



Harriet Beecher Stowe House Special Resource Study



On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama approved H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, as Public Law 111-11. The act authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a special resource study of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House and surrounding lands in Brunswick, Maine. The study will explore the possibility of adding the Harriet Beecher Stowe House as a new unit of the National Park System.

The Study Process

1. Project Scoping – During scoping, the study team consults with subject matter experts, relevant state and local agencies and organizations, other stakeholders, and the general public to identify issues important or relevant to the study.

2. Evaluation of Resources – The study team will then identify and evaluate the sites and resources associated with the Harriet Beecher Stowe House. To conduct this analysis, the study team will use the following National Park Service criteria.

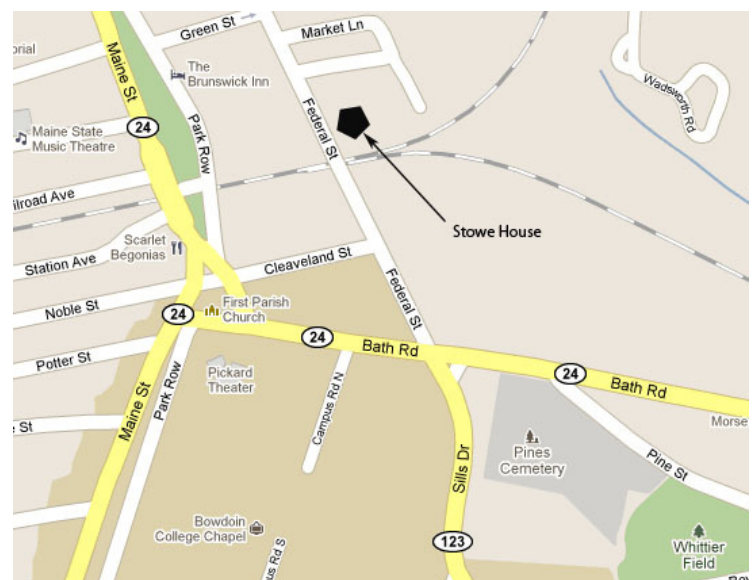
- First, the national significance of the site is assessed. The NPS uses National Historic Landmark (NHL) criteria to determine whether or not a property is nationally significant. A proposed unit will be considered nationally significant if it meets all four of the following standards:

- It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource;
- It possesses exceptional value or quality illustrating and interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our Nation's heritage;
- It offers superlative opportunities for recreation, for public

use and enjoyment, or for scientific study; and

- It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of the resource.

- Second, the suitability of the site for potential inclusion in the national park system is assessed. The suitability assessment will involve comparing the study area to other sites already included in the national park system or comparably protected by others (federal agencies, states, localities, or privately). If the study team finds that preserving and interpreting the Harriet Beecher Stowe House would not duplicate comparable efforts elsewhere, then it may be found suitable for potential inclusion in the National Park System.



Public involvement is a critical part of this study process. The purpose of this handout is to invite you to participate by introducing you to the study process and encouraging your feedback about key issues we should consider as we proceed. See the “How to Participate in this Study” discussion on this page for more information.

- Third, the feasibility of the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System is assessed. According to the management policies that govern the National Park Service, an area must (1) be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment, taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries, (2) be capable of efficient administration by the Service at a reasonable cost, and (3) have public support.

- Fourth, the study team will determine whether or not there is a need for direct management by the National Park Service. Unless direct NPS management is identified as the clearly superior management alternative, the Service may recommend that another organization (for example, state, local or private entities or another federal agency) continue or assume a lead management role.

In the event that the study area fails to meet any of the criteria listed above, then the study will be terminated.

3. Developing Management Options - If the Harriet Beecher Stowe House meets all four of the criteria listed above, then the study team may define a range of alternatives for future action that explore the options relative to designation and appropriate levels of NPS involvement. The study team will review and assess factors related to feasibility in terms of existing conditions (public access and programs, level of threat, etc.), project goals, and other factors and criteria that would influence federal designation and NPS involvement.

4. Evaluation of Environmental Consequences - The study team will undertake an assessment of the potential impacts of proposed management options on the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environment.



How to Participate in this Study

There are several ways to provide feedback on this study:

1. **Send comments through our study website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/habe>.** Once on the website, click on the “Open For Comment” link on the left side of the screen, then select “Special Resource Study Public Scoping” to complete the comment form.
2. **Participate in public meetings.**
3. **Review the project study.** When a study report is released for public review, it will be posted on the study website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/habe>) with instructions for commenting.

Questions about this study can be addressed to:

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Please check our website frequently for project updates:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/habe>.

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PLANNING ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Internal Scoping	Fall 2010 – Winter 2011
Public Scoping Meeting	April 2011
Research & Writing	Spring - Fall 2011
Internal Review of Study	Winter 2012
Release of Study & Public Comment Period	Spring 2012
Final Study Submitted to the Secretary of the Interior	Summer 2012