**Founding pioneer agriculture and rural Americana** are preserved in the listing of Canandaigua, NY William Gorham House (c1827) in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Early Canandaigua roots:** William and Betsy Gorham were children of Canandaigua and NY pioneers Nathaniel Gorham Jr. and Jasper Parrish.*William Gorham* was grandson of Nathaniel Gorham, 8th President in Congress [1]. Nathan Gorham and Oliver Phelps obtained the Phelps Gorham Land patent that reached from Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario from the Preemption line to the Genesee River and sold titled land in that region [2]. Oliver Phelps and Gorham Jr. were amongst the first settlers in 1788 and set aside the “Academy Plot” that supported the establishment Canandaigua Academy in 1791 [2,3]. William was a nephew of businessman and banker William Wood, who was instrumental in establishing libraries in major US cities and on merchant ships, and donated volumes to create what would become Wood Library in Canandaigua [4, 5]. Betsy’s father, *Jasper Parrish,* was the primary interpreter for the 1794 Pickering Treaty with the Six Nations / Haudenosaunee people, serving as a federal agent for the first seven US presidents. Jasper was a captive of native people as a youth, eventually adopted into the Mohawk tribe. In 1784, he returned after the Treaty of Fort Stanwix [2] which was signed after the close of the Revolutionary War [1,2]. The Parrish and Gorham families were members of the First Congregational Church and shareholders of the Ontario Bank [6.7].

Young *William Gorham* developed an interest in agriculture and as a teenager managed his father’s farm east of Main Street while his brother assisted in his father’s mercantile business. Extensive records preserved at the Ontario Historical Society detail William’s efforts, including procurement of labor, materials and detailed business ledgers. Upon his father’s passing in 1826, William took on the farm and disposition of Phelps/Gorham land responsibilities. In 1827, William established the farm and began construction for his “Oak Hill” home on Parrish Street Extension, including purchases and deliveries of loads of stone, bricks, lime mortar lumber and nails. The homestead and farm were approximately 450 acres and cultivated wheat, corn and apples. Business records show that the farm produced nearly 800 pounds of wool per year [8].

**The House:** The cut stone home with large, divided glass paned front windows was constructed in the early Greek revival style however the twin interior chimneys are unique for the period and are reminiscent of earlier Georgian style, with four fireplaces each for central heating. Before marrying Betsy in 1832, William added refinements such as the Portofino marble fireplace surrounds [8,9]. Numerous craftsmen contributed, including Wells and Loveland, who also finished many notable Canandaigua homes including the Granger home at 16 Gibson Street [8].

**Pastoral Artistry:** Beyond the connections to the earliest history of Canandaigua and New York State, the property was a key part of notable americana-type artistry [9,10,11]. Illustrations of this home and its pastoral setting were a favorite of former owner *Eloise Wilkin*. Wilkin, who had a prolific illustration and design career [11,12], was known as the ‘Soul of the Little Golden Books’ and she featured this home and setting across volumes of the Little Golden Books, including many works in Prayers for a Small Child [13]. These treasured illustrations are preserved in the National Archives and capture the wholesomeness of rural Americana.

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**Citations:**

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