

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 17 1985
date entered FEB 12 1985

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

1. Name

historic The Brown House

and or common

2. Location

street & number High Street not for publication

city, town Brownville, vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Piscataquis code 021

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Philip F. and Lois S. Kern

street & number R.D. #1, Box 123A

city, town Brownville, vicinity of state Maine 04414

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Cover-Foxcroft, 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

Standing two-and-one-half stories high with a gable roof, the Brown House is a timber frame structure with clapboard siding. In each gable end are small cornice returns and the windows have molded architrave trim. The main entrance, located in the center of the five bay south facade, is the principal decorative feature. The door is flanked by sidelights and has a transom, all of which is enframed by panelled pilasters supporting a full entablature. The original sash has been replaced by 2/2.

Extending perpendiucularly from the rear (north) is a two-and-one-half story ell with a gable roof and clapboard siding. The house also has a one-story carriage barn with segmental arched bays, clapboard siding and a gable roof. A picture windows has been added in the ell.

An unusual feature of the building is the second floor ceiling of lath and plaster which is attached to 2X4s which are in turn nailed to a tremendous grid of 4X4 and 10X10 hewn beams. The ceiling, for practical purposes receives no support from the interior walls and is therefore, in effect, suspended.

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 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 checked="" 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 1815 **Builder/Architect** Francis Brown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In addition to being the home of the settler after whom the town was named, the Brown House is unique in Maine for this period as far as is known in the construction of the "suspended" second floor ceiling.

In the early years of the 19th century, Moses Brown, a prominent citizen of Newburyport, Massachusetts purchased a tract of land in central Maine. In 1815 he sent his son Francis to build a lumber mill and to oversee the region and administer the town as it grew. With the growth of the town, the house grew, taking twelve years to complete. The hardwood came from Boston, the foundation from quarries near the coast, and the clay for the bricks used in the massive cellar arches and chimneys was dug thirty miles away in Charleston. When finally completed, Brown's house was the grandest in town and an architectural wonder in what was still a very remote area in the Maine woods.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brownville Centennial Book, Compiled and Edited by Judson and Henry Gerrish.
Dover-Foxcroft, 1924.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Sebec

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	9	4	9	6	7	2	5	5	0	1	6	6	7	5
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 #1, Lot 6

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 Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1984

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 *Eric S. Feltmeyer*

title J.H.P.O. date 12/17/84

For NPS use only

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

for Melores Byers Entered in the National Register date 2-14-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration