

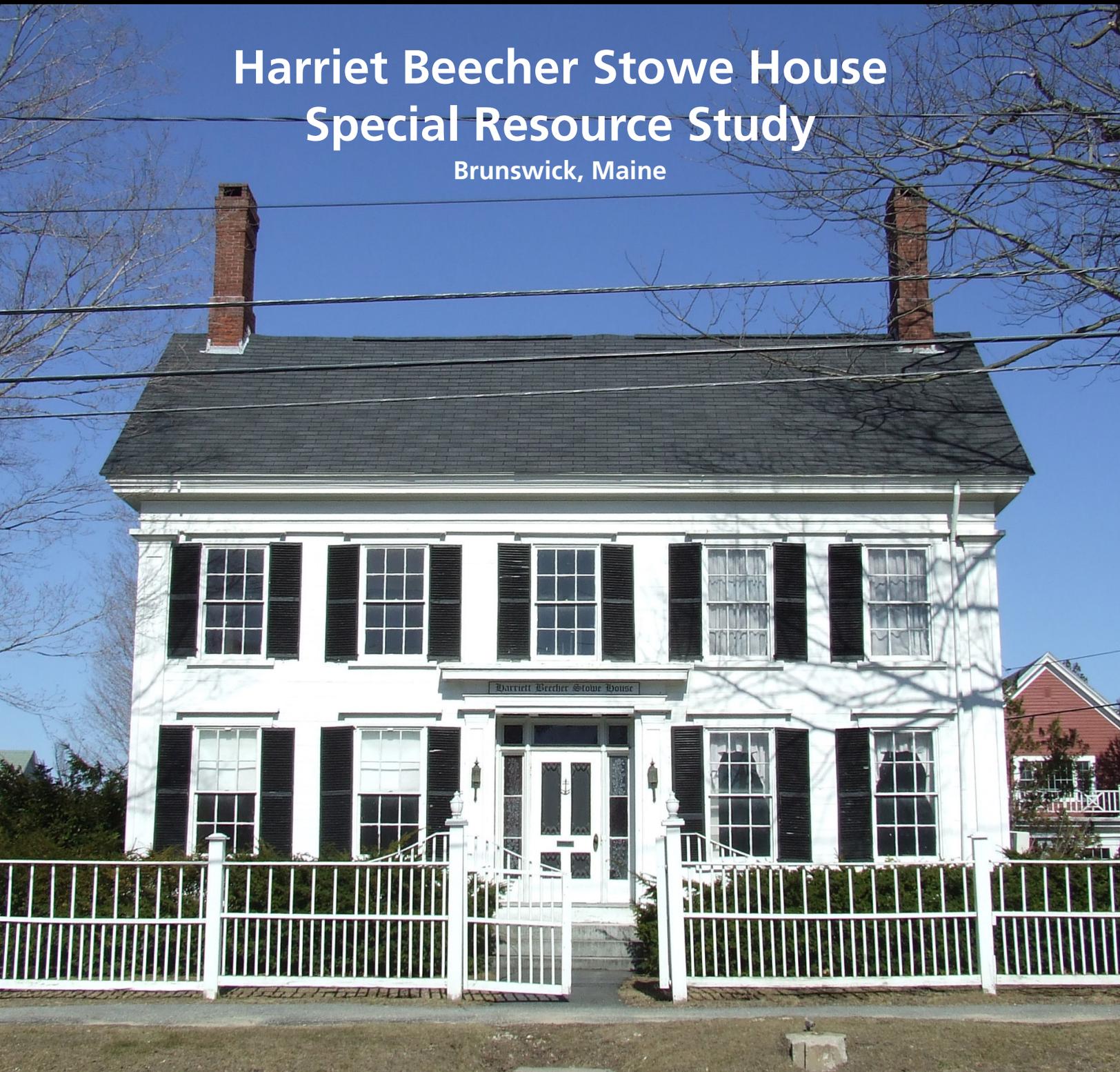
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Northeast Region
Philadelphia Office



Harriet Beecher Stowe House Special Resource Study

Brunswick, Maine



March 2016

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	iii
Chapter 1: Study Purpose & Background	1
Introduction	1
Study Area	2
Study Process.....	3
Chapter 2: Resources & Historical Overview	5
Description of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House.....	5
Historical Background on Harriet Beecher Stowe.....	6
Community Context of Harriet Beecher Stowe House.....	9
Chapter 3: Study Criteria Analysis	11
Introduction	11
National Significance Analysis	11
Suitability Analysis	13
Feasibility Analysis.....	16
Need for Direct NPS Management Analysis.....	17
Special Resource Study Conclusions	17
Chapter 4: Consultation & Public Outreach	19
Public Outreach and Scoping	19
Consultation	19
Appendix 1 – Pertinent Legislation.....	21
Appendix 2 – Historic Structure Report.....	23

Appendix 3 - Bibliography25

Appendix 4 – Study Team & Contributors.....27

Appendix 5 – Letters of Consultation29

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009* (Public Law 111-11) directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine, as a potential unit of the National Park System. The study was undertaken by a team within the National Park Service's (NPS) Northeast Regional Office Park Planning and Special Studies Branch.

For a determination to be made as to whether a resource should be considered for potential designation as a unit of the National Park System, analyses are conducted based on criteria established by Congress in Section 100507 of Title 54, United States Code, and in accordance with NPS *Management Policies 2006*. To be eligible for consideration, an area must:

1. possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources;
2. be a suitable addition to the system;
3. be a feasible addition to the system; and
4. require direct NPS management instead of alternative protection by other public agencies, tribes, or the private sector.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, 63 Federal Street, Brunswick, Maine, was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1962. A full National Register of Historic Places nomination was completed in 1976. The house is a contributing structure within the Federal Street National Register Historic District, which was added to the National Register in 1976. The house is nationally significant because it is where Mrs. Stowe and her family lived (1850-1852) while she wrote the internationally impactful novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The Stowe family moved from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Brunswick, Maine, so Mr. Stowe could assume a teaching position at Bowdoin College.

