

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 21 1979  
DATE ENTERED OCT 9 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Clark Perry House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Machias

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

Maine

CODE

023

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Emma S. Means

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Machias

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Machias

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clark Perry House of Machias, Maine, built in 1868, is an ornate and well-preserved example of the Italianate style in a relatively remote region.

The house is of frame construction with truncated gable roofs, brick chimneys, clapboard siding, and granite foundation. The house rises  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories, while the ell and barn are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stories high. Fenestration is consistently  $2/2$ .

The facade, which faces south, lies in the gable-end, and is two bays wide. An entrance is to the left, covered by a bracketed, denticulated, and balustraded portico supported by channelled and pedestalled posts. To the right is a three-sided bay window with equivalent trim. The second story contains windows capped by bracketed lintels. In the half-story is a double window over a bracketed and balustraded balcony. Above this half-story bay is a bracketed hood. The facade cornice, as elsewhere is heavily bracketed and denticulated. A oculus is fitted into the truncated roof.

The east side of the house is two bays wide, as is that on the west. The latter, however, features a projecting bay to the left which is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories high and which echoes in narrower proportions the facade.

The ell following the same style extends from the rear of the house northward and is 3 bays long. A secondary entrance is located at the left end of the west side. An attached shed and barn also extend to the north from the ell. These are lacking in the detail of the house and ell.

# 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 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                      1868                      BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Haskell Preble

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Without question the most ambitious and ornate Italianate dwelling in Machias and probably Washington County, this house was built in 1868 for Clark Perry, self-made man and leading local entrepreneur.

Clark Perry was born in Machias in 1817. While a young man he commenced business in milling, lumber and trade. He was very successful and gradually became one of the largest property owners in town. He had extensive interests in lumber and in shipping; one vessel, the Clark Perry, being named for him. In May, 1859, Perry, together with John Inglee, formed the firm of Perry and Inglee, which operated a general trading store using the slogan "the Peoples' Store" until Perry's death in 1888. Perry was extremely interested in horses and consistently owned some of the finest trotting horses in the area, frequently racing them at County fairs. He was an active member of the Machias Park Association, an organization which developed a trotting park beside the Middle River in Machias in the late 1870's. Perry served as the tax collector for the town of Machias for several years and was also one of the assessors.

Clark Perry was a widely respected citizen and at the time of his death in 1888 the Machias Republican commented: "Beginning at the foot of the ladder a poor boy, working in the saw mills, by honesty, integrity, and a remarkable business tact, he climbed step by step until at last having reached three score and ten he passed away, leaving an independent fortune, a name that his children may well be proud of, and Machias in sorrow over the loss of one of her best citizens".

In 1868 Perry commenced a new dwelling on Court Street. The then existing building on this lot was a one story residence used by Perry. Work on the new house began in May when the existing building was cut in half and the parts moved off to form two houses in different parts of town. The new residence was constructed by Haskell Preble, a Machias builder. Whether Preble was also the designer is uncertain. Information from Perry's descendants indicate that the architect is believed to have been from Massachusetts. However, Preble later moved to Massachusetts so this information may not be helpful in including or excluding him as the possible architect. By late July the basic structure of the house was completed and the Machias Union noted that "It is odd looking, being quite different in style from any other house in town, and will we judge look well when finished". The Machias Republican noted that

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drisko, G. W., History of Machias. Machias, 1904.

Machias Union

Machias Republican

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Machias

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 621880 4952270  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Map 14, Lot 88

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/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

July, 1979

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Earle S. Felt*

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

8/14/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carol Shull*

DATE

10-9-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Maureen M. Dwyer*

DATE

10/5/79

CLERK OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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the house ".....begins to show the style of architecture with which it is built, which will be very showy and attractive". The house was virtually completed by November at which time the Machias Republican called it "the finest house in town". Information from the Perry family indicates that \$5,500.00 has been traditionally cited as being the cost of the house. Much of the lumber came from Perry's own business.

Now owned by Clark Perry's granddaughter, this highly detailed and striking residence is a Machias landmark.