

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 13 1977

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

~~Acadian Village Historic District~~

ACADIAN HISTORIC BLDGS

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1000 Van Buren

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

23

COUNTY

Aroostook

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

x Multiple Records

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

L'Heritage Vivant-Living Heritage

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

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

The Acadian Village Historic District is unique as a Register candidate, not only because of the nature of its buildings and their creation on the landscape, but also because of the ethnic and historical story which it has set out to tell (see Significance). Those buildings represented which are not replicas date from the mid-19th century and evince a clear frontier personality. The standard style classifications (Federal, Greek Revival, etc.) cannot be accurately applied here.

Not only the style, but also the scale, proportions, materials and color of the buildings harmonize with the natural setting. The following figures delineate the similar scale of the seven structures in the area:

4	1 story gable roof
3	1½ story gable roof

Four of the buildings are of frame construction with shingle siding, one of these uses the traditional Acadian split cedar log foundation. Two of the structures are of hewn log construction with clapboard siding. One of the buildings is constructed of unsided rough logs. Red, yellow and white exterior colors are represented, along with untreated wood.

All of the buildings in the district form a folk museum complex featuring three domestic structures, reception center, a blacksmith shop, a chapel and a school.

All of the buildings are in excellent condition, having been carefully preserved or restored or being modern replicas. Of the seven, 5 date from the mid-19th century and 2 are modern (the reception center and country store; the chapel, built in the log style of the 18th-century Acadians).

The Acadian Village Historic District, is a valuable, if recently concentrated, group of buildings which preserves for the future the architecture, art and life-style of a little-known ethnic group which played an important rôle in the history of northern Maine.

### Inventory of Structures Located within the Acadian Village Historic District:

#### Map Reference:

- A. Reception Center and Country Store, 1976  
Cape, 1 story, frame with shingle siding, Traditional split cedar log foundation
- B. Parent House, - Museum Building, ca. 1870  
Vernacular, 1½ story gable roof frame structure with shingle siding
- C. Morneault House and Post Office, ca. 1855  
Cape, 1½ story, hewn log walls uncovered inside. Clapboard siding.

(See continuation sheet)

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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

Although Maine boasts a relatively high percentage of people of French Canadian origin among its population, the vast majority are descended from immigrants who were drawn to the mill towns in the southern part of the state in the second half of the 19th century. There is, however, on the extreme northern border of the state a significant enclave of Franco-Americans whose settlement dates from the late 18th century and whose history is set apart from that of the later comers from French Canada. These people proudly and quite properly refer to themselves as Acadians for their origins lie in the same historic background as those more famous exiles who settled in New Orleans after 1755.

In 1710 that part of Canada now called Nova Scotia, but then Acadia by its French population, came under British rule. For a time the Acadians were permitted to continue their former existence unmolested. However, they generally declined to accept English control unconditionally or to take a full oath of allegiance to the British Crown. At the outbreak of the French and Indian War (1755-63), this issue became critical since, as nominal British subjects, they were expected to support military efforts against their former countrymen in French Canada. In addition, their staunch adherence to Roman Catholicism had resulted in increasing subtle persecution on religious grounds.

On a fateful day in 1755 Acadians were summoned to their churches by order of Governor Lawrence of Nova Scotia. Once there, the doors were locked and proclamations read to the effect that they were to be deported and their lands seized and forfeited to the Crown. At the point of the bayonet they were ushered aboard ships which were waiting to take them away and scatter them along the Atlantic Coast and Bermuda, great numbers of them finally reaching New Orleans. A few families who were fortunate enough to be notified ahead of time fled overland to Fredericton, New Brunswick or to the shores of the St. Lawrence where, for a few years, they remained without further persecution. From these small groups came the first settlers of the Madawaska Territory and more particularly the beautiful St. John River valley on the border between Maine and New Brunswick.

The revolution of the American Colonies against Great Britain brought new trials to these already once displaced Acadians. Over 30,000 American Loyalists fled to Canada during the course of this conflict, many of them settling in New Brunswick. Mostly Protestant and often of considerable wealth and influence, they became hostile toward these French speaking Catholics and exerted increasing pressure upon them. Fortunately, in 1785, New Brunswick's first Governor, Thomas Carleton, apparently feeling some compassion for the Acadians whose lands were rapidly being confiscated, responded favorably to their petition that they be

(see continuation sheet)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Violette, Lawrence A., How the Acadians Came to Maine, 1951

Michaud A. J., An Acadian Heritage, Madawaska, 1972

Bangor Historical Magazine, The First English Settlements in that Part of Acadia Now Eastern Maine, V. 8, 1893, pp. 1-5

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 acres **3**

UTM REFERENCES

A	[ 1 9 ]	[ 5 7 6 4 5 0 ]	[ 5 2 2 8 2 0 0 ]	B	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	D	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The lot upon which the Acadian Village stands was donated to L'Heritage Vivant by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ayotte in 1974 (Aroostook County Registry of Deeds, Houlton, Maine). Lying on the south side of Rt. 1 five miles west of Van Buren it is a nearly rectangular parallelogram running 495 feet along Rt. 1 and 685 feet deep.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian  
Stephen Kaplen, Graduate Assistant

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE October, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta STATE Maine

# 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 Earl S. Spittleworth  
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE October 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>12/13/77</u>
ATTEST: <u>Charles Oberly</u>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>12-12-77</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 27 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 13 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE 2 -

One story gabled wood frame addition formerly used as post office.

