

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 30 1975
DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Blackhawk Putnam Tavern
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 22 North Street
CITY, TOWN: Houlton
STATE: Maine
VICINITY OF: _____
CODE: 23
COUNTY: Aroostook
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd Hon. William Cohen
CODE: 003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Putnam Brothers Co.
STREET & NUMBER: Market Square
CITY, TOWN: Houlton
STATE: Maine
VICINITY OF: _____

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Aroostook County Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER: _____
CITY, TOWN: Houlton
STATE: Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: _____
DATE: _____
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____
CITY, TOWN: _____
STATE: _____
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

While settlement began to take place on the Maine coast in the early seventeenth century, the state's largest and northern most county, Aroostook, did not develop until the early nineteenth century. As a result, few structures date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The oldest surviving house in the county is the Blackhawk Putnam Tavern of 1813 in Houlton.

Although typical of a substantial coastal dwelling of the period, the Putnam Tavern must have loomed immense in relation to the rest of frontier Houlton. The house is rectangular in shape, stands two and a half stories tall with an additional attic story, and has a gable roof from which protrudes two large brick chimnies. The foundation is granite, while the structure is frame with a clapboarded exterior. A Federal Period building, the tavern had both its exterior and interior trim remodelled in the Greek Revival style.

The facade or east wall of the Blackhawk Putnam Tavern displays a symmetrical five bay arrangement. On the first story, a simple central doorway is fronted by an arched Victorian portico. This entrance is flanked on either side by a pair of two windows with six-over-six sash. This sash pattern is found on the other windows of the house as well. The second story of the facade has five windows, one above the doorway and a pair on either side. The entire facade composition is enframed by two match boarded pilasters and a projecting match boarded entablature.

The north and south or side walls are identical in design. Each wall contains two symmetrically placed windows on the first, second and half stories as well as one window in the attic story. Like the facade, the side walls are enframed by two pilasters and an entablature.

The rear or west side of the Tavern is the simplest wall of the building. On the first story, a central doorway is flanked on either side by a window. The first story is covered largely by a twentieth century one story open porch. The second story has three windows, one above the doorway and one on either side. Two pilasters and an entablature outline the wall.

As with the exterior, the interior of the Blackhawk Putnam Tavern reflects a traditional concern for symmetry. The central hall contains a staircase which leads directly to the second and half stories. On the first, second and half stories, this hall is flanked on either side by two rooms. Rooms are finished with a combination of restrained Federal and Greek Revival woodwork.

The Blackhawk Putnam Tavern has changed little since its mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival remodelling. Situated in what has now become a commercial section of Houlton, the house continues to evoke an imposing presence on the Northern Maine scene.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1813	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Samuel Wormwood
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blackhawk Putnam Tavern, so called, is the oldest existing house in Aroostook County. It was built in 1813 by Samuel Wormwood of Alfred, Maine, master carpenter, for Aaron Putnam, who, with his family and two other single men, had settled in what was to become Houlton in 1805. Like nearly all early settlers Putnam lived at first in a log cabin. Wormwood, in 1812, built a frame house for the resident physician, Dr. Rice, but this structure burned in 1879.

Aaron Putnam's house was an unusually large one for the frontier. It was located high on the bank of the Meduxnekeag River and near the Military Road built in 1828 connecting Houlton with southern Maine. Quite naturally it became an inn or "tavern" and provided shelter for passing travelers or temporary quarters for new settlers moving into the area.

Beginning, probably in 1836, Houlton was the seat of some sessions of the Washington County Court before becoming the shire town of Aroostook County in 1839. During this period, while in the ownership of John Varnum Putnam, the building was used as a court house, the first in northern Maine. John Putnam was for many years sheriff of the county as was his son, Blackhawk (named for an Indian chief like his brother, Osceola), born in 1838, whose name has since been attached to the building.

Blackhawk, a colorful figure, recruited and commanded Co. E of the 1st Maine Cavalry in 1861. He was wounded in the famous charge at Middletown, West Virginia in 1862, was captured, but later escaped into the mountains where, after much privation, he and a few followers made their way to the Union lines. After his return home he was successful in trade and farming. One of his daughters, Alice, became a prominent actress.

After Blackhawk Putnam's death the house served for a time as a restaurant and has remained in the Putnam family to this day.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Houlton Maine Pioneer Times, July 9, 1975

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>19</u>	<u>589340</u>	<u>5108770</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian
Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Maine Historic Preservation Commission</u>	<u>October 1975</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>31 Western Avenue</u>	<u>207-289-2133</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Augusta</u>	<u>Maine</u>

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

H. Savin Mullett Jr.

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/28/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

Jerry L. Berger

DATE

1/30/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. Smith

DATE

1-21-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Atty