

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 5 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON: ~~The~~ Warren Block

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

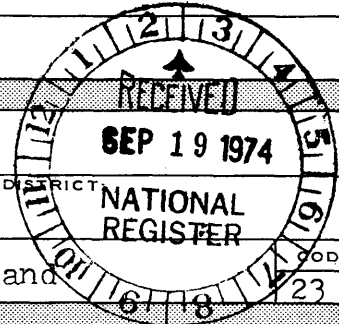
CITY OR TOWN:  
Westbrook

STATE  
Maine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1st

COUNTY:  
Cumberland

CODE  
23



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Paul J. Albert

STREET AND NUMBER:  
170 Myrtle Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Westbrook

STATE:  
Maine

CODE  
23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portland

STATE:  
Maine

CODE  
23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Warren Block ranks as one of the most sophisticated and complex Queen Anne style structures in Maine. Designed in 1882, this multi-purpose building was the work of John Calvin Stevens I while in the partnership of Fasset and Stevens of Portland. The Block is an excellent example of a progressive trend in late 19th century American architecture to be concerned with interior functions and allow that consideration to dictate exterior form. Thus, little traditional symmetry is present in Stevens' irregular and picturesque plan. An additional factor which governed the Block's design was its triangular parcel of land located at the intersection of two major thoroughfares.

The Warren Block has an elongated rectangular shape, stands three stories high, and possesses a somewhat irregular hipped roof with a small square domed tower. The building has a granite foundation, is of brick and frame construction, and displays brownstone and terra cotta decoration. The first two stories are of brick while the third one is of wood and sheathed in shingles.

The east elevation of the Warren Block faces on the intersection. Originally the first and second stories of this wall contained a progression of three arched windows which lighted the structure's major stairwell. Decorative terra cotta panels were located under all three windows and above the center one as well. A small window with a brownstone sill and lintel appeared in the northeast corner of the wall. This first and second story elevation is now covered by a modern one story frame addition which is used as a pharmacy. The third story remains intact with its central projecting bay and flanking shingled walls. This bay contains three front and two side windows which exhibit the period style of many small panes of glass in the upper half. Variations of this window arrangement are repeated throughout the building. The bay is capped by a handsome triangular pediment which features an intricate terra cotta panel bearing the date "1882." This panel is surrounded by a wooden dentil molding.

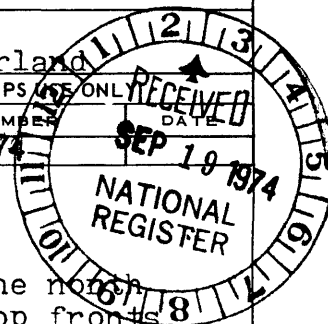
The north wall is the principal facade of the Warren Block. This wall is comprised of three major sections. Located at the northeast corner, the first section is basically one bay wide. The first story contains the principal entrance to the major stairwell. The double entrance doors are paneled and have a multi-paned overlight above them. Over the doorway is a large triangular pediment supported by two graceful brackets. This pediment contains a terra cotta ornament with a beautifully free-flowing design. The ornament is surrounded by a dentil molding. To the left of the doorway is a small window with a brownstone sill and lintel. A horizontal course of brownstone runs between the first and second stories. On the second story is an arched window. Above this window is a large three

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(Number all entries) 7. Description (continued)  
part window surrounded by a shingled wall.

The central section is the largest portion of the north wall. The first story contains three stores, the shop fronts of which have all been altered. The fronts are divided by four brick piers which are ornamented near the top by a recessed brick cross within a recessed brick square. Horizontal bands of brownstone appear above and below this decoration. The second story possesses a series of six elongated arched windows. Their brownstone sills are part of a horizontal brownstone course across the facade of this section. Another horizontal brownstone course appears near the top of the windows. The predominant feature of the third story is a large projecting bay which features an elaborately mullioned double window. Immediately below are two terra cotta panels. Below these is a wooden supportive element which gracefully tapers to another terra cotta panel. Above the double window is a triangular pediment in which is located a terra cotta panel. A dentil molding surrounds this panel and also appears below the pediment. In addition to the projecting gable, the third story contains a double window as well as a single one on either side of the gable.

The third section of the north wall contains a shop front in original condition. Above it are three arched windows with brownstone lintels. The shingled third story contains three more windows.

The west wall of the Warren Block is the least elaborate. The first story has a brick wall with one small arched window in the center. The second story possesses three arched windows, a small one in the center, flanked by two large ones. Both these first and second story windows have brownstone lintels. The shingled third story displays a series of three single windows.

The south wall of the Warren Block is composed of four major parts. The first part contains an arched doorway and window on the first story, two arched windows on the second, and three windows on the third. The second part is a four-walled projection. Its first section has an arched single window on the first story, an arched double window on the second story, and a single window on the third. The second section has two arched doorways on the first story, the right one of which has become enclosed. Above these is a large brick wall with a terra cotta panel in the center featuring a vase of flowers and capped by a broken scroll pediment.

