure 1 Brunswick Square location



Figure 2 Brunswick Square location, close view

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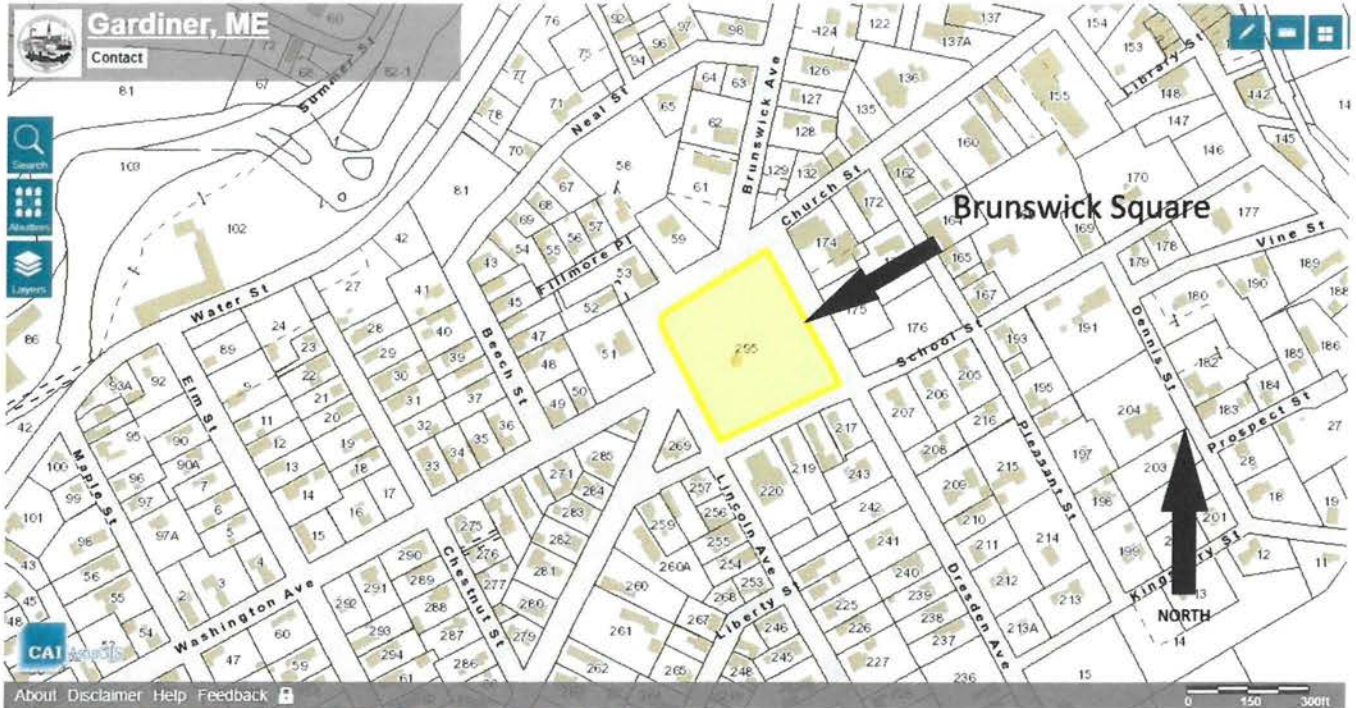


Figure 3 Brunswick Square Tax Map 034, lot 295

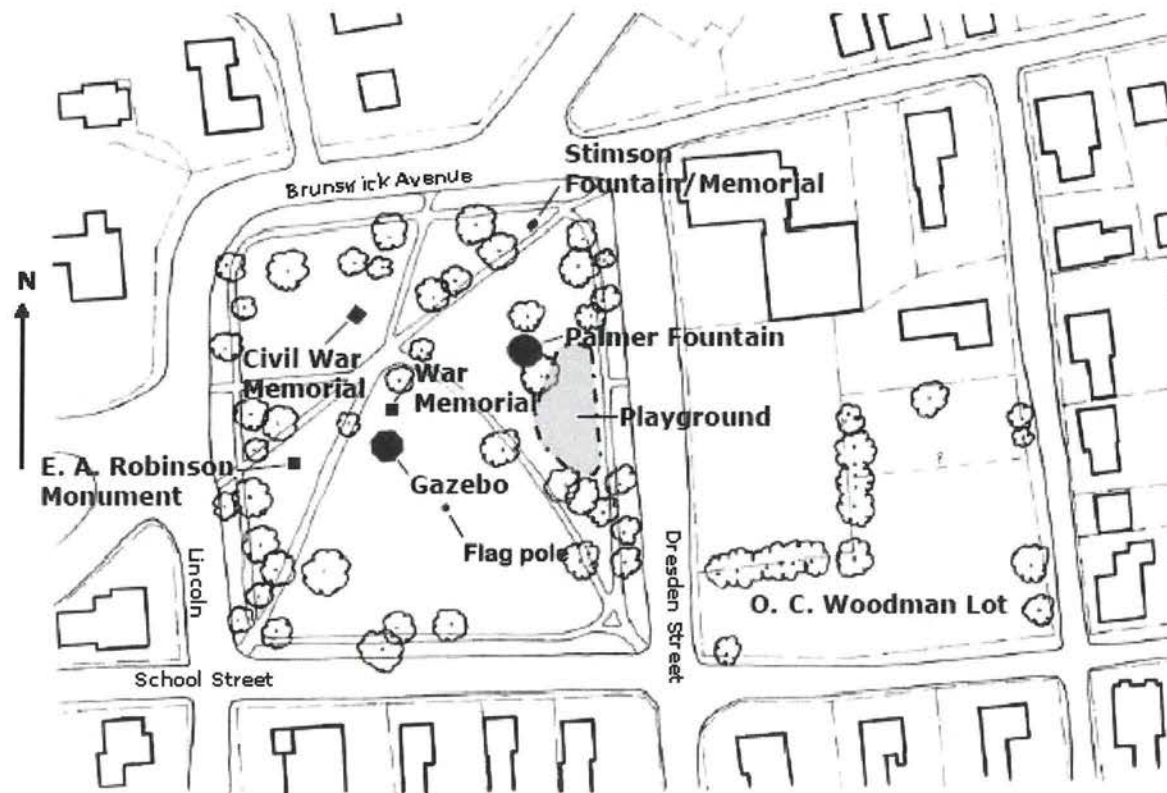


Figure 4 Brunswick Square Sketch Map with feature locations

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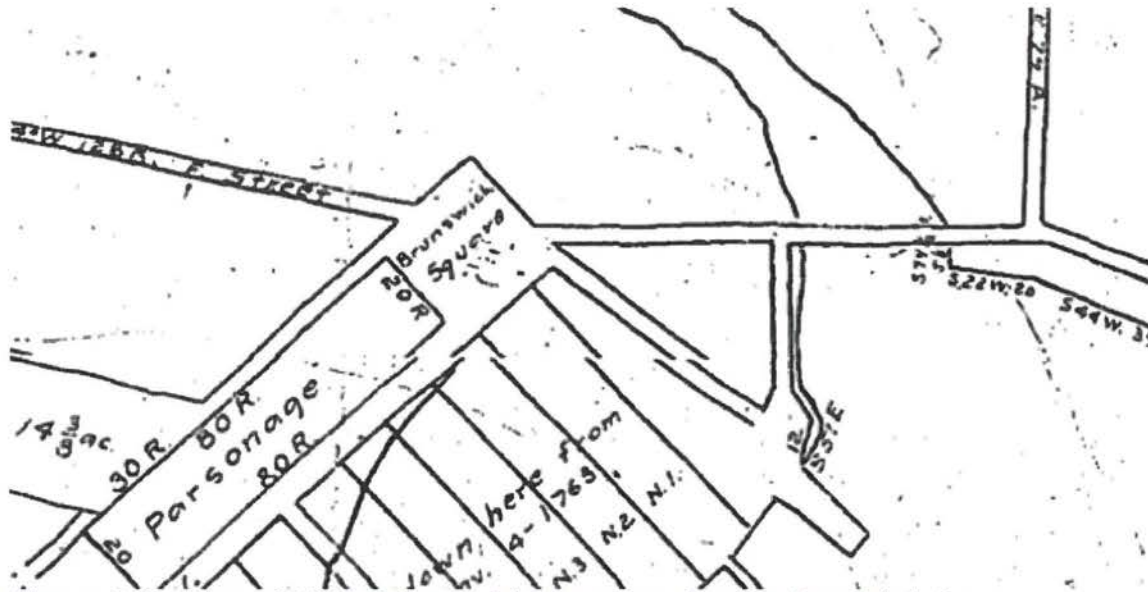


