

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 11 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 5 1975

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 Royal Brewster House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Buxton Lower Corner

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Buxton

VICINITY OF

1st Hon. David Emery

STATE

MAINE

CODE 023

COUNTY York

CODE 031

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Miss Dorothy S. Furber

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 28

CITY, TOWN

Bar Mills

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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

Situated on the crossroads of Troy Hill in Buxton, Dr. Royal Brewster's handsome Federal style home makes an imposing appearance in this rural southern Maine community. Erected in 1805 by the local master builder Joseph Woodman the house served as the residence of the American primitive portraitist John Brewster, Jr., who lived here with his brother, the doctor.

The Brewster House is rectangular in shape, stands two stories high, and has a low hipped roof. Connected to the rear or east wall is a two story ell, a carriage house, and a large barn. The main house and its contemporary appendages have granite foundations and are of frame construction with clapboarding on the exterior.

The facade or west wall of the Brewster House bears the symmetrical five bay design characteristic of the Federal period. On the first story, the central bay is devoted to the main entrance, a door which is flanked by sidelights and has a broad recessed arch above it. Over the doorway is a later Greek Revival portico which is supported by two square piers at the front and two pilasters at the rear. Both the piers and the pilasters are decorated with elongated recessed panels which are topped with pointed arches, reflecting a hint of Gothic Revival influence. The doorway is flanked on either side by two windows with six over six panes and shutters. In fact, all windows on the main house share the six over six, shuttered treatment.

The first and second stories of the main house are divided by a simple belt course which runs from the facade to the side walls. The second story facade displays a series of five symmetrically placed windows. Above these windows is a cornice of intricately carved Federal fenestration which extends to the side and rear walls.

The left or north wall contains four windows on each story, while the right or south wall has three windows and a side door on the first story and four windows on the second. The ell connection is located on the southeast half of the south or rear wall. The remainder of this wall has two windows on each story.

Like the exterior, the interior of the Brewster House possesses a symmetrical plan typical of the Federal period. On both floors, a central hallway, is flanked on either side by two rooms, making a total of eight rooms in the main house. A semi-circular staircase located in the central hall connects the first and second floors. The hall is decorated with French wallpaper placed there in 1859 by a later owner, John D. Coffin. Each room has an original fireplace, with the exception of that in the diningroom, which was rebuilt in 1957. Restrained Federal style woodwork is found throughout 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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 1805

BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~

Capt. Joseph Woodman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brewster House, completed in 1805, was probably the work of Capt. Joseph Woodman, a prominent figure in early Buxton history. Woodman, born probably in 1749, built several mills in the area as well as a number of houses and held considerable real estate.

The house was built for Dr. Royal Brewster from Hampton, Connecticut, who in 1795 married Dorcas, daughter of Rev. Paul Coffin, the first settled minister in the town. Dr. Brewster served the community as physician for nearly forty years.

Of particular interest is the fact that Dr. Brewster's older brother John, Jr. made the Buxton home his headquarters. John was born a deaf-mute yet even at this early date was taught to read and write. He became eventually an itinerant portrait painter of considerable note and travelled widely in eastern New England exercising his talents. Many an ancestral portrait gracing an old family home is the work of John Brewster and his reputation today is very considerable.

The Brewster family sold the home in 1755 and it was shortly acquired by John D. Coffin who imported the beautiful French wallpaper in the front hall.

This impressive Federal house deserves recognition not only because of its architectural merit & its place in local history, but also because of its association with an important figure in primitive portraiture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cyrus Woodman, The Woodmans of Buxton, Maine, Boston 1874

Cousens and Hannaford, Recollections of Old Buxton, Maine, Farminton, 1972

Nina Fletcher Little, John Brester, Jr., 1766-1854, Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin, V.25, No.4, 1960, p.97

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK
HL

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A | 19 | 37,6 | 0,5 | 0 | 482,9 | 0,5 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian
 Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE April 4, 1975

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

James H. Mundy

TITLE *State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE *April 7, 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Arthur J. [Signature]
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE *6/5/75*

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *JUN 4 1975*