

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **NOV 27 1985**
date entered **DEC 26 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lithgow House

and/or common Jesse Houdlette House

2. Location

street & number Blinn Hill Road N/A not for publication

city, town Dresden N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Lincoln code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jay and Carol Adams

street & number R.F.D., Box 4675

city, town Dresden, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04342

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Route 1

city, town Wiscasset state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? 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 Lithgow House stands at the top of a knoll near the rural community of Dresden Mills. Located northeast of the village center, the house occupies hilly farmland surrounded by scattered residences dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Built of post and beam construction and sheathed in clapboard siding, the house consists of a two-and-one-half story main section and a one story ell, both with gable roofs. The main section has two large centrally located chimneys and windows with six-over-six double-hung sash. The principal (south) facade has three bays with double entrances behind an enclosed single entry vestibule. On the west side of the house is a square bay window with a hipped roof capped by a small Gothic style balustrade.

Extending from the north side of the house is a long rectangular ell sheathed with wood shingles. On the east side is a large central entrance with sidelights and transom. A few yards behind the ell is an early nineteenth century barn with a gable roof and shingle siding. This one-and-one-half story structure has entrances on both the gable end and in the center of the long east facade. Also included in this nomination is a small one-story structure with a gable roof dating from the early twentieth century.

The interior of the main section of the house is largely unaltered and contains original Federal period woodwork. The moldings around the doors and windows and on the mantelpieces have very simple profiles. The original hardware includes unusual double hinges for the double doors dividing the two formal rooms in the front of the house. Wide plank flooring and baseboards exist throughout the house, and there is an enclosed staircase centrally located between the two chimneys. The plan of the house is further elaborated in section number eight and in the attached documentation.

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

Specific dates c. 1818–1820 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lithgow House is architecturally significant for its unaltered condition and unique early nineteenth century vernacular house plan. The room arrangements for both the first and second floors of the main building depart from the traditional symmetrical arrangements for rural houses in Maine built before the Civil War. Historically the house is also significant as the house of the Lithgow family, important developers and benefactors of the region.

James N. Lithgow, an early settler in the Kennebec River Valley, divided a large tract of land which included this property among his children in 1818. Either Alfred or Llewellyn Lithgow, two of James' sons, acquired this lot and built the house. Llewellyn operated a saw mill and a grist mill in the area and donated funds for the local Bridge Academy and the Lithgow Library in Augusta where he moved in 1839. The property was sold by Llewellyn to Beniah Cate in 1847. Latter owners included Dr. Horatio Allen, an early physician, and Jesse Houdlette, who resided here from 1902 until her death in 1976.

The woodwork for the house suggests a construction date of around 1820, or shortly after the land was sub-divided. The first floor plan is unusual for its separate exterior entrances to each parlor which are located behind an enclosed vestibule with side walls positioned at a 45° angle. Between the two large rooms which extend across the front of the house are double doors which are double hinged, allowing for the creation of a larger open space out of the two rooms. The two separate entries suggest the house was built for two families, in this case Alfred and Llewelyn Lithgow.

Each parlor has its own fireplace flanked by doors leading to the room behind it. The room behind the west parlor, however, appears to have been the original kitchen. In addition, the hall between these rooms provides access to the second floor, which consists of five irregular size rooms clustered around a large open hall and center stairs.

The long ell and carriage barn appear to date no later than the mid-nineteenth century. An exception is the exterior entrance to the ell, which was taken from another house. On the west side is a bay window dating from the 1870s. This addition probably occurred at the same time that the kitchen was converted into a dining room and the north wall was extended into the ell.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Dresden, Maine, by Charles Allen, Augusta, 1931.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Wiscasset

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 19 442530 4884110
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map R2, Lot 3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1985

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 *Eileen S. Fitzpatrick*
 title S. H. P. O. date 11/22/85

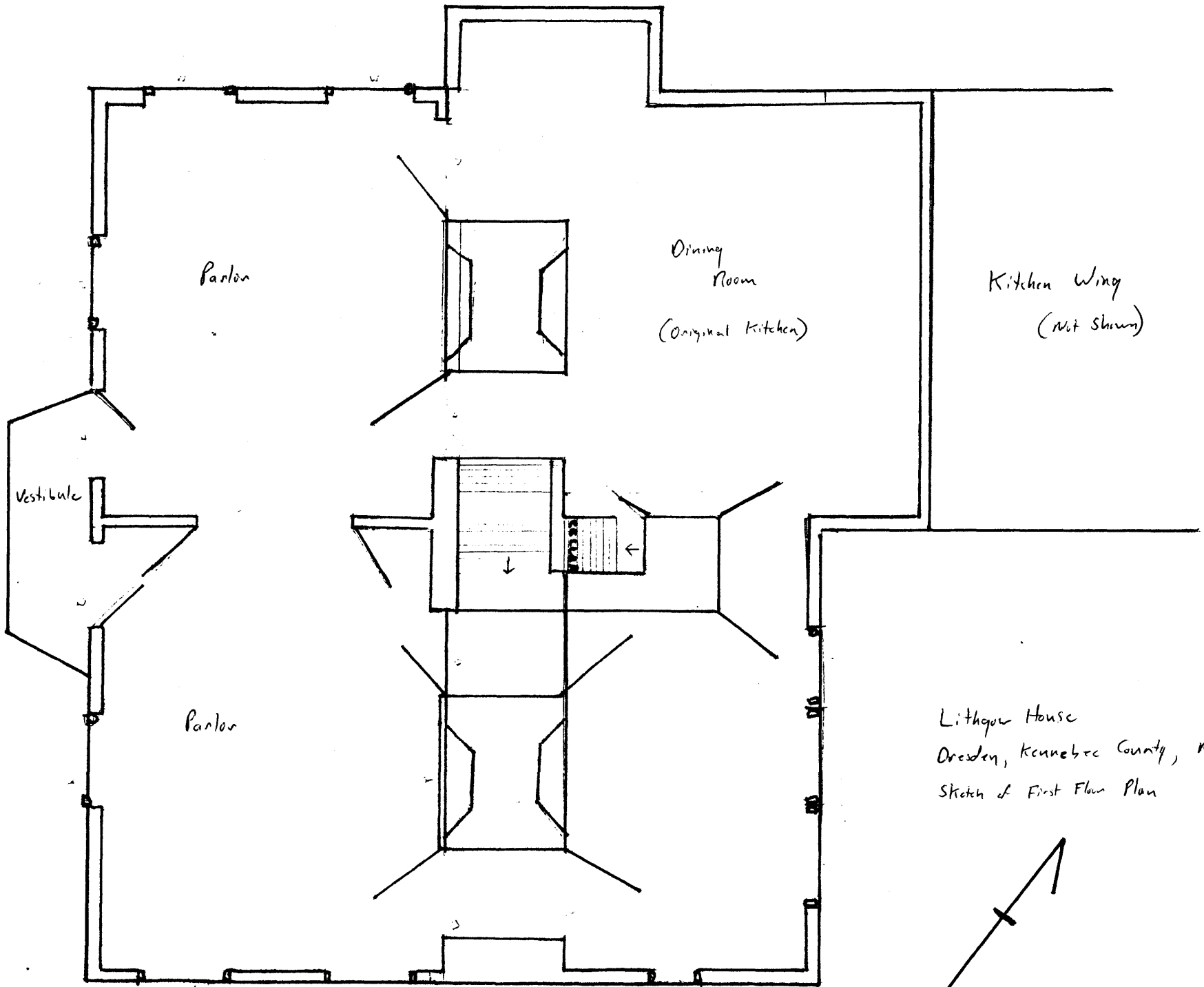
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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for *Alouise Byers* National Register date 12-26-85
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration



Parlor

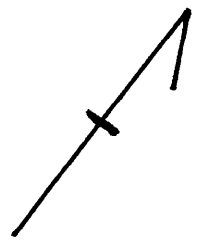
Dining Room
(Original Kitchen)

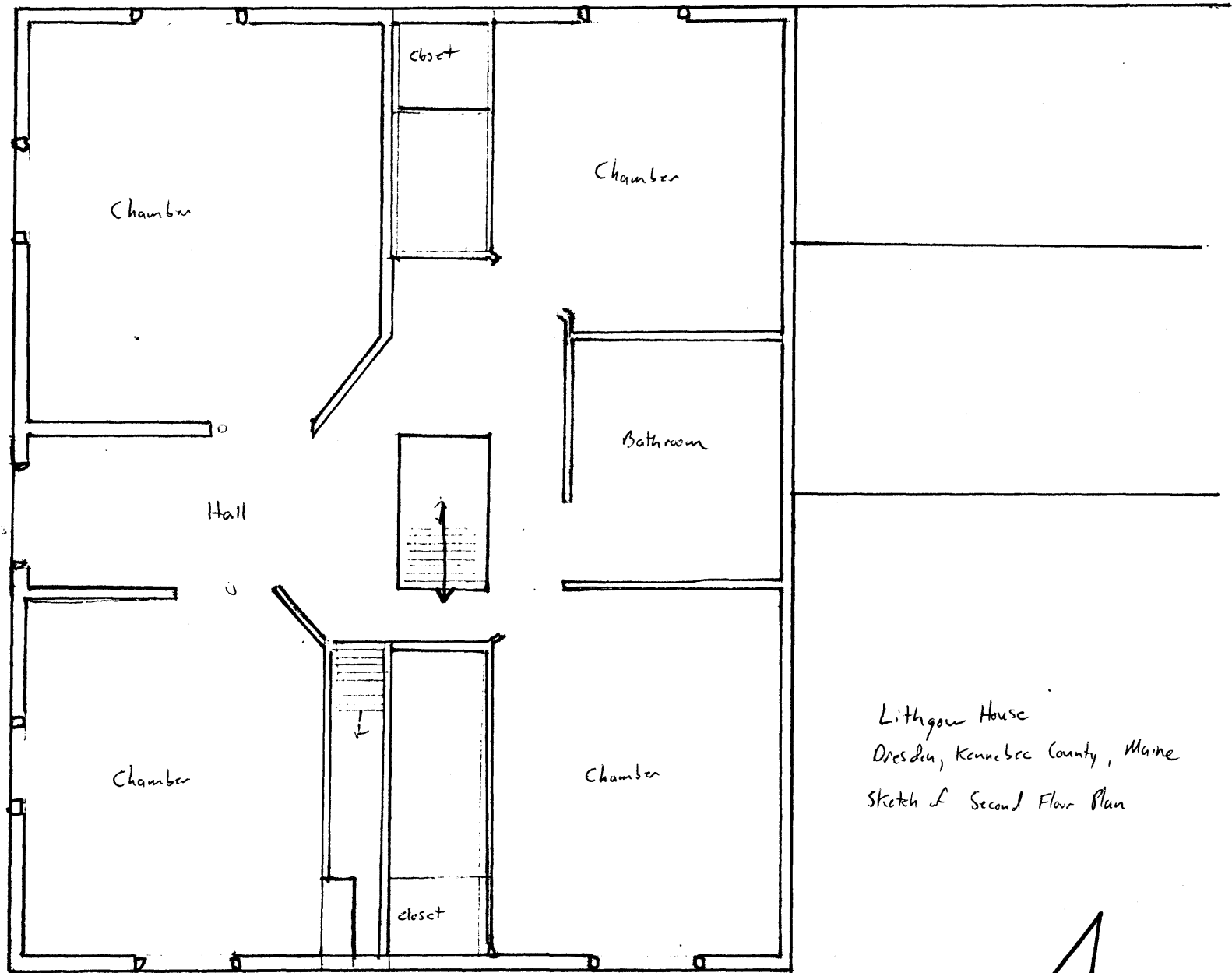
Kitchen Wing
(not shown)

Vestibule

Parlor

Lithgow House
Dresden, Kennebec County, Maine
Sketch of First Floor Plan





Lithgow House
Dresden, Kennebec County, Maine
Sketch of Second Floor Plan

