OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by imarking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and parrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

Nome of Brenemby		
. Name of Property		
storic name <u>Parker House</u>		
ner names/site number		
. Location		
eet & number <u>185 South Street</u>		N/A not for publication
or townBlue Hill		N/A vicinity
te <u>Maine</u> code <u>N</u>		•
State/Federal Agency Certification		
■ meets □does not meet the National Region nationally □ statewide ☑ locally. (□ Second Second National National Region nationally □ statewide ☑ locally. (□ Second National National Region nationally □ statewide ☑ locally. (□ Second National Region	2/2/sylpa	
In my opinion, the property meets documents.) Signature of certifying official/Title	does not meet the National Register Date	criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)		criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title		criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional

PARKER HOUSE Name of Property		HANCOCK COUNTY, MA County and State	INE
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) private public-local	Category of Property (Check only one box) ⊠ building(s) ☐ district	•	resources in the count.) ontributing
□ public-State□ public-Federal	□ site □ structure □ object	1	
			structures
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Name of related multiple prop (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a	perty listing a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing re listed in the National Regi	sources previously ster
N/A		None	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instruction	ns)
DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling		DOMESTIC / Single Dwelli	ng
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			7
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7. Description			
Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instruction	s)
EARLY REPUBLIC / Federal		foundation <u>STONE / Grant</u>	te
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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DESCRIPTION

The c. 1816 Parker House in Blue Hill Maine is a residence in which the original refined elements of Federal architectural styling were carefully and classically updated in the Colonial Revival style by Boston architect George A. Clough between 1900 and 1905. The Parker House is situated on the western side of South Street, an old road that leads from the village of Blue Hill, one and one-half miles distant to the north and east, to the village of Sedgwick further down the peninsula. The northern end of South Street, near the historic village, has been the location of recent commercial development, including two small shopping plazas, but as the road heads south it passes several nineteenth century structures, including the National Register listed "Barncastle" (NR:80000219). The Parker house is situated on the west side of the street; it is positioned on a slight terrace and separated from the road by a broad lawn. Behind the structure a thick field yields to a mixed soft and hardwood forest, which also buttresses the house lot on the north and south.

At the core of this property is the two story, hipped-roof, Federal style house constructed for Robert Parker in the second decade of the nineteenth-century. The symmetrical, five-bay, double-pile structure features a central hallway and twin brick chimneys that pierce the roof between each of the end bays. The building faces east, rests on a granite foundation, and is roofed with asphalt shingles. A short, two-story, two-bay, ell extends from the back of the building's southwest corner. The overhanging, low-pitched roof is detailed with a boxed cornice of ogee and dentil mouldings. The red-painted clapboards contrast with the narrow, white-painted frieze, corner boards and window trim. With the exception of a tripartite unit over the front door, the windows contain their original twelve-over-eight sash on the upper story, and twelve-over-twelve sash on the first floor. Located at the center of the facade is a glass and wood door set under a slim entablature, and sandwiched between narrow pilasters, and sidelights positioned above paneled bases.

Between 1900 and 1905 the Parker House was remodeled by George A. Clough, who was born in Blue Hill but located his architectural practice in Boston. To the above-described Federal base, Clough added several features, most notably three entry porches. Each 11' x 14' porch is set on a low cement deck, and consists of a hipped-roof under which a molded cornice and wide frieze are supported by Tuscan columns at the external corners, and single, engaged, pilasters against the building. On the facade the porch is centered around the front door. Another Clough addition is the tripartite window, which is positioned directly over the main entrance porch and emphasizes the center of the house. This window is composed of narrow eight-over-four sidelights on either side of an (original) twelve-over-eight sash united by common casings. The remaining two porches are located on the east edge of the north and south elevations and function as open-air wings that elongate and balance the building. On each of the side elevations the eastern most window on the first floor was replaced with narrow French doors flanked by twelve-pane side lights over paneled bases. Interestingly, the dentil mouldings under the main roof are not readily distinguished in nineteenth century photographs, and may all have been twentieth century enhancements added when this feature was applied to the porches.

