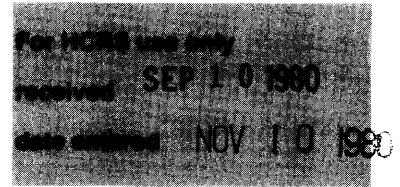


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Maine Woods Office

and/or common Phillips Community House

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Phillips \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Maine code 23 county Franklin code 007

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Phillips Congregational Church

street & number Main Street

city, town Phillips \_\_\_ vicinity of state Maine

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Skowhegan state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

The "Maine Woods" office building of Phillips, Maine is an extremely rare example of a wooden Gothic Revival commercial structure and the only one of its kind in the area.

The building stands two and one-half stories tall and is built of frame construction resting on a cut granite foundation. Its first floor has a clap-boarded exterior which is not original. However, the original board and batten is present on the upper levels. There is a large gable roof in the Gothic Revival tradition. Fenestration consists of two main facade first story single sash windows flanking a central doorway. Second story fenestration is 6/6 with labelled lintels and there is a Gothic window in the half-story completing the frontal facade which faces south. The sides of the structure have 6/6 fenestration lacking the detail found on the main facade. On the west side of the building is a secondary entrance of little detail and at the rear is an internal brick chimney.

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

**Specific dates** 1848 **Builder/Architect** Moses Sherburne

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The "Maine Woods" office is significant not only as a rare architectural example but also because of its use as an important publishing office and its role in the social life of the community.

The building was constructed in 1848 by Moses Sherburne a prominent lawyer and business man in the area. It is architecturally important as a rare example of a wooden Gothic Revival commercial building in Maine. The structure's role in the community as a social institution started in 1851 when the upper floor became the first Masonic Hall in Phillips. It functioned in this manner until 1902 when a new Mason's Hall was built. The most significant use of this building began in 1878 when the first floor served as the printing office for the "Phillips Phonograph" and the "Maine Woods" newspapers. The "Maine Woods" actually achieved an international reputation as it carried the latest news concerning hunting and fishing in Maine to thousands of sportsmen all over the world. In 1918 the Congregational Church purchased the building for use as a social center. It has served this function for the last sixty years.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"About the Birth of the Maine Woods," Maine Woods, August 1, 1912

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Phillips

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 19 393800 4964100  
Zone Easting Northing

B              
Zone Easting Northing

C            

D            

E            

F            

G            

H            

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's map U-4, Lot #17

### 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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/ James Schimmer, Intern

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1980

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta state Maine

# 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 *Eileen S. Feltner*

title S.H.P.O. date 8/29/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Bruce La Barge</i></u>	date <u>11/10/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u><i>Patricia Andrews</i></u>	date <u>11/3/80</u>
Chief of Registration	