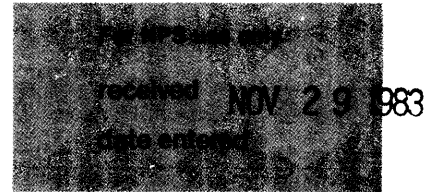


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 (Aaron Spear House)  
and/or common History House (preferred for Register listing)

**2. Location**

street & number 40 Elm Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Skowhegan, N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~  
state Maine code 23 county Somerset code 025

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Town of Skowhegan  
street & number Municipal Building  
city, town Skowhegan, vicinity of state Maine 04976

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Registry of Deeds  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Skowhegan, state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maine Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1974  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
city, town Augusta, state Maine

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The "History House" is one-and-one-half stories high with a gable roof. It is five bays wide and constructed of brick. Granite is used for the foundation and for the lintels over the windows and doors. Erected in a traditional plan, an unusual feature is the 1935 wing, which extends five bays in length in the rear. Also unusual is brickwork, which consists of a modified English bond laid up with a row of headers alternating between seven rows of stretchers.

The Greek Revival styling includes a cornice with simple returns in each gable end, plus fretwork above the pilasters that flank the main entrance. The windows consist of six-over-six double-hung sash. Original interior woodwork is also present in the house.

# 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 checked="" 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**                      1839                      **Builder/Architect**      Aaron Spear

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

"History House" is important to Skowhegan as a well-preserved and designed example of a typical mid-19<sup>th</sup> century house in the community, most of which were lost as industrialization took over the town. Also important is the fact that, as a museum, the building houses an important historical collection of documents and artifacts which serve to make Skowhegan history meaningful to future generations.

Built in 1839 by Aaron Spear, a blacksmith, the house was sold in 1845 to Deacon James H. K. Lord who became a pillar of the community and who, with his wife, "brought up their family of ten children in the little brick house, in the fear of the Lord and to sing in the choir." After passing through several ownerships, the house was acquired by Louise H. Coburn, historian of Skowhegan, who donated it to the town, for use as a museum in 1935. A fireproof museum wing at the rear was added, faithfully copying the style of the original structure.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Coburn, Louise H., Skowhegan on the Kennebec. Skowhegan, 1941.

## 10. Geographical Data

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

Quadrangle name Skowhegan

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 31, Lot 2

### 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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date October, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street 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 *Eileen S. Fitzpatrick*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/18/83

For NPS use only

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

*Melrose Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 12/29/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration