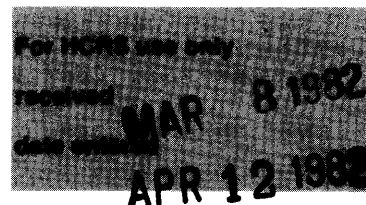


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 William Sewall House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Island Falls, _____ vicinity of congressional district #2

state Maine code 023 county Aroostook code 003

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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Maurice V. and Nancy S. Cunningham

street & number P. O. Box 7

city, town Island Falls, _____ vicinity of state Maine 04747

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number _____

city, town Houlton, _____ state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None 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

Built in 1865, the William Sewall House is a vernacular example of the late Greek Revival style in an extremely remote location.

The home is of frame construction with 2½ stories gable roof, two internal chimneys, clapboard siding, and granite foundation. Fenestration is 6/6 throughout save for the bay windows.

The facade, which faces northwest, is three bays wide, the central bay on the ground floor being the front door. The four panel door is recessed and flanked by side lights and pilasters. On either side of the front door is a three-sided bay window. Fenestration in the central section is 2/2, in the side sections it is 1/1. The second story possesses three identical sash windows. A porch, with a hipped roof and simple, square supporting posts, extends across the facade and southwest side of the first story.

The gable ends on the northeast and southwest sides of the house are identical. There are two windows in the two full stories as well as in the ½ story.

Attached to the southwest rear corner of the house is a 1½ story ell running toward the southeast connecting the main house to a 1½ story carriage house. This extension is of the same style and construction as the house itself. Two large barn doors facing northwest from the facade of the carriage house are flanked by two 6/6 sash windows.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) nature/wildlife
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1865 **Builder/Architect** Osgood Pingree

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Beyond its local importance as the former home of Island Falls' first citizen, the Sewall House has a national significance in that its original owner was a companion, guide, and lifelong friend of Theodore Roosevelt. William Wingate Sewall wrote his own biography of "T.R." in 1919, just after the former President's death which describes Roosevelt in a very personal manner. The two men, though separated in their age and geographic location, retained their friendship from their first meeting, when T.R. was 18, until Roosevelt's death in 1919.

The Aroostook County town of Island Falls was first settled in 1842 by two Farmington men, Levi Sewall and Jesse Craig. Three years later Mrs. Sewall gave birth to her tenth child, William Wingate Sewall, who was the first child born in the tiny community. Until his late teens Sewall worked as a frontier farmer, but in 1861 he went on his first log drive. He and his older brothers continued lumbering winters and having drives in the spring until 1920. Sewall went on his last log drive in that year, when he was 75.

In 1865 Sewall had the simple, Greek Revival style house here nominated built by Osgood Pingree, a former neighbor and classmate of Daniel Webster. It was Sewall's home and served as Island Falls' first post office. It became well-known for its use as an "open house" for hunters on their way further north. While keeping the open house in 1872 Sewall met young Theodore Roosevelt. During three successive fall hunting expeditions Sewall served as Roosevelt's guide and companion, hired especially to ensure that the rather sickly youth did not overexert himself. Although they differed in age by thirteen years, T.R. and Sewall became close friends who, in the words of Roosevelt, "looked at the really important matters of public policy and private conduct from substantially the same viewpoint."

After 1878 Roosevelt never returned to Island Falls, but he and Sewall corresponded frequently. It was not until after the birth of T.R.'s daughter, Alice, and the deaths of his wife and mother in 1884 that the two men met again. Roosevelt had invested in a great deal of land in the Dakota Territory and wanted Sewall, along with Wilmot Dow (Sewall's nephew and a former Roosevelt guide), to join him in the cattle business there. By August 1, 1884, the three men were in the "Bad Lands." There, Sewall and Dow learned to drive cattle rather than logs, and they built a log ranch house from designs by Sewall himself. In the spring of 1885 Mrs. Sewall and Mrs. Dow arrived at Elkhorn Ranch, and a contract was drawn up to the effect that Roosevelt would continue to own and finance the ranch if Sewall and Dow would manage it. The venture was a financial disaster and it ended in 1886. The Maine folk returned to Island Falls while Roosevelt became Mayor of New York City.

9. Major Bibliographical References

W. W. Sewall, Bill Sewall's Story of T. R., New York, 1919.

Nina G. Sawyer, A History of Island Falls, Maine, 1972.

UNRECORDED

10. Geographical Data

UNRECORDED

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Island Falls

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	9	5	5	6	5	4	0	5	0	9	5	0	0	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing							

B

Zone		Easting						Northing							

C

Zone		Easting						Northing							

D

Zone		Easting						Northing							

E

Zone		Easting						Northing							

F

Zone		Easting						Northing							

G

Zone		Easting						Northing							

H

Zone		Easting						Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 2, Lot 127

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Hist./Bette A. Smith, Ass't.

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Emilio S. Felten*

title S.H.P.O. date 2/18/82

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
<i>for</i> <u><i>Alvina Byers</i></u> date <u>4/12/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	APR 12 1982

WILLIAM SEWALL HOME

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Roosevelt's career after 1886 is well-documented in many history books, but his friendship with Bill Sewall is seldom mentioned. Several of their conversations are recorded in Bill Sewall's Story of T. R. Sewall advised T. R. in 1885, "If you cannot think of anything else to do you can go home and start a reform. You would make a good reformer." In 1886 Sewall told him, "If you go into politics and live, your chance to be President is good." How true these words proved to be!

Even with separation the two men's "minds seemed to run just like a team," according to Sewall. In 1902, President Roosevelt visited Bangor and made arrangements for Sewall to be in the city at the same time. This short, but pleasant visit was followed by an invitation to the White House in 1903, and to the inaugurations in 1905 and 1909. "Never were there more welcome guests at the White House," wrote Roosevelt in 1918.

Sewall is fondly remembered by the townspeople of Island Falls fifty years after his death. His home is still owned and occupied by his youngest daughter, Nancy. It stands as a reminder of Theodore Roosevelt, but also of "every honest man's friend," William Wingate Sewall.