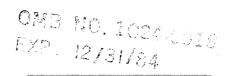
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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

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3. Clas	sification	on						
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Condition x excellent good 5 ruins fair unexposed	Check oneX unaltered altered	Check one X original site moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

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 repleat 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 leafs, executed freehand in green paint, repeated in regular fashion over the whole area of the floor. Only the borders of the leafs are dileanated. The brush strokes have a sweeping, whispy quality.

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

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture X art commerce communications		I andscape architectur I aw I iterature I military I music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c. 1805	Builder/Architect U	nknown	

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. <u>Early American Stencil Decorations</u>. Century House, 1937.

10. Geograp	hical Data				
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Verbal boundary description	-				
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state	code	county		code	
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11. Form Pre	nared By				
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city or town Augusta,			state Ma	ine 04333	·
12. State His	toric Pres	ervatio	n Office	r Certification	n
The evaluated significance of	his property within the	state is:			
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For NPS use only I hereby certify that this	property is included in t	he National Regi		tate /0/20/83	
Keeper of the National Re	jister	Patrioppes Reg	e de la companya de l	iate / / / B	
Chief of Registration			Market State		