Figure 5 Section of 1808 Soloman Adams survey showing Brunswick Square

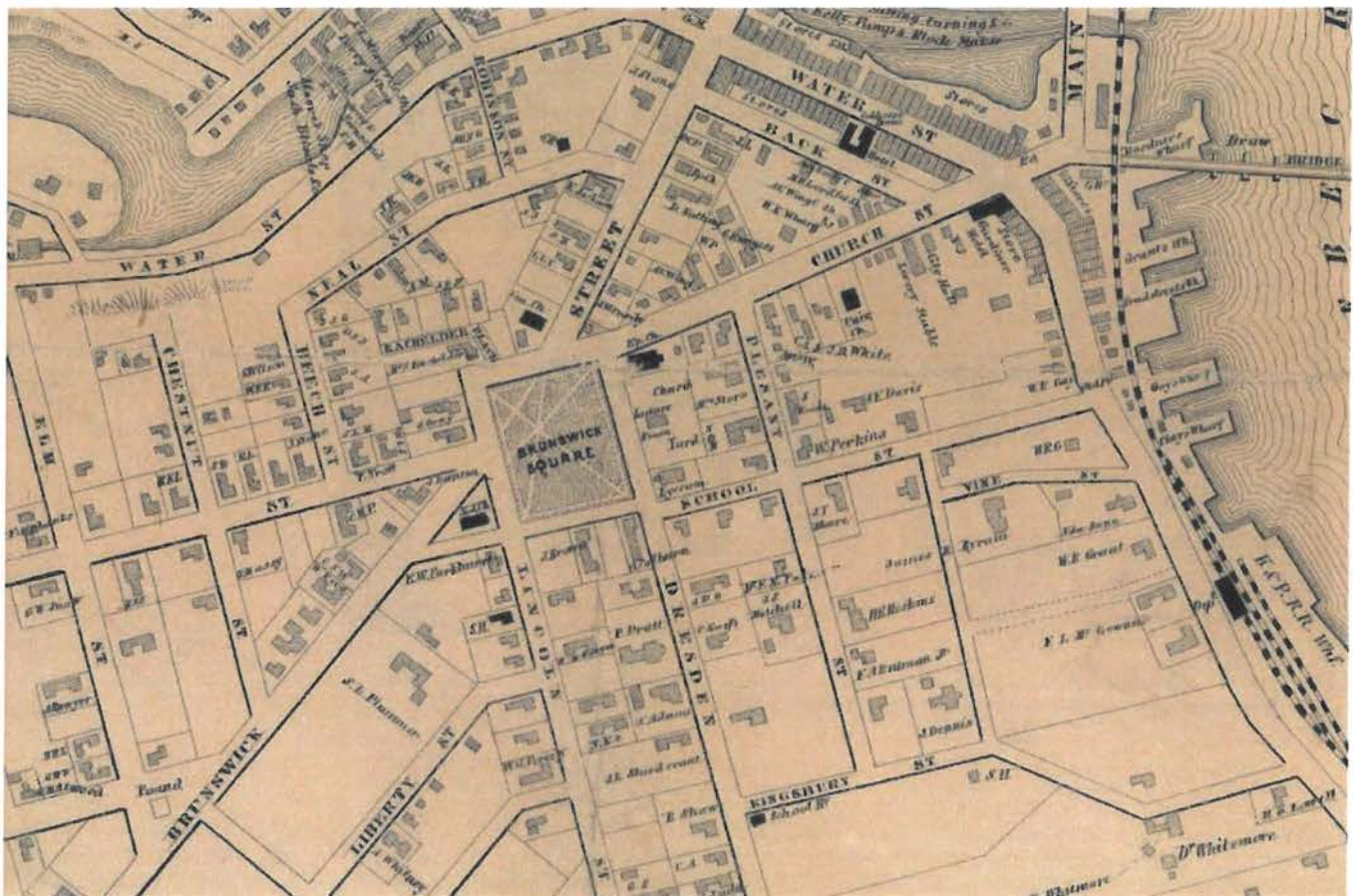


Figure 6 Kennebec County 1856 Map of Gardiner

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Figure 7 Brunswick Square with Civil War Monument and Christ Church, ca 1878. (MHPC stereo view collection)



