

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 HARRIET BEECHER STOWE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON Stowe House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 63 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN Brunswick

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE Maine

__ VICINITY OF
CODE 023

COUNTY Cumberland CODE 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: restaurant and motel

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Landmark Development Corporation (leased to: Stowe House Operating Company, Inc)

STREET & NUMBER 63 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN Brunswick

__ VICINITY OF STATE Maine 04011

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Cumberland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Portland

STATE Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House at Brunswick, Maine, stands on the eastern side of Federal Street (number 63) just north of its intersection with the right-of-way of the Maine Central Railroad. The oldest sections of the frame building, the main block and a rear ell, were constructed in 1807 for the Rev. Benjamin Titcomb, who came to Brunswick from Portland to be the first minister of a newly formed Baptist Society. The builder was Samuel Melcher III, who was responsible for a number of the finest Federal period buildings in Brunswick. Although there is no definite information on the original appearance of the house, it is assumed that both sections were two stories with gabled roofs. The main block followed a center hall plan with two rooms on each floor, and there were probably four additional rooms in the ell. A wooden barn with gabled roof stood at the rear (east) of the house.

Following the Stowe residence (1850-52) and probably after 1854 when the Titcomb heirs sold the property to William Hall, a local businessman, the house was extensively rebuilt and given Victorian detailing including marble or painted cast-iron fireplace surrounds; corner pilasters with inset panels; heavy window caps; a recessed front entrance with projecting cornice and transom and sidelights of stained, etched glass; and a heavy cornice at the roof line of both the main block and ell. Their proportions indicate that the 6/6 sash windows were also enlarged at this time. As a result of this work, there is nothing in the present appearance of the house to suggest a date for it earlier than mid-19th century.

In 1946 the Stowe House was purchased for use as an inn and since that time a series of owners have made further significant alterations in the property. Between 1946 and 1957 a restaurant was located on the first floor of the house, guest rooms on the second, and a gift shop in the former barn. The shed dormer and enclosed, one-story porch on the south side of the ell and the two-story addition on its north side may date from this period. In 1957 the restaurant was moved to the barn, which was attached to the house by an addition at the rear (east) of the ell and enlarged to provide kitchen facilities. The original kitchen with its massive fireplace became a cocktail lounge. Additional property to the south and east of the house was acquired in 1958 to allow space for expanded parking and construction of a 54-room motel unit.

Within the last three years (1973-75) the barn/restaurant has been further enlarged by the creation of a second floor lounge, the second floor of the main house adapted for use as a manager's residence, and the original kitchen converted to a registration area (the fireplace remains but appears to be covered with new brick). Harriet Beecher Stowe's sitting room (southwest corner of the main house) is now a gift shop (architectural details are largely obscured by shelving) and the remaining first-floor rooms, with some walls removed, have been converted to a tavern--"Harriet's Place"-- with decor featuring church pews and back-lighted stained glass. Thus, while the Stowe House remains in good condition structurally, much of its historical integrity has been destroyed.

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 checked="" 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 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 1807, 1850-52 BUILDER/ARCHITECT original portion, Samuel Melcher III

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 2 1/2-story frame house on Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine, was from 1850 to 1852 the home of author and humanitarian Harriet Beecher Stowe. It was here that she wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin, her best known work and the most famous example of American anti-slavery literature. Few volumes have generated such widespread public reaction or had such direct impact on the course of American history. Published as a serial in the National Era in 1851 and in book form the following year, Uncle Tom's Cabin became an overnight sensation in the United States and Europe and was eventually translated into 23 languages. Its author became the object of violent hatred throughout the South and was saluted by President Lincoln as "the little lady who started this great war."

The original section of the Stowe House at Brunswick was constructed for the Rev. Benjamin Titcomb in 1807 and remained in his family until 1854. The next owner, William Hall, made the first of many substantial alterations, both exterior and interior, which account for the present appearance of the building. The Stowe House is now part of a popular restaurant/motel complex and is accessible to the public on a regular basis.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Harriet Elizabeth Beecher, daughter of noted Congregational minister, Lyman Beecher, was born at Litchfield, Connecticut, on June 14, 1811. After her mother's death in 1815, Harriet was strongly influenced by her eldest sister Catherine and was first a student and then a teacher in the school which the latter opened at Hartford. In 1832 the family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Lyman Beecher became president of the newly founded Lane Theological Seminary. Harriet became an assistant at the Western Female Institute, established by Catherine, and soon began to contribute stories and sketches to local journals. In 1836 she married Calvin Ellis Stowe, a native of Massachusetts and a professor at Lane. With his encouragement, she continued writing and in 1843 published The Mayflower, or Sketches of Scenes and Characters Among the Descendants of the Pilgrims.

