

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Limerick Upper Village Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 5 (running north and south through village) not for publication

city, town Limerick, vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county York code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Alfred, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ☐ no ☐

date _____ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local ☐

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Limerick Upper Village Historic District is comprised of a cohesive and compatible grouping of 18th, 19th and 20th century buildings, including businesses, residences, three churches, a former academy, library, a town hall, cemeteries, a band stand, a heater piece, a park, and a memorial marker. The district comprises basically what is considered to be the upper village or Main Street of Limerick. It was built on the top of a high ridge where a gap containing some 200 acres of level land breaks through and is bounded on the north and south by high close hills and to the east and west slopes off to an unobstructed scenic view for many miles.

Upon entering the town from the south on Sokokis Trail (State Route 51), the trail the Indians took from Saco to Fryeburg and beyond, there are two old cemeteries side by side on the right. These predate by many years the 1852 Baptist Society Church which sits on the brow of the hill. This old church has been a landmark to young and old for many years. It shields the sleeping cemeteries and seems to keep a benign watch over the surrounding countryside. Many changes have occurred in its life-time, including transportation from horse-drawn to automobile, to air; and many known and unknown wayfarers have and still do pass by foot into the main part of Limerick Village.

Travelling down the hill into town, the house (No. 7) on the left was built by Parson Edmund Eastman in the late 1790's. On the right are two old frame houses that are early 1800's. The Congregational Church with its unique weather vane, an arrow piercing a heart, was built in 1833, the third such church building for the Congregationalists. The stately Greek Revival brick house below the church was built in 1859 by Jeremiah M. Mason. Its appearance has never been altered. Directly across the street stands an edifice built in 1805 by Maj. Gen. John McDonald. In 1910 it became an inn bearing his name and is known today as "Shade of the Elm Inn". This building contains wall murals done in the 1800's by an itinerant painter in the school of Rufus Porter.

The next building (No. 13), early known as the Bean Block, on the left, was built by merchant Cotton Bean during the last half of the 19th century. Across the street stands a building which was used as a general store (No. 15). Now an antique store, its appearance has been unchanged since it was built in 1884 by Winburn Adams and his son, Hon. Charles Adams. The Limerick Library (No. 16) was built in 1881 as the law office of Luther S. Moore, noted lawyer and pioneer agricultural leader and trustee of the Maine State Agricultural College.

Two residences (Nos. 20 and 21), one recently converted to a store, are below and north of the bank building.

Leaving town headed north, there are clustered three interesting structures, beginning with the handsome brick town house, built in 1860. In Greek Revival style, it is a monument to the men whose dream it was to have a lasting edifice.

On a knoll across the street and to the north is the third Limerick Academy, built on the site of the second one which burned in 1870, and the band stand at the bottom of the hill and in front of the academy building. They are recent celebrants of their hundredth anniversaries. Limerick residents point with pride to the beautiful lyre weather vane on the academy.

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Located nearly at the junction of Routes 5 and 160 are the Benjamin Webster Mansion, original section of which was built in 1799 by John Quincy, a cousin of President John Adams, and the Freewill Baptist Church, built in 1822. The church was renovated to its present state in the 1920's. It, too, has a beautiful weather vane. The house immediately behind the church was built circa 1810 by "Captain" Benjamin Gilpatrick.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

1. Hillside Cemetery, north of No. 2.
2. Baptist Society Cemetery, adjacent to and north of church (NO. 3).
3. Baptist Society Church, 1852
Greek Revival
Bell tower and bell, 1 story, frame with clapboarded exterior.
4. Academy Monument, 1908.
5. Old cemetery, measures 40'X50', 24 visible markers, all before 1900.
6. M. F. Staples House, before 1856
Greek Revival
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
7. Rev. Edmund Eastman House, original house, 1790's, rebuilt, 1870's.
Federal with Italianate trim
2½ stories, 2 ells to the rear, frame with clapboarded exterior.
8. J. M. Morse House, c. 1840 (appears on 1852 map as being owned by J. M. Morse)
Greek Revival
1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
9. Col. Samuel Gilpatrick House, before 1852
Gothic Revival
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
10. Congregational Church, 1833
Late Federal and Gothic Revival
1 story with vestry, frame with clapboarded exterior.
11. Tibbetts memorial Park, memorial to all veterans and site each year of Memorial Day ceremonies following an annual parade.
(Many former Limerick residents return each year for this event.)
12. Maj. Gen. John McDonald House, 1805
Federal
3 stories with barn, frame with clapboarded exterior.
13. Cotton Bean Building, prior to 1877
Italianate
2 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
14. Jeremiah M. Mason House, 1859
Italianate
2½ stories, with attached barn 5 chimnies, brick with slate roof, banner weather vane on cupola of barn. Fine details, both inside and outside.

