Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Lebanon Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER   In irregular pattern along West Lebanon Road, Rochester Road, Milton Road, Shapleigh Road and Meeting House Road.

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Lebanon	— VICINITY OF	1st Hon. David Emery
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maine	23	York	031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
—DISTRICT	—PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	—AGRICULTURE	—MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	—UNOCCUPIED	—COMMERCIAL	—PARK
—STRUCTURE	—BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
—SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	—ENTERTAINMENT	—RELIGIOUS
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	XX YES: RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT	—SCIENTIFIC
	—BEING CONSIDERED	—YES: UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL	—TRANSPORTATION
		—NO	—MILITARY	—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME   Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN	STATE
— VICINITY OF	

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.   Registry of Deeds York County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Alfred	Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN   STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The village of West Lebanon is a cohesive, homogeneous grouping of 19th century rural vernacular architecture. Styles found in the district are the Federal (i.e.11; Hayes House), the Greek Revival (i.e.6;Daniel Legro), the Victorian (i.e.21; Free Will Baptist Church), the Bungalow (i.e.10; Hillside School), and the Colonial Revival (i.e.1 ; Rankin House). In this span of more than a century of development, the consistent characteristic was a simple, forthright interpretation of the current architectural mode. The only real pretension toward high style architecture is found in the Greek Revival belfrey of the Academy (22) and the curious blend of Gothic and Italianate features which make up the facade and tower of the Church (21).

The scale, proportions, materials, color, and design quality of West Lebanon are in harmony throughout the village. Of the twenty-one structures in the area, twelve are 2½ story gable roofed residences, six are 1½ story gable roofed houses, one is a 1½ story bungalow, one is a 2½ story school, and one is a 1 story church. With the exception of the bungalow (10), all the buildings reflect a traditional concern for symmetrical design and proportion. All structures are of frame construction with clapboarded exteriors and either granite or brick foundations. White is the predominent paint color. Only the yellow Moulton House (24) and the red bungalow (10) are exceptions. All buildings are simply designed and substantially constructed.

West Lebanon's twenty-one structures stand in close proximity to one another on five streets, West Lebanon Road, Milton Road, Shapleigh Road, Meeting House Road, and Academy Lane. Yet this close proximity should not be interpreted to mean the presence of a regularized pattern of structure location. Houses and buildings relate to the road at varying angles and distances. The streets retain their shade trees, and open farm land stretches behind several of the homes.

Of the twenty-one structures in West Lebanon, ninteen are presently residences, while one serves as a church (21), and the other as a library, historical society, and Sunday School (22). Of the ninteen residences, fifteen were built as homes, while two were originally schools (10 & 25), one a law office (19), and one a store and post office (20). The Copp House (3) started as a residence, became a shoe shop in the late 19th century, and was later reconverted to a house. The adapting of five buildings from commercial to residential use were not recent projects but occured as the commercial activity of the village disminished.

All of West Lebanon's buildings are in good to excellent condition. Most structure have apparently always been well maintained. Two recent renovation projects are the c.1940 remodelling of the Jonathan Rankin House (1) and the current restoration of the James Brackett House (4). There are no intrusions in the form of commercial buildings or modern construction. In general, West Lebanon retains the pleasant unstudied randomness of a 19th century rural village.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED   **JUN 5 1975**

CONTINUATION SHEET   **ITEM NUMBER**   7   **PAGE**   2

Inventory of Historic Structures and Sites

1.   Jonathan Rankin House (West Lebanon Road):c.1858, c.1940, Colonial Revival 2½ stories, clapboarded, a mid-19th century house of traditional 2½ story gable roof design which had its Victorian detail removed in a c.1940 remodelling that produced an 18th century appearance.

2.   Giles Burrows House (West Lebanon Road):c.1809, Federal and Greek Revival, 2½ stories, clapboarded, an early 19th century house of traditional 2½ story gable roof design, which received an exterior Greek Revival remodelling. Retains some original Federal interior detail. The ell consists of a 1½ story 18th century Cape which was moved to the site from the George Warren homestead. Fine mid-19th century barn.

3.   Reuben Copp House (Milton Road):c.1850, Greek Revival, 2½ stories, clap-boarded, an example of the Greek Revival house form which employes a gable end as its facade and has a side hall plan. Built at a cost of $500, probably by Copp himself, a carpenter. Converted to a shoe shop in the late 19th century, later reconverted to a house.

4.   James Brackett House (Milton Road):c.1838, Greek Revival, 1½ stories, clap-boarded, Cape style. Known as the Great Hill Parsonage when owned by the Free Will Baptist Church from 1869-1887.

