

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **AUG 15 1979**  
DATE ENTERED **OCT 9 1979**

**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

Cushman Tavern

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

*NE of Lisbon on*

STREET & NUMBER

*Route 9 (Maine) ME 9,*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

*Lisbon & Sabattus*

VICINITY OF  
CODE

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*Second*

STATE

*Maine*

*023*

COUNTY FIPS CODE

*Androscoggin*

*001*

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NOXIOUS

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*Eleanor H. Morse*

STREET & NUMBER

*R.F.D. #1, Box 124*

CITY, TOWN

*Lisbon*

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Maine 04250*

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

*Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

*Auburn*

STATE

*Maine*

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cushman Tavern, dating from c.1825, is a fine and well-preserved late Federal style building.

The building is of frame construction with 2½ stories, 3 internal brick chimneys, gable roof, clapboard siding, and granite foundation. The facade, which faces east, is 5 bays wide, while the gable-ends are 2 bays wide. The facade contains a central entrance which consists of a panelled door flanked by pilasters and sidelights, likewise flanked by pilasters. A delicate fanlight caps the door. The entrance is covered by an entablatured lintel. Fenestration throughout the building is 2/2, but it would originally have been 9/6 or 6/6.

Extending from the south end of the building is a 2-story ell which is 3 bays long and contains an entrance adjacent to the main building, facing south. An attached gable-roofed shed of one story and a 2-story frame barn extend from the southern end of the ell.

The most distinctive internal feature is hall murals, discussed under the significance of the Cushman Tavern.

# 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.1825

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built c.1825 by a Mr. Dwinal, this large house was sold within two years to Captain Samuel Cushman who operated it as a tavern for many years. It is now a private residence.

The significance of this building lies in the magnificent murals by Orison Wood executed in the first and second story hallways and the wall of the stairwell between. These murals are outstanding examples of highly stylized primitive painting.

In her book, Rufus Porter, Yankee Pioneer, Jean Lipman writes, "Orison Wood (1811-1842) of Auburn, Maine, was Porter's outstanding follower. He is listed in the Wood genealogy as "a painter by trade" who was also a schoolteacher. His father, Solomon, had gone to Boston as a young man to seek his fortune, and had found employment with an Italian who made, painted and peddled decorative plaster ornaments. Orison evidently learned the plaster painting technique from his father, using it to decorate plaster walls instead of figurines. About 1830 he frescoed at least four houses in West Auburn, Lewiston and Webster Corner, Maine, with landscapes clearly planned after Porter designs. These were executed in Porter's recommended technique, perhaps actually under his supervision. Wood was, however, no mere assistant; his animated murals have, within the Porter formula, a distinctive graceful style of their own. We get a firsthand glimpse of the painter's sales technique from an old issue of the Lewiston Journal (January 22, 1927) where we can read the story -- recorded by Captain Cushman's daughter--of how a stranger came to the door of the Cushman Tavern in Webster Corner soon after it was built in 1826, said he was an artist, and could paint the walls with marvelous decorations which would help to advertise the Cushman House far and wide and make its name notable on the lips of the traveling public. Wood's frescoes must have brought travelers to the Cushman Tavern in his day. Perhaps now, after these works have been ignored for over a century, some people will once more come to the former tavern on the old stage road from Portland to Bangor just to see the frescoes. Certainly these landscape designs in which willow trees fill the space in a bold pattern are outstanding examples of early American art."

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lipman, Jean, Rufus Porter, Yankee Pioneer, New York, 1968.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Lewiston

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 412990 4878900  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house is located on the town line between Lisbon and Sabattus. House lot references are: Lisbon, Map R9, Lot 14; Sabattus, Map 2, Lot 26.

## 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, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

July, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Carol S. Heltfer*

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

8/10/79

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carol Hull*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-9-79

ATTEST:

*Barbara Dwyer*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

10/6/79