

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 12 1986

date entered

JUN 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic A. B. Leavitt House

and or common

2. Location

street & number ME 157  
Route 128 N/A not for publication

city, town Sherman,  vicinity of Sherman Mills

state Maine code 23 county Aroostook code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name William Lewis

street & number

city, town Sherman Mills,  vicinity of state Maine 04776

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Aroostook County Registry of Deeds

street & number Court Street

city, town Houlton,  vicinity of state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  N/A  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 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 

1	9	5	4	7	4	0	0	5	0	7	9	8	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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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
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state	code	county	code
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## 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 Savage

date 6-20-86

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Leavitt, A. B., House  
Aroostook County  
MAINE

Working No. MAY 12 1986  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 6/13/86 - 6/26/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 6-20-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Significant Maine example of mail-order architecture. The c. 1890-91 house was executed based on a design of Palliser, Palliser & Co., accredited with the original concept of mail-order house plans in 1876. The Leavitt House the*

Recom./Criteria Accept C  
Reviewer James  
Discipline Architectural History  
Date 6-20-86  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

*most sophisticated example of mail-order design in the State identified thus far.*

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                                      date

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



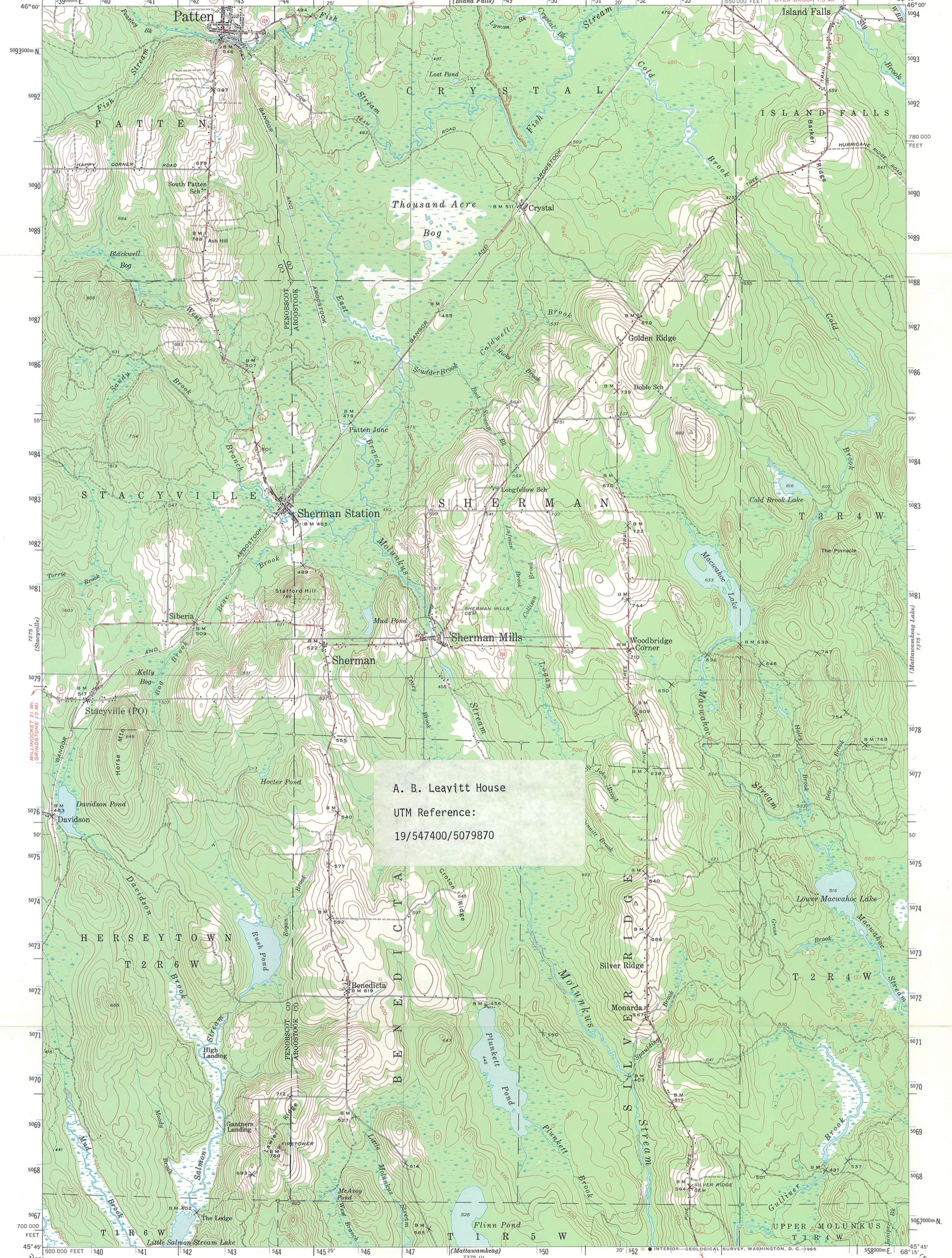
A. B. Leavitt House  
Route 128  
Sherman, Aroosktook, Maine  
Roger G. Reed            9/85  
Me. Historic Preservation Comm.  
View from SE

1 of 2



A. B. Leavitt House  
Route 128  
Sherman, Aroostook, Maine  
Roger G. Reed            8/85  
Me. Historic Preservation Comm.  
View from NE

2 of 2



A. B. Leavitt House  
 UTM Reference:  
 19/547400/5079870

Topography by R. J. Belton, H. C. Weathers, R. H. Yeaman, Lindsley Arthur, G. H. Briggs, R. G. Carpenter, B. O. Fridge, and Harry McDermith Surveyed in 1940

SCALE 1:62500

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Maine (East) rectangular coordinate system 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

SHERMAN, ME.  
 N 4545-W 6815 / 15  
 1940  
 AMS 7375 IV-SERIES V711