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The third story has a double window below which appear two rectangular panels and a series of projecting moldings. The third section has been altered into a store front on the first story, while an arched double window appears on the second and a single one on the third. The fourth section contains more of the recent shop front on the first story, while the second and third stories each feature a handsome terra cotta ornament. The second story panel bears the letter "W" for Warren.

The third major part of the Warren Block's south wall also has a modern store entrance on its first floor. Above this are two arched windows on the second story and a double window on the third. The final part of the south wall has two arched windows on the first story and one on the second. The third story displays a three part window.

Despite the addition to the east wall and some lesser changes, the Warren Block is basically intact. It functions on its original plan of shops on the first story and offices and meeting halls on the second and third stories. The complexity and richness of its Queen Anne design makes the Block a building of continual interest.



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1882

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early years of the S.D. Warren Co., in Westbrook, Maine were marked by what were for the times, extraordinarily good employer-employee relations. The man most responsible for this situation was Samuel Dennis Warren, founder and principal owner of the company. Although a resident of Boston he was nevertheless concerned for the welfare of the Maine community where his plant was located. The outpouring of sentiment at his death in 1888 was quite obviously genuine on the part of Westbrook residents.

Born on September 13, 1817 at Grafton, Massachusetts and educated at a Quaker school in Groton, and later an academy in Amherst, Warren at age 15 entered the paper business as an employee of Grant and Daniell paper dealers in Boston. At 21 he was admitted to the firm as a junior partner.

Rising rapidly in the firm, he acquired on his own account in 1854; the property in Westbrook known as Cumberland Mills. By 1867, having bought out Daniell, he was in business under his own name and the plant at Cumberland Mills was growing rapidly. This growth continued, with a brief interruption from the Panic of 1873 until his death when S.D. Warren & Co. had become one of the major paper producers in the country.

He was always interested in manufacturing innovations and moved into the wood pulp revolution at just the right time. He made his decisions with intelligence and foresight, yet moved with sufficient deliberation to avoid adversity.

His social consciousness was widely manifest in Westbrook. The company housing which he provided in the area of the plant was a good example of urban planning and far more adequate than existed in most industrial communities of the time. Warren provided half the money to build the Warren Congregational Church, of which he was a member, in 1869; built the parsonage in 1887 and was also instrumental in school construction. From the beginning he provided a small library for workers and his wife left a bequest which still largely supports the town library.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

David C. Smith, A History of Papermaking in the United States, New York, 1970.  
 Earnest R. Rowe, Highlights of Westbrook History, Portland, 1952.  
 Samuel Dennis Warren, A Tribute From the People of Gumberland Mills, Riverside Press, Cambridge, 1888.  
 The Portland Daily Press, 1882, 1883.  
 The Westbrook Chronicle, 1882, 1883.

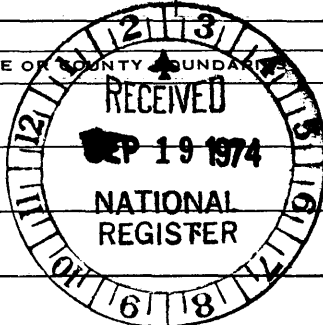
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 40' 53"	70° 20' 54"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



2210  
 HRS  
 E 391300  
 N 48291200

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 E. G. Shettleworth & F.A. Beard

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission      DATE: 8-30-74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta      STATE: Maine      CODE: 23

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: James H. Mundy  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date: September 16, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Wooten  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/5/74

ATTEST:  
Wm Shultz  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.5.74

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8. Significance

The Warren Block is perhaps the most substantial monument to his interest in the community. Typically he retained one of Maine's most prominent architects, John Calvin Stevens I to design the structure and a contemporary newspaper account marvelled at, " the artistic skill," displayed on the interior. It was intended as a community service building, and as such contained four stores, several offices, a public hall and a hall for the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias. One reporter asserted that, " it will excell anything of its kind in the State of Maine if not in New England."

The Warren Block is most significant as an example of industrial benevolence at a time when such concern for the workers and the community in which they lived was all too rare. S.D. Warren was reported by a contemporary as commenting:

I did not build this as an investment; I did not expect it would pay when I built it; but I knew that the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows were quite large bodies and I learned that it was their duty to help each other. We have but a little while to live, and it is our duty as men and as citizens to do all that we can to help each other, and I have built this building more especially that they might have a place to meet, for I believe that one can do better business where such institutions are encouraged.

This statement reveals the builder of the Warren Block to have been a rather honest mixture of benevolence and self interest mixed in proper proportions to benefit the entire community. Maybe that is one reason why S.D. Warren never experienced a strike in the lifetime of its founder.