Figure 8 Brunswick Square post card looking southwest with Stinson fountain in right foreground, ca 1936 (MHPC collection)

Brunswick Square
Name of Property

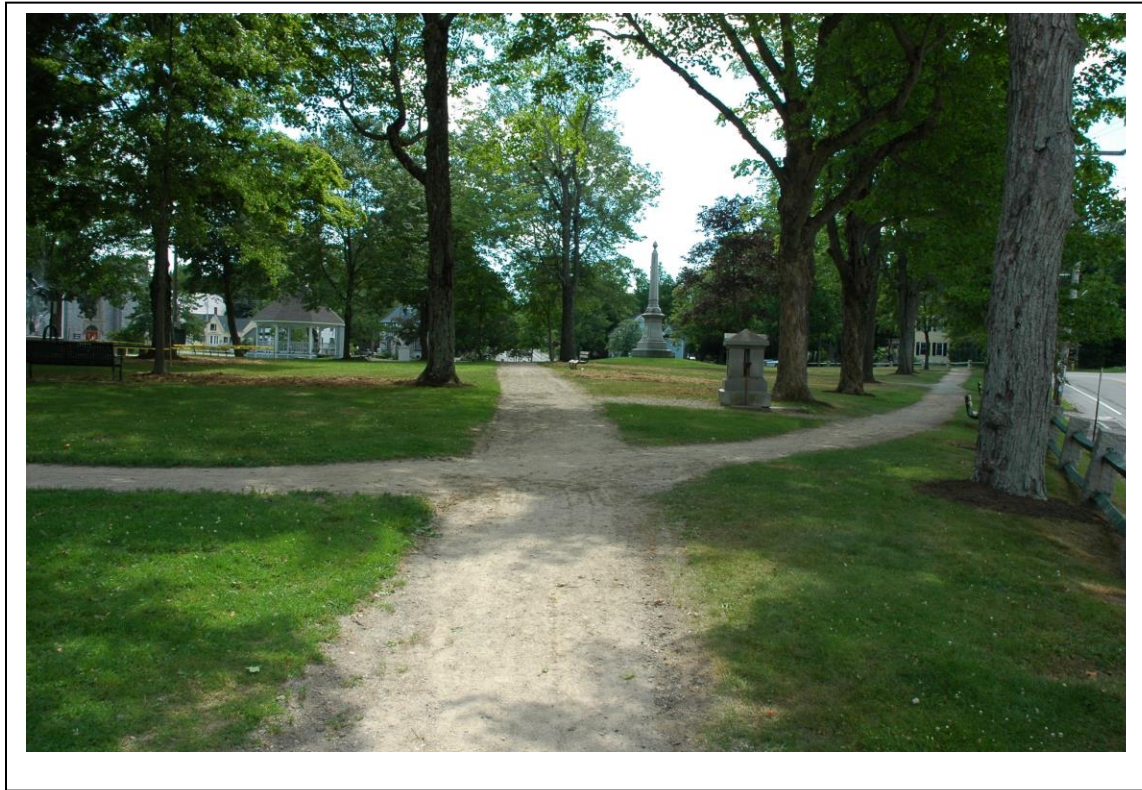
Kennebec County, Maine
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Figure 9 Brunswick Square post card, looking northeast, no date ca 1935 (MHPC collection)

