

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 14 1987  
date entered JUN 12 1987

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

1. Name

historic Edward L. Cleveland House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 87 Court Street not for publication

city, town Houlton vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Aroostook code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John B. Madigan

street & number 87 Court Street

city, town Houlton vicinity of state Maine 04730

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Houlton state Maine 04730

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Edward L. Cleveland House in Houlton is a striking asymmetrically massed, two-story shingled frame building which combines elements of the Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. It features a gambrel roof, corner tower and a front porch surmounted by an enclosed center bay porch on the second story. The house rests on a brick foundation.

Standing in the middle of a large lot at the corner of Court and Columbia Streets, the front (east) elevation of the Cleveland house is its most picturesque. Projecting from the main gambrel roofed block is a round tower at the southeast corner, a rectangular two-story bay near the northeast corner and the upper tier of the porch between these two features. The first story porch, whose gable roof is supported by sixteen coupled and tripled columns with Ionic capitols, extends from the tower, across the center entrance and bay window to a point beyond the north gambrel end. This porch rests on a brick foundation and its columns are linked by a slat balustrade. The nearly square enclosed upper porch is covered by a segmentally arched roof. It features an arcade on its three sides, balustrade and an ornate carved panel in the tympanum. Sometime soon after the house was built the porch was enclosed with an interior addition of round arched windows with small gothic arched panes.

Rising behind a curved patio framed by a balustrade, the tower contains a trio of ~~one-over-~~one double hung sash windows on each story and a conical roof punctuated by a single gabled dormer. The roof covering here and throughout the house consists of small dark grey slates. A wide denticulated cornice extends from the exterior granite chimney on the south elevation, around the tower, along two sides of the enclosed porch and across the two-story bay window.

The north elevation is composed of the principal gambrel and a one-and-a-half story ell with a gambrel roof dormer. On the main block the gambrel frames a three-sided bay window and a flanking double hung sash on the second story as well as a second bay window and two oval windows on the first story. A narrow round arched double hung sash occupies the attic level. The ell, which is also covered by a gambrel roof, features two windows in the dormer and four narrow windows on the first story. A brick chimney rises through the ell.

On the south elevation, the house has a small arched window in the attic level, a pair of windows on the second story, a bay window at the southwest corner and two small square windows flanking the chimney. A pedimented dormer is located on the rear face of the gambrel and two similar units occupy the ell. First story windows are located below the dormer on the main block and behind the short ell porch. Three Tuscan columns support this porch which also shelters a door opening into the kitchen.

A two-bay gambrel roof garage is connected to the rear of the house. Originally, this served as a detached outbuilding but was moved here after a fire destroyed the somewhat larger carriage house.

The interior of the Cleveland house features an irregular floor plan and woodwork finished in three different stains. The entrance vestibule leads to a small parlor to the right and into a wide hall/living room containing the handsome transverse stair at the north end and a brick fireplace at the south end. An elaborate

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1902 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1902, the Cleveland House is a handsome picturesque dwelling which blends features of the Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival styles into one of Houlton's most impressive turn-of-the-century domestic compositions. It was the residence of Edward L. Cleveland, a prominent Houlton citizen and one of Aroostook County's leading potato merchants.

Edward L. Cleveland (1856-1928) was born in the coastal town of Camden, Maine. A graduate of Dirigo Community College he subsequently established a mercantile concern in Boston.<sup>1</sup> In 1877 he married Eva St. Clair. By 1878, Cleveland had moved to Houlton where he founded the E. L. Cleveland Company, a potato shipping business.

Cleveland came to Houlton during the early growth period of Aroostook County's important commercial potato industry. Between 1869 and 1889, for example, the potato crop increased more than seven fold to a harvest of nearly three million bushels annually.<sup>2</sup> The industry as a whole, Cleveland's business included, experienced further expansion after the completion of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad to Houlton in 1894. In 1902 the company incorporated and by 1908 his store houses had reached a capacity of 500,000 bushels of potatoes which he shipped to points as far distant as the southeastern United States.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to his extensive business ventures, Cleveland served in the Maine Legislature from 1899-1901. He was a member of the board of directors of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, president of the Ricker Classical Institute and president of Houlton Savings Bank from 1908 until at least 1922.

On May 17, 1902, Houlton was the scene of a disastrous fire which claimed large portions of the commercial and outlying residential areas. One of the houses destroyed in the blaze was Cleveland's residence on Main Street.<sup>4</sup> Less than three weeks later he purchased the property upon which the present house stands.<sup>5</sup> Construction of the house must have commenced soon thereafter, but the only mention of it appeared in the November 21 issue of the Aroostook Times when a single line read "E. L. Cleveland is making rapid progress in the erection of his residence on Court Street." Unfortunately the architect's name has not as yet been discovered.

Cleveland occupied the house until his death. In 1939 it passed to his daughter, Marion G. (Cleveland) Mercier.<sup>6</sup> She transferred it to the present owner in 1960.<sup>7</sup>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Aroostook Times (Houlton), various dates.

Putnam, Cora M. The Story of Houlton, Portland: House of Falmouth, Inc. 1958.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Houlton South, Maine-N.B.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	5	8	9	5	4	0	5	1	0	7	5	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is contained within the boundary as drawn on the Town of Houlton Tax Map 29, Lot 67.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny , Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April 14, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

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 

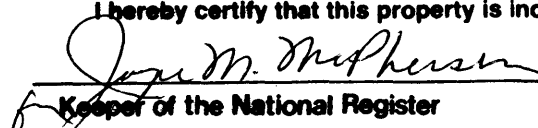
title S.H.P.O. date 5/8/87

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6/12/87

  
Keeper of the National Register

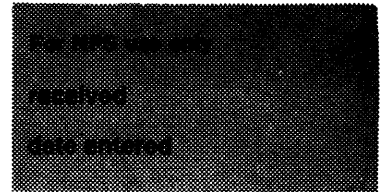
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Edward L. Cleveland House

Item number 7

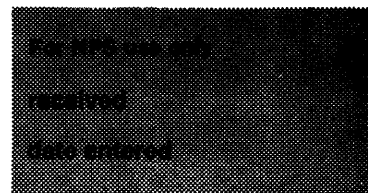
Page 2

portierre announces the tower room. Behind the hall is a dining area featuring paneled wainscot and a smaller living room separated from the hall by pocket doors.

A wide inter-story landing separates the principal run of the stairs from a short run leading to the second floor. This end of the hall, with its curved balustrade, was partially enclosed by the previous occupant who converted the house to a two-family dwelling. There are four bedrooms on this level and an L-shaped hall. The attic has plaster over lath walls.

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Continuation sheet Edward L. Cleveland House

Item number 8

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ENDNOTES

1. Biographical information about Cleveland is found in Cora M. Putnam, The Story of Houlton, (Portland: House of Falmouth, Inc., 1958).
2. Clarence Albert Day, Farming in Maine 1860-1940 (Orono, Maine: University of Maine Press: 1963), p. 131.
3. The Maine Magazine: Special Edition of the Principal Towns of Aroostook County (Houlton, Maine: 1908), p. 30.
4. Aroostook Times (Houlton), May 23, 1902.
5. George S. Gentle et. al., to Edward L. Cleveland, June 4, 1902, Aroostook County Deeds, Office of the Registry of Deeds, Aroostook County Courthouse, Houlton, Volume 192, page 255, hereinafter cited as Aroostook Deeds.
6. Arthur S. Cleveland, et. al., to Marion G. Mercier, December 15, 1939, Aroostook Deeds.
7. Marion G. Mercier to John B. Madigan, October 20, 1960, Aroostook Deeds.