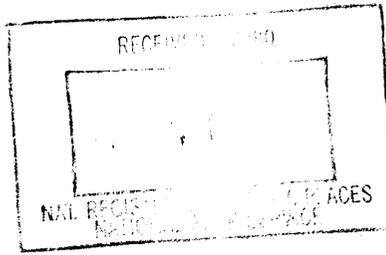


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

993



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Captain Joel Whitney House  
other names/site number Vose House

2. Location

street & number 8 Pleasant Street N/A not for publication  
city or town Phillips N/A vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Franklin code 007 zip code 04960

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Charles F. Peterson 3/10/03  
Signature of certifying official/Title SHPD Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson R. Beall \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4.22.03

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE  
Name of Property

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC / Federal  
LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> C. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / Granite  
walls WEATHERBOARD  
roof METAL / Tin  
ASPHALT  
STONE / Slate  
other BRICK

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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### DESCRIPTION

The Joel Whitney house is a two-story, single pile house located in the village of Phillips, Maine. Constructed by 1827 by local house wright Jesse Ladd, the west facing, twin chimney-behind-the-ridge house with integral ell is an example of a late Federal frame house built for a successful, early settler in this remote mountain community. The timber-framed eave-fronted structure, with a symmetrical five-bay facade, faces the village street to the west. The two-over-two windows are clothed with wooden shutters and those on the second floor are tucked directly under the boxed cornice of the low-pitched tin roof. At the center of the facade is a six-panel door flanked by four-light side lights and surmounted by a wooden arched fan set in an entablature with oversized ogee brackets and a continuous line of guttae. A narrow watertable tops the granite foundation and the corners of the building are accented by thin corner boards. Each of the north and south elevations contain paired two-over-two windows on each floor and a single window in the gable peak. Cornice returns complete the decorative features on the narrow side elevations, and the entire structure is sided with clapboards.

Centered on the east facade of the Whitney house is a one-story integral ell. The first section of the ell, constructed at the same time as the front mass of the house extends approximately twenty feet east and originally contained the kitchen. A second length of ell, added later, continues the lines of the earlier structure another twenty-four feet. Both sections of the ell are set on granite foundations, sided with clapboards and roofed with tin, however the end of the first ell is marked by a remaining corner board on the north elevation, as well as a break in the continuity of the cornice and foundation. Five two-over-two windows and a four panel door with bracketed Italianate hood are distributed along the north side of the ell. The south side contains a pair of two-over-two windows and an entry porch and small, open bay wood shed against the side of the rear section of the ell. A single nine-over six narrow muntin window is set into the entry wall; this is probably an example of the original windows that were replaced by the current two-over-two configuration. A chimney rises through the roof towards the back of the first el. Nestled into the northeast intersection of the house and the ell is a small, gable roofed, three sided addition containing three two-over-two windows. Similar in concept to a bay window, this small bump-out is distinguished not only for its unusual shape, but for the Victorian patterned shingles that sheath its walls.

Adjoining the eastern end of the ell is a two story, square, hipped roof carriage shed. This building contains large interior-track sliding doors on the both the north and south sides, as well as a hay door over the southern portal, a pedestrian door and two poultry doors on the south side. There are three two-over-two windows on the second floor of the south and west sides and two on the east side, while the first floor contains a mixture of more of these windows and two sash windows on the south. Narrow corner boards and frieze accentuate the corners and overhanging roof line. A square cupola with louvered openings and a flared slate roof, completes the peak of the roof. The entire complex is located on a flat, grassy lot, which fronts Pleasant street on the west and Main Street on the north. A small line of hardwood trees mark the southern boundary of the property.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE

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The Federal origins of the Whitney house are evident in the interior of the main house. The floor plan consists of two large rooms on each floor, flanking a central staircase. Each room contains hardwood floors, cased and beaded corner posts, six panel doors with a transitional ogee and bead molding. In addition the southwest parlor is finished with wide board wainscot and a simple chair rail, while the remaining three rooms feature a wider, molded chair rail that runs continuously around the rooms, forming the apron under the windows. Almost all of the walls and ceilings are plaster, with the exception of the southwest chamber, which has had a drop ceiling installed. Originally each room featured a fireplace, flanked by closets or doors to the ell, built against the south wall of the house. Both of the northern rooms contain their original Federal-era mantelpieces, however the chimney was rebuilt on the southern side, and as a result the chamber room no longer contains a fireplace. The mantle in the southwest parlor appears to be a colonial revival surround installed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The front entry contains a graceful straight-run staircase with slender square newel posts, rectangular banisters and a decorative double-ogee on the stringers. At the top of the stairs a low, four-panel door leads to the rafter and purlin roofed ell garret, which is lighted by a single six-over-six dormer on the south side.

Behind the main mass of the house lies the kitchen ell, and shed and workshop area. These spaces have been renovated over the last 50 years to provide for a small lending library, meeting and display spaces for the Phillips Historical Society which now owns the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

C. 1829

Significant Dates

C. 1829

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ladd, Jesse, builder, fl. 1820-1840

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The north central town of Phillip, Maine was first settled on a small scale in 1794, and incorporated by about fifty families in 1812. Captain Joel Whitney emigrated to Phillips with his parents and siblings between 1806 and 1815, but the first public record of him as residing in town lists him as the post master in 1818. That same year Whitney purchased lot number 11 in the firth Range of Phillips for \$ 234 from Jonathan Phillips and Edward Phillips of Boston. He quickly set about developing this 160 acre parcel, on which over the next twenty years he built, bought and or sold several stores or offices near what was to become the junction of Main and Pleasant streets, in the heart of Phillips. Whitney also built a saw mill on the River, owned extensive farmland, and a potash factory. In the 1830s he donated land for the construction of the Union Church, helped finance it building and at its completion donated the bell. Although the center of Phillips no longer contains the early stores and mills, the house that Whitney had built by local carpenter Jesse Ladd prior to 1829, remains as one of the oldest and proudest structures in the village. The Captain Joel Whitney house is thus being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in recognition of the contributions of Whitney and Ladd to the development of early Phillips, and under Criterion C, as an excellent example of late Federal era residential architecture.

Examination of deeds reveal that Joel Whitney participated in at least 63 transactions involving the sale of land between 1818 and 1938; all but 7 of these occurred in Phillips. It is reasonable to suggest that he participated in a similar number of land purchases during the same period. As a Captain of the local militia, town clerk, postmaster, farmer, trader and developer, it is no wonder that Captain Whitney was described as a "somewhat remarkable man" by the historian Albert Pease in 1879:

"Joel Whitney was a somewhat remarkable man. His genius for trade and faculty for acquiring property, have been excelled by few. He married a daughter of Elder Joseph dyer and commenced business first as a farmer on the place where his father first settled, the farm now owned by Daniel Gordon. After going into trade he must have acquired property very rapidly. He built the grist mill in about three years after commencing trade. After trading a while in the store he first occupied, he built what is now the Dill store on the southerly side of the river at the corner of the street on the river side. Here he probably made most of his property, and although there was somebody in the store across the river most of the time...it is probable he sold most of the goods that were bought in the place. He built the house where Wm. Toothaker now lives [for his daughter], and occupied it while he was in the place. He built the store at the opposite corner of the street where G.W. Wheeler now trades. He built the old schoolhouse that stands back of the Union meeting house and then sold it, partly to the district and partly to the F.W. Baptist church. He bore a large portion of the expense of building the meeting house, besides furnishing the bell wholly as a present. He was a man over very strong points of character – determined in his purposes, warm in his friendships and severe in his enmities." (Pease, p. 14-15).

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# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE

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Sometime prior to 1829 Whitney contracted with local carpenter Jesse Ladd to build him a house on Pleasant Street, near his stores and the mill. The details of the arrangement are not known, but by a deed that year Ladd quit-claimed all the rights he had "in the house standing on Whitney's land being the same house in which I now live" for \$300. (Book 22, p. 291, Somerset County Registry of Deeds). Although local histories assert that the Whitney house served as a tavern, stage stop, and boarding house for the men building the Union Church, it was Whitney's residence for at least several years. The Federal Census enumeration for the 1830 places Whitney's name first on the town list; perhaps signifying his residence as the center of town. Jesse Ladd and his family lived a short distance away, on yet another piece of land that Whitney later sold to Ladd in 1836. In as much as Whitney funded the construction of the school house and church during the 1830s it is possible that Ladd was involved in these enterprises as well. As this passage by another historian of Phillips relates, Ladd shared many of the entrepreneurial skills of Whitney, in addition to being a skilled tradesman.

