

Bowman-Carney House
Cedar Grove, Dresden, Maine

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

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"BOWMAN-CARNEY HOUSE"

(Cedar Grove)
Dresden, Lincoln County, Maine

Owner

Mrs. Alice Taylor

Date of Erection

About 1761

Builder

Jonathan Bowman

Present Condition

No important changes seem to have been made in the original house, but a one story extension has been added at the north end of the building. The present kitchen is located there. A porch has been added at the rear or river side of the main house.

Description

Two story rectangular frame building with a hip roof, two chimneys located near the center of the roof. The house is set on a low fieldstone foundation. There are entrances at each end of a central hall, -one on the river side, and one toward the highway. The original windows have been replaced. Brick arches support the chimneys. There are seven fireplaces. Doors and wainscoting show beautiful raised panelling of the usual bead and bevel type. The panel over the parlor mantel is thirty-four inches in width between rails. The hall has panelled wainscot running the length of the stairs hall and throughout the upper hall.

Other Existing Records

"History of Dresden, Maine" by Charles Edwin Allen, Photograph of the house and brief histories of the Bowman and Carney families.

Additional Data

Jonathon Bowman came to Pownalborough in 1760 with a commission as Register of Deeds, Clerk of Courts and Register of Probate. In 1772, he became Judge of Probate and in 1781 was recommissioned by Governor John Hancock. He held office at Pownalborough until 1804.

As there seems to be no mention of offices of the Register of Deeds, Clerk of Courts, or Register of Probate at the Pownalborough Court House, it seems probable that the Judge may have had his headquarters in his home, half a mile from the court house.

Judge Bowman's son, Thomas Bowman, sold the house in 1805 to James Carney who was a blacksmith. He built a blacksmith shop and barns on the farm and worked at his trade. He probably lived in the Bowman-Carney House until his death in 1858. He did a great deal of iron work on sailing ships built along the Kennebec, also built a one hundred eighty-one ton vessel "Dresden" at his own landing. He received twenty-five dollars a ton for the ship.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Rosie J. Jannell

April 5, 1937

TW 6/9/37