The Stowe House is a two-story, gable-roofed, wood frame structure with a two-story el and connected barn. Originally constructed in 1806, the house was significantly remodeled in 1855. Sometime before 1887 a one-story addition was made to the north facade of the full-height el. Additional alterations were made in 1946 when the house became an inn; more remodeling in 1957 and 1998 resulted in the removal of some of the historic fabric from the interior of the house and significant alterations to the barn. In 1968, a motel was constructed at the rear of the property. Bowdoin College assumed ownership of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House property including the historic house, connected restaurant (formerly a barn), and adjacent motel in 2001. The Stowe House is currently used for administrative purposes and is not open to the public.

A Historic Structure Report prepared for Bowdoin College by architectural consultants Barba + Wheelock in 2010 provided detailed analysis of the history and condition of the Stowe House. The report recommended that the house at 63 Federal Street be preserved and rehabilitated , but

that a complete restoration not be attempted.

A second National Historic Landmark honoring Mrs. Stowe is the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, in Hartford, Connecticut, which was designated in 2012. Mrs. Stowe lived in this house from 1873 until her death in 1896. This house is open to the public and includes in surrounding buildings an extensive archives, library, and exhibits related to the career of Harriet Beecher Stowe, including her authorship of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. There is yet another house, in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Harriet Beecher Stowe lived before moving to Brunswick, Maine. This house is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a museum open to the public.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine Special Resource Study concludes that the resources of the Stowe House meet the criterion for national significance, but do not meet the criteria for suitability, feasibility, or the need for NPS management. Concerning the negative finding on suitability, there are already two historic house museums that interpret the career and influence of Harriet Beecher Stowe—the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, Connecticut, and the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, Ohio. There is also a negative finding on feasibility and the need for NPS management because the owner, Bowdoin College, is rehabilitating the Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine for office space and the resource would not be available for consideration as a national park unit. Since this study concludes that the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine does not fully meet the criteria for potential designation as a unit of the National Park System, no federal action is anticipated.

CHAPTER 1

STUDY PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11) directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, in Brunswick, Maine, as a potential unit of the National Park System. The study was proposed by former Senator Olympia Stowe at the request of the property owner, Bowdoin College. The College and the surrounding community were involved in the study.

This report constitutes the results of the study undertaken by a team within the National Park Service's (NPS) Northeast Regional Office Park Planning and Special Studies Branch. The study team consulted with a number of parties during the study including the Maine State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Bowdoin College, which owns the Stowe House, and other relevant individuals and organizations. The study team conducted research on the historic resources of the city and is responsible for the study process, coordinating the involvement of other public agencies and the public, and producing this report.

Areas comprising the present 408-unit National Park System are cumulative expressions of a single national heritage. Potential additions to the system should, therefore, contribute in their own special ways to a system that fully represents the broad spectrum of natural and cultural resources that characterize our nation. The NPS is responsible for conducting professional studies of potential additions to the National Park System when specifically authorized by an Act of Congress, and for making recommendations regarding new areas to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress. The criteria considered in the study process is contained in Section 100507 of Title 54, United States Code. To receive a favorable recommendation, a proposed addition to the National Park System must (1) possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources; (2) be a suitable addition to the system; (3) be a feasible addition to the system; and (4) require direct NPS management, instead of alternative protection by other public agencies or the private sector. These criteria are designed to ensure that the National Park System includes only the most outstanding examples of the nation's natural and cultural resources. The criteria also recognize that there are other alternatives, short of designation as a unit of the National Park System, for preserving the nation's outstanding resources.

1. An area or resource may be considered nationally significant if it is a National Historical Landmark, which means that it is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource; possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage; offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study; and retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively un-

spoiled example of a resource.

2. An area may be considered suitable for potential addition to the National Park System if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the System, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector. The suitability evaluation, therefore, is not limited solely to units of the National Park System, but includes evaluation of all comparable resource types protected by others.
3. Suitability is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the resources being studied to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The suitability analysis also addresses rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the National Park System or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the potential new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.
4. To be feasible as a new unit of the National Park System, an area must 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 its boundaries), and be capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost. In evaluating feasibility, NPS considers a variety of factors, such as: size; boundary configurations; current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands; land ownership patterns; public enjoyment potential; costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation; access; current and potential threats to the resources; existing degradation of resources; staffing requirements; local planning and zoning for the study area; the level of local and general public support; and the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the National Park System.
5. The evaluation also considers the ability of the NPS to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected constraints on funding and personnel. There are many excellent examples of the successful management of important natural and cultural resources by other public agencies, private conservation organizations, and individuals. Most notably, state park systems provide for protection of natural and cultural resources throughout the nation and offer outstanding recreational experiences. NPS applauds these accomplishments, and actively encourages the expansion of conservation activities by state, local, and private entities, and by other federal agencies. Unless direct NPS management of a studied area is identified as the clearly superior alternative, NPS will recommend that one or more of these other entities assume a lead management role, and that the area not be recommended as a potential unit of the National Park System.

STUDY AREA

The study area for this special resource study is the Harriet Beecher Stowe House and grounds, at 63 Federal Street, Brunswick, Maine. The house is located in the geographic limits of the town of Brunswick, Maine. Bordered by the Androscoggin River and Atlantic Ocean with its 67 miles of coastline, Brunswick is a coastal community. With convenient access to I-295 and Route 1, Brunswick serves as a gateway to Midcoast and Downeast Maine. The town is located 25 miles north of Portland, Maine's largest city and 30 miles from the Portland International Jetport. Brunswick is

connected to Boston by the passenger rail service of the Amtrak Downeaster. Brunswick's population is 20,278 (2010). Its area is 49.7 square miles. Brunswick is the central community of the Brunswick Micropolitan Statistical Area NECTA, which has 14 communities, a labor force of 34,400 (2013), and an unemployment rate of 5.9% (2013). See Figures 1 and 2 for regional location and detail of the study area.

Settled in 1628 and incorporated in 1739, Brunswick is one of Maine's oldest towns and has an extensive stock of historic buildings. It is home to Bowdoin College (1794), the oldest college in Maine. Other colleges in Brunswick are Southern New Hampshire University and Southern Maine Community College.