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Historic photographs depict the house both prior to and immediately after the remodeling. As originally built, the Parker House had an enclosed entryway that projected about 5 feet forward of the house. Wide corner boards and a graduated, flared, roof line of multiple cornices created a complex entablature and architrave, at the center of which was a six panel door flanked by sidelights¹. Until blowr off the house in the 1940s the eaves of both the main and porch roofs were decorated with wooden balustrades. On the roof of the main roof this balustrade was crowned with carved wooden urns. The floors of the porches were originally made of wood, and they followed the level of the terraced lawn around the house and connected all of the porches together in a promenade.

The interior of the Parker House reflects most strongly the Federal-era origins of the structure. Spatially, the four downstairs rooms are divided front-from-back by partition walls surrounding the two chimneys (originally providing four fireplaces on each level), and side-from-side by the center hallway. which occupies the eastern two-thirds of the house. The two front rooms on each floor and the downstairs hall contain fine examples of Federal period woodworking, including fireplace surrounds. complex crown mouldings, and molded chair rails, baseboards, and door and window trim. The doors throughout the house feature six fielded panels with ovolo molding. Noteworthy among the finishes are the ovolo-molded, six-panel interior sliding shutters, and grain-painted (walnut) wainscoting in the north east parlor, as well as the ogee carved ends of the treads and the tapered banisters on the straight run staircase. Clough took pains to install complementary, but different, mouldings on the Colonial Revival doors and sidelights installed in the front hall and parlors, thus allowing the newer stylistic elements to blend comfortably with the Federal detailing. The floors in the front rooms are painted wide pine, and the ceilings and walls are of plaster throughout the house, except in the northwest bedroom, which was rebuilt after a fire in the 1970s. On the first floor, the original kitchen, with a four feet high by five feet wid cooking hearth, is located in the southwest corner. Off of this room is the ell, with a more modern (c. 1900) kitchen containing bead-board cabinets and a enamel sink. Two walls were removed between this kitchen and the rear northwest den, creating a large, continuous room in the western half of the house. With the exception of the missing partition walls (which once enclosed a pantry at the rear of the stair hall these rooms also retain their period trim, wainscoting, baseboard, and fireplace surrounds. The hardwood floors, however, date to the remodeling. Another tripartite widow is positioned on the west wall, opposite the front door. On the second floor, the southeast bedroom and ell have been combined into a small apartment for the building's caretaker.

¹These are not the double-row of small paned glass currently found in all the sidelights on the Parker House, but larger and more characteristic of the Federal era.

		Ounty and State
8. Sta	atement of Significance	
Applica (Mark "x' for Natio	able National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property onal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
□ A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
□В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
⊠ C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Period of Significance
		C. 1816 - 1905
	Considerations in all the boxes that apply.)	
Property	y is:	Significant Dates
□ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes	c. 1816
religious purposes.	religious purposes.	1901 - 1905
□Β	removed from its original location.	,
□ C	a birthplace or a grave.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
□ D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
□ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□ F	a commemorative property.	
□G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
within the past 50 years.		George A Clough, 1844 - 1911 (Remodeling, 1901-05)
Narrativ (Explain t	re Statement of Significance he significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Maj	or Bibliographical References	
Bibliogr (Cite the b	raphy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one c	or more continuation sheets.)
Previou	s documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:
	Record #	

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parker House is a c. 1816 Federal-style, two story building located about a mile to the southwest of the coastal Maine community of Blue Hill. The structure was built for Robert Parker's family near the end of his life: the architecturally fine period details found in the house reflect the economic success Parker found as he helped to settle and develop the town in the eighteenth century. Throughout most of the 1800s the Parker family resided in the house, until the decendents moved out of town in the 1880s. At the turn of the twentieth century the house was purchased by a wealthy summer resident, who hired Boston architect George Clough to remodel the house for seasonal use. The classical detailing that Clough added to the structure transformed the structure into a elegant, but restrained example of Colonial Revival architecture. The Parker House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance, both as an example of well proportioned and finely crafted Federal-era home, and as a Colonial Revival style commission of a significant regional architect.

The precise date of construction for the Parker House is unclear. Robert Parker, yeoman, then esquire, immigrated from Andover, Massachusetts to Blue Hill about 1765 along with his brothers Peter, Ezra and Col. Nathan Parker. Current knowledge of his early activities in the town are limited to what can be learned in official documents: he married Ruth Wood, daughter of the town's founder, in 1773, served on the committee that platted the town in 1789, and acted as highway surveyor in 1793. Parker's estate was already well established as recorded by the town's first tax assessment in 1792. The Hancock county Registry of Deeds record numerous land transactions between 1790 and his death in 1818, yet neither these nor the tax assessments indicate on which lot his family settled.

Upon Parker's death, his estate was probated and his widow's dower assignment refers to Lots 22 and 44 in the first division of the town. Although these lots were located in the vicinity of the nominated property, they were identified separately from the homestead, which contained 177 acres, a dwelling house, three barns and other buildings, and was valued at \$5200. As early as 1805 Parker's valuable estate was taxed for one house and three barns, yet in this year their value was only \$1440. In 1816 the value of Parker's real estate shot to \$6200. Examination of deeds indicate that he had purchased no new property after 1810 (and indeed had been selling portions off to his sons),. This jump in the value of his property did not occur across the board, or throughout town, and thus might indicate the construction of a new residence for his family. Stylistic assessment of the building supports a circa 1816 construction date.² Indeed, census information for 1790, 1800 and 1850 (these years were not alphabetized, and thus offer a geographic image of the town) suggest that the Parker household did not shift its location during this time - or if they did, the neighbors moved right along with them.

²Chalked on a beam in the attic roof framing is the phrase "A.A. Posey 1818." While this may represent a builder's signature, this is not necessarily the case. No person of this surname could be located in the Federal Census records for Hancock County, Maine in 1820.

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Robert Parker left the bulk of his real estate to his son, and executor, Frederick, who shared it with his mother and possibly other extended family members. Tax assessments for Frederick ascribe only a small amount of personal property to the young man prior to his fathers death, but that he retained much of the real property is indicated in the records for the following year when his assessment reflected an estate of \$5500. Described as "a farmer and a worthy man," Frederick occupied the property until his death in 1867. The local historian R.G.F. Candage describes Frederick's house as "a large, square, two-story house upon the left of the road with a fine lawn in front...the farm connected with the house and barn extended on both sides of the main road for some distance, and was probably that of Robert Parker..." (Candage, p. 39, 38). The house remained in the family until Fredericks widow sold the property in 1869 to Freeman McIntire, owner of a meat market in town. Ten years later, it was sold again, to Frederick A. Fisher who then rented the property out periodically (Candage, p. 39). Finally, in 1900 Nahum Hinckley bought the house from Fisher and immediately sold it to Effie Kline (nee Ober), who fixed up the house. Historic photographs indicate that the house was offered for sale after its renovation, however Kline eventually gave it to her sister, Elizabeth Merrill. The structure continues to be owned by Elizabeth's heirs.

The significance of the Parker House spans almost a century, and represents the architectural efforts first of a local resident followed by those of a native son. In the first two decades of the nineteenth century, the Federal style was chosen by members of the local landed elite as the architectural style that best signified their success. Although initially influenced by the work of British architect Robert Adams, what came to be called the Federal style in the United State was first seen in the years immediately following the birth of this nation. Culturally, it came to signify the success of new statesmen, landed gentry and eventually, the emerging upper middle class. In Maine Forms of American Architecture, William D. Shipman describes the context in which these structures emerged throughout the state.

"In Maine, as suggested, the Federal period coincided with the arrival of prosperity in a hitherto remote and relatively backward region. The scarcity of distinguished Colonial buildings, outside the extreme southern section, contrasts with the plethora of good Federal examples and testifies to the District's late development.... The emergence of shipping and shipbuilding as major - and highly profitable - industries after 1790 helped to create small pools of wealth along the Maine coast. While this wealth was hardly comparable to that of the Boston-Salem or New York areas, it was nevertheless sufficient to bring about a wave of building activity at, architecturally speaking, just the right time. Importation of the ideas of Bulfinch and McIntire (together with some of their English antecedents) resulted in a series of buildings whose elegance and restrained classicism make them unusually good examples of their period.

Even so, application of these ideas continued to be limited in some degree by the character of the region. Most, though not all Federal buildings in Maine were smaller, more functional, and less ambitious with respect to detail than their counterparts in the shipping

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centers of southern New England and the Middle Atlantic states. Outside of Portland itself, there were probably not more than a dozen fully elaborated churches and residences erected along the coast. But there were (and are) many substantial buildings which embodied the essence of Federal design. The *characteristic* Federal house in Maine is thus one which adopts the general form of the period(a rectangular block, typically two or three stories, with either hipped or gabled roof, central hall, and from two to five chimneys) but depends for its architectural appeal more on careful attention to proportion than to ornamentation or overall scale." (Shipman, p. 68)

Indeed, the Federal Style was extensively utilized within the late eighteenth-century emerging community of Blue Hill. Seventeen of the forty-two buildings originally built as residences in the Blue Hill Historic District (NR: 80000220) were built in the Federal Style and their owners were among town's founding families, including the Holts, Stevens, Withams, Cloughs, Candages and Parkers.³ Although the precise date of construction for the Parker House has yet to be determined, the builder chose a stylistic vocabulary that was both stylish and conveyed cultural clout, even though the structure was located almost a mile outside of the village.

By the turn of the 20th century the farming, mining and granite producing town of Blue Hill had beer discovered. Writers, artists, and musicians, as well as urban exiles from East Coast cities, found inspiration or retreat in many coastal Maine communities including Blue Hill.⁴ In 1884 the first cottage for summer use was built on the water at Parker Point. By 1900 about 20 exclusive cottages were built on the Point and the impetus spread afield, eventually enveloping settlements from Blue Hill Neck to East Blue Hill. Not all of the 'summer people' were from away: Effie Kline, who had been raised in Blue Hill before marring John D. Rockefeller's lawyer and moving to Cleveland, returned to town in 1885 and remodeled her childhood home. Known today as "Barncastle", the radical enclosure of this modest 1 ½ story cape within a rambling shingle style 'cottage' was executed for Kline by the Boston architect George Clough. The Parker House, which apparently had been utilized only periodically since the Parker family had left, was next door to Barncastle. After watching the house deteriorate during her summer visits, Kline purchased the Parker House in 1905, and engaged Clough to update the building.

George Clough was born in Blue Hill but practiced architecture in Boston. While chiefly recognized for his work as the Boston City Architect, Clough had numerous commission in Maine, including the 1890 Bridge Academy, Dresden (NR: 86003540), the 1893 Fogg Memorial Building at Berwick Academy (NR: 78000336), and repairs to the Old Hancock County Court Houses in Ellsworth

³These seventeen houses were built between 1796 and 1833, when the Greek Revival style began to dominate the next generation of residential construction.

⁴Blue Hill's summer population attracted world renowned musicians, including Norwegian cellist Wulf Fries and violinist Franz Kneisel.

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(NR:77000161), in 1898. His achievements as an architect are summarized neatly in the obituary that followed his funeral in 1911.

He was born in Bluehill in 1844, the son of Asa and Louisa (Ray) Clough, and attended school at the Bluehill academy. He worked with his father for four years as a draftsman in a shipyard drawing the sweeps upon the floor and forming the model for ship timbers. In March, 1863, Mr. Clough went to Boston to study architecture with George Snell, remaining with him until 1869, when he went into business for himself.

In 1874 he was made the first architect of the city of Boston, and held the position for many years. One of Mr. Clough's first duties after he was appointed city architect was to provide buildings for municipal courts for South Boston, East Boston, Brighton and Charlestown.

During his term of office many notable buildings were erected by the city from his plans. Prominent among them is the English high and Latin school building, in which he first introduced the German system, constructing the edifice around open courts, thus affording, ample light and ventilation to all parts of it. Mr. Clough exerted a marked and beneficial influence upon the school architecture of Massachusetts.

The pumping station at the Westboro insane hospital and the Suffolk county court house at Boston are of Mr. Clough's designing. He designed more than twenty of Boston's best schoolhouses, and many libraries all over New England, as well as in Pennsylvania and New York.

A friend in Cleveland, O., Mrs. V. P. Kline, sends the following appreciative sketch of Mr. Clough.

Mr. Clough was a genius in his profession. Monuments of his artistic taste and skill are to be found in and around Boston and many other New England towns. The public-spirited character of his fondness for Bluehill is evidenced in many ways. When the old church of his ancestors needed repairing and redecorating, he drew plans and superintended the work without charge. When the town needed a new hall, he gave so largely of his time, ability and strength that the building attracts the attention of many strangers, who pronounce it 'the prettiest town hall in all the New England villages'.

Again, when the town decided to repair the old academy building and save it from ruin, his wise counsel was sought and not in vain, for he contributed in many ways to the substantial restoration of that old structure, which is dear to the hearts of so many of the old

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pupils. He loved every brick in it, and his whole heart went into the work.

Many of the summer residents have been more willing to contribute to these improvements, because they were in the hands of so competent a man as George Clough, which insured good, thorough and faithful service. (Ellsworth American, 1911.)

As noted above, Clough was responsible for several commissions in Blue Hill, including Barncastle, and in 1895, the Town Hall, a two and ½ story Colonial Revival structure at the center of the town. Although his stylistic vocabulary could draw from the more fanciful late Victorian Romanesque, Shingle, and Queen Anne styles, he also worked a great deal in the Colonial Revival ethic. It is this last style which he utilized so well at the Cy Blodgett House, in Bucksport, Maine (1901), and that he chose to apply, not surprisingly, to the already dignified Parker House. Through the addition of three Classical porches, Clough expanded the scale of the structure, and by utilizing large French doors and floor to ceiling sidelights, he transformed a fairly traditional domicile into one that flowed into the gardens and lawns which were utilized as exterior living space during the summer season. It is this updating that characterizes Parker House today, and places it among the town's genteel architectural treasures. It is in this manner that the Parker House embodies two of the most important growth periods in Blue Hill's history: that of its maturation as a coastal town in the New Republic, and its evolution to a summer destination for people from away.

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PARKER HOUSE Name of Property	HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 5.80 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 9 5 3 2 7 6 8 4 9 1 5 8 3 3 Zone Easting Northing 2 1 9 Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	Zone Easting Northing 4 1 9 See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title _CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTOrganization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSING Street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 city or town _AUGUSTA state	ION date 7 July 2004 telephone (207) 287-2132
Submit the following items with the completed form:	·
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the proposed A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having last Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the proposed Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	arge acreage or numerous resources.
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name	
street & number	telephone
city or town	state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are fully described by the Town of Blue Hill Assessors map number 8, log 3.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although once associated with several farm structures and nearly 400 acres of adjacent property, the accompanying property has been currently reduced to the 5.8 acre house lot described above. Another parcel of land, located on the opposite side of South Street, was historically the site of one of the Parker family barns. This structure burned many years ago, and the overgrown parcel no longer carries any historical features of significance, and thus is not included within this nomination.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 June 2004
East facade, facing west.

Photograph 2 of 3 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 11 June 2004 Interior, northeast parlor; facing north.

Photograph 3 of 3 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 11 June 2004 Interior, northeast parlor, facing east.