

VOLUME 2

APPENDIX B

ALFRED HISTORIC DISTRICT

APPENDIX B Alfred Historic District

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

| | Map/Lot | Owner as of 2003 |
|-----|---------|---|
| 1. | 12-62 | Kaplin & LLC, Saco Road |
| 1A | 12-62 | Kaplin & LLC, Saco Road |
| 2. | 12.57 | Judy Vasalle, Saco Road |
| 3. | 12-56 | Alfred Parish Church, Saco Road |
| 4. | 12-55 | Charlotte and Robert Jones, Saco Road |
| 5. | 12-54 | Joseph and Joyce Wagner, Saco Road |
| 6. | 12.53 | Daniel and Kelly Gjidoni, Saco Road |
| 7. | 12-51 | Frances and William Sullivan, Saco Road |
| 8. | 12-50 | Donald and Pamela Gean, Saco Road |
| 9. | 12-48 | John II and Beth Folsom, Saco Road |
| 10. | 12-49 | Jane and Michael Kucsma, Saco Road |
| 11. | 12-47 | Richard and Marian Menelly, Saco Road, |
| 12. | 12-46 | Town of Alfred, Saco Road |
| 13. | 14-27 | Alfred Parish Church, UCC, Saco Road |
| 14. | 14-27 | Alfred Parish Church, UCC, Saco Road |
| 15. | 14-26 | Michael P Hussey, Saco Road |
| 16. | 14-24 | Frederick Miner, Box 55, Kingston, N. H. 03848 |
| 17. | 14-23 | Barbara and Robert Leslie, |
| 18. | 14-22 | Claudia and Gary Fuschillo, Waterboro Road |
| 19. | 14-21 | Mark and Georgette Jones, Waterboro Road (Destroyed by fire 2002) |
| 20. | 14-20 | Sherry Lawrence, Waterboro Road |
| 21. | 14-13 | John Folsom, Waterboro Road |
| 22. | 14-12 | Richard and Nancy Carter, Waterboro Road |
| 23. | 14-11 | James Folsom, Waterboro Road |
| 24. | 14-10 | Robert and Lynne Steffens, Waterboro Road |
| 25. | 14-9 | Alfred Square Assoc., Waterboro Road |
| 26. | 14-5 | Dwayne Smoot and John Morningstar, Waterboro Road |
| 27. | 14-4 | Town of Alfred, Oak Street |
| 28. | 14-3 | Colleen Fleming-Osborne, Oak Street |
| 29. | 14-2 | Helen and Joseph Farnsworth, Oak Street |
| 30. | 13-16 | Joyce and William Krahling, Oak Street |
| 31. | 12-24 | Deborah and Louis Lander, Oak Street |
| 32. | 12-23 | Michael and Ann Frechette, Oak Street |
| 33. | 12-32 | Elizabeth And Earland Morrison, Oak Street |
| 34. | 12-31 | John & Jacqueline Hanrahan, Oak Street |
| 35. | 12-30 | Minna Thompson, Oak Street |
| 36. | 12-29 | Patricia Benson, Oak Street |
| 37. | 12-28 | James Blouin, James Oak Street |
| 36. | 12-44 | James Blouin, Saco Road, (Alfred Country Store) |
| 39. | 12-43 | Michael and Ann Frechette, Saco Road |
| 40. | 12-42-A | Michael and Ann Frechette, Kennebunk Road |
| 41. | 12-42 | Joseph Golden and Sandra Lamont, Kennebunk Road |
| 42. | 12-41 | Joseph Golden and Sandra Lamont, Kennebunk Road |
| 43. | 12-40 | Lisa Cook, Kennebunk Road |
| 44. | 12-39 | T James Kodera, Kennebunk Road |

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|-----|---------|---|
| 45. | 12-60 | Town of Alfred, Kennebunk Road (Library) |
| 46. | 12-38 | Bernard and Pauline Dehaven, Kennebunk Road |
| 47. | 12-37 | Thomas And Brenda Holland, Kennebunk Road |
| 48. | 12-36 | York County, Kennebunk Road |

Statement of Significance

Simeon Coffin, the first white man to arrive in Alfred, came in November of 1764 and dwelt in an Indian wigwam on the northwest side of what is now called Shaker Pond. Members of the Coffin family and several of the other early settlers were later converted to Shakerism. For many years, Alfred was associated with the Shaker community which was built on the hill overlooking that same pond. Daniel Gile built the first two story home in Alfred. Some of the first cultivated cranberries grown in Maine were planted by the Giles on the shores of Shaker Pond. Today the Giles have extensive orchards in the same area of the village as that settled by Daniel.

The proposed historic district is located in the center of Alfred Village, which was incorporated February 4, 1794. The Conant and Knight families settled here during the 1760's and they and their descendants built many of the homes and shops around the village green. John Knight built a barn and ell (36) where he entertained early travelers, earning for him the nickname, "Barn Knight". During the revolutionary period, meetings to examine articles in the new form of government took place in Knight's barn. Here early churches meetings were held which were apparently somewhat disrupted by the Merry Dancers, a group of early celebrants whose activities seem to have shocked the more staid inhabitants of the community. Across the street from the barn is the oldest residential home in the village center, now called "The Beehive" (26). It is actually three buildings joined together with construction evolving over three centuries. John Knight began the first and oldest portion, the middle, c. 1770, in the colonial style. Although this is the most altered portion of the Beehive, many original features remain such as the raised paneling in the front room. In 1801 Joshua Conant, an early Alfred entrepreneur, purchased the 100 acre Knight holdings in the village center which he sold one month later to Dr. Abiel Hall, Sr. Dr. Hall lived in the Beehive, adding the northern section in the Federal style. Finally, the third and last section was built facing south, c. 1915, by Alonzo Roberts in the homestead style. At one time the Beehive housed multiple families, hence the name.

Alfred's best-known citizen, John Holmes, arrived in 1799. He was a young lawyer who became an expert in real estate law. Titles to Alfred land were in an unsettled state with squatters making improvements on land they did not own. Holmes was employed to secure good title in these cases. An example is the tract of land in Alfred Village for the jail. Thomas Hutchinson of Devon, England, deeded two acres to York County for the jail through John Holmes. The site of this original jail (22) is located next to John Holmes' dwelling (24). Called the "Bow and Arrow House", the Federal house of John Holmes was originally a Cape, which he raised to its present profile. Known for his gregariousness, Holmes designed with a flair reminiscent of the Southern hospitality he must have experienced in Washington where he was one of Maine's first two senators. Notable are the two story columns and the roof balustrade with bow and arrows pointing downward, a sign of friendliness toward the Indians, as well as tall Palladian windows centering the second story.

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John Holmes provided the impetus for locating the York County Court House here. Presence of the Court House significantly affected the character and ensured the growth of the village center. Completed in 1807, fireproof wings were added in 1854. Fire destroyed the original center section, which was rebuilt in 1933. Berry Tavern (41) facing Alfred Green, provided meals and lodging during court sessions in the mid 19th century. The Tavern was originally built for Daniel Holmes. It was here that Holmes developed one of the several local early 19th century potteries producing the much admired and collected Alfred redware. This home retains original 12/12 and 12/8 windows, Indian shutters, and stands almost touching the Porter Lambert house (42). Both have the low profile hip roof and high double end chimneys typical of, a large and stately Federal home.

Stylistic change provides visible evidence of changes in attitude and growth spurts experienced in the village. During the pivotal year of 1829, Dr. Abiel Hall, Sr. died and his land holdings in the village were divided. After this time, a profusion of Greek Revival homes, storefronts, and churches suggest the labor of local carpenters constructing on a less opulent scale with demands of living and intended use forcing adaptations in design, to accommodate a, more popular perspective.

Construction after 1860 assumes the Victorian sensibility reflected in increased sense of scale and proportion. Notable is the Victorian house built by J. N. Stinson (11) next to the Town Hall (12) which was constructed in the same year but in the Greek Revival Style. Both were built on sites of buildings burned in 1860. It is easy to understand the allure on the Italianate style in this country village. Porches and increased window size achieve an integration of interior and exterior space. Victorian infatuation with Italian architectural detail such as the corner quoins, bay windows, rows of roof line bracketts, and ornamental cupola provide a setting for living and entertaining enhanced to elegant sophistication. Many homes in the village reveal the changing fashion. Italianate porches abound on earlier buildings (Daniel Goodenow House (5), Abiel Hall House (36) etc. The corner quoins and other embellishments on the distinctive "Brick Ends" house (44) bespeak of neighborly influence from across the street coupled with an effervescent individualistic application of the current stylistic trend.

The Alfred Historic District presents a rural village situated in the center of a well-populated county. The village continues to maintain its 19th century flavor despite the area's rapid growth. Although there is a diversity of architectural style within the village, there is also a sense of continuity and pride in the past.