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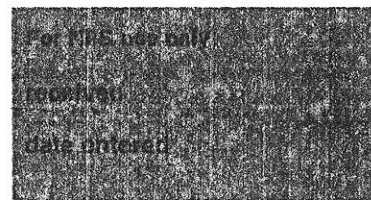
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15. Winburn Adams and Son Store, 1884
Italianate
2 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
16. Limerick Library, 1881
Italianate
1 story, frame with clapboarded exterior.
17. Limerick National Bank, 1881
Queen Anne
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
18. H. W. Hill Building, 1920
Colonial Revival
3 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, now covered with asphalt siding.
19. F. H. Townsend Building, 1900.
Vernacular
3 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
20. Isaac Emery House, 1859
Italianate
3 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
21. Ezra Eastman House, 1825-30
Federal
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
22. Town Hall, 1860
Italianate
3 stories, 60'X40', built by C. F. Libby of Portland and C. Johnson of Hollis, brick.
23. F. P. Johnston and Son Building, between 1900- 1905
Vernacular
1 story, frame with clapboarded exterior.
24. Band Stand, 1882
Renovated and moved back a few feet; road (originally a path) closed in 1982.
25. Limerick Academy, 1881
Italianate
1½ stories with gabled end facing Main Street, bell tower tops; structure and lyre weather vane flies over all.
26. Benjamin Webster Mansion, 1799
Original Federal 2½ story house in front built by Jacob Quincy; c. 1880
Greek Revival style portico and major alterations to original house and addition of massive 3 story wing by Mabel Weddell.
27. Freewill Baptist Church, first quarter 19th century, original building
Mid-1920's building raised one story and stairs added across front; now 2 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
28. "Captain" Benjamin Gilpatrick House, c. 1800
Federal
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.

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Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district

- A. Judy's Beauty Shop (Main Street): 1964, 1 story, wood frame, flat roof
- B. Parker's Village Store (Main Street): c.1890, 1 story, wood frame, facade badly altered.
- C. L. Provencher's Barber Shop (Main Street): c. 1950, 1 story, wood frame
- D. Limerick Texaco Station (Main Street): c. 1945, 1 story, masonry, flat roof
- E. Limerick Post Office (Main Street): 1964, 1 story, wood frame
- F. Limerick Gulf Station (Main Street): c. 1960, 1 story, wood frame, flat roof

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The town of Limerick in the county of York is the central one of the five original Ossipee towns north of the Little Ossipee River which was conveyed to Francis Small of Kittery by Captain Sandy, a Sagamore Chieftain in 1668. In 1669, Small conveyed half of his Ossipee tract to Maj. Nicholas Shapleigh of Kittery. In 1711, however, he also conveyed his land to his son Samuel.

In October, 1772, Isaiah Foster testified in Alfred court that he came with his "fammerly" and settled under the proprietors of Limerick.

Also in 1772 a survey of the town was made by Paul Hussey, with John Wingate and John Poak, marking the corners. A lead tablet dated May 15, 1772 recording the names of identical parties who had ordered the survey was found in 1845 near the Little Ossipee River. This plaque is on file at the Maine Historical Society in Portland.

In 1773, the Nicholas Shapleigh heirs and Samuel Small heirs made a final division of the land. Each party agreed to give James Sullivan, a noted jurist, one half 13,000 acres called by the name Limbrick or Limerick, named in honor of Sullivan's father's birthplace in Ireland. Sullivan, in turn, was obliged to defend their titles to the land. Sullivan, in addition to Limerick land development activities, was a politician, and at the height of his career in 1807 was elected governor of Massachusetts. He was also a noted historian.

At least 12 Limerick men served in the Revolutionary War. These soldiers, including Abijah Felch, one of Limerick's earliest settlers, received grants of land.

The first preaching was in 1780, and the Freewill Baptist Church was organized. In 1785, twenty pounds was raised for school keeping. A frame school house was "inclosed" that year, according to town records.

The town was incorporated in 1787. In 1790, there were 411 people in town. Between 1790 and 1800, the Baptists erected a meeting house, and the Congregationalists erected a meeting house. Dr. James Paine settled to practice medicine, and the Rev. Edmund Eastman became the first settled minister. The first post office was opened in 1796.

As the 19th century began there was a thriving backwoods village at Perrys Corner. A store, tannery, shoe shop and ashery, followed shortly by a hotel, were in operation there. The census listed 829 people in Limerick, and in 1801, John Burnham came to practice law.

The most significant event of the early 19th century was the establishing of the Limerick Academy. The academy was the brainchild of the Rev. Eastman, a man of vision, who walked to Boston in 1808 to obtain its charter from the Massachusetts Governor and Limerick's own James Sullivan. The academy probably influenced and affected more lives than any school in the area. It brought culture and learning and gave many men and women an opportunity to study the classics, Greek, Latin and French and provided relief from the hard work of the era.

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The academy was built on land donated by the Rev. Eastman, and private contributions were used to erect the building. It was built on the southerly approach to town, now known as Academy Hill, opposite the Baptist Society Church. School opened in 1811.

Many distinguished men graduated from the Academy. Alpheus Felch and the Hon. James Bradbury were born here in 1804, graduated as classmates from the Limerick Academy and went on to Bowdoin College. Felch went on to Ann Arbor, Michigan and was admitted to the bar there. He became governor of Michigan and was elected senator to the 30th U.S. Congress from that state in 1847. Bradbury was a lawyer and went to the U.S. Congress from Maine. There they both served with such notables as Stephen A. Douglas, John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster. In 1884, they were the sole surviving members of that Congress.

This first academy burned in 1851, and a second academy was built on the same spot in 1881. The third academy, which stands today at the focal point of Limerick, held classes until 1925 when this esteemed place of study graduated its last class. The Limerick Academy sent out into the world many successful and dedicated people, including lawyers, doctors, ministers, teachers, and writers of note. Arthur Jeremiah Roberts, for example, who walked to and from the neighboring town of Waterboro to attend the Limerick Academy, became the president of Colby College. Graduate Anne Carroll Moore, daughter of Luther S. Moore, established the children's department of the New York City Public Library system and was author of several noted children's books.

In 1820, when Maine became a state, the population of Limerick was 1,377, which is about equal to the 1980 census. In 1824, Historian Charles Freeman wrote: "Most of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture. Their money, they obtain mostly, by the sale of livestock and horses. Hay is the most valuable growth followed by corn and potatoes as articles of produce. Some wheat is grown but the climate isn't favorable. Butter is made in large quantities and sold at country stores or kept till winter and carried to seaport. A quantity of cheese is sold. Orchards do well but more cider is made than for the interest of the town. Fencing is chiefly stone wall for which there is a sufficiency in the ground."

Freeman goes on to say that "Chaises and waggons and gigs are manufactured. Bureaus, chairs and other cabinet work are made and shoes and hats are made in such quantity as to be sent abroad for sale."

In 1824 there were four blacksmith shops, four cabinet maker shops, chaise and waggon shops, four shoemakers, three tanneries, two lawyers, one tailor, and a printing office, one academy school house, two apartments and three meeting houses.

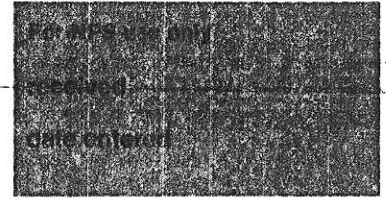
In 1826, the Freewill Baptists promoted and printed a newspaper called the Morning Star, which became, on its publication, the second religious paper printed in America. This paper frequently ran into trouble because of its anti-slavery stand and caused controversy with its church members. Printed on Main Street, for many years it was the official organ of the Freewill Baptists. It was moved to New Hampshire in 1833 where it continued strong until 1866.

