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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAR 10 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bigelow-Page House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 20 High Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Skowhegan, N/A vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04976

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Sarah S. [Signature] S.H.P.O. 3/4/88  
Signature of certifying official 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrews 4/20/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Restaurant

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Greek Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

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walls Wood/Weatherboard

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roof Asphalt

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other Wooden Porch

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Facing south from its deep setback on High Street, the Bigelow-Page House is an expansive two-story frame dwelling that has a wraparound porch, a two-story ell and an attached barn. Its present appearance reflects one and perhaps two remodelings to the original Greek Revival style main block.

The building is comprised of four distinct but interlocked components. At the head of the group is the hip roofed front block that has a narrow addition along its west wall. Behind this is a narrower two-story ell that extends to a secondary ell whose roof is somewhat lower. This connects the main house to the long gable roofed barn crowned by a cupola. Weatherboards cover the entire building.

The facade is symmetrically composed with two sets of paired but widely spaced double-hung sash windows on both stories. Sheltering the first story on both the south and east sides is a shallow hip roofed porch whose seven paneled square posts are linked by a balustrade. At the northeast corner the porch meets a small entrance vestibule. The existing porch is a Colonial Revival style addition that Sanborn maps show was built between 1903 and 1909. Broad paneled pilasters featuring inverted anthemions are located at the corner of the main block and rise to a broad entablature. The narrow two-story addition (another part of the 1903-09 remodeling) along the west elevation is slightly recessed from the main facade and contains five windows on each of its two stories, eight of which are closely grouped near the front. Sanborn maps indicate that a one-story porch was originally located here. Two chimneys punctuate the roof.

Projecting from the northwest corner of the main house is the gabled two-story ell. Its east side contains a number of asymmetrically placed window and door openings as well as a porch that carries across the northern two-thirds of the first story. This porch has square Italianate style posts; shelters a side entrance vestibule; and extends to the shorter connecting ell. The west side also employs multiple windows which, in the second story, are more regularly spaced. A short Colonial Revival porch shelters a door located in the rear part of the ell. Both sections of this large ell make use of cornice moldings and second story window surrounds that are slightly

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dissimilar to those utilized on the front block and first story respectively. This suggests that the ell was enlarged sometime after the initial date of construction but prior to 1892 when its two-story height is clearly indicated on that year's Sanborn map.

Connected to but extending to the north of the main body of the house is the barn. The facade contains two garage doors in the lower level and a window in the tympanum of the pediment. Large double-hung windows are accompanied by smaller stable windows along both side elevations. An octagonal cupola with louvered arched panels surmounts the barn. The barn had been added by 1892.

The interior of the house is organized around a wide side hall that leads from the east porch. On the first story two large rooms are located in the front, one at the end of the hall and three in the ell. The rooms contain modest Greek Revival style details such as triangular pediments above the six-panel doors, an Italianate style round arched mantelpiece in the parlor, as well as a Colonial Revival style bay window, narrow hardwood floors, boxed beam ceilings (two rooms) and an early twentieth century balustrade and newel post.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1846-47  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1846-47  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Bigelow, Joseph  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed in 1846-47, the Bigelow-Page House is significant under National Register criterion C as one of the earliest known buildings designed and erected by Joseph Bigelow (1804-1883), a Skowhegan carpenter/builder of notable distinction. The expansive and somewhat irregularly composed dwelling with its bold Greek Revival style entablature and corner pilasters is generally typical of the builder's particular style as seen in a number of other extant Bigelow commissions.

Little is as yet positively known about Joseph Bigelow's early life and training. According to the 1850 census, which gave his age as forty-six years, he was born in Maine. His first documented project was the design and construction in 1842 of the First Baptist Church in Bloomfield. This boldly composed brick ediface has an overall Greek Revival style form featuring a pediment that frames a five-bay facade in which brick pilasters separate two doors and a window. A two-stage tower surmounts the roof. In a fashion typical of the period Bigelow employed Gothic drop arches in the window and door openings. In 1842 Bigelow was also employed by Isaac Farrar to superintend the construction of the brick Symphony House (N.R. 10/26/72) in Bangor from plans drawn by Richard Upjohn. The strong but unornamented pilasters that frame the corners of this house are reminiscent of those used on the First Baptist Church. This relationship is certain, except in a reverse fashion, given the fact that Upjohn had prepared his plans years before Farrar actually began construction and that Farrar and Bigelow were known to have been friends for some period of time. Undoubtedly, Bigelow drew some inspiration from this renowned nineteenth century architect.

In 1845 Bigelow received a contract to build a house for Samuel F. Robinson in Skowhegan, and the following year he commenced construction of his own residence. The unmistakable Greek Revival form of this house is especially evident in the broad entablature and wide corner pilasters decorated with anthemions. This latter feature was a detail that Bigelow had

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Cobourn, Louise Helen. Skowhegan on the Kennebec. Skowhegan, Maine: Privately Printed, 1941.

Begelow, Joseph, Architect File, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A 19 443000 4957375  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the western half of the Town of Skowhegan, Tax Map 29, Lot 13. This nomination does not include the adjoining house, which although now part of the property, is not historically associated with it.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The western half of the above referenced tax map includes the entire parcel historically associated with this house.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1988

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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handsomely executed in the Farrar house. Perhaps Bigelow's crowning Greek Revival achievement was the house built between 1848-49 in Skowhegan for Abner Coburn (N.R. 7/30/74). This temple-form dwelling employs a monumental portico with Ionic columns, flush board sheathing and a very broad entablature. Curiously, the main entrance is located on a side elevation within a handsome vestibule outfitted with columns, pilasters and a parapet.

Bigelow's other known projects, all of them in Skowhegan, were built during the 1860s. A house for Edmund Pearson II, constructed in 1868 on Madison Street, employed a rather unusual high hipped mansard roof form on a low one-story rectangular block. It resembles in spirit the pronounced hip roof employed on his own house, a feature as generally uncharacteristic of the Greek Revival as it appears to be here.

On March 21, 1853, Bigelow exchanged houses with lumberman Samuel Robinson (it is not known whether he is the same person for whom Bigelow built a house in 1845). Robinson occupied the house until his death in 1881. In 1893 it was acquired by Edward P. Page whose widow and son remained here until 1927. Sanborn fire insurance maps show that the Page family made substantial Colonial Revival style changes to the house between 1903 and 1909. The house remains today much as it was during this period.