National Register Nomination Photographs: Brunswick Square, Kennebec County, Maine

1



2



National Register Nomination Photographs: Brunswick Square, Kennebec County, Maine

3



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National Register Nomination Photographs: Brunswick Square, Kennebec County, Maine

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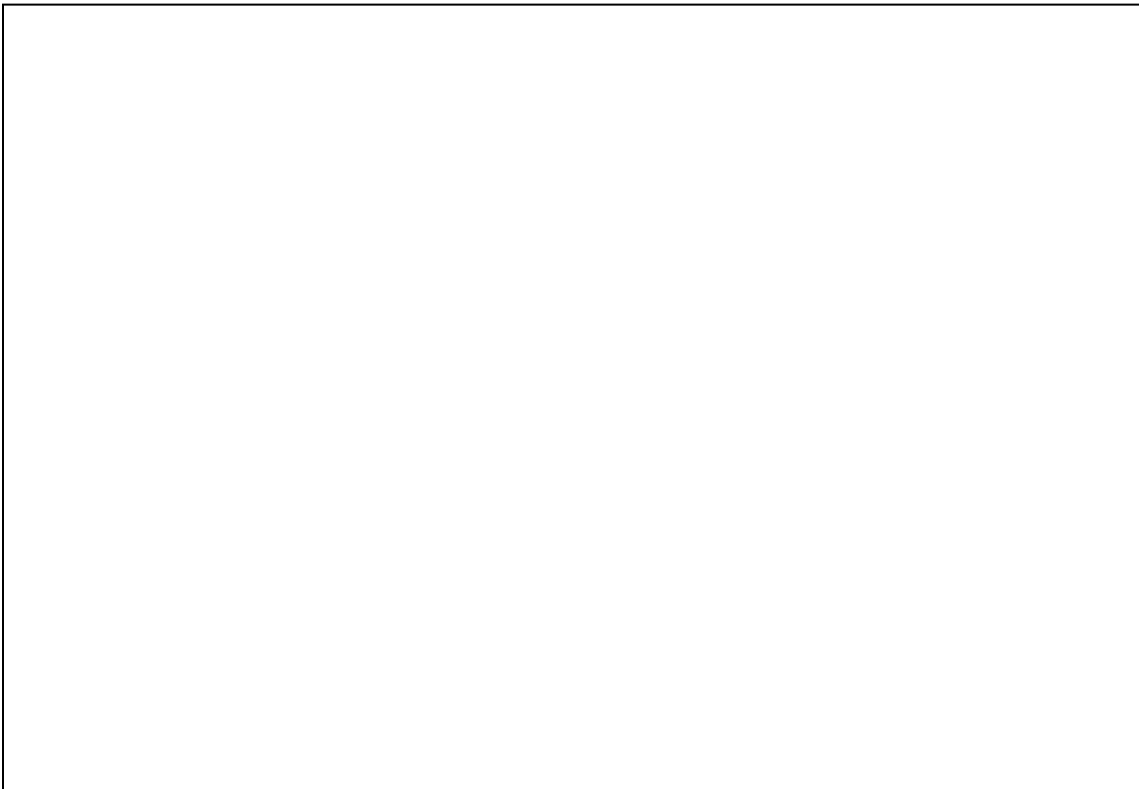
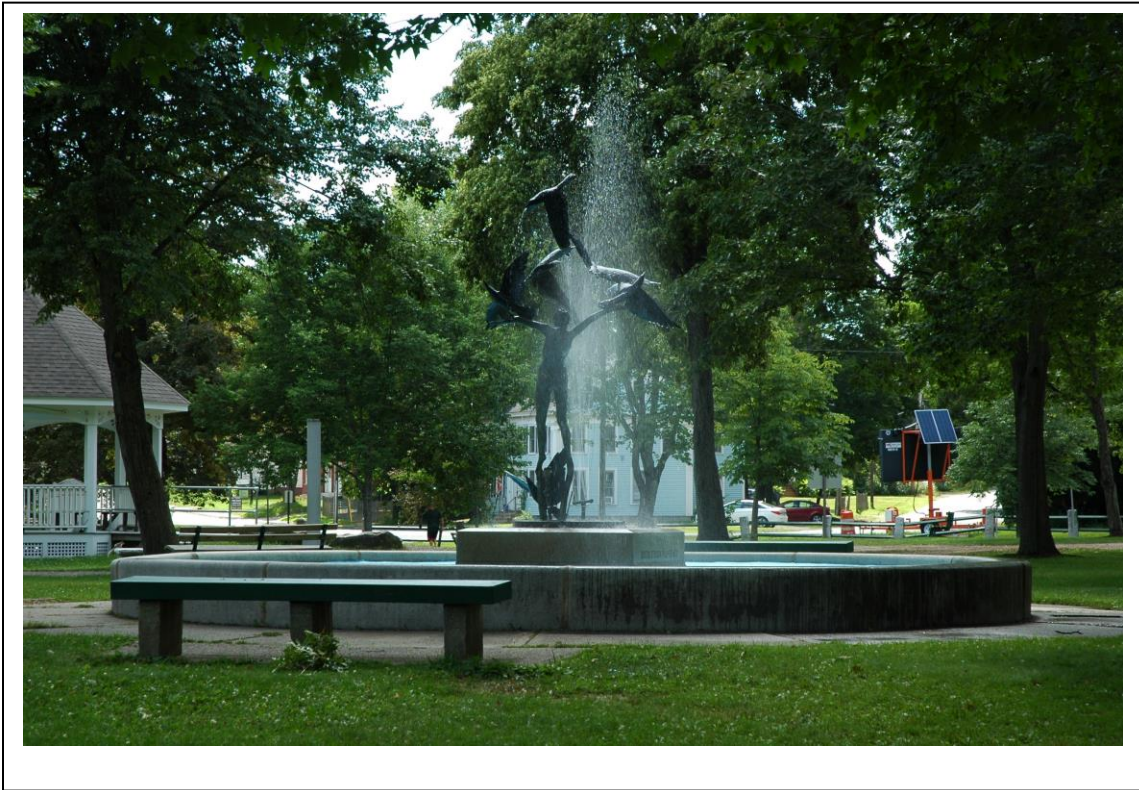
National Register Nomination Photographs: Brunswick Square, Kennebec County, Maine

7



8





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/13/2021 Date of Pending List: 5/25/2021 Date of 16th Day: 6/9/2021 Date of 45th Day: 6/28/2021 Date of Weekly List: 7/2/2021

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 6/28/2021 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY
DIRECTOR

May 13, 2021

Alexis Abernathy, Control Unit
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Control Unit:

We are submitting one new National Register nomination for **Brunswick Square**, Kennebec County, Maine. Please review the accompanying nomination form and images for listing in the National Register. The owner which is the certified local government was notified. A copy of the Gardiner Historic Preservation Commission is included.

If you have any questions relating to this request, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (207) 287-5435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kirk F. Mohney'.

Kirk F. Mohney
State Historic Preservation Officer

City of Gardiner Historic Preservation Commission

www.gardinermaine.com

Gerri Doyle, Chairperson
6 Church St.
207-582-6892
Gardiner, Me. 04345
207-582-6895

Angelia Christopher, Administrative Assistant

April 5, 2021

As a Certified Local Government (CLG) community in Maine, our active Historic Preservation Commission has engaged the business community in application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties that apply to our downtown historic district. Recently, the Commission considered the nomination of Brunswick Square (Gardiner Common) to be included as part of the city's historic district.

At its regular monthly meeting on March 16, 2021, the Gardiner Historic Commission endorsed the nomination of Brunswick Square as a significant historic property within the City of Gardiner. The nomination has the support of the Gardiner City Council and local officials.

Brunswick Square (Gardiner Common) was conveyed to the City of Gardiner by Robert Hallowell Gardiner in 1824. It is believed to be the "earliest known example in Maine of a green space known as a square".¹ The gift was made "in consideration of my desire to promote the convenience of the inhabitants of the town of Gardiner and with the intention of ornamenting said town..."² The Square is bordered by a fence constructed of granite bollards and wooden cross rails, the fence rails painted and maintained through a partnership of volunteers and the city. It has been and remains an important *cultural landscape* in our community.

The adjacencies include the site of the Gardiner Lyceum, Christ Church, St. Joseph's Church, the newly restored St. Anne's Burial Ground and a number of historic period homes.

We believe that Brunswick Square has made a significant contribution to the history of the City of Gardiner and to the State of Maine. Robert Hallowell Gardiner, an important figure in Gardiner's history, was one of the architects of the industrial development of the city. Brunswick Square stands as an illustration of his legacy in Gardiner. As a public park, a *vernacular landscape* that functions as a *recreational greenspace*, the Square is dearly loved by residents young and old. It is the cherished location of several contributing features including the Civil War Memorial, the E.A. Robinson Memorial, and the War Memorial. The presence of the memorial to Edwin Arlington Robinson, Pulitzer Prize winning author, is a defined marker of

¹ "Ice Storm Recovery Project" Johnson's Arboriculture/Treekeepers, 1998

² Iglheart, Elizabeth, "Greens Squares or Commons?" Maine Olmsted Alliance, Summer 1994

Gardiner's literary past. Just as important, but not yet a contributing feature, the Palmer memorial fountain commemorates the life and work of Doctor Gideon Stinson Palmer, Civil War Surgeon. In addition to his career as a local physician and regimental surgeon during the Civil War, Dr. Palmer would become the Director of Freedmen's Hospital and the Dean of Medicine at the newly founded Howard University, both in Washington D.C. Dr. Palmer provided care for black Union soldiers and indigent people in that city.

We believe that Brunswick Square is indeed an appropriate property to be nominated by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission as a significant cultural landscape. Our Common is the site of the annual Memorial Day observance, also the location of a children's playground, home of the Farmers' Market and many community activities. It functions as a walking/exercise trail with its many historic pathways and attracts visitors during the summer season for the operation of the Palmer Fountain. The gazebo is the home of many outdoor concerts, a gathering place for committee meetings during the pandemic, a dry space on rainy days. Picnics, football, soccer, yoga – all are practiced and played on this lovely greenspace throughout the year. It is the crown jewel of Gardiner situated at the top of the hill overlooking the Kennebec River. The city has been supportive of the property through improved maintenance, the removal of diseased trees and a proposal to Project Canopy for replanting. Though the majestic elms of centuries ago are gone, the Square is thriving. With the rebuilding of the Gazebo in 2012, the planned restoration of the Palmer Fountain and the move of the swing set to restore one of the historic pathways, Gardiner will take pride in this space into the new century.

Summary of Public Comment:

Public in attendance suggested the importance of the location of Brunswick Square – to include Saint Anne's burial ground, The Lyceum and two Churches, Christ Church and St. Joseph's. Comments also cited the life and work of Gideon Stinson Palmer, Civil War surgeon for whom the fountain on the Common is dedicated.

Public in attendance were in favor of this nomination.