By 1879, the town had grown to 76 dwellings, three churches and a fine new town hall.

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At that time, on the outlet of Holland Pond in the lower village was a manufacturing hamlet containing two woolen factories, a sawmill and a shovel factory. The woolen factory made blankets for the Union Army and later for Queen Victoria herself.

Each decade of the 19th century saw new growth.

In 1870, Limerick, having been petitioned by the 16 Limington families in the Emery's corner area, purchased that area from Limington for \$800.00.

Transportation during the 19th century did not seem to present a problem. The railroads came to Waterboro and Cornish. Goods were shipped by rail which had come by ship. Stage coaches brought passengers to and from the various towns, loaded with mail, trunks and valises.

Hard work, dedication, man power, woman power, horse power, ox power, water power, prayer power, and will-power achieved all things in this small Maine town of Limerick.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Limerick..Historical Notes, 1975.
Charles Freeman, An Account of Limerick, 1831.
Town Reports, Limerick.
York County Registry of Deeds.
Maine Registers, various maps.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 11

Quadrangle name Newfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

119	3515	21210	418	318	91510
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B

119	3515	61010	418	318	21610
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C

119	3515	41510	418	318	21010

D

119	3515	01210	418	318	81510

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northwest corner of the Gilpatrick House(28) property on Rt. 160, the district boundary follows the north property line west to the northwest corner, thence southerly along the west line of this property and that of the Freewill Baptist (cont.)

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 Historic District Committee -- Frank A. Beard, Historian

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

organization Limerick Historical Society date January, 1984

street & number Main Street telephone 207/793-2236 or 207/793-8497

city or town Limerick, 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 _____

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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Church (27) to Rt. 5 which it crosses and follows the north property line of the Webster Mansion (26) to the northwest corner of that property. From this point the boundary follows the rear property lines on the east side of Main Street to the south-east corner of the Hillside Cemetery (1) where it turns west along the south line of this property, crosses Rt. 5 (Main Street), and then follows the rear property lines on the west side of said street northerly to Rt. 160 which it follows north-westerly to the point of beginning.

This boundary encompasses all the architecturally and historically important properties in Limerick Upper Village proper.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

NEWFIELD QUADRANGLE
MAINE-NEW HAMPSHIRE
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



LIMERICK UPPER VILLAGE Historic District

- 1 HILLSIDE CEMETERY
- 2 BAPTIST SO. CEMETERY
- 3 BAPTIST SOCIETY CHURCH
- 4 ACADEMY MONUMENT
- 5 OLD CEMETERY
- 6 M.F. STAPLES HOUSE
- 7 REV. EDMUND EASTMAN HOUSE
- 8 J.M. MORSE HOUSE
- 9 COL. SAMUEL GILPATRICK HOUSE
- 10 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
- 11 TIBBETTS MEMORIAL PARK
- 12 MAT. GEN. JOHN McDONALD HOUSE
- 13 COTTON BEAN BLDG.
- 14 JEREMIAH M. MASON HOUSE
- 15 WINGBURN ADAMS & SON, STORE
- 16 LIMERICK LIBRARY
- 17 LIMERICK NATIONAL BANK
- 18 H.W. HILL BLDG.
- 19 F.H. TOWNSEND CO. BLDG.
- 20 ISAAC EMERY HOUSE
- 21 EZRA EASTMAN HOUSE
- 22 LIMERICK TOWN HALL
- 23 F.F. JOHNSTON & SON, BLDG.
- 24 BAND STAND
- 25 LIMERICK ACADEMY
- 26 BENJAMIN WEBSTER MANSION
- 27 FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
- 28 "CAPTAIN" BENJAMIN GILPATRICK HOUSE
- 29 JUDY'S BEAUTY SHOP
- 30 PARKER'S VILLAGE STORE
- 31 L. PROVENCHER'S BARBER SHOP
- 32 LIMERICK TEXACO STATION
- 33 LIMERICK POST OFFICE
- 34 LIMERICK GOLF STATION