Mrs. Stowe lived at Cincinnati for 18 years in all. During that period she met fugitive slaves and learned from her friends and from her own visits to Kentucky something of life in the South. Calvin Stowe returned to New England with his family in 1850 to become Professor of Natural and Revealed Religion at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. There, drawing on her own experiences and those of her brother, Henry Ward Beecher, who had traveled in the deep South, Mrs. Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly. Intended primarily as a humanitarian appeal against the evils of slavery, the work was equally, if not more, effective

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Fields, Annie, ed. Life and Letters of Harriet Beecher Stowe (1897).
 Foster, C.H. Rungless Ladder: Harriet Beecher Stowe and New England Puritanism (1954).
 Furnas, J.C. Goodbye to Uncle Tom (1956).
 Parrington, Vernon L. Main Currents in American Thought, vol II (1927).
 Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Works (Riverside edition, 16 volumes, 1899 and 1906).
 Wilson, F. Crusader in Crinoline (1941).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	4 2 2 8 5 0	4 8 6 2 4 2 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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 Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by J. Walter Coleman, Historian, 8/7/61.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

1/14/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington, D.C.

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

N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Stowe House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

as a romance and a portrait of American manners.

Uncle Tom's Cabin began to appear in serial form in the National Era, an anti-slavery paper published at Washington, D.C., in 1851 and was issued as a book the following year. Though no one had expected the book to be a popular success, 10,000 copies were sold the first week, 300,000 within the year; sales of the pirated English edition reached 1 1/2 million. The violent reaction which the book evoked was equally unexpected. The Southern Literary Messenger declared it "a criminal prostitution of the higher function of the imagination" and added that Mrs. Stowe had "placed herself without the pale of kindly treatment at the hands of Southern criticism." A cousin living in Georgia told Mrs. Stowe that she did not dare receive letters with her name on the outside of the envelope. The author's reply to Southern criticism of inaccuracy and sectional bias was A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin (1853), a collection of factual material on slavery intended to justify the charges implied in the novel.

With her next work, Dred: a Tale of the Dismal Swamp (1856), Mrs. Stowe shifted from a humanitarian to an economic approach, arguing the wastefulness and inevitable deterioration of a society based on slave labor. After the success of that second novel (100,000 copies were sold in England in less than a month), Mrs. Stowe led the life of a woman of letters. The Atlantic Monthly, (established in 1857), the New York Independent, and the Christian Union carried her articles regularly. She continued to produce novels (The Minister's Wooing, 1859, is best known) and wrote numerous studies of New England social life in both fiction and essays (titles include The Pearl of Orr's Island, 1862; Oldtown Folks, 1869; and Poganuc People, 1878). Mrs. Stowe also published a small volume of religious poems and toward the end of her career gave some public readings of her work.

The Stowe family had remained at Brunswick only two years, moving in 1852 to Andover, Massachusetts, where Calvin Stowe became a professor at a theological seminary. On his retirement in 1863, the family moved to Hartford. After the Civil War, Mrs. Stowe purchased a small estate in Florida, where she spent many winters. Following the death of her husband in 1886, she lived in seclusion at Hartford until her own death on July 1, 1896.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Stowe House ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House is now one component in a restaurant and motel complex located on Lot 84 on the east side of Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine. Boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for the Stowe House are drawn to include those elements of the complex associated with Harriet Beecher Stowe--the house, rear ell and barn (now converted for use as a restaurant and attached to the ell)--and to exclude those elements which do not contribute to the national significance of the property--the motel structure and parking areas. Specific lines are defined as follows: beginning at the intersection of the eastern curbline of Federal Street and the southern line of residential property at 61 Federal Street; thence, easterly by said southern line and the southern line of residential property at 10 Maple Street to its intersection with a line parallel to and ten feet east of the eastern line of the Stowe restaurant (the converted barn); thence, southerly along said eastern parallel line to its intersection with a line parallel to and ten feet south of the southern line of the restaurant structure; thence, westerly along said southern parallel line extended to the eastern curbline of Federal Street; thence, northerly along said eastern curbline to the point of beginning.