UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 15 1979

DATE ENTERED OCT 9 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME HISTORIC CUSHIMAN TAVEYN AND/OR COMMON 2 LOCATION NE of CONGRESSIONAL DISTRUCT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRUCT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRUCT STATE ROUGE - (Natine) NE of COOPE STATE NUMBER ROUGE - (Natine) NE of COOPE STATE - COUNTY - DEPOSITION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS - AGRICULTURE - MUSEUM DISTRUCT - PUBLIC X COCUPIED - AGRICULTURE - MUSEUM - DISTRUCT - PUBLIC X COCUPIED - COMMERCIAL X-PARK - STRUCTURE - BOTH - ACCESSIBLE - ENDICATIONAL X-PRIVATE RESIDEN - SITE - PUBLIC ACQUISITION - ACCESSIBLE - ENDICATIONAL X-PRIVATE RESIDEN - SITE - PUBLIC ACQUISITION - ACCESSIBLE - ENDICATIONAL X-PRIVATE RESIDEN - SITE - PUBLIC ACQUISITION - ACCESSIBLE - ENTERTAINMENT - SCHEMER'S - SEING CONSIDERED - YES UMRESTRICTED - GOVERNMENT - SCHEMER'S - SEING CONSIDERED - YES UMRESTRICTED - MILITARY - OTHER: 1 OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME - STRUCT BOYN - MAINE O4250 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION - CORPHANDER - STATE - LISBOR - VICINITY OF - Maine 04250 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION - CORPHANDER - STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DEPOSITORY FOR SUMPLY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - STREET A NUMBER - STREET A NUMBER - CITY - TOWN - AUBUUR - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DEPOSITORY FOR SUMPLY RECORDS - TITLE - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DEPOSITORY FOR SUMPLY RECORDS - COUNTY - LOCAL - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DEPOSITORY FOR SUMPLY RECORDS - COUNTY - LOCAL - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DEPOSITORY FOR SUMPLY RECORDS - COUNTY - LOCAL - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DEPOSITORY FOR SUMPLY RECORDS - COUNTY - LOCAL - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DATE - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DATE - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - DATE - PEDERAL STATE - COUNTY - LOCAL - LOCAL STATES - LOCAL STATE					·
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X_EXCELLENT

__FAIR

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__UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED X_ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

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.

PERIOD	OD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	XART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER		
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DAT	ES c.1825	BUILDER/ARCH	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 gracile 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 willowy 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.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL D	1.							
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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 PROPERTI	ES OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY BOUN	IDARIES				
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12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATION	OFFICER (CERTIFICATION	J				
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TITLE S. H. P.O.			DATE 8/	10/79				
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS!	PROPERTY IS INCLUDED I	N THE NATIONAL I	REGISTER	,				
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