Figure 1: Study Location

Brunswick is home to LL Bean (manufacturing), Bath Iron Works (design/engineering) and Owens Corning (composite fabrics). Hosting the Mid Coast Hospital and Parkview Adventist Hospital, as well as eleven banks and a robust retail sector, Brunswick is a service center for neighboring communities. A long-term economic asset is the former Brunswick Naval Air Station, a technology park now known as Brunswick Landing. Brunswick Landing features 3,300 acres of prime real estate, over 2 million square feet of commercial and industrial space, an aviation complex, and on-site educational institutions.

STUDY PROCESS

This special resource study results from a process designed and undertaken by the NPS study team. The study process conforms to the intent of Public Law 111-11 and reflects *NPS Management Policies* (2006) and current NPS special resource study guidance. The study included historic research of available books and other documents, a public scoping meeting, meetings with officials of Bowdoin College, which owns the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, and meetings with state and local officials and interested organizations and individuals.

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CHAPTER 2

RESOURCES & HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION OF THE HARRIET BEECHER STOWE HOUSE

This chapter provides a summary overview of the history of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine. It draws upon the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination (1962), National Register of Historic Places nomination (1976), and the *Harriet Beecher Stowe House Historic Structure Report*, Vols. I & II (2010).

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House at 63 Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1962. Boundaries of the National Historic Landmark designation for the Stowe House are drawn to include the house, a rear ell, and the barn. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The most recent National Register nomination was completed in 1976. The house at 63 Federal Street also is important for having been the residence of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1822, when he was a student at Bowdoin College.

The 2 1/2-story frame house at 63 Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine, was the home of author and humanitarian Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) from 1850 to 1852. It was here that she wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, her best known work and the most influential 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.

The National Register nomination for the Stowe House indicates that the oldest sections of the frame building, the main block and a rear ell, were constructed in 1807 for the Rev. Benjamin Titcomb, 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.

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. 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. Between 1973 and 1975, the barn/restaurant was further enlarged to provide facilities for the motel. Harriet Beecher Stowe's sitting room became a gift shop and the remaining first-floor rooms, with some walls removed, became a tavern "Harriet's Place," with decor featuring church pews and back-lighted stained glass. Thus, while the Stowe House remained in good condition structurally, much of its historical integrity has been compromised.

Bowdoin College purchased the Harriet Beecher Stowe House and the adjoining motel for \$1.3 million in 2001. The house was most recently used for administrative purposes and was not open to the public while the former motel behind the Harriet Beecher Stowe House was used for a dormitory. According to a March 2015 newspaper article, owner Bowdoin College has received approval from the Brunswick Village Review Board for a modest rehabilitation of the Stowe House for administrative use. The plans include a room dedicated to Stowe memorabilia as well as the reuse of the barn as storage space, and the demolition of a portion of the 1940's era restaurant.

Bowdoin College commissioned a Historic Structure Report on the house to serve as a guide for its preservation. It was completed by the consulting firm Barba + Wheelock, Architecture, Preservation + Design in 2010. The report's recommended treatment for the Stowe House is preservation and rehabilitation. The report's recommendations are in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

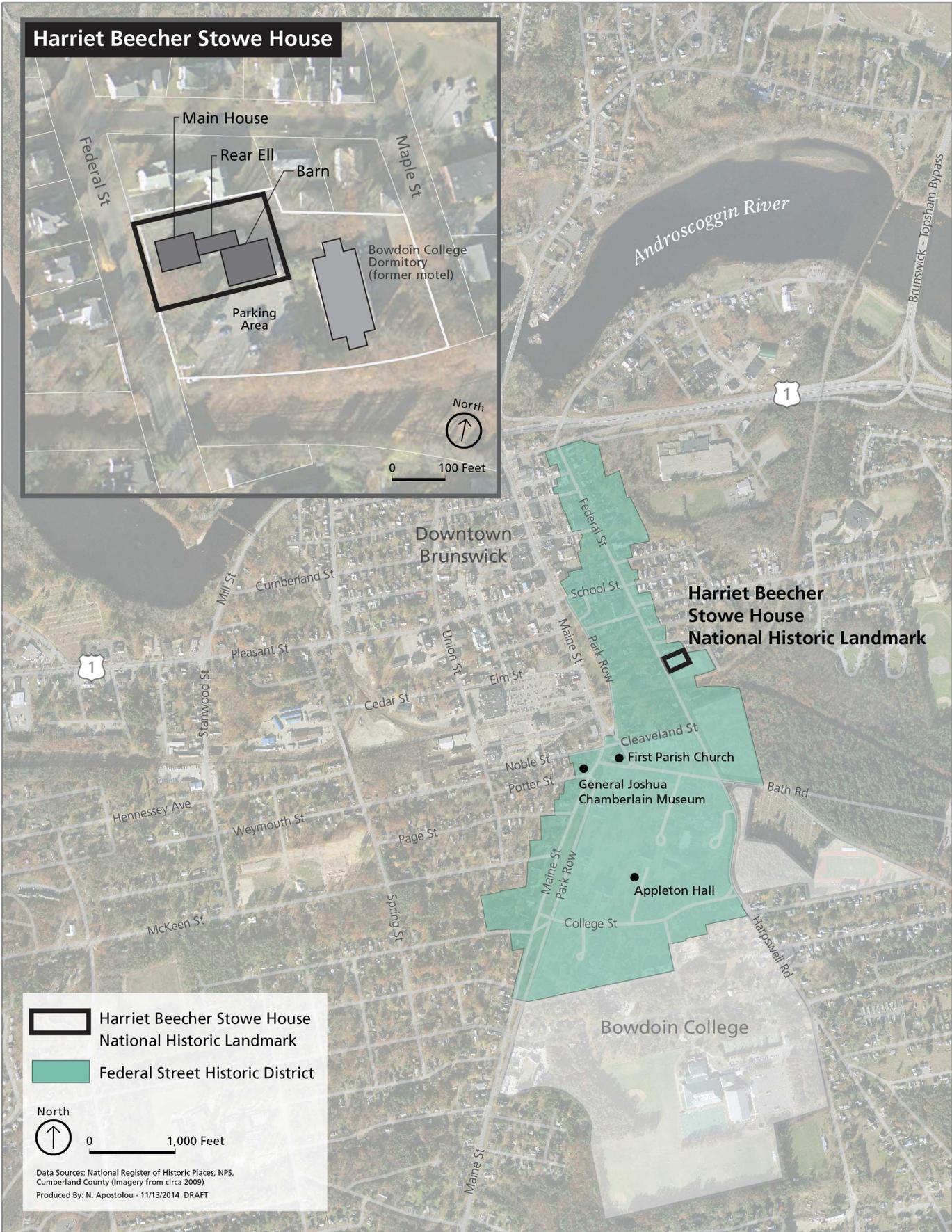
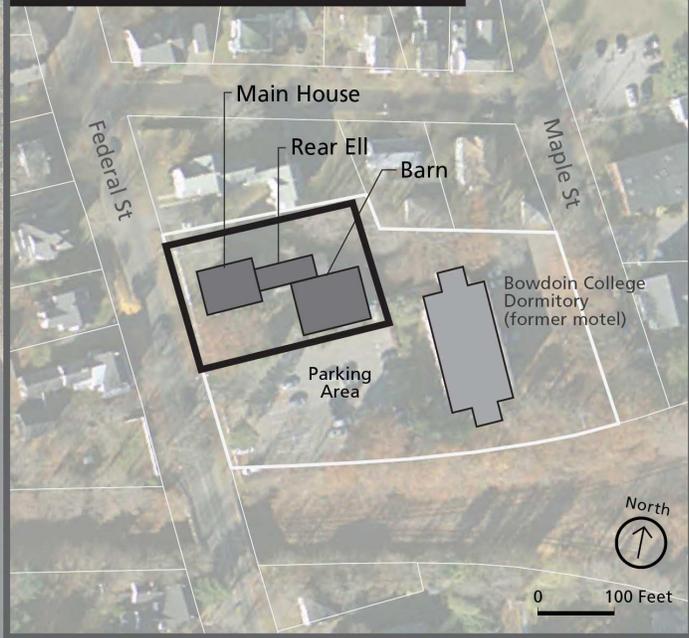
The Historic Structure Report explains its recommendations: "The exterior would be preserved, with limited restoration activities. Interior spaces retaining historic fabric would be preserved, while those that have been remodeled in the past would be rehabilitated to accommodate the proposed new use. Although some limited restoration activity may be appropriate, restoration of the entire structure is not realistic or responsible at this time.