- D. LeVasseur-Ouellette House, ca.1865  
Cape, 1½ story, hewn log walls, matched board interior finish,  
clapboard siding
- ~~E.~~ Blacksmith Shop, reconstruction from old blacksmith shop and barn  
Rectangular, 1 story wood frame gabled structure with large double  
barn doors to admit horses.
- F. The Lady of Assumption Chapel, 1976  
Rectangular, 1 story gabled, rough log construction. Small gabled  
log belfry. Built in style of 18th century acadian chapel.
- G. Village School, ca. 1875  
Rectangular, 1 story, gabled wood frame with clapboarded siding.  
Door in gable end. Three large contiguous windows in left hand  
long side.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 27 1976
DATE ENTERED	SEP 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

granted lands along the upper St. John River in the Madawaska region.

In June of 1785, a few families left Fredericton in canoes, taking pitifully few belongings and in ten days reached and portaged around the thunderous waters of Grand Falls. Continuing their journey northwestward they finally set foot on the southern shore of the river near a Malacite Indian village. As they made camp, Joseph Daigle, their nominal leader, erected a cross (Acadian Landing Site, NR9/20/73) to mark their arrival in the land of Madawaska.

Quickly establishing cordial relations with the Indians, they cleared land and settled on both sides of the river. The first chapel was erected in 1787 and the colony made rapid progress augmented by later arriving Acadian families from both the Fredericton region and the area south of the St. Lawrence River. Madawaska was canonically erected as the parish of St. Basile in 1792 and by the following year the colony was well established with appointed local officials as well as mail routes and carriers.

Most unfortunately that part of the Treaty of Paris (1783) which dealt with the northern boundary between the Province of Maine and Canada was strangely ambiguous. The vast timber resources of the Saint John Valley with its easy access to the sea made it an area subject to the covetous ambitions of both nations. Again the Acadians found themselves in the center of controversy although in this case it was their allegiance rather than their land which was in contention.

By the early 19th century progress in the region had come to a virtual standstill. Madawaska, a "lost colony" received little help from either government. The soil was fertile, but hunting became less fruitful as a source of food. Education was virtually non-existent and the area was largely isolated from the rest of civilization. Some families departed, going mostly to the St. Lawrence River communities.

The War of 1812 left the boundary question in even greater confusion, the Treaty of Ghent having failed to deal with the question. New Brunswick and Maine continued to debate the jurisdiction of the contested territory.

Following the war, however, the Madawaska region began slowly to regain momentum largely due to the development of the lumbering industry. In 1817 a successful elementary school was established by Fr. Andre Lagarde and by 1820, the year Maine was admitted to the union, the population had risen to nearly 1,200 people.

From this time forward, until 1842, the Acadians were subjected to a period of constant unrest and dispute. Protestations, proclamations arrests, and counter-arrests, and in 1839, the real prospect of military conflict haunted the region. In general these humble farmers attempted as best they could to maintain a neutral posture in the face of this contest for territory. By 1839 American (see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED

DEC 13 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

military force controlled most of the southern bank of the St. John and a blockhouse had been built at Fort Kent (N.R. 12/2/69). A Canadian strong point had similarly been erected at Edmundston across the river. The bloodless "Aroostook War", largely engineered by Maine entrepreneurs and adventurers, had nearly become sanguinary.

At this point, higher authority on both sides of the Atlantic took notice of the impending conflict and an international commission headed by Daniel Webster of the United States and Lord Ashburton of Great Britain was established to adjudicate the dispute. The result, in 1842, was the Webster-Ashburton Treaty which established the northern boundary between Maine and Canada.

For the Acadian settlers this line drawn along the St. John River meant the division of their territory into two different national jurisdictions. Far from being a disruption, however, this settlement of the long and acrimonious dispute, ushered in a period of development and prosperity. Both Maine and New Brunswick issued new deeds confirming existing land titles and both state and province took active interest in that part of the territory now established under their administration. Acadians on the American side rapidly adjusted to their new citizenship and were, in general, happily surprised at the civility and hospitality of their new countrymen. In 1846, Joseph D. Cyr, a prominent businessman, was elected as the first representative from Madawaska to the Maine State Legislature. By 1850 there were twenty school houses and five post offices in the old Madawaska territory.

The St. John River Valley today retains much of the cultural and ethnic heritage of the Acadians and it is pride in this inheritance and a desire to perpetuate its distinctive qualities that have led to the organization of L'Heritage Vivant and the development of the Acadian Village.

The stated purpose of L'Heritage Vivant, a non-profit historical society incorporated in 1973, is to foster, promote and encourage interest in the history of the regions of Van Buren, Grand Isle, Hamlin and Cyr Plantation, and the surrounding communities in the St. John Valley. The Acadian Village, still in a development phase, is the result of two years of amazing self-generated effort on the part of the people and local organizations of the Valley. It is testimony to the fact that the ambition and spirit of the earlier pioneers in the face of great obstacles still rests in their descendants.

(see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED

DEC 13 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

4

Although this district contains structures moved from other locations and also buildings which are contemporary reconstructions of earlier styles, it is strongly felt that because of the unusual circumstances and conditions which prevail, this grouping ought to be accepted for National Register recognition. Because of the remoteness of the region and its unique ethnic and historic background, preservation of these qualities is both difficult and important. Owing to the relatively limited economic resources in the region there appears to be no other way in which these buildings can be protected from decay and eventual total disappearance. A way of life found nowhere else in Maine is here represented. The loss of these tangible evidences of that life would be irreparable.