

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

PARKER CLEVELAND HOUSE

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: CLEVELAND, PARKER, HOUSE

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 75 Federal Street

Not for publication:\_\_\_

City/Town: Brunswick

Vicinity:\_\_\_

State: Maine

County: Cumberland

Code: ME023

Zip Code: 04011

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X

Public-Local: \_\_\_

Public-State: \_\_\_

Public-Federal:\_\_\_

Category of Property

Building(s): \_\_\_

District: \_\_\_

Site: \_\_\_

Structure: \_\_\_

Object: \_\_\_

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

2

\_\_\_

\_\_\_

\_\_\_

2

Noncontributing

\_\_\_ buildings

\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_ objects

\_\_\_ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 2

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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**4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

**7. DESCRIPTION**

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

**MATERIALS:**

Foundation: stone

Walls: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Other:

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**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.****EXTERIOR—MAIN HOUSE AND ELL**

Constructed in 1805-06 by the local housewright Samuel Melcher, III, the Parker Cleaveland House is a two-story, five-bay, double-pile frame dwelling that is covered by a low hip roof. A two-story ell which extends to the rear of the main block is connected to a square, hip roofed carriage barn by way of a four-bay, one-story open garage. The entire building is sheathed in weatherboards, and the house and ell stand on a granite block foundation. This complex stands on one of the largest residential lots in the village of Brunswick, along a streetscape of Federal and Greek Revival houses that has undergone relatively little change since Parker Cleaveland lived here.

Facing west, the symmetrically composed front elevation has a centrally located doorway which is comprised of a six-panel door, an elliptical fanlight, and a mitered surround with a modest frieze and cornice. This enframingent is flanked by narrow paneled pilasters that are slightly setback from the main frame. Six-over-six double hung sash windows with louvered blinds define the bays flanking the entrance, and five similar windows are symmetrically located on the second story on axis with the openings below. A narrow frieze, which extends around the side and rear elevations until it meets the ell, projects slightly from the main wall plane. The roof is punctuated by four tall, brick, interior end chimneys.

The secondary south elevation is comprised of four distinct elements: the four-bay main block; the wide, gable roofed, five-bay ell whose south wall is on the same plane as that of the main block; the flat roofed connector whose bays are defined by segmental arches springing from thin posts; and the carriage barn whose hipped roof is surmounted by a louvered ventilator. Unlike its front elevation, the south side of the original house has a less symmetrical fenestration pattern which, on the first story, consists of a central doorway flanked by two six-over-six double hung sash to the west, but only one to the east (a reflection of the fact that the kitchen hearth occupies the balance of the wall). There are four symmetrically placed six-over-sixes on the second story. The first story of the ell features a central doorway framed by narrow full length sidelights and flanked by six-over-six double hung sash, of which those to the east are set at a lower level than those to the west. Five second story windows are located above the openings below, but only the two westernmost windows match those below; the other three are considerably smaller six-over-sixes.

The north side elevation of the front block is divided into three unequally spaced bays. Six-over-six double hung sash windows are located on both the first and second story near the northwest corner, and a pair of similar windows are positioned in the center portion of the second story. These latter windows are located above a pair of long six-over-six-over-six triple hung sash that are late nineteenth century modifications to the originals. The deeply recessed north wall of the ell has an irregular fenestration pattern and an engaged first story porch at its junction with the main block. Behind the porch is a full glazed door and a double hung sash window. To the east is a pair of small six-over-sixes (recent additions to an area that was built out from what had been part of the engaged porch) and a trio of larger six-over-sixes regularly spaced across the first story. Four small six-over-sixes (similar to those on the opposite side) are located on the second story.

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The northern half of the east, or rear, elevation of the front block features a central entrance with a six-panel door surmounted by a transom, pairs of six-over-six windows located in the bays to the north on both stories, and a six-over-six above the door. A shallow hip roofed porch shelters this back entrance, and it extends to the ell's engaged porch. The rear elevation of the ell contains a door on the first story (under the connector), two unequally sized windows on the second story, and a small window in the gable peak.