As documented in Volume I of the Historic Structure Report, the house was significantly altered in 1855, shortly after the Stowes left. Available documentation and physical evidence are not adequate to make any firm conclusions about the appearance and arrangement of the house prior to the 1855 remodeling campaign. "... The lack of pre-1855 documentation means that many elements would have to be "of the period," not authentic replicas of actual features and details specific to the Stowe House. A true restoration would also be costly. ... While the surviving mid-19th century work does not represent the house's most significant period - the Stowe tenancy - it is, nonetheless, authentic historic fabric. Any effort to restore 63 Federal Street and recreate the appearance of the Stowe-era house will result in a reproduction, a facsimile; the original is irretrievably lost. Any restoration effort reflects the best abilities of the architects, historians and craftsmen who collaborate on the work. However, the end result is still a replica."

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

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

Harriet Beecher Stowe House



-  Harriet Beecher Stowe House National Historic Landmark
-  Federal Street Historic District

North
 0 1,000 Feet

Data Sources: National Register of Historic Places, NPS, Cumberland County (Imagery from circa 2009)
 Produced By: N. Apostolou - 11/13/2014 DRAFT



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Harriet Beecher Stowe House Special Resource Study

Figure 2
Harriet Beecher Stowe NHL

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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 Theological Seminary and moved out of her father's home. 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 in 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, where he had graduated from in 1824. 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 as a romance and a portrait of American manners. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* began to appear in serial form in *The National Era*, an antislavery paper published in 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*, 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 *Pogonuc 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 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.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT OF HARRIET BEECHER STOWE HOUSE

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House is located at 63 Federal Street, which is a residential street that retains a great deal of integrity from the time when the Stowe family was in residence. The street is the centerpiece of the Federal Street National Register Historic District (1976). The historic district includes Federal, School, Green, Cleaveland, Bath, and Maine Streets, Park Row, and the

Bowdoin College campus. Federal Street itself was laid out in 1803, with house lots being purchased by Bowdoin College professors. Property covenants required all houses to be at least two stories, set back from the street 20 feet, with lot widths being 82 feet. According to the National Register nomination the Federal Street Historic District represents “the highest concentration of homes and buildings of architectural merit within Brunswick.” The historic district “reflects Brunswick’s historical role as an important commercial and educational center.” Federal Street is one of six Brunswick neighborhoods that are in the town’s Village Review District, whose Review Board is responsible for enforcing historic preservation design guidelines on properties within the Brunswick Village Review District.

The geographical relationship of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House to Bowdoin College and the Brunswick community remains intact. The campus, where Rev. Stowe taught, retains historic buildings from the mid-nineteenth century. Mrs. Stowe is said to have worked on *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in Appleton Hall (1843), where Rev. Stowe had his office while teaching theology at Bowdoin.

The nearby First Parish Church retains a high degree of integrity. Mrs. Stowe regularly attended this church while she was writing *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. The idea for the novel reportedly came to her in a vision while sitting in pew 23 in the First Parish Church, where she envisioned the Uncle Tom character being abused by his enslaver.

A related nearby historic resource to the Stowe House is the General Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum, 2 Potter Street, Brunswick, Maine. Joshua Chamberlain was student of Rev. Stowe at Bowdoin and, later a professor and president of Bowdoin College. Chamberlain, Class of 1852, enjoyed the privilege of Saturday evenings spent with the Stowe family and fellow students on Federal Street: “On these occasions, a chosen circle of friends, mostly young, were favored with the freedom of her house, the rallying point being, however, the reading before publication, of the successive chapters of her *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, and the frank discussion of them.”

Chamberlain subsequently became a hero for the Union Army at the Battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War and was elected Governor of Maine. In 1983, the Chamberlain house was purchased by the Pejepscot Historical Society and opened as a museum. In interpreting the life of General Chamberlain, the museum interprets stories related to the Stowes and their period in Brunswick.

