

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received **MAY 15 1980**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Market Square Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Market Square, ^{Water and Court Sts.} Main Street, and entering streets not for publication

city, town Houlton, vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maine code 23 county Aroostook code 003

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Fraternal

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Aroostook County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Houlton, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maine Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, state Maine

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 Market Square Historic District in Houlton is an extremely homogeneous and cohesive grouping of 28 architecturally significant structures dating largely from 1885 to 1910. The district spans both sides of Market Square, an impressive open space, and runs two blocks east on Main Street as well as entering side streets. All major styles of the period are represented with a number of the buildings having been designed by the noted Bangor architect, Wilfred E. Mansur (1855-1921). The buildings are well maintained with less than the usual amount of modern first floor overlays than is usually found in older commercial areas. In scale, proportion and materials the structures are highly compatible. In general, the district retains faithfully its turn of the century character when Houlton as a result largely of the arrival of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad was suddenly catapulted into her position as commercial and political center for northern Maine.

The boundaries of the district are delineated to include all the commercial and related buildings of significance in the center of Houlton.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

Map#

1. W. P. Mansur Block, 1905-06
Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, Architect
Colonial Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
2. First National Bank, 1907 (N.R. 9/20/73)
Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, Architect
Neo-Classical Revival, 2 stories, stone with metal trim.
3. Masonic Building, 1918
Edward J. Bolan of Boston, architect
Colonial Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and cast stone trim.
4. Putnam and White Block, 19th century
Greek Revival, 3½ stories, frame with asphalt siding
5. Green Block, c.1910
Commercial Style, 2 stories, brick with cast stone and metal trim.
6. H. T. Frisbie Block, left five bays, 1894; remaining seven bays, 1905
Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, architect
Romanesque Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
7. Perks Brothers Block, 1894
Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, architect
Romanesque Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
8. J. M. Rice Block, 1897
Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood, stone, and metal trim.
9. J. A. Millar Block, 1894
Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood, stone, and metal trim.

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 type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although one of the early towns in Aroostook County, having been settled in the first decade of the 19th century and incorporated in 1831, Houlton grew very slowly and in 1870 had a population of less than 2,000. Yet in the 1890's when the rest of the United States was experiencing the worst depression of its history up to that time and while labor unrest, radicalism, and controversy over the money system had the nation in a turmoil, Houlton experienced its biggest boom and by 1910 boasted a population of nearly 6,000.

Houlton was already the market town for the area, especially since the arrival of the New Brunswick Railroad (CPR) in 1870, and the years since then had been good years. But that was nothing compared to the burst of enthusiasm, business and building that accompanied the construction of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad to Houlton in December, 1893, and the Aroostook Valley the following year.

Once the plan was approved and the project was actually begun, its effects were felt in the commercial, agricultural, social and personal aspects of life at once. Ideas and "talk" of building a new home or a church, for replacing present wooden buildings with bigger, better brick structures, became an immediate possibility. The end result was that the visible Houlton of today took shape in wood, in brick and steel in 1894 and 1895.

For one thing, the railroad itself gave work to laborers and contractors not only along the line but also at the stations. Commercial companies, both those already existing and those newly created built new mills, plants and warehouses along the track.

All these jobs meant that the community prospered. By 1894, the Bangor and Aroostook, in a journal called "The New Northeast," referred to Houlton as the capital of Aroostook and extolled its progress. With a population of about 5,000 it had over 100 mercantile establishments, big and small, and 50 manufacturing concerns.

More dramatically, in 1894 and 1895, most of the larger buildings which make the downtown Houlton of today were constructed. Large, attractive, expensive structures, they demonstrated the local confidence that prosperity had come to stay.

Most noticeably, several new, three-story brick business blocks went up simultaneously. The first to be announced was John Millar's block (#9) to house his grocery business on the ground floor and basement with offices above.

The most attractive new building was the three-story structure built on the corner of Main and Court Streets by O. F. French (#12). Its magnificent brickwork was made of "Pompeian," a mottled brick, similar to that used by Millar's. Farther

9. Major Bibliographical References

Putnam, Cora M., The Story of Houlton. Portland. 1958.
 Melvin, Charlotte L., History of the Houlton Area. Houlton, 1977.
The Industrial Journal. Bangor, November, 1911.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 8 **ACREEGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Houlton Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A	<u>19</u>	<u>589620</u>	<u>5108500</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the end of the rear property line of the Putnam and White Block (#4), the district boundary line runs east along the rear property lines of the buildings on the south side of Market Square and south along the rear property lines of the buildings on the west side of Court Street to the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1980
 street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133
 city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Earle G. Shettleworth
 title S.H.P.O. date 5/9/80

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Bruce Mac Dougal date 6/22/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Patricia Andrews date 6/18/80

for Actg.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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MARKET SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTINUATION SHEET

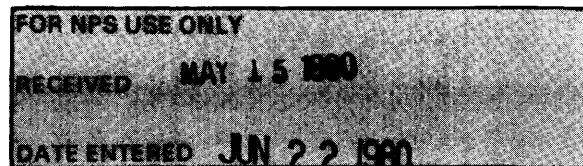
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Map #

11. Charles H. Fogg Block, 1911
John G. Chadwick of Houlton, architect
Commercial Style, 2 stories, brick with wood, stone, and metal trim.
12. O. F. French Block, 1894
Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, architect
Romanesque Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood, stone, and metal trim.
13. J. A. Browne Block, 1894
Romanesque Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood, stone, and metal trim.
14. S. A. Gray Block, 1894
Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, architect
Colonial Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
15. Block, 1912
Commercial Style, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
17. Dunn Block, late 19th century
Hotel, rebuilt by the Dunn Furniture Company after the 1902 fire.
Italianate, 4 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
19. Block, late 19th century
Rebuilt after the 1902 fire.
Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
20. Houlton Lodge of Elks, 1906-07
S. K. Coffin of New Britain, Connecticut, architect
Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, brick with wood, stone, and metal trim.
21. Carr Block, 1902-03
Kendall, Taylor and Stevens of Boston, architects
Colonial Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
22. A. M. Fogg (Odd Fellows) Block, 1902-03
Kendall, Taylor and Stevens of Boston, architects
Colonial Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
23. Block, c.1902
Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.

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MARKET SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Map #

24. McPartland Building, 19th century
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
25. The Brick Block, 1885
George M. Coombs of Lewiston, architect
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood, stone, and metal trim.
26. McPartland House, 19th century
Italianate, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exteriors.
27. Houlton Fire Station, 1907
Wilfred E. Mansur of Bangor, architect
Colonial Revival, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
28. U. S. Custom House and Post Office, 1893-95
Willoughby J. Edbrooke, Supervising architect, U. S. Treasury Department
Romanesque Revival, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim.

Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district:

10. Block, 20th century
3 stories, frame with stucco exterior.
16. Block, mid 20th century
1 story, brick
18. F. W. Woolworth Block, 1946
1 story brick

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MARKET SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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up Main Street the structures of J. A. Browne (#13) and of S. A. Gray (#14) received less write-up in the papers of the day. It was mentioned that the Gray building was of red pressed brick and red granite.

On the south side of the Square, the building which got the most attention was the big one (60 X 80) put up by Hudson T. Frisbie (#6). From granite foundations to the top the building was "one of the handsomest in the state" and was occupied early in 1895.

These and other buildings joined the already existing "Great Brick Block" (#25) of 1885 designed by George M. Coombs of Lewiston which replaced several older wooden structures destroyed by fire in 1884.

In 1902 another serious fire destroyed a number of old, undistinguished buildings at the east end of the district which were replaced by the Elks Lodge (#20), and the Carr and Fogg Blocks (#21, #22). On the north side of Market Square the Mansur Block (#1), the First National Bank (#2) and, a decade later, the Masonic Building (#3) replaced older wooden structures, thus completing the development of Market Square.

This district still retains almost undisturbed its architectural flavor of three quarters of a century ago.

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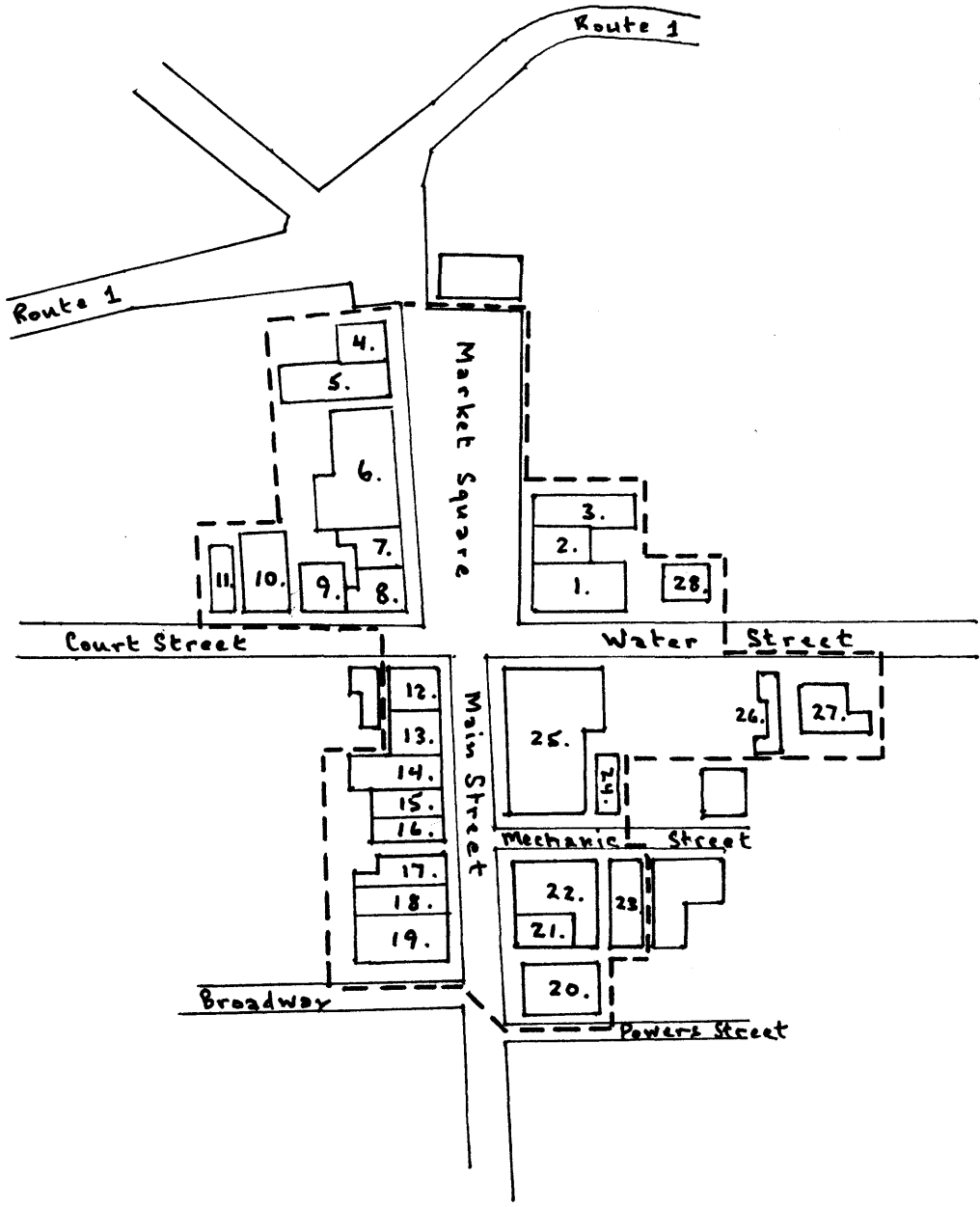
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MARKET SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTINUATION SHEET

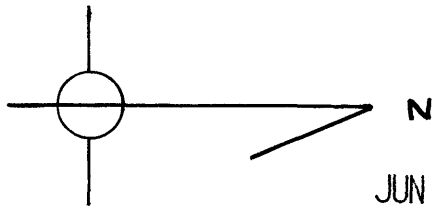
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southwest corner of the Charles H. Fogg Building (#11) lot. From here it runs east along the south line of that lot to Court Street which it follows northerly to the south property line of the O. F. French Block (#12). From this point it runs easterly along the rear property lines on the south side of Main Street to Broadway, northerly along that street and Powers Street to the rear property line of the Elks Building (#20) which it follows westerly to the rear property line of Block #23, northerly along this line and westerly along the north property line to Mechanic Street. The line then runs south along Mechanic Street to the north property line of the McPartland Building (#24) which it follows westerly to the rear property line of the buildings on the east side of Water Street, northerly along this line and westerly along the north property line of the Houlton Fire Station (#27) to Water Street. Running south along Water Street, the line turns west along the north property line of the Custom House (#28), south along its rear property line and west along the rear property lines of the buildings on the north side of Market Square to the northwest corner of the Masonic Building (#3) lot. The line then follows the west line of this property to the north side of Market Square then west and south along the perimeter of the Square to the point of beginning.



MARKET SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
HOULTON, MAINE

DISTRICT BOUNDARY - - - - -



JUN 22 1980