5.   Site of the First Free Will Baptist Church (Milton Road): 1801-1832

6.   Daniel Legro House (Milton Road): mid-19th century, Greek Revival, 1½ stories, clapboarded,Cape style.

7.   Thomas Legro House (Milton Road):c.1851, Greek Revival, 2½ stories, clap-boarded, a mid-19th century house of traditional 2½ story gable roof design. The ell consists of an extensively altered 1½ story 18th century Cape which was the home of one of the village's first settlers, Thomas Legro.

8.   Site of the Dr. T.L. Kimball House (Milton Road): c.1829. A 1½ story Federal Cape occupied this site from 1829 to 1974 when its deteriorating condition necessitated its demolition. Dr. Kimball practiced medicine in the village from 1829 until his death in 1873.

9.   Legro Family Cemetery (Milton Road):
      Herein are buried the families of two original settlers, David and Thomas Legro, and their descendents. Two Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here, David Legro and Lt. Ichabod Cowell.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE	3

10. Hillside Home School (Shapleigh Road): 1915, Bungalow style, 1½ stories,
shingled. Built by Frederick Shapleigh as a boys boarding school on the site
of the David Legro Tavern, 1791-1874.

11. Hayes House (Shapleigh Road): early 19th century, Federal, 2½ stories, clap-
boarded, fine Federal doorway and interior woodwork. The Hayes family operated
a cobbler shop on these premises.

12. Ivory Fall House (Shapleigh Road): C.1840, Greek Revival, 1½ stories, clap-
boarded, Cape style.

13. Dr. Samuel W. Jones House (Shapleigh Road): c.1829, Federal, 2½ stories, clap-
boarded, an early 19th century house of traditional 2½ story gable roof design.
Occupied by Dr. Jones until his death in 1893.

14. Widow Polly Burrows House (Shapleigh Road): c.1822, c.1850, Federal and Greek
Revival, 2½ stories, clapboarded, an early 19th century Cape which was enlarged c.
1850 to a 2½ story house for Rev. David W. Cowell, distinctive vernacular Greek
Revival doorway treatment.

15. Monument to Hervey S. Cowell, principal of Cushing Academy in Ashburnham,
Mass. and son of David B. Cowell, co-founder of Lebanon Academy (Meeting House Road).

16. Tannery House (Meeting House Road): c.1830, Federal, 1½ stories, clapboarded,
Cape style with 1 story ell and large mid-19th century barn. Occupied by a
succession of 19th centruy tannery owners.

17. Site of the Village Tannery (Meeting House Road): Established by Captain John
Hayes, the tannery operated throughout the early and mid-19th century. By 1870,
it was converted to a soap factory which continued into the early 1900's.

18. James Mathews House (Meeting House Road): c.1863, Greek Revival, 2½ stories,
clapboarded, a mid-19th century house of traditional 2½ story gable roof design,
an interesting example of rural vernacular architecture in which a large two story
ell connects the barn to the house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   7 PAGE   4

19.   Samuel W. Jones Law Office (Meeting House Road); mid-19th century,c.1900,
1½ stories, clapboarded, removed from original site across from Jones' house
about 1900 and converted to a private residence. (see 13) Jones was both a physician
and an attorney in the village.

20.   Cowell Store and Post Office (Meeting House Road): late 19th century, 1940,
1½ stories, clapboarded,converted to a residence c.1940.

21.   Free Will Baptist Church (Meeting House Road): 1832, mid-19th century, Federal,
Victorian, 1 story,clapboarded, a Federal style church which received a mid-19th
century facade and tower remodelling with Italianate and Gothic Revival details.

22.   West Lebanon Academy (Meeting House Road): 1849, c.1873, Greek Revival,
2½ stories, clapboarded, handsome square belfry with Doric columns and dome,
rear section of building added c.1873. Maintained as a private academy until
early 1900's, then as a town supported school until 1942. Now houses a library
and local history room as well as Baptist Sunday School and Lebanon Historical
Society.

23.   The Company House (Academy Lane): Early 19th century, c.1865, Federal,
Victorian,2½ stories, clapboarded, an early 19th century house of traditional
2½ story gable roof design. Originally located about two miles from the
village. Removed to present site about 1865 by the Hurd, Shapleigh, Lamb and
Jones Company, a village land company, at which time the center chimney was
removed and the present outbuildings added.

24.   Frederick Moulton House, (Academy Lane): 1856, Greek Revival, 2½ stories,
clapboarded, a mid-19th century house of traditional 2½ story gable roof design.

25   District #3 School House (Academy Lane): late 19th century, Victorian,
2½ stories, clapboarded, a one-room school house with a second story addition,
used until 1953, now a private residence.

26   Goodwin Family Cemetery (Shapleigh Road): Herein are buried the family and
decendents of Richard Goodwin, an original settler.

27   Daniel Goodwin House (Shapleigh Road): early 19th century, 1868, Federal,
Victorian, 2½ stories, clapboarded, orignially built as a Cape, enlarged by
Richard Goodwin in 1868 to become a mid-19th century house of traditional 2½ story
gable roof design.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X_1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY.	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES   BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the York County Atlas of 1872, Lebanon was described as follows: "... there are but few towns in the county where the farmhouses and mechanic's residences are superior, either in beauty or durability and convenience. There are few towns where there is so much equality of condition among the inhabitants -- there are none very poor nor rich; but nearly all in comfortable circumstances." During the intervening century, the Village of West Lebanon has survived nearly unaltered. No commercial structures disturb its serenity and with the exception of one house built in 1915, no new dwellings have been erected. The Village's individual houses along with its Academy and its Church have retained their "beauty, durability and convenience." Collectively, they possess a sedate, rural character.

West Lebanon Village, first known as "Legro's Corner" traces its growth to the expansion of the first designated settlement of the township of Lebanon. Lebanon was created in 1733 when the General Court of Massachusetts passed a resolve to open four townships, each limited to six miles square, one of which was to be in the Province of Maine on the eastern side of the Salmon Falls River, at the head of Berwick, in the county of York. In 1735, the township was confirmed to the original proprietors--mostly residents of Berwick, Kittery and York, in Maine and Sommersworth and Dover in New Hampshire. Because of the frequent Indian wars, the General Court required all new towns to be laid out in a "compact and defensible" manner. The original 63 "home-lots", varying from 20 to 35 acres, were surveyed and laid out by William Pepperell along a new highway extending northeast from the Berwick line a distance of three miles. In addition to making actual settlement, the proprietors were also required to build a meeting house and settle a learned Orthodox or Protestant minister and to provide for his support and for support of schools. In making further divisions of land, they drew lots for the minister, the ministry and the school as well as lots for themselves. Few of the original proprietors actually settled the town granted them, their places being taken by their heirs or grantees.

The first settlement was made in 1747 by John Canney (Kenney) of Dover. By 1765, there were 20 to 25 families settled in Town. The Meeting House was raised in 1754 and a permanent Congregational minister, Rev. Isaac Hasey, a graduate of Harvard, was called and ordained in 1764. In 1767 the town was incorporated and named "Lebanon" which replaced the Indian name of "Tow-woh."

During the Revolutionary War, over 100 Lebanon men served in regiments from the District of Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Rev. Hasey recorded in his diary, August 19, 1777, "Every sixth Man Draughted to go to war."
(See continuation Sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of York County, Maine Philadelphia, Sanford, Everts & Co. 1872

Chamberlain, George Walter, Soldiers of the American Revolution of Lebanon, Maine
    Weymouth, Mass. - Weymouth & Braintree, Publishing Co., 1897

Jones, Samuel W., A History of the Town of Lebanon, Maine, Unpublished, 1873

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ___55___

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,9| |3|4,2|0,7,5| |4,8|0,5|4,5,0| B |1,9| |3|4,2|2,2,5| |4,8|0,4|8,7,5|
  ZONE   EASTING   NORTHING   ZONE   EASTING   NORTHING
C |1,9| |3|4,1|8,5,0| |4,8|0,4|7,7,5| D |1,9| |3|4,1|7,0,0| |4,8|0,5|3,5,0|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northern boundary of the West Lebanon Historic District starts at point
A (as indicated on the sketch map) located on the northern property line of
Daniel Goodwin House (27) 250' west of the Shapleigh Road. From this point the
district boundary runs east to the Shapleigh Road thence south along the road until
it intersects with the northern property line of the District 3 School House (25).
(See Continuation Sheets)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

| NAME / TITLE | Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian |
| | Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist |

ORGANIZATION		DATE
	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	April 4, 1975

STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
	31 Western Avenue	207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN		STATE
	Augusta,	Maine

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___   STATE ___   LOCAL _X_

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE _State Historic Preservation Officer_   DATE _April 7, 1975_

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DATE ENTERED   JUN 5 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET   **ITEM NUMBER**   8   **PAGE** 2

As fear of Indian uprisings subsided, settlers gradually moved northerly toward richer farmlands and toward the river which necessitated extending the original highway in the 1770's. About one-half mile above the northernmost homelot, this "wheelway" forked. (see map following). The northeast branch continued toward Shapleigh Township and the northwest branch ran over the "Great Hill" to Palmers' Mills (Milton, N.H.). Just above the fork, a wheelpath led off the northwest branch to the river; while below the fork, a cross road led east to the center of town. At the head of the fork, David Legro built his tavern. Across the northwest branch, his brother, Thomas Legro, mason and farmer, established his homestead. Thus was situated and named "Legro's Corner." Above the tavern on the east side, Thomas Goodwin, farmer and cooper, settled in 1776. Below Goodwin, extended a ministry lot which had a training field at one end and a frog pond at the other. The Hayes tannery lot was bounded by the lower edge of the ministry lot, the main wheelway and the Centre crossroad. Across the main highway from Hayes was the homestead of George Warren, blacksmith, which was bounded at the top by Thomas Legro.

A church was organized in 1795 by the Free Will Baptist Society, a dissident group who left the established Congregational First Parish. In 1801, the Society bought the first Meeting House which it removed to the Village on land of Thomas Legro. It was used until 1832 when it was dismantled and a new church built on the present site which is still in use.

The Village developed in the late 1700's and early 1800's with the selling of lots by the first permanent settlers and the division of the ministerial lot. Increased travel and commerce centered at the fork in the main highway. The present roadways replacing the old wheelpaths to the river and the centre were laid out there in the early 1820's.

Because of the agricultural base of the Village, the occupations of its inhabitants depended upon the needs of the farmers. Throughout the 19th century coopers, masons, carpenters, tanners, cordwainers and storekeepers lived here. The first of a continuous line of doctors, Dr. Nathaniel Adams, established here in 1800. He was followed by Drs. George Weld, T. M. Kimball and Samuel W. Jones. Dr. Jones, in 1865, began a law practice and served as the village lawyer. He also wrote an 1873 History of Lebanon (unpublished).

In 1848, the inhabitants raised funds by popular subscription for a private academy which was built the following year. The founders obtained an act of incorporation in 1850 as the Board of Trustees of Lebanon Academy. Rev. Oren B. Cheney, then pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church, became its first principal; he later founded Bates College. As many as 70 pupils, many from surrounding areas, were enrolled in each term. Among its graduates were Dr. Jonathan Y. Stanton, professor at Bates College; Dr. Hervey S. Cowell, principal of Cushing Academy; Frank S. Black, governor of New York, and Rev. John M. Farnham who is credited with the Shanghai dialect translation of the Bible. In the early
(See Continuation Sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET   **ITEM NUMBER** 8   **PAGE** 3

1900's, the Academy ceased private classes and was used as a town high school until 1942. It is now maintained by the Board of Trustees.

Since the first quarter of the 19th Century, West Lebanon Village has undergone little physical change. Although its agricultural basis has disappeared and with it the general store and tavern, its character remains the same. It is this character which is recognized and appreciated by visitors as well as residents. The "comfortable circumstances" of the now-residential village remain--a viable testimony to the 19th Century rural community.

West Lebanon retains most of the essential features of its 18th and 19th century heritage and is virtually untouched by any modern intrusions. Its architecture and conformation form a pleasing, balanced and cohesive whole.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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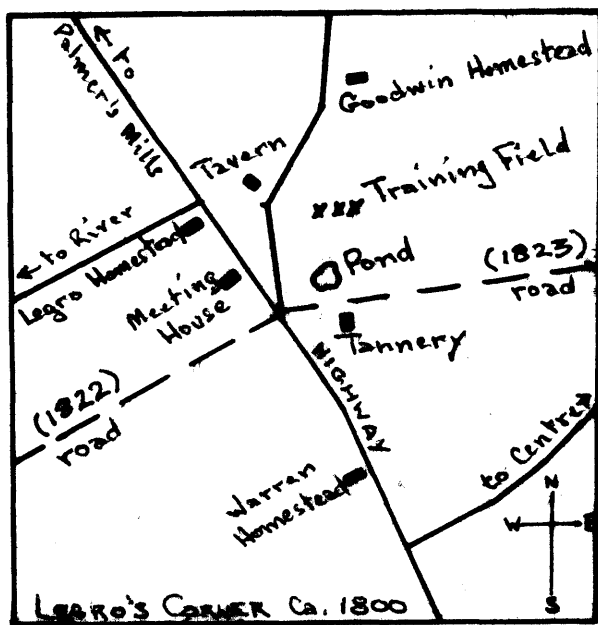
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DATE ENTERED JUN 5 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   10   PAGE   2

From there it follows this property line east to a point 250' east of Academy Lane and then turns southeast running parallel to and 250' east of that street until it reaches a point 250' north of Meeting House Road where it turns east running parallel to it until it reaches the eastern property line of the Samuel W. Jones Law Office (19). Here it runs south along said property line to Meeting House Road where it turns west along said road until intersecting with the east property line of the James Mathews House (18). The boundary runs south along this line to a point 250' from Meeting House Road, and thence westerly parallel to and 250' from Meeting House Road and N. Rochester Road, until it reaches a point 250' west of West Lebanon Road. From this point it runs northwesterly parallel to and 250' from West Lebanon Road until it intersects with the north property line of the Thomas Legro House (7) where it turns northeast following this line to a point of intersection with the Milton Road. The boundary then follows a straight line northerly to the point of beginning.

Sites indicated in parentheses