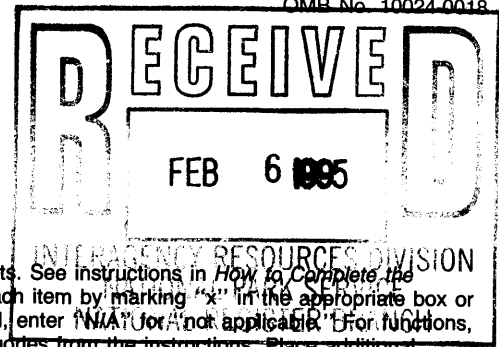


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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 Fitch's General Store and House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number East Side of Long Hill Road at Junction with Route 114 not for publication

city or town East Sebago vicinity

state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04029

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.)

Edward S. Peterson J SHD 1/31/95
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 the 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:) _____

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the National Register Date of Action 3/10/95

Fitch's General Store & House
Name of Property

Cumberland, 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Commerce/Trade/Department Store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Commerce/Trade/Department Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other Attached stable with 1920 store

Narrative Description

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

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 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

Commerce

Period of Significance

1920-1945

c. 1870

Significant Dates

1920

c. 1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Fitch's General Store & House
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.75

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9	3	6	8	0	1	1	0	4	8	5	7	1	1	0
Zone	Easting		Northing												

3

Zone	Easting		Northing												

2

Zone	Easting		Northing												

4

Zone	Easting		Northing												

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 James E. Hewat, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Comm. date January, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FITCH'S GENERAL STORE AND HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

Fitch's General Store and House consists of a two-and-a-half story gable front building which is connected to a two-and-a-half story dwelling by a two story ell. The entire complex is of wood frame construction and is set in a wooded rural area near the Northwest River. It is sheathed in clapboards, rests on a granite foundation, and features modest Greek Revival and Italianate elements.

The front (west) elevation of the complex is distinguished by its asymmetry and irregular fenestration. A low pitch gable front roof frames the facade of the store which is punctuated by a single, centrally located nine-over-six double hung window on the attic story and two nine-over-six double hung sash on the second floor. Window mouldings on the upper stories, corner pilasters, cornice returns, and the building's overall massing all appear to be inspired by the Greek Revival manner.

While the complex was probably constructed around 1870, the storefront was added to the stable in 1920 when the family business relocated there. The two large six-pane fixed sash that flank the centrally located doorway appear to date from this remodelling. A single story shed roof porch supported by four columns shelters the storefront.

The second story of the connecting ell features four three-over-three double hung windows above which runs a simple, continuous frieze. A medium pitch side gable roof intersects with the store on the north and the main house on the south. The first story of the ell has five bays. A six-over-six double hung window and wooden door (surmounted by a bracketed hood) flank a sliding barn door with a centrally located six-pane fixed window. Two one-over-one double hung sash are located on the south end of the ell and may have been added later. In contrast to the stable, the narrow pilasters and projecting window mouldings on the ell are Italianate in manner.

The cross gable roofed main house features two curving Italianate lintels over two windows on the attic story. Four sets of paired four-over-four double hung sash are located asymmetrically on the first and second floor. On the first story a porch wraps around the west and south sides of the gable end facade. The one story porch is supported by three posts which rest on the painted wooden floor. The added bay window located under the porch on the south elevation heightens the exterior asymmetry of the main house.

Later additions to the buildings are clearly visible on the rear (east) elevation of the complex. Chief among these is a narrow two-storied bay addition on the north facade of the main house where the roof line extends out from the cornice return giving the visual effect of a double roof. This addition appears to post-date the ell. The rear porch on the main house and

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FITCH'S GENERAL STORE AND HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

outhouse at the back of the store are probably later accretions.

The interior of the store retains a high degree of integrity with many original features dating from 1920 when the former stable was converted into a store. Acoustical tile has been placed over the ceiling in the main store area. On the second story, a centrally located single truss supports the floor, presumably, to allow for an unobstructed interior space on the first story. The second story houses a remarkable collection of historic general store merchandise and advertising material.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FITCH'S GENERAL STORE AND HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Fitch's General Store and House is an unusually intact general merchandise country store and residence that has been operating continuously in East Sebago since 1920. The business was moved to its present site after the original store, located across the street was destroyed by fire in 1919. The frame complex itself (which now houses the store) was built about 1870 as a private residence for George E. Fitch. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion A for its local commercial significance and criterion C for its local architectural significance.

Fitch's General Store and House is one of the last standing historic structures in the village of East Sebago. In the 1920's, it was the center of the village which contained a lumber mill, a grist mill, several dwellings, a rival general merchandise store, and a local school. Today, the store remains as the most important commercial enterprise in the area. Beyond its interest as a representative example of a nineteenth century extended residential complex, this property is a remarkable survival of an early twentieth century country store. It is the descendant of a family enterprise that has continued for nearly two hundred years.

William Fitch of Groton, Massachusetts first settled in the area in 1793 and soon after built a lumber mill on the Northwest River near the present store. William was active in local politics, was postmaster for many years, and served in the state legislature from 1822-24. In 1850, the Industrial Schedule of the Census records that William's son Luther Fitch had two employees and was producing 150,000 board feet of lumber with a value of \$900.00. By 1860, the Census reports that the Fitch lumber mill was producing 300,000 board feet a year and a grist mill was also in operation. Like his father, Luther was involved in both local and state politics serving as selectman for Sebago for many years and being elected to the state legislature in 1871.

In 1832, Luther Fitch built a store on the west side of Long Hill Road. An historic photograph shows a simple two-and-one half story frame structure with a first floor porch very similar in appearance to that found on the present store. Around 1870, Luther's son George E. Fitch built the existing frame complex which now houses the store for his residence. The business was taken over by Luther's son George around 1885 and by his son Montford in 1909. In October of 1919, lightning struck and consequently burned down the original store. The following spring, Montford contracted for the conversion of his father's stable into a store. In 1957, Montford's son Laurence took over the store and is still the proprietor.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FITCH'S GENERAL STORE AND HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Chadbourne, Ava E., Maine Place Names, University of Maine Press. 1955.

Clayton, W. W., History of Cumberland County, Maine. Vol. 1; 11; 1880; 1994 Reprint.

Meserve, Fred L., Centennial History of Sebago, Maine, 1826-1926.

Oliphant, Duncan, Maine's Cumberland County. 1961.

Census

Seventh, Eithth, Ninth, and Tenth Census of the United States. 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Cumberland County. Industrial Schedule. Microfilm copy of the National Archives manuscript. Maine State Archives, Augusta.

Maps

1871 Map of Cumberland County. Caldwell; Halfpenny, Philadelphia.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FITCH'S GENERAL STORE AND HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the Town of Sebago, Tax Map 2, Lot 15.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with Fitch's General Store and House.