

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

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

For NPS use only
received **23** 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Philip Leach House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Hussey Hill Road, N/A not for publication

city, town Vassalboro, Vt. vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trudy Overlock

street & number Hussey Hill Road

city, town Vassalboro, vicinity of state Maine 04935

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Augusta, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A 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 Leach House is a small Federal-style Cape, 5 X 2 bayed, with two windows in each gable end. The door is centrally-located on the facade, and is flanked by simple sidelights. The walls are clapboarded and all windows have the original 6/6 panes. The facade faces south.

The walls of the parlor, located in the front, left-hand corner, are repeated with early nineteenth-century stencil-work. The stencils, extremely bright and well-preserved, were executed in primary green, red, and yellow. Abstract floral designs frame each wall near ceiling, floor, and corner, and divide the surface into long thin panels, each of which holds a row of stylized designs. Recurring motifs are a pineapple, a maple leaf within a simple wreath, a red starburst, and a red bird on a willow. The only non-repeating design is a yellow bird on a basket of flowers, directly above the mantelpiece.

Portions of a painted design on the parlor floor have also been preserved. It consists of two lozenge-shaped leaves, executed freehand in green paint, repeated in regular fashion over the whole area of the floor. Only the borders of the leaves are delineated. The brush strokes have a sweeping, wispy quality.

Simple Federal finishings, including fireplace mantels, exist throughout the house.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1805 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Philip Leach House contains one completely stencilled room in a state of preservation unequalled elsewhere in Maine and comparable to the best in the nation. Covered by wallpaper, apparently only shortly after being applied, they were revealed within the past year by painstaking removal of the paper. Comparison with the stencils in his kit, which still survives, indicates that the decoration is clearly the work of Moses Eaton (1796–1886), the noted itinerant stenciller from New Hampshire. The date of the work is probably no later than 1825 since Eaton gave up his travels and became a full time farmer as a still fairly young man.

The house was built c. 1805 by Philip Leach, Esq., a lawyer, who later became postmaster in East Vassalboro.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Waring, Janet. Early American Stencil Decorations. Century House, 1937.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Vassalboro

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	4	5	1	5	2	0	4	1	9	2	1	6	2	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 21, Lot 1

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/Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date July, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Eileen S. Fetherwood

title S.H.P.O.

date 9/12/83

For NPS use only

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

Melona Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/20/83

Attest:
Chief of Registration

date