

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682098

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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

Highseas

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S of Bar Harbor

Schooner Head Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bar Harbor

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Hancock

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jackson Laboratory

STREET & NUMBER

Schooner Head Road

CITY, TOWN

Bar Harbor

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine 04609

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hancock County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ellsworth,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input 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

"Highseas", sited on the east shore of Mt. Desert Island overlooking Frenchman Bay in the Town of Bar Harbor, was designed by Fred Savage and was constructed in 1912. This massive residence is a dramatic example of the Colonial Revival style in a remarkable setting.

The building is of brick (laid in tapestry design), with hipped roof surmounted by a deck with railing and five internal brick chimneys, and supported by a granite ashlar foundation.

The house is rectangular in plan (10 bays long) with 2½ stories and a full basement on the water side (facing east). Wings extend from the north and south ends of the building. The north wing is 5 bays long and 5 wide, while the south wing is 2 bays long and 3 wide. With few exceptions fenestration is 6/6 throughout the entire mansion, with exterior louvered wooden shutters. The first story of the south wing, designed as a solarium, has full-length windows in clusters of 4, each hinged casement containing 10 panes.

The facade, which faces west, features a central entrance covered by a one-story Ionic portico with railing above. The doorway consists of double doors flanked by sidelights. Projections 2 bays wide and one bay deep flank the entrance. In the half story a central double dormer features a swan's neck pediment. Other dormers are covered with hipped or hooded roofs, as is the case in the rest of the building.

On the east side of the mansion, facing the water, a one-story porch, supported by an Ionic colonnade with railing above, covers the central 6 bays. Two-bay-wide projections to either side mirror those on the facade.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Resort Living | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Fred Savage

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Highseas" was built in 1912 by Professor Rudolph E. Brunnow, a professor at Princeton University. The granite was quarried locally, but the tapestry bricks were brought from Philadelphia. The architect was Fred Savage of Bar Harbor.

In 1924, Mrs. Eva Van Cortland Hawkes, a wealthy woman from New York City, bought the house for \$25,000. Mrs. Hawkes was a descendent of Gouverneur Morris (one of the signers of the Articles of Confederation). The family wealth came from the New York Central Railroad, the American Tobacco Co., and real estate in New York City.

Mrs. Hawkes, for all her wealth, was a lonely and eccentric woman, keeping mostly to herself. She maintained a large staff around her to preserve the beauty of the house and wait on her every whim. She was very patriotic and during World War II entertained frequently servicemen from both the American and English navies whenever ships were in Bar Harbor.

Among her heirs (three nephews) was A. Newbold Morris (former member of the New York City Council under Mayor LaGuardia). These nephews inherited Highseas at Mrs. Hawkes' death. They later conveyed the estate to the Jackson Laboratory, noted for genetic and cancer research. The house has been used for many years as a summer residence for precollege students in the laboratory's Training Program.

Highseas is a distinguished example of Colonial Revival architecture. It is one of the few remaining "cottages" which reflect the heyday of Bar Harbor as a playground for the rich and famous. Also, the house is one of few to escape damage from the October 1947 fire which destroyed many of the Bar Harbor mansions.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stover, Arthur and Isabelle, and Mittelberger, Katherine, History of Highseas.
Unpublished manuscript, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 3/4 ACRES

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 0 |
| ZONE | | | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ZONE | | | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

PLAT 16 LOT 27 S

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian , David Fortin, Student Intern
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street

TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta

STATE Maine

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

Carole S. Shattuck

TITLE SHPO

DATE 7/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles O'Brien
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: *Anna Marie Boyer*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11.30.78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 11/29/78