

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Black Horse Tavern

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number U. S. #1 - Searsport Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Belfast, N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county Waldo code 027

**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	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name William W. Johnson

street & number Searsport Avenue

city, town Belfast, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04915

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waldo County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Belfast, state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Black Horse Tavern of Belfast, Maine, built by 1800, is a Cape Cod style building of frame (post-and-beam) construction with 1½ stories, a gable roof, large central chimney, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation.

The facade, which faces east, is five bays wide with a central entrance consisting of a single door and unadorned enframing. Fenestration here, as elsewhere, is 6/6, but would originally have been 9/6, typical of the Federal period in Maine. Windows in the building are flanked by exterior louvered shutters.

The north and south ends of the building are two bays wide.

Attached to the north side of the tavern is a recently constructed 1½-story ell with a doorway facing east which replaced an original ell of similar but not identical conformation.

Much of the interior of the tavern retains original features. In the left front room wainscoting is present and consists of single knotless pine boards twenty-five inches wide. Both front rooms have large fireplaces with original mantels and surrounding panelling. Many partitions in the rear of the building consist simply of wide vertical boarding, adze-finished, and in the main original doors and frames have been retained.

## 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 checked="" 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 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/1795

**Builder/Architect** Jerome Stephenson

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The first tavern on the east side of the river in Belfast, the Black Horse was opened in 1800 and became the better known of the two which opened that year. Its owner, Jerome Stephenson, was well-known locally for his activities as a citizen of Belfast.

Stephenson came to Belfast in 1784, after serving in the Revolutionary War; by 1785 he was one of Belfast's selectmen. Because he, his wife, and most of his twelve children (two more were to be born in Belfast) had settled on the east side of the Passagassawakeag River, he was continually working for partial separation from Belfast in the 1790's.

In 1800, when he was 62 and his youngest child was 12, Stephenson converted part of his home, built in the mid-1790's, to a public house. He called it the Black Horse Tavern and he had a sign painted with that decoration. The tavern was operated by Stephenson's youngest son and a grandson (Jerome, Jr. and Jerome III) after his death until about 1852. The signboard with the black horse is still in the Cape Cod style house before which it hung.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Joseph Williamson, History of the City of Belfast in the State of Maine From its First Settlement in 1770 to 1875. Portland, 1877.  
 E. Frances Abbott, "Taverns of Belfast" in Trails and Taverns of Maine, 1933.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1/4  
 Quadrangle name Searsport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	9	5	0	1	2	9	0	4	9	1	9	2	8	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map U26 - Lot 6

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Hist./Robert L. Bradley, Arch. Hist./Bette A. Smith, Asst.

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1981

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Feltner*

title S.H.P.O. date 12/13/81

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 2/11/82

*for Keeling*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration