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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mallett Hall

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number E side of Rt. 9, N of Dyer Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Pownal Center

N/A vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Cumberland

code 005

zip code 04069

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 1, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Karen J. Fitzgerald
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date: 9/13/91

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register

- 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):

Signature of the Keeper: Melissa Byers

Date of Action: 10/16/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

Government/City Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

Government/City Hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Mallett Hall is a two-story, three-bay rectangular frame building which is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite foundation. It has a pedimented gable on the facade which frames the narrow projecting entrance bay. The building is located in a rural crossroads setting.

The symmetrically composed front (northwest) elevation consists of the pedimented entrance bay flanked by long two-over-two windows. A paneled two-leaf door is surmounted by a transom and pediment, and on the second story is a Palladian window situated below the wooden MALLETT HALL sign. The tympanum of the smaller pediment features a semi-circular window. The flanking first story windows are capped by pronounced hoods, whereas those on the second story feature single pane transoms.

Both side elevations are equally divided into four bays containing window patterns similar to those found on the facade (with the exception of the first story hoods). Fire escapes lead from the next to the last windows on both sides. Pedimented dormers located toward the front, which documentary photographs reveal are post 1912 additions, feature a pair of small double-hung windows in each. Brick chimneys rise through both of these dormers. The rear elevation contains two irregularly spaced windows as well as a narrow, two-story, shed roofed lavatory enclosure and a gabled vault room of recent vintage.

The most striking interior feature is the long free-standing open string staircase which is located immediately behind the entrance. It rises to a landing in front of the double doors which lead into the auditorium. However, the balustrade continues around the opening formed by the stairwell and the hall which leads to two small rooms. On the first story, similar rooms are located off the halls flanking the stair, and a large meeting space is located to the rear. The trim in these spaces consists of doors with a five panel configuration and simple flat wooden surrounds. The meeting hall features a slightly raised platform along two sides, four thin turned columns, and a raised enclosed seating area on the endwall presumably designed for the use of town officials.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture  
Government

Period of Significance  
1886 - 1941

Significant Dates  
1886

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Erected in 1886 from plans by an as yet unidentified architect, Mallett Hall is a large wooden frame building distinguished by its projecting central entrance bay. This feature includes a pedimented doorway, second story Palladian window, and a semi-circular window in its framing pediment. The building ranks as one of the town's most significant architectural resources. It has also served as the town hall and community center since its construction. For these reasons, Mallett Hall is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criteria A and C.

During Pownal's town meeting on March 15, 1886, an article was approved to appoint a committee charged with developing plans and estimates for a new town hall. Lemuel Brown, Moses Plummer, and George Toothaker were duly selected and asked to report back to a special town meeting scheduled for the following month. At this second meeting voters agreed to the committee's recommendation:

... to build a new hall, get an additional piece of land, and sell the old townhouse and to accept the \$1,000 of Edmund B. Mallet conditional on the upper hall shall be free to all the town's meetings and social gatherings subject to rules established by the selectmen from time to time and their permission for its use.

The 1886 and 1887 Pownal Town Reports contain a considerable amount of information about the construction of Mallett Hall. For example, among the costs incurred was one of \$50.00 reported in 1886 by Lemuel Brown for the "architect's bill for Town-House." Unfortunately, nowhere in the Reports is there mention of the architect's name. The involvement of Freeport industrialist Edward B. Mallett (for whom the hall is named) in donating a total of \$1,200, however, suggests that Francis H. Fassett may be the architect mentioned. Fassett is known to have designed a number of buildings for Mallett in Freeport in this period, and it seems plausible that he would have been recommended for this project. No documentary proof has as yet been discovered, however, to connect him to it.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Annual Report of the Town of Pownal. 1886 & 1887.

Varney, George Jones. A Gazetteer of the State of Maine. Boston: B.B. Russell. 1881.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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4	0	4	8	9	0
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4	8	6	0	4	4	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Mallett Hall occupies the town of Pownal tax map 5, lot 4.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with Mallett Hall.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1991  
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132  
 city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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The 1887 Report lists the name of persons paid the \$2,533.42 for Materials, Labor and Materials, and Teaming, as well as an additional \$908.58 for Labor and Sundries. This latter figure included a payment of \$1.00 to one Mrs. Foster for washing windows; apparently the only woman paid for her services in the project. In its final report to the town, the building and finance committee stated that:

While the citizens of the town entertain different opinions with regard to the propriety of erecting such a structure, we apprehend that all will concede that it is a neat, commodious, substantial building, well adapted to all the future requirements of the town.

Your committee procured an experienced architect, furnished good materials and employed skilled labor, in order to erect a convenient, slightly, first-class buildings, and as for the result it must "speak for itself."

Pownal was originally a part of Freeport which had been settled in the mid eighteenth century and incorporated into a town in 1789. The town's separation from its parent municipality came on March 3, 1808, when it became the 171<sup>st</sup> town in Maine. Brief narrative accounts of the area published in 1859 and 1881 state that agricultural occupations were pursued by the majority of its inhabitants. By the late nineteenth century there were also a handful of typical small-scale industries such as saw and grist mills, shoe and harness makers, and carriage manufacturers. In 1880, a half dozen years before the construction of Mallett Hall, the population stood at 876 persons, a figure which had been on the decline since 1850 and one that continued to fall thereafter (it now stands well above historic levels).

Mallett Hall has, for over one hundred years, housed the town's governmental and many of its social activities including town meetings and local theatric performances. Its rooms are also used by Granite Grange No. 14 and the Pownal Scenic and Historical Society. As such, it holds a significant association with local historic events. Furthermore, its intact architectural expression lends it a prominent position within the context of surviving historic buildings in Pownal.