United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY | 2 1986

date entered

JUN 20 1000

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	A. B. Leavitt	: Hous	е					
and or common								
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	Maine 128					N	I↓A not for public	ation
city, town	Sherman,		<u>X</u> v	vicinity of	Sherman Mills		<i>n</i>	
state	Maine	code	23	county	Aroostook		code	003
3. Clas	sification							
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisitio N/A_ in process being consider		Accessib yes: (cupied in progress ole	Present Use agricultur commerc educatior entertain governme industrial military	re ial nal ment ent	museum park _X private res religious scientific transporta other:	
4. Owr	ner of Pro	per	ty	1 <u>.</u>	la de la composición			
name	William Lewis						-	
street & number							· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
city, town	Sherman Mills,			icinity of	• • • •	state	Maine 04	776
5. Loca	ation of L	ega	I Des	cripti	on	· · · ·		
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc.	Aroo	stook Co	ounty Regi	stry of Deeds			
street & number		Cour	t Street	-				
city, town		Houl	ton,			state	Maine	
6. Rep	resentatio	on i	n Exi	sting	Surveys			
title	N/A			has this pr	operty been determ	ined eli	gible? ^{N/A} _yes	no
date					federal	state	e county _	local
depository for s	urvey records							
city, town						state		

7. Description

Condition		Check one
<u>X</u> excellent	deteriorated	<u>X</u> unaltered
gr ood	VAM ruins	altered
fáir	Imani unexposed	

Check one X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Leavitt House occupies a corner lot in the center of the village of Sherman Mills. Located on the west end of town, it is surrounded by scattered residences dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This two-and-one-half story house is rectangular with an attached carriage barn. Constructed of wood with clapboard and novelty siding, the Leavitt House has multiple gable roofs and a corner tower which contains the main entrance. Each gable end is filled with incised and pierced vergeboard. There are two bay windows with shed roofs supported on large brackets and two small shedroof porches with turned posts over both the main and secondary entrances. The corner tower has decorative panelling and a steeply pitched hipped roof with cresting. A small ornamental ventilator with gable roof and vergeboard is over the carriage house. The windows throughout the house are two-overtwo double-hung sash.

The only significant alteration to the house is the replacement of the original carriage house doors with recent wood garage doors, the rebuilding of the chimney and the removal of scalloped cresting along the ridge of the roof.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance-C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 _X_ 1800–1899	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	law literature military music philosophy	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
1900–	communications	industry invention	politics/government	transportation other (specify)

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  Specific dates
  c. 1890-91
  Builder/Architect Chester Coburn/Palliser, Palliser & Co., N.Y.

  Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
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This house is architecturally significant as the most outstanding example of mail-order architecture that has been identified in Maine. This remarkably unaltered residence, located in one of the most rural areas of the state, is based on Design 28, of a catalogue produced by the architectural firm of Palliser, Palliser & Company.

Brothers George and Charles Palliser, two British-born architects, are responsible for originating the concept of mail-order house plans in 1876. Located first in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and later in New York City, this firm was enormously successful and was soon imitated by a host of competitors throughout the country. Numerous examples of the firm's work can be found in Maine, although none as distinctive and imposing as the Leavitt House.

The house was constructed by Alva P. Leavitt in about 1890. Leavett had a wheelwright, blacksmith, paint and repair shop in town. He also served as postmaster from 1893-97. The contractor was Chester Coburn, a local builder who also erected another large and unusual Queen Anne style house in Sherman Mills for Alfred Spooner. The latter employed Palliser-details, but is not a Palliser design. For the Leavitt House, Coburn expanded upon the Palliser scheme by including an attached carriage house. This is an integral part of the design and repeats motifs used for the main section of the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

GPO 894-785

The Palliser's Late Victorian Architecture, American Life Foundation, Watkins Glen, 1978. Island Falls Record, May, 1896.

"History of Sherman, Maine", undated manuscript by Erma Smith Whitehouse, 36 pp.

10. Geographica	l Data				
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle nameSherman UTM References	-		Qı	uadrangle scale 1:62,500	
A 1 9 5 4 7 4 0 0 5 0 7 Zone Easting Northing	9 8 7 0	B Zone	Easting		
		D F H			
Verbal boundary description and ju	ustification				
Assessor's Map 17,	Lot 3.	с. С.			
List all states and counties for pro	perties overl	apping state or c	ounty bour	Idaries	
state	code	county		code	
state	code	county		code	
11. Form Prepare	ed By				
name/title Roger G. Reed, A			date		
organization Maine Historic P	reservation	Commission •		April, 1986	
street & number 55 Capitol Stree	t, Station	#65 t	elephone	207/289-2132	
city or town Augusta,			state I	Maine 04333	
12. State Historie	c Prese	ervation	Office	er Certification	
The evaluated significance of this prope	erty within the s	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					
title SH. P.O.	and	<u> </u>	4	dere 5/7/86	
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property i	s included in th	ne National Registe	r		
Keeper of the National Register		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		date 6 20 80	
Attest: Beth . ava	fl			date 6-20-86	