

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 Cushman, Abial, Store

other names/site number Lee Forest Grange

2. Location

street & number Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lee

N/A vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Penobscot

code 019

zip code 04455

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 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

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

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

11/5/90

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, determined eligible for the National Register, determined not eligible for the National Register, removed from the National Register, other, (explain):

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Department Store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphaltother Front shed porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cushman store is a two-story, five-bay Greek Revival style frame building sheathed in weatherboards. It features a full width shed roofed front porch and a telescoping ell comprised of one and two-story blocks.

Facing north, the principal elevation consists of an asymmetrically divided first story whose two doors and three windows (two of which are large display windows framing a two-leaf door) are sheltered by the porch. Four thin chamfered posts support the porch roof. On the second story are five symmetrically arranged two-over-two windows. Corner pilasters rise to a wide frieze and narrow overhanging cornice.

The west gable end contains two symmetrically placed windows on each story and a pair in the gable peak. Short gable end returns, which originally were part of a continuous cornice that formed a pediment, meet the corner pilasters. (The cornice appears to have been recently removed.) The east gable end is identical in its fenestration pattern although the pediment is intact. However, the cornice continues across the three-bay ell, and there is no rear pilaster on the main block. This ell is not original, having been added after 1875 (its footprint is not shown on the 1875 Atlas of Penobscot County). A one-story gabled woodshed and attached privy extend from the rear of the ell. The west side contains a door in the shed, four windows in the second story of the ell, and three windows and a door below. There are two windows on each story of the main block's rear side. A pair of brick flues rise through the ridge of the front part of the building, and a third one is located at the rear of the ell.

Despite its many varied uses over the years, the building's interior continues to exhibit many of the historic finishes. For example, both the first and second stories of the main block retain their very modest Greek Revival window and door surrounds, four panel doors, and baseboards. There are two surviving mantelpieces including one that features symmetrically molded pilasters and a broad entablature. The tongue-and-groove sheathing in the kitchen and ceiling of the main first floor room, as well as the stair in the front block date from the turn of the century. They may be part of the remodeling in which the ell was added and the existing two-over-two windows were installed.

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

Period of Significance

c. 1840

Significant Dates

c. 1840
c. 1884

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.

Believed to have been erected in 1840, the Abial Cushman Store is the oldest and most intact commercial building in this small Penobscot County community. Built for use as a general store, it has also served as a boarding house for nearby Lee Academy and as the home of the Forest Grange since 1884. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C by virtue of its local architectural significance.

The Town of Lee was first settled in 1824 following the resolution of a protracted legal dispute over its ownership. Three years later, according to tradition, the first mill was erected in proximity to what would become the village center. The town was incorporated on February 3, 1832, and by mid-century its population had reached 917 persons. Previously, the year 1845 had witnessed the founding of the Lee Normal Academy, an institution which would figure prominently in the town's history. Despite what one author described as "large quantities of first-rate land" (Coolidge & Mansfield, p. 186), however, Lee's nineteenth century development was limited by its low population, which averaged only 926 persons from 1850-1890.

Like numerous other Maine communities, the village of Lee developed at a crossroads. As is clearly shown on the 1875 Atlas of Penobscot County the two roads which met here were lined by a mix of residential, commercial, religious, and institutional buildings. The sustained small scale of the community did not require the development of parallel streets behind the two roads. Abial Cushman's store stands in a row of surviving residential buildings on the north side of Main Street. It is the earliest and most architecturally significant of the two or three extant nineteenth century commercial buildings. Furthermore, it ranks as one of the least altered Greek Revival style structures of any type in the Town of Lee.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Houghton, Vinal H. The Story of an Old New England Town. Wilton, ME: Nelson Print. 1926.

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

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A 19 559210 51021291810
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Lee tax map 21, lot 27.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire village lot historically associated with the Abial Cushman Store.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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