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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 Powder House Lot

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number High Street, 1/4 mile south of the junction of High Street and Winthrop Street N/A not for publication

city or town Hallowell N/A vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04347

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.)

*James S. [Signature]* 2/25/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or 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 this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson R. Beall* 4-11-02  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**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    1                      buildings  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1    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**  
  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
DEFENSE / Arms Storage  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
VACANT / NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
OTHER: Brick Utilitarian Enclosure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
foundation Granite  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetPOWDER HOUSE LOTKENNEBEC CO., MAINESection number 7 Page 2DESCRIPTION

The Powder House on High Street in Hallowell is a small, rectilinear, American common-bond, brick structure constructed in 1820 for the storage of ammunition and gun powder. The land on which the structure is located is atop a high ridge which provides an expansive view up and down the Kennebec River to the east. The small, windowless structure sits on a cut granite foundation, and is roofed with asphalt shingles. The south gable wall is brick from foundation to rake trim, but the top four feet of brick on the north side has been replaced with wood. A single batten door hung on strap hinges faces High Street to the west. A brass plaque identifying the structure as erected in 1813 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and owned by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is affixed to the west side of the building, to the north of the door. The brick has been patched in several places, at times with incompatible mortar, and the rake trim has been gnawed on the north west corner; otherwise the structure is in fair condition.

Sitting northeast of the building is the Beeman cannon, locally known as the 'Thunder Jug of Hallowell'. Although the cannon was reputedly captured from the British brig *Boxer* in September 1813 by the U.S. brig *Enterprise*, it is not historically associated with the Powder House and thus is listed at this time as a non-contributing resource.

The interior of the structure reveals a simple, sawn-rafter roof, with some original roofing boards through which are visible the undersides of early, if not original, cedar shingles. The Powder House contains a single room with a stone floor. On the east wall, five two-inch thick, hand-planed planks are mortared into the gable end walls. Each plank is approximately two feet wide. Vertical supports have been placed at the middle of each shelf to provide support. The west wall also contained shelves mortared into the gable ends and supported by vertical planks to either side of the door. Additional shelves ran along the gable walls; the ends of these were beveled and sat on the beveled edges of the east and west shelves. With the exception of the east wall, two shelves on the south wall and one shelf over the door, the planks have been temporarily removed and are stored in the building pending restoration. Names of local militia members are written in ink on the edge or face of many of the shelves; several inscriptions also include numbers and abbreviations.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

Period of Significance

1819 - 1843

Significant Dates

1819

1820

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 a 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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

POWDER HOUSE LOT

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Powder House on High Street in Hallowell is a small utilitarian structure erected by the citizens of Hallowell as a repository for the local militia's gun powder, armaments, and field supplies. This structure is one of three surviving early-nineteenth century magazines in Maine. The Buxton Powder house (NR 1/2/76 :76000120) and the Wiscasset Powder House (NR 1/12/73: Wiscasset Historic District; 73000242) were both built prior to 1813, an era in which other Maine towns were building these facilities in anticipation of conflict with England. Tradition places the construction of the Hallowell Powder House to circa 1812, however town records indicate that it was not erected until 1819, during which time Maine was preparing for separation from Massachusetts, and the militia flourished in the community. The Hallowell Powder House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance in the town's military history.

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1819 the inhabitants of Hallowell met to consider the town's business. The eleventh item on the warrant was: "To see if the town will give directions for building a Magazine for the safe keeping of Powder." According to the town records, the article was approved by the voters; no discussion or dissension was recorded. (Town report, April 5, 1819.) By June of the next year the Powder House had been constructed of local brick and granite, and was situated on a tall hill that provided an extensive view of the Kennebec River. In preparation for either an unwanted advance up the Kennebec, or a local muster day, gunpowder and field supplies were laid upon the shelves marked with the names of each of the local militia members.

At the time the Powder House was built Hallowell was the principal settlement along the Kennebec River in Kennebec county. Augusta had been partitioned off from Hallowell in 1797, and although it later became the capitol of Maine, Hallowell was considered by historians to be socially, intellectually and commercially more successful during the early part of the nineteenth century. (*Kingsbury, p. 510.*) The following passages, from *Historic Hallowell* summarize the history of the local militia in Hallowell.

After the [Revolutionary] War, Hallowell continued its growth. Along with her population grew her militia system. The years between 1790 and 1830 were the strongest years of the "common militia" system that was known to and depended upon by the framers of the Federal Constitution. It was a state system, in practice not at all controlled by the United States government. It was organized upon political lines, the inhabitants of a certain territory being organized into a "standing company".

The men were required to provide their own arms and equipment and were not uniformed nor in the beginning paid for training. The system did provide an organization and a measure of training for the men. As Hallowell grew and the War of 1812 approached, her military companies were more than a farce and a military masquerade. (*Snell and Ledew, p. 107.*)

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POWDER HOUSE LOT

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

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During the War of 1812 Colonel William Oliver Vaughan, son of one of the earliest and most prominent families in Hallowell, became the Commander of the Hallowell militia, until his death in 1825. During this time the local units trained hardily and muster day became an occasion for ceremony, exercise, music and pride. Although there was little in terms of pending military conflict to instigate the construction of a new facility to store powder, the formation of the State of Maine, as distinct from that of Massachusetts, resulted in statements of celebration and civic growth throughout the state. The construction of the Powder House is clear evidence that military defense was still considered a local and important responsibility in 1820, but it is also symbolic of the independent and autonomous sentiment that was flooding the State at the time.

By 1843 the state legislature relaxed the requirements for local militias and the Powder House fell out of use. In 1839 the cannon "Thunder Jug of Maine," was brought to Hallowell and by the end of the century had been positioned next to the Powder House, overlooking the Kennebec. In 1947 the Town of Hallowell sold the Powder House and lot to the Mary Kelton Dummer-Patience Stanley Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, who currently own the building.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

POWDER HOUSE LOT

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Briggs, Bob. *Around Hallowell*. (Dover, NH: Arcadia Publishing), 1996.

Nason, Emma Huntington. *Old Hallowell on the Kennebec*. (Salem, MA: Higginson Book Company), 1998.

Snell, Katherine H. and Vincent P. Ledew. *Historic Hallowell*. (Augusta: The Kennebec Journal Print Shop), 1962.

Town Reports, Town of Hallowell, 1819. Microfilm on file at the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

POWDER HOUSE LOT  
Name of Property

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than .25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 9 4 3 6 1 7 0 4 9 0 4 0 1 0  
Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing 3 1 9

2 1 9

4 1 9

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 Christi A. Mitchell

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 11 January 2002

street & number 55 Capitol Street, State House 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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POWDER HOUSE LOT

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described by the City of Hallowell Tax map 6, lot 53.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes all the land historically associated with the Powder House.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

POWDER HOUSE LOT

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
January 8, 2002  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
(Interior shot)

Photograph 2 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
November 14, 2001  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Exterior of Powder House and lot, looking SE.

Photograph 3 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
November 14, 2001  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
West facade; looking East.

Photograph 4 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
November 14, 2001  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Exterior of Powder House and cannon, looking SW.