"Jesse E. Ladd was born in Mt. Vernon, Me., Oct. 10, 1794....Mr. Ladd was known as Captain Ladd, owing to the fact that he served in the militia as ensign, lieutenant and captain. [He] started into business with his brother-in-law, Ellija Howland, in the carding and fulling mill, which in recent years was operated by Isaac Libby and his son Daniel. Its site is now occupied by Mr. Hind's sawmill. This place is just across the bridge and just below the present old gristmill where electricity for lighting the village is now generated. Later Captain Ladd opened a blacksmith shop on the opposite side of the same street. Captain Ladd was also a stone mason, and "by many considered one of the finest in the state." During his life at Phillips, Captain Ladd built two houses, the first, a large two-story house near the present Union church and the former schoolhouse, now used as the Free Baptist chapel. Later he built a one and one-half story house near his mill, where he lived for many years." (Hodges, p. 79-80.)

At least one other house in Phillips is known to have been built by Ladd. Later known as the Kenniston House, it is a one-and-a-half story Federal cape located across the Sandy River from the Whitney house, on Route 142. In addition, a third house, in the Upper Village of Phillips and also a Federal cape, appears to have been the work of Ladd. In both of these structures the front door surround is identical to that of the Whitney House including the guttae chain and the ogee brackets under the cornice. Close inspection of the interior of these two houses, in comparison to the Whitney house, may yield greater insight into the skill and style of this local builder. The Whitney house is the only example of a two-story, single pile Federal house in Phillips, and while there are other mid-nineteenth century capes scattered throughout the town, they are not as intricately executed as the Whitney house or the other Ladd built structures. Whether its stately, refined and mature style were the specifications of its builder or its owner, the Whitney House reflects in its location, style and details a lasting impression of the effect of both Whitney and Ladd to the growth and development of early Phillips.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Franklin County Registry of Deeds. Franklin County Courthouse, Farmington, Maine.

Franklin County Probate Office. Franklin County Courthouse, Farmington, Maine.

Hodges, D.F. "Pioneers of Phillips," in Phillips, 175 Years. (Wilton, Maine: Phillips Historical Society), 1987.

Pease, Albert. "Sketches of the History Phillips to 1879," in Phillips, 175 Years. (Wilton, Maine: Phillips Historical Society), 1987.

Somerset County Registry of Deeds. Somerset County Courthouse, Skowhegan, Maine.

Whitney, Wendell. History of Phillips. (Phillips, Maine: Phillips Historical Society), 1961.

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE  
Name of Property

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .38 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9
---	---

 Zone 

3	9	4	0	6	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

 Easting 

4	9	6	3	9	3	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Northing

3 

1	9
---	---

 Zone 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

2 1 

9									
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4 1 

9									
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  
organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 22 January 2003  
street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132  
city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is fully described by the Town of Phillips, Maine tax map U2, lot 55.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property is a portion of a large land lot of land sold to Joel Whitney by Jonathan and Edward Phillips of Boston, in 1818. (Book 8 p. 267). This lot was divided repeatedly between 1818 and 1840, and the nominated parcel, with the Captain Joel Whitney House on it, was first described in a deed from Joel Whitney to Jared Smith and Sidney Harden in 1836 (Book 38, p. 496), and has remained essentially intact from that date forward.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WHITNEY, CAPT. JOEL, HOUSE

FRANKLIN CO., MAINE

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3  
Christi A. Mitchell  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
18 December 2002  
West facade; facing southeast.

Photograph 2 of 3  
Christi A. Mitchell  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
18 December 2002  
Main entry and surround, west facade; facing east.

Photograph 3 of 3  
Christi A. Mitchell  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
18 December 2002  
Interior, front stairs; facing north.