
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 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 shed-roof 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-over-two 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—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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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. Leavitt 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

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. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Sherman

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

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5	4	7	4	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 17, Lot 3.

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 Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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 *Erma S. Whitehouse*

title SH.P.O. date 5/7/86

For NPS use only

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

Patricia Andrews date 6/20/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Beth K. Savage* date 6-20-86

Chief of Registration