

PH 36523

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976  
DATE ENTERED SEP 1 1976

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 *The Falmouth House*  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 340 Gray Road  
CITY, TOWN *Falmouth* VICINITY OF *1st Hon. David Emery*  
STATE *Maine* CODE *23* COUNTY *Cumberland* CODE *005*

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Craigin III*  
STREET & NUMBER *349 Gray Road*  
CITY, TOWN *Falmouth* VICINITY OF STATE *Maine*

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Cumberland County Registry of Deeds*  
STREET & NUMBER *Forest Avenue*  
CITY, TOWN *Portland* STATE *Maine*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>c.1828</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architecturally, the Falmouth House is a representative example of the traditional 18th century New England House form continuing to be used into the early 19th century. Built in the 1820's, the original section of the tavern is rectangular in shape, stands two and a half stories high, and has a gable roof from which protrudes a large square central chimney. The foundation is constructed of granite slabs, while the structure is frame with a clapboarded exterior.

The facade or south wall of the Falmouth House displays the symmetrical five bay composition of the period. On the first story, the doorway is centered between two pairs of windows. A paneled door is flanked on either side by a Federal style pilaster. Above these elements appears a horizontal Federal pediment. The second story of the facade has five windows, one above the doorway and a pair on either side. An early twentieth century porch runs the length of the first story facade.

Both the east and west walls of the original portion of the tavern contain two windows on the first and second stories and one in the half story. The west wall also has a second entrance to the building in the form of a projecting vestibule. Structural evidence indicates the long term existence of an entrance at this location. In its present form the entrance dates from the early 20th century, having a door flanked by sidelights and capped by a fan in a Colonial Revival manner. This doorway is fronted by an arched portico supported by two columns.

The north or rear wall is covered mainly by a large two and a half story gable roofed ell which was added to the building early in its history. The ell contains four windows on the first and second stories of the east and west walls. The north wall has two windows on the first and second stories and one in the half story. A slender brick kitchen chimney projects from the center of the gable roof.

As with the exterior, the interior of the Falmouth House reflects a traditional concern for symmetry. The original facade doorway opens into a small hallway with a staircase in front of the central chimney area. The staircase has two intermediate landings as it takes two 90 degree turns on its way to the second floor.

At the first story level, the stairhall is flanked on either side by a large room. The rear half of the first floor is devoted to another large room which originally served as the kitchen and still retains its massive open fireplace and adjacent baking oven. This room also contains a rear staircase to the second floor. The present kitchen is located in the first floor of the ell.

The second floor of the main section of the tavern is comprised of four rooms as well as a front and back stairhall. In the second story ell are found a series of small rooms which give a clear picture of the 19th century hostelry accommodations.

Woodwork throughout the Falmouth House was executed in a restrained but handsome Federal style manner. Four of the five rooms in the main house have their original fireplaces, all of which are operative. In addition, each corner of the main house has a large exposed supporting vertical timber which runs from the foundation level to the eave line. All horizontal beams, including those in the attic, are connected with large wooden pegs.

(see continuation sheet)

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The importance and comparative rarity of adequate inns, hostelries and taverns in early 19th century Maine can hardly be overstated. The area immediately north of Portland and away from the coast was still relatively sparsely settled and travelers to the interior, usually on horseback, were often hard put to find suitable lodging, meals and accommodations for horses. Those stopping places that did exist were often marginal in terms of sustenance and frequently overcrowded and ill-kept. It was by no means uncommon find three or four tired wayfarers forced to sleep in one bed.

It is small wonder, then, that those public houses which did provide good service, food of quality and adequate sleeping arrangements became quickly known with reputations which were spread over a surprisingly wide area. Such a one was Falmouth House (for a time known as the Washburn Tavern) at first located on the Old County Road which led inland from Portland to Gray, New Gloucester, and eventually the emerging industrial communities of Lewiston and Auburn.

Built in the early 1820's by Samuel Hicks, Falmouth House was moved a few hundred yards at the end of the decade to the new Gray Road which replaced the Old County Road in 1826. Hicks sold the inn in 1836 to Otis Washburn, and it remained in the Washburn family through the remainder of the century. During these years it continued as a popular and well-run inn, a favorite stopover for individual travelers and a place of rest and relaxation along the arduous stage route from Portland to Lewiston.

As automobiles and buses replaced the earlier and slower forms of road travel, the relative nearness of Falmouth to Portland resulted in less and less custom for Falmouth House and it eventually became a private residence beautifully maintained by its present owners.

The fine late Federal detail of its interior remains, together with interesting wall stencilling. As it stands today, Falmouth House represents one of the more significant facets of 19th century travel and is remembered in history as an inn of distinction and a mecca for the road weary.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Unpublished paper, "Falmouth House" by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Craigin III

Sprague's Journal of Maine History

N. F. Little, American Decorative Wall Paintings 1700-1850, New York, 1972

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 Acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	9
ZONE	

3	9	5	2	8	5
EASTING					

4	8	4	7	2	2	0
NORTHING						

B 

ZONE	

EASTING					

NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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  
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE July 1976

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue 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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.  
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE July 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>7/1/76</u>
Attest: Acting Keeper of the National Register <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>8.27.76</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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While local residents have reported that several rooms in the main house were decorated with wallstencilling, the present owners have discovered only one such wall in the addition. This outer wall on the easterly side of the addition bears wall stencilling which consists of a pineapple design in red with a green top against a gray background. Oak foliage in red and green sets off the top border of the wall. These designs appear to be the work of Moses Eaton, reputed to be the most prolific itinerant wall painter in New England. As Nina Fletcher Little observed in her American Decorative Wall Paintings, 1700-1850, "Against a background of grayish plaster Eaton used green and two shades of red to give variety to his designs, of which the pineapple is one of the handsomest, and serrated leaf border is one of the most frequently seen." Eaton is presumed to have conducted stencilling activities in the Falmouth area in the late 1820's, at which time he is presumed to have left his mark on this fine old Maine inn.