

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001115 Date Listed: 10/29/93

Mallett Hall Property Name Penobscot County ME State

N/A Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Jr. Beth L. Sarge
Signature of the Keeper

10/29/93
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

6. Function or Use: Historic Function

"Education/Education-related" is not an applicable historic function because it does not relate to the property's documented significance.

This information has been discussed with Kirk Mohny, National Register Coordinator, MESHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

RECEIVED

SEP 14 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mallett Hall

other names/site number Mt. Jefferson House

2. Location

street & number North Side of Route 6, .1 mile East of Junct. w/Rt. 168 N/A not for publication

city or town Lee N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Penobscot code 19 zip code 04455

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 9/3/93
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

 Signature of the Keeper

10/29/93
 Date of Action

MALLETT HALL
Name of Property

PENOBSCOT, ME
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel
Education/Education-Related
Recreation and Culture/Auditorium

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Metal/Tin
other Wraparound Wooden Porch

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1889-c. 1930

Significant Dates

1889

c. 1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MALLETT HALL
Name of Property

PENOBSCOT, ME
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	5 5 6 0 7 0	5 0 2 2 9 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1993

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMALLETT HALLSection number 7 Page 2

Standing on an elevated site in the small village of Lee, Mallett Hall is a long rectangularly-shaped, two-story frame building which rests on a granite foundation and is covered by a hip roof. A shed roofed porch spans the five-bay front and long east side elevation. The building is sheathed entirely in weatherboards.

Facing south, the front elevation has an asymmetrical fenestration pattern consisting of a trio of two-over-two windows, a door located off-center and a large picture window on the first story, and six windows positioned on the second story. All of the openings are framed by unadorned flat surrounds. The picture window is a relatively recent replacement of a single two-over-two unit. A wide frieze and overhanging cornice (which extends around the building) caps the elevation, and the porch, which has been reconstructed during the past year, presently features square posts. Restoration plans include the further detailing of the porch with chamfering on the posts, and the replication of the simple brackets and frieze board which linked each post.

The east elevation has thirteen window openings and three four-panel doors on the first story, and eleven windows on the second story. Ten of the lower units and all of the upper ones have a two-over-two configuration. The balance of the windows are smaller with single multi-pane sash. On the west side, there are ten two-over-two windows and two doors on the first story as well as twelve windows on the upper story. An additional three first story windows along with two second story windows and a door (for emergency access) punctuate the rear elevation.

Mallett Hall was originally built as an inn with a large second floor room provided for dances. Despite significant alterations to the finish of the rooms and subdivision of the dance floor during the building's conversion to a dormitory, the interior, particularly where recent restoration work has been performed, retains considerable integrity. The plan is organized around a central hall containing an open string stair with a Queen Anne style turned newel post. On the east side of the hall there is one large room in the front with a bathroom separating it from the dining area which occupies the middle third of the first floor. A kitchen space is located behind the dining room and two small rooms including the woodshed lie beyond it. Six rooms are located on the west side of the hall, one of which is considerably larger and is functionally linked to the dining room. There are fifteen separate rooms as well as a double bathroom space on the second floor. Only the forward four rooms are original; the remainder were apparently added into the original dance hall in the 1930s when the dormitory conversion was made. Interior finishes in the original rooms consist of tongue-and-groove sheathing on the walls and ceiling.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MALLETT HALL

Section number 7 Page 3

Immediately adjacent to Mallett Hall on the east is an area of lawn containing six millstones and a granite watering trough. The latter feature existed during the building's historic period of use, but the millstones - which are said to have come from local mills - were added in the early twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMALLETT HALLPENOBSCOT, MESection number 8 Page 2

Constructed in 1889, Mallett Hall is a large two-story frame building which originally served as an inn and later a summer tourist hotel. Initially built by James Mallett, the property was further developed in the early twentieth century by Mallett's son with the addition of a cabin colony along the shores of Mattakeunk Pond. Mallett Hall is a reasonably intact example of a rural nineteenth century hotel building; a class of historic resources which is relatively rare in Maine today despite the fact that they were once a common feature of nearly every community. It is eligible for nomination under criterion A for its association with local patterns of commerce and recreation.

Tradition maintains, and the annual editions of the Maine Register appear to confirm, that Mallett Hall was opened as a hotel in 1889 under the proprietorship of James Mallett. Judging from the size of the building (in part due to the second floor dance hall which is said to have been built in exchange for a ten year tax abatement), Mallett envisioned a large clientele. This assumption must have been based on a strictly local need for the wagon traffic and stage line between Lincoln and the Maine Central Railroad to the west and Springfield and Carroll to the east. In previous years this need for accommodations was provided by a variety of persons such as H. Ricker in 1856 (The "Lee House") and Charles True in 1875 ("Hotel"). Since the railroad had already bypassed this corridor, it seems unlikely that Mallett foresaw a booming tourist trade. At the time of Mallett Hall's construction, Lee appears to have been a bustling community with no fewer than six merchants, eight small-scale manufacturers, three halls, a library, and the Lee Normal Academy established in 1845.

The Maine Register indicates that Mallett ran his hotel until 1908-09. In the following year S. S. Foss appears as the operator of the hotel in Lee (presumably the same building), but there is no listing again until the 1914-15 edition when, for the first time, the name "Mt. Jefferson House" appears with John Wyman as proprietor. A local history published in 1926 states that Mallett's son Frank E. Mallett, an ex-consul general to Budapest, Hungary, assumed control of his father's property in 1916. According to this source Mallett remodeled the "Mt. Jefferson House" into a summer hotel and erected several cottages along the shore of Mattakeunk Pond. In the 1917-18 Maine Register, Mallett is listed as proprietor of the "Mt. Jefferson House" and, under a separate entry, "Sporting Camps." The camps were more formally organized as the Mattakeunk Cabin Colony which, according to a description published in the New York World, was an idea to... "first, live happily amid lakes and green woods; and next, to save money enough to enlarge the community and sprinkle little collections of cooperative homes over the globe" (Houghton, p. 240). Unfortunately, nothing remains of this utopian community which had ceased to exist by the mid-1920s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

MALLETT HALL

PENOBSCOT, ME

Section number 8 Page 3

Mallett Hall's survival as a summer hotel in the early twentieth century may have been due in large part to the automobile; a mode of transportation which made Lee far more accessible to tourists. It did, in fact, lie along the 124 mile route between Fredericton, New Brunswick and Lincoln, Maine which the 1925 Automobile Blue Book described as a:

Gravel and gravelly dirt road. Thru a rolling and hilly wooded and farming country, abounding in game.

Although it is not entirely certain what factors were responsible, early in 1930 the building was sold to George Averill who donated it to Lee Academy for use as a boy's dormitory. During this period of use, the building was named Mallett Hall.

Although Mallett Hall continued to receive summer guests for several more years, its primary function had changed substantially. The dormitory use (which resulted in several interior alterations) continued until 1975, and for the ten year period thereafter it housed apartments. In 1993 title was transferred to the Lee Historical Society which has begun to undertake a major rehabilitation.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

MALLET HALL

Section number 9 Page 2

Houghton, Vinal A., Comp. The Story of an Old New England Town. Wilton,
Maine: Nelson Print. 1926.

Maine Register or State Year-Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: G. M.
Donham. 1870-1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MALLETT HALL

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the Town of Lee Tax Map 21, Lot 31.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the remaining village lot historically associated with Mallett Hall.