CHAPTER 3

STUDY CRITERIA ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

For a determination to be made as to whether a resource should be considered for potential designation as a unit of the National Park System, analyses are conducted based on criteria in *NPS Management Policies 2006*. To be eligible for consideration, an area must:

1. possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources;
2. be a suitable addition to the system;
3. be a feasible addition to the system; and
4. require direct NPS management instead of alternative protection by other public agencies, tribes, or the private sector.

This chapter evaluates the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine, against these four criteria.

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE ANALYSIS

NPS Management Policies 2006 states that a resource will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following criteria:

1. is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource;
2. possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage;
3. offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment, or for scientific study; and
4. retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

The national significance of cultural resources is evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmark (NHL) criteria contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 65:

- (a) **Specific Criteria of National Significance:** The quality of national significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
2. That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
3. That represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
4. That embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
5. That are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or
6. That have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

There are two key elements to finding historic resources eligible for National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation: 1) the site must illustrate nationally significant stories, persons, or events; and, 2) districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects must possess high integrity. Integrity indicates whether a property has the ability to convey its historical associations or attributes. The evaluation of integrity must always be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its historical associations or attributes. The NHL Survey recognizes the same seven aspects or qualities of integrity as the National Register. These are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine, has demonstrated national significance by being designated a National Historic Landmark. As the home where Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote her famous anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, it illustrates a nationally significant story and person. The house demonstrates the seven qualities of integrity. It is located on a residential street, the setting of which retains a great deal of integrity from the time when the Stowe family was in residence. The larger setting or geographical relationship of the house to Bowdoin College and the Brunswick community remains intact. The First Parish Church, located around the corner, retains a high degree of integrity. Mrs. Stowe regularly attended this church while she was writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Reportedly, she received inspiration for a major revelation in the plot development at this church. The integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association of the house have been compromised to a degree as a result of years of different building modifications and changes in use. While the interior and rear of the structure have changed since the time of the Stowe family residency, the primary façade facing Federal Street is generally intact.

Conclusion: National Significance Criterion

Since the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine, is a National Historic Landmark, it meets the criterion of national significance.

SUITABILITY ANALYSIS

NPS Management Policies 2006 provide that an area is considered suitable for potential addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector. It is important to reiterate that the suitability analysis is not limited to whether resources are represented in the system, but extends the analysis to similar resources protected by other public entities and the private sector.

In evaluating the suitability of cultural resources within or outside the national park system, the NPS uses its Thematic Framework for history and prehistory. The framework is an outline of major themes and concepts that help to conceptualize American history. It is used to assist in the identification of cultural resources that embody America's past and to describe and analyze the multiple layers of history encapsulated within each resource.

Through eight concepts that encompass the multi-faceted and interrelated nature of human experience, the thematic framework reflects an interdisciplinary, less compartmentalized approach to American history. The concepts are:

1. Peopling Places
2. Creating Social Institutions
3. Expressing Cultural Values
4. Shaping the Political Landscape
5. Developing the American Economy
6. Expanding Science and Technology
7. Transforming the Environment
8. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine relates to two themes from the NPS Thematic Framework: *Cultural Values* and *Shaping the Political Landscape*.

The theme *Cultural Values* covers expressions of culture; people's beliefs about themselves and the world they inhabit. This theme also encompasses the ways that people communicate their moral and aesthetic values. Topics that help define this theme include educational and intellectual currents; visual and performing arts; literature; mass media; architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design; and popular and traditional culture. For the purpose of this analysis, the topic of educational and intellectual currents is used as it relates to Harriet Beecher Stowe's criticism of slavery and advocacy for abolition in her international best-selling novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and other writings. The sub-topic of literature would also relate to Stowe's writings.

The theme *Shaping the Political Landscape* encompasses tribal, local, state, and federal political and governmental institutions that create public policy and those groups that seek to shape both policies and institutions. Sites associated with political leaders, theorists, organizations, movements, campaigns, and grassroots political activities all illustrate aspects of the political environment. The political landscape has been shaped by military events and decisions, by transitory

movements and protests, as well as by political parties. Topics that help define this theme include: 1. parties, protests, and movements; 2. governmental institutions; 3. military institutions and activities; 4. political ideas, cultures, and theories. Since Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* has long been cited as the most influential book in turning public opinion in the North against the institution of slavery, the book played a significant role in creating the conditions for the Civil War and the eventual abolition of slavery. Famously, President Abraham Lincoln addressed Mrs. Stowe as "the little lady who started this great war."

In addition to the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine, there are also Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Hartford, Connecticut, which are open to the public as museums interpreting Stowe's life and writings. Both of these museums illustrate the NPS Thematic Framework themes of *Cultural Values* and *Shaping the Political Landscape*.

Harriet Beecher Stowe House and Center, Hartford, Connecticut

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center at 73 Forest Street, Hartford, Connecticut, is an historic ensemble that focuses on the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, a Victorian Gothic Revival home, and also includes the Katharine Seymour Day House, the Stowe Visitor Center, and Victorian-style gardens. The Harriet Beecher Stowe House is open to the public year-round.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, a Gothic Revival cottage, was built in 1871. Stowe purchased the house in 1873 and it served as Stowe's main residence until her death in 1896. She shared the home with her husband Calvin Stowe and their family. Several of Stowe's later works were written while she lived here. The house was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2013.

After Stowe's death in 1896 the house was sold, passing through multiple owners until 1924 when it was purchased by Katharine Seymour Day (1870-1964), a grandniece of Stowe. Day, a painter and preservationist, lived in the house for nearly 40 years. She played a decisive role in preserving Stowe's historic house and assembling a collection of Stowe and Beecher furnishings, books, manuscripts, and memorabilia.

The house has an interior of 4,500 square feet and 14 furnished rooms. The ground floor of the house includes a front parlor. The dining room holds Stowe's table, a set of period chairs and more of her paintings. The kitchen is based on the efficient model recommended by Stowe and Catharine Beecher in their domestic guide *The American Woman's Home* (1869). The second floor contains family bedrooms and a bathing room. The attic, which was used by family members and servants, is not open to the public. Most of the house's furnishings belonged to Stowe or members of her family, and the interior incorporates her preference for informal homemaking. The furnishings are a blend of 18th-century family heirlooms alongside Empire and Victorian pieces.

