JOSEPHINE FOWLER grew up in cities across North America, including San Francisco, Chicago, Brooklyn, and Toronto. After receiving her M.F.A. in writing from Columbia University, she combined writing of fiction and drama with social activism. She later obtained an M.S. in historic preservation from Columbia University and more recently a Ph.D. in American studies from the University of Minnesota, and then she worked for two years as an independent scholar in Cambridge Massachusetts. Josephine Fowler died from breast cancer at age forty-nine, not long after the completion of this book.