

PH0004101

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JAN 18 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Connor-Bovie House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
22 Summit Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd Hon. William Cohen

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Somerset** CODE: **025**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Frederick Palmer

STREET AND NUMBER:
22 Summit Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairfield

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Somerset County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Skowhegan

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

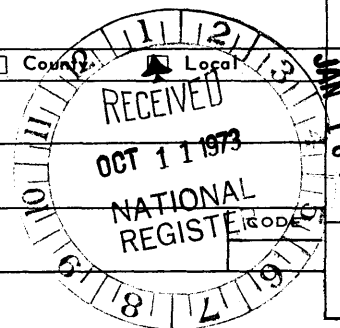
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Skowhegan

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: _____
COUNTY: _____
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DATE: _____
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Connor-Bovie House, 22 Summit Street, Fairfield, is a well preserved building of the late Greek-Revival Architecture, with an Italianate influence in the supports over the windows. The gables are pedimented with dentil molding. There are doric pilasters on the corners of the building.

The windows on the facade of the building are six over six lights. There are two windows on the first floor facade and three windows on the second floor. The central second floor window, above the portico, is framed with sidelights.

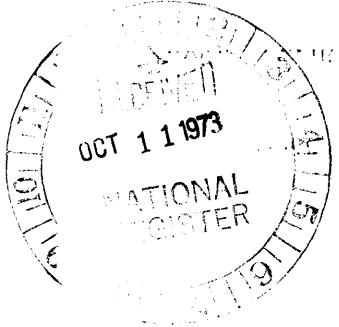
The main entrance to the house is a portico supported by square columns of the doric order. The door is framed with sidelights. To the sides of the portico are pilasters which rise to the cornice and frame both the portico and the central window on the second floor.

The house is finished with clapboards and is painted brown with a small amount of yellow trim. The house sets on a granite foundation. There is an ell to the left of the main structure, presumably built as a carriage house. (The house on the opposite side of the street was once a part of this property, being the servants quarters).

The interior of the house for the most part is in its original condition. The present owners intend to preserve its originality.

There is a large central chimney which has a fireplace on each side as well as a black iron stove set into the chimney.

The woodwork throughout the house is either stained or painted. That which is painted, has a white hand-rubbed finish, presumed to be the original. There is no evidence of paint chipping which would suggest more recent coats of paint.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1856-58

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This particular house is significant not only for its architecture and state of preservation but it was also the home of two prominent citizens of Maine.

William Connor, a wealthy lumber baron of the 19th century in Fairfield, Maine, and one of six prominent partners in the Fairfield Land and Mill Association, had this house built in 1856-58. The Fairfield Land and Mill Association owned six saw mills on the Kennebec River in Fairfield, as well as extensive land holdings elsewhere in Fairfield.

William Connor was also the father of Seldon Connor, a Brigadier General during the Civil War, and Governor of Maine for three terms, 1876-78. The elder Mr. Connor married Susan Bryant in 1830, and it is noted in William Bryant's diary, Susan's father, that, "1858-Sept. 17, myself and a part of William Connor's family moved into his new home." "1858-Sept 30, all moved in and the old house cleaned."

Mr. William Bryant's diary covered events from 1822-1867. He was a resident of Nye's Corner (Fairfield), and one of Bryant's sons worked logging lumber for William Connor.

Lumbering contributed greatly to the growth of Fairfield during the nineteenth century, and Mr. William Connor's part in the growth was of great importance. Unfortunately, lumbering declined in the early twentieth century, and many fortunes were lost through gambling. All of the homes along High Street, which runs parallel to Main Street (Summit Street is a cross street between Main and High) were the Mansions of the lumbering barons, such as Totman's, Nye's etc..

However, the Connor-Bovie House remained in the Connor family through inheritance until 1939 when two surviving spinster sisters and descendants of William Connor, Rosamond Connor and Mabel Conner sold the house to William T. Bovie on July 19, 1939.

William T. Bovie, M.D. was an inventor as well as surgeon. Dr. Bovie, in 1927-28 invented the first surgical current generator. He developed pioneer methods for therapeutic use of radio-active substances,

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

" A History of Lumbering in Maine 1820-1861. Richard G. Wood, Orono
 Maine University Press, 1961
Kennebec Yesterdays Ernest Marriner, Waterville, Maine, Colby College
 Press, 1954
Who Was Who in America, Vol.111 1951-1960, The A. N. Marquis Co. 1963.
Surgery of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Harvey W. Cushing, 1928, Vol.47,
 p. 751-757
Diary of William Bryant, 1822-1867

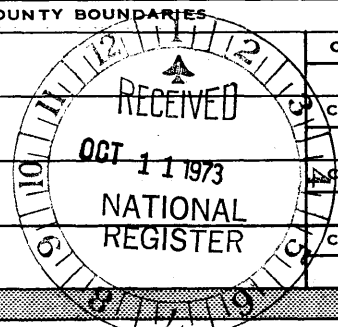
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44°	35'	14"	69°	36'	03"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Nancy G. Bishop

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE July 23, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
16 Ridge Road, R.F.D. #1

CITY OR TOWN: Fairfield STATE Maine CODE 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Munchy
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date October 9, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. A. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/12/74

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 1/17/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

electro coagulation in neuro-surgery of cancer cells, first in the brain, later in the rectum area. His invention of the "so called" electric knife which cauterized without surgery, referred to as bloodless surgery, is still being used today. It was a very important invention, especially in the field of cancer tumors, etc.. Today, the knife is rod-shaped through modern modification, however, the initial invention was that of Dr. Bovie. It is difficult to find many references to Dr. Bovie, being eccentric, he preferred money for his invention rather than the publicity.

Dr. Bovie, inventor of the Bovie Knife, died in 1958, but is survived by his wife, age 91, in a Waterville Nursing Home, and a son, living on the coast. Mrs. Bovie has many early pictures of the house, among other important materials, and she is available to speak, if further information were desired. It must be noted, however, that the Bovie's lived in des-titution in this house before it was sold in the 1960's to Robert Brown.

Another significant event connected to the Connor-Bovie House, is that it was the first electrified house in Fairfield, 1888.