The Katharine Seymour Day House (1884) is the location of the Stowe Center Research Library and the Stowe Center's administrative offices. The first floor is used for exhibits, programs and events. The Day House was built in the Queen Anne style for Franklin and Mary Chamberlin. The house is named in honor of Katharine Seymour Day, founder of the Stowe Center and grand-niece of Harriet Beecher Stowe. The interior of the 20-room house contains ornately carved cherry, sycamore, and oak paneling with Gothic inspired images and floral designs. The Visitor Center was originally the carriage house (1873) for the Katharine Day House. It houses the visitor admissions area, the museum store, and changing exhibits.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center holds the largest collection of materials related to the Beecher and Stowe extended families, members of the culturally significant Hartford, Connecticut, the Nook Farm neighborhood, and resources relating to Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The collections contain approximately 6,000 objects. The Stowe Center Library has over 12,000 books, 4,000 pamphlets, and 180,000 manuscripts, as well as 12,000 images - photographs, prints, broadsides, posters and drawings. The library includes a collection of Harriet Beecher Stowe's personal correspondence, sketchbooks, diaries, journals, and literary manuscripts; the *Uncle Tom's Cabin* collection, which includes most American and foreign language editions of the novel, interpretation and criticism, pamphlets, broadsides, and images of Stowe's most famous anti-slavery novel, from 1851 to the present; collection of Beecher/Stowe family correspondence and works by Lyman Beecher, Catharine E. Beecher, Henry Ward Beecher, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Thomas K. Beecher, and Calvin E. Stowe; correspondence and photographs associated with the Nook Farm neighborhood and its residents.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center is located in the Nook Farm neighborhood on the western edge of Hartford. This residential subdivision was developed in the 1870s and became a celebrated center of American literary life and reform thought. Residents of the neighborhood included politicians, journalists, feminists, spiritualists, painters, and writers. Mark Twain had his handsome house opposite the Stowe House. Other neighbors were Isabella Beecher Hooker, Joseph Hawley, Charles Dudley Warner and William Gillette, who acquired national fame for writing and reform. Nationally celebrated architects designed many of the houses in a range of Victorian styles.

Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, located at 2950 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, is operated as an historical and cultural site, focusing on Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The Cincinnati Stowe House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site also interprets the family, friends, and colleagues of the Beecher-Stowe family, Lane Seminary, related African-American history, and the abolitionism and Underground Railroad movements in which these historical figures participated.

The Stowe House offers cultural events, programming, and tours. The Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati is owned by the Ohio Historical Society and is operated with the Friends of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Inc. The adjoining grounds are maintained by the Cincinnati Park Board. The Harriet Beecher Stowe House is open February 1 through November 30.

In 1832, the Stowe family moved from Litchfield, Connecticut to Cincinnati, where her father became the first president of Lane Theological Seminary. Rev. Lyman Beecher was a Congregationalist minister. The house was completed in 1833 to house the president of the seminary. Harriet Beecher Stowe lived here for various periods of time from 1833 until her marriage to Rev. Calvin Ellis Stowe in 1836. Her first two children, twins Eliza and Harriet, were born in the house in 1836. The Beecher family continued to live here until 1851.

During her residence in Cincinnati, Harriet Beecher Stowe started her literary career, writing a geography text for schoolchildren. Here, she directly experienced slavery, being located in this border region across the Ohio River from the slave state of Kentucky. Stowe was able to interview fugitive slaves, an experience that fueled her opposition to slavery and provided inspiration to

write *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Stowe was also able to participate in the development of the anti-slavery movement and experience opposition to it.

The Beecher family included Harriet's sister, Catherine Beecher, an early female educator and writer who helped found several preparatory schools and colleges for women; brother Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, a leader of the women's suffrage and the abolition movements and considered by some to be the most eloquent minister of his time; General James Beecher, a Civil War general who commanded the first African-American troops in the Union Army recruited from the South; and sister Isabella Beecher Hooker, a women's rights advocate.

Conclusion: Suitability Criterion

Since Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote her most influential book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, at the house on 63 Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine, between 1850 and 1852, that house is an appropriate site to interpret the story of Harriet Beecher Stowe and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. However, there are two other publically accessible historic sites that interpret Harriet Beecher Stowe and her famous novel. The Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati, Ohio, interprets the story of Harriet's early adult life, the influence of her reformist family on her views of slavery and abolition, and direct experiences she had of slavery in this border region across the Ohio River from the slave state of Kentucky. The Cincinnati Stowe House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 at the level of state significance. The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut, which is a National Historic Landmark, provides a full overview of Stowe's career and writings. The National Historic Landmark nomination for the Hartford house explains: "The Stowe house on Forest Street provides tangible evidence of Harriet Beecher Stowe's long and successful career as an activist. Restored to the appearance that it had during her residence, and filled with furniture that she knew, it provides a glimpse into the final years of one of America's most influential and successful writers and social reformers of the nineteenth century." Not only does the Stowe Center include the house that Stowe lived in between 1873 and her death in 1896, it includes exhibits on her life and a library and archives with extensive materials, including extensive materials related to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Since there are two other house museums in the country that are open to the public and which interpret the life and writings of Harriet Beecher Stowe, the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine, duplicates those resources and so does not meet the suitability criterion to become a unit of the National Park System.

FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

NPS *Management Policies 2006* states that in order to be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be:

1. 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), and
2. capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost.

In evaluating feasibility, the NPS considers a variety of factors, including: size; boundary configurations; current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands; land ownership patterns; public enjoyment potential; costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration,

and operation; access; current and potential threats to the resources; existing degradation of resources; staffing requirements; local planning and zoning for the study area; the level of local and general public support; and the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system. The feasibility evaluation also considers the ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected constraints on funding and personnel.

The study did not examine the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in relation to these criteria for two reasons: 1) the house did not meet the suitability criterion, and 2) the owner, Bowdoin College, has decided to rehabilitate the house for use as office space. Although the college is considering developing an exhibit on Harriet Beecher Stowe and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the house would not function as an interpreted site open to the public. Bowdoin College lacks a collection of objects related to the Stowe family and their time in Brunswick, Maine, to display and interpret to the public. Bowdoin does not plan a restoration of the interior or exterior of the house to the early 1850s, the period during which the Stowe family was in residence. The house will be rehabilitated in a fashion that creates functional, flexible office and meeting space. The attached ell and barn will be removed.

Since Bowdoin College is rehabilitating the Harriet Beecher Stowe House to serve as office space, this study concludes that the feasibility criterion for establishing a unit of the National Park System at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine, cannot be met.

NEED FOR DIRECT NPS MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

This criterion is met if a special resource study concludes that a resource meets other designation criteria and that NPS management is clearly superior to any other available form of management. It may find that the resource is immediately threatened and preservation by the NPS is the only alternative available. The NPS does not normally find that direct management is needed to manage resources already adequately protected by state, local, or private entities.

Since Bowdoin College is currently maintaining and using the Harriet Beecher Stowe House and has plans in place to rehabilitate the structure to serve as college office space, there is no role for NPS in the management of the Stowe House. The Harriet Beecher Stowe House does not meet the SRS criterion demonstrating a need for direct NPS management.

SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY CONCLUSIONS

This congressionally authorized Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Brunswick, Maine Special Resource Study concludes that the resources of the Stowe House meet the criterion for national significance, but do not meet the criteria for suitability, feasibility, or the need for NPS management. Since this study concludes that the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine does not fully meet the criteria for potential designation as a unit of the National Park System, no federal action is anticipated.

CHAPTER 4

CONSULTATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND SCOPING

This chapter describes the required consultation procedures, public meetings, and comments related to the preparation of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House Special Resource Study.

NPS staff completed two site visits in 2010, which included multiple meetings with university representatives, community stakeholders and historic architects working on the house. The study team met multiple times with representatives of Bowdoin College, as well as community members to discuss options and to tour related resources in the area. One public scoping meeting was held in the spring 2011 at Bowdoin College. Although the meeting was modestly attended, all attendees were supportive of the study, recognition and interpretation of the house and story, and of NPS involvement. Meeting participants asked questions about the Special Resource Study process and the designation of units of the National Park System and provided information about the Harriet Beecher Stowe House. The study team notified the Superintendent of Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine, of the initiation of the study and the public meeting.

CONSULTATION

NPS undertook formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Maine Historic Preservation Officer (Maine Historic Preservation Commission). See Appendix 5 for the Letters of Consultation. A letter was sent to USFWS concerning potential threats to natural resources, including threatened and endangered species. The USFWS website was consulted and no threatened and endangered species were identified.

Copies of this report will be sent to all of the consulting parties.

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APPENDIX 1

PERTINENT LEGISLATION

Public Law 111-11
March 30, 2009
Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

SEC. 7204. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE HOUSE, MAINE.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall complete a special resource study of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine, to evaluate—

Deadline.

(A) the national significance of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House and surrounding land; and

(B) the suitability and feasibility of designating the Harriet Beecher Stowe House and surrounding land as a unit of the National Park System.

(2) STUDY GUIDELINES.—In conducting the study authorized under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use the criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park System contained in section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)).

(b) REPORT.—On completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

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APPENDIX 2

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

Harriet Beecher Stowe House Historic Structure Report, Vol. I (2010) Summary of Findings

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Historic Structure Report, Vol. I (2010), prepared by architectural consultants Barba + Wheelock, provides a Summary of Findings related to the historic background of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, which follows:

“Most written accounts have suggested the house at 63 Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine –commonly referred to as either the “Titcomb-Stowe House” or the “Stowe House,” –dates to the beginning of the 19th century but owes its current appearance to a major remodeling in the mid-nineteenth century. An extensive study of all known archival materials and the building itself confirmed these accounts and is presented and detailed in this report.

The original house was constructed in 1806 by noted Brunswick builder Samuel Melcher III for the Reverend Benjamin Titcomb. Although largely forgotten, Titcomb was an interesting figure – first a printer, and later a Baptist minister – who made many contributions to the early years of Maine. He is credited with printing the first newspaper in the state, and later contributing to the separation from Massachusetts and establishment of the state constitution. He also helped to organize Waterville (now Colby) College.

During Titcomb’s ownership he took in students from nearby Bowdoin College as boarders. Among these students were noted poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his brother, Stephen. Some accounts state author Nathaniel Hawthorne lived here as well.

After his death in 1848, Titcomb’s heirs rented the house to Calvin Stowe, who had been offered a professorship at Bowdoin College. His wife, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and some of her children arrived in Brunswick in March, 1850. While living in Brunswick, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote her most famous novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Exactly where she wrote the book is not known – some accounts claim in the house, while others say in her husband’s office at Bowdoin. While details of Stowe’s specific location can be debated, the impact of her book cannot.

During the Titcomb ownership and Stowe tenancy, the house was a simpler version of its present self. It was more or less the same footprint and overall size: five bays wide, two story-high front/main building and full-height el, with a one story kitchen/work el to the rear. The arrangement of early barns is not known. The roof was a shorter, more shallowly-pitched version of the extant gable roof. The siding likely would have been clapboards, and window openings fitted with sash

with small lights of glass, perhaps 8/12 or 12/12. The front entrance was embellished with sidelights, not a typical Federal-style detail. Unfortunately all of these details and many interior ones as well were lost shortly after the Stowes left.

In 1854 Benjamin Titcomb's heirs sold the house to William H. Hall, who remodeled the exterior in the then-popular Greek Revival style. The work was extensive enough to receive notice in the local paper. The roof was raised to its present pitch and the heavy, molded cornices and returns added. Flush board siding finished with heavy corner pilasters was installed on the front/main structure. A fancier, more up to date entrance with side and transom lights was added. Windows throughout were replaced with larger openings fitted with 6/6 sash and molded crowns. A porch was added to the south facade of the full-height el. Even the back entrance was embellished with an entablature, pilasters, and sidelights.

The interior also received a completely new look. The newly enlarged windows received new trim including heavy architraves (molded caps). New doors and trim, baseboards, and doors were installed throughout the building. Chimneybreasts were widened to accommodate large, marble mantelpieces in the latest Italianate style. The stair hall received a new, curving stair that continued to the third floor, where the former attic was finished to provide extra rooms.

In 1873 Hall's heirs sold the property to Samuel Whitmore; Whitmore descendants owned and lived in the house through the early 1940s. It is not known if the Whitmores made any changes to the house beyond installing electricity and adding the existing bathrooms noted on 1946 plans of the house.

In the 1940s the Stowe House was briefly owned by Cynthia Conway Gross; Gross owned the house when it caught fire in 1944. No newspaper articles or photographs recording the extent of the damage to the house are known to have survive. Charred building materials indicate the fire burned the area where the stair hall abuts the north chambers in the front/main building and extended from cellar to attic.

Gross then sold the house to Mary Baxter White, who repaired the fire damage while converting the building into a restaurant and inn. Most of the alterations made by Mrs. White were additive – the construction of dormers, the erection of a second floor, the conversion of attic space into bedrooms – and the existing room arrangements were little changed. Most of the extant spaces, including the historic kitchen, pantry and laundry room, were left intact.

The next owner of the inn, Donald Strong, made more substantial changes to the Inn in 1957-8. The porch on the full-height el was enclosed and the door and windows that had faced the porch were removed. The walls, stairs and closets between the historic kitchen and dining room were removed and the combined spaces became a cocktail lounge. The wall and a door that separated the historic laundry from the kitchen were also removed, creating a hallway. The kitchen and dining room functions were relocated to the barn. A few years later, the neighboring house to the south was torn down and a motel building was constructed on the rear of the property.

Additional remodeling in 1998 resulted in the loss of still more historic partitions, finishes, millwork, and most of the historic doors from the interior of the Stowe House. New partitions, millwork, floor and wall treatments were installed throughout much of the house. Modern bathrooms with whirlpool tubs were installed throughout the house and the two els.”

APPENDIX 3

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Barba + Wheelock, *Harriet Beecher Stowe House Historic Structure Report*, Vols. I & II (Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 2010).

Bath-Brunswick Branch, American Association of University Women, “From the Falls to the Bay: A Tour of Historic Brunswick, Maine,” (Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce, 1980).

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APPENDIX 4

STUDY TEAM & CONTRIBUTORS

National Park Service Study Team and Contributors

National Park Service Northeast Region Team Members

Lisa Kolakowsky Smith, Architectural Historian, Project Manager

James C. O'Connell, Community Planner, Park Planning and Special Studies

Helen Mahan, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Park Planning and Special Resource Studies

National Park Service Northeast Region Advisors

Michael Caldwell, Regional Director

Brian Strack, Associate Regional Director, Planning, Facilities, and Conservation Assistance

Michael Quijano-West, Chief of Planning

Allen Cooper, Senior Planner

APPENDIX 5

LETTERS OF CONSULTATION

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (NERO-HPPC)

Mr. Earl G. Shettleworth, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street
65 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0065

Subject: Environmental Assessment for Harriet Beecher Stowe House Special Resource Study

Dear Mr. Shettleworth:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act that a National Park Service (NPS) planning process is underway. The NPS is undertaking a Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment as required by Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The act authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, situated at 63 Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine, and the surrounding land. The study will determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Harriet Beecher Stowe House as a potential unit of the National Park System.

Although the Harriet Beecher Stowe House is designated as a National Historic Landmark, the study will include an evaluation of integrity to determine if the study area meets established national significance criteria for the establishment of units of the National Park System. We will also evaluate the suitability and feasibility for inclusion within the National Park System, and the need for NPS management. I have included a project summary sheet and NPS Criteria for New National Parklands brochure to acquaint you with the study process and provide additional information on the criteria used by the NPS to determine eligibility for establishment of a potential unit of the National Park System.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, scoping efforts and

public meetings will be held to identify the concerns and interests of individuals, organizations, elected officials, and public agencies in the study area. An Environmental Assessment will be developed to address the issues that have been raised during this phase of the study.

Our initial public scoping meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at Bowdoin College in Brunswick. I have included the press release announcing the meeting for your information.

We are interested in any information and comments from your office related to the study and potential establishment of a new unit of the National Park System in Brunswick, Maine. I look forward to our collaboration on this project. If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting, please contact me at (215) 597-7946 or lisa_kolakowsky@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kolakowsky Smith, Project Manager
National Park Service
Northeast Region

Enclosure

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (NER-HPPC)

Ms. Shay White
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Maine Field Office
17 Godfrey Dr., Suite #2
Orono, Maine 04473

Subject: Environmental Assessment for Harriet Beecher Stowe House Special Resource Study

Dear Ms. White:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that a National Park Service (NPS) planning process is underway. The NPS is undertaking a Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment in as required by Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The act authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, situated at 63 Federal Street in Brunswick, Maine, and the surrounding land. The study will determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Harriet Beecher Stowe House as a potential unit of the National Park System.

This letter serves as notification that we have begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and are proposing to have an Environmental Assessment (EA) available for public and regulatory review in the spring of 2012. In addition, this letter serves as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, as amended. In order to comply, we are requesting information concerning federal threatened and endangered species documented or reasonably suspected of occurring within our study area.

In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, public scoping meetings will be held to identify the concerns, and interests of individuals, organizations, elected officials, and public agencies in the study area. The Environmental Assessment will be developed and address the issues that are raised during the study.

Our initial public scoping meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at Bowdoin College in Brunswick. I have included the press release announcing the meeting for your information.

Should you know of any other resource constraint that may be a possible planning issue, please do not hesitate to contact us. If it would be helpful, we are willing to meet with you to further discuss the project, the goals, and the process of the study, as well as our preliminary resource

assessment.

We are interested in any information and comments from your office related to the study and potential establishment of a new unit of the National Park System in Brunswick, Maine. I look forward to our collaboration on this project. If you have questions or would like to set up a meeting, please contact me at 215-597-7946 or at lisa_kolakowsky@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kolakowsky Smith
Project Manager
National Park Service
Northeast Region

Enclosure

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service