**INTERIOR—MAIN HOUSE AND ELL**

In plan, the Cleaveland House is organized around a central stair hall which extends through the front block and contains separate staircases in each half. Large spacious rooms with high ceilings occupy the four quadrants of the first and second stories. The treatment of the interior finish is typical of woodwork found in upper middle class houses in Maine during the Federal period. The open string staircases feature balustrades with thin turned newel posts and slat balusters, and a wave decorative wave moldings on the outer strings. On the first story the halls are separated by a six-panel door that is unframed by a segmentally arched surround. The stairs meet at a common interstory landing, although a door permits separation of the two. Three-part mitered surrounds frame all windows and doors, and flat board wainscot appears in each of the first story rooms. The most architecturally stylish mantelpiece is in the northwest (presumably parlor) room where pairs of thin pilasters rise to a broad frieze and built-up cornice under an overhanging mantelshelf. The motif makes a short return along the sides of the projecting fireplace/chimney shaft. In this room, segmentally arched doorway decorated with impostes and a keystone, leads into the northeast room. A more modest mantelpiece is located in the southwest room where a doorway at the southeast corner leads to the short transverse hall and side door. To the rear of this room is the kitchen, which retains its functional/utilitarian mantelpiece, large hearth, and bake oven. The northeast room is equally modest in its architectural treatment.

The second floor bedrooms are equal in footprint to the rooms below, although the northeast room no longer has an operational fireplace. Doors connect adjoining rooms, and those on the south side have a wider passage between them which matches the width of the hall below. Of interest is the fact that Parker Cleaveland's desk is presently located in the northeast room, having been recently acquired by Bowdoin College.

With the exception of the floor level between the first and second story, the interior of the ell was thoroughly reconfigured after the house was rescued in the 1950s from a long period of neglect.

**EXTERIOR—CONNECTOR AND CARRIAGE BARN**

Constructed in the 1950s or 1960s, the present connector was built to replace a portion of the nineteenth century ell which was severely deteriorated. Its four open bays with their segmentally arched openings on the south side is enclosed on the north side with a three-quarter length wall containing a single door and a long rectangular panel. The timber frame carriage barn, which stands on a rubble stone foundation, has a large rectangular opening and a door on the first story of its front (west) elevation, as well as a round arched hay door above the large door, a single six-over-six window, and a small six-pane fixed sash. There is a single six-over-six on the first story of the south side, whereas the rear elevation has a symmetrical fenestration pattern comprised of two six-over-sixes and a door on the first story and three six-over-sixes on the upper level. On

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the north side, there are six small windows denoting the location of the stalls, and a single six-over-six in the western third of the second story.

#### SUMMARY OF ADDITIONS/SUBTRACTIONS

Samuel Melcher's ledger states that he contracted to build the main house and a one-story summer kitchen and adjoining porch, and that this task was completed by November of 1806. A variety of sheds, the carriage house, and a barn were erected during the next 50 years (Shipman, p.31). Sometime after its acquisition by Peleg Chandler (who had married Cleaveland's daughter) about 1858, a roof balustrade was added, as well as a front entrance porch and the full length windows on the north side. In addition, the grounds—particularly to the south and east—were extensively landscaped. The additions were removed during the 1950s or 1960s, and little remains of the landscaping features.



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**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.****Summary**

The Parker Cleaveland, for whom this house was built and who resided here from 1806 to 1858, is nationally significant for his contributions to the study of mineralogy. A professor at nearby Bowdoin College, Cleaveland conducted some of the earliest studies of mineralogy in the United States and, in 1816, published *Elementary Treatise on Mineralogy and Geology*, the first volume on American mineral species and localities ever published, thereby becoming the "Father of American Mineralogy." This comprehensive work, and its revised 1822 edition, with its clear, concise mineral descriptions and useful classification system, was used as the mineralogy textbook in American colleges for many years and set the standard for subsequent works on the subject.

While at Bowdoin, Cleaveland gained the respect and admiration of students, faculty, and administration for both his personal and professional qualities, but it was his excellent teaching skills that were especially appreciated. Even though he was offered far more lucrative positions at more prestigious educational institutions because of his scientific work, he remained loyal to the college. Because none of the college buildings that Cleaveland frequented remain, the house on Federal Street is the property most importantly associated with Cleaveland during the time in which he made a national contribution to American science. The house was built for Cleaveland by Bowdoin soon after he arrived in Brunswick in 1805, and he was allowed to live there free of charge by the college until his death in 1858. For this reason, the period of significance begins in 1805 and ends in 1858. Although the property was sold to descendants of Cleaveland after his death, Bowdoin recently re-purchased and restored it to ensure its preservation. The house currently serves as the residence for the president of the college.

**History**

Parker Cleaveland was born in Byfield, Essex County, Massachusetts on January 15, 1780. Distantly related to Moses Cleaveland, for whom the city of Cleveland, Ohio, is named and to President Grover Cleveland, Parker was the first and only child of Elizabeth Jackman Cleaveland and Parker Cleaveland, a Puritan physician who served with the patriots during the Revolutionary War, from whom, it is reported, he inherited his intelligence, personal motivation, and cheerful disposition. Although not wealthy, his parents sent the precocious young Parker to the famous Dummer Academy, the earliest academy in New England, for his early education. By 1795, before he had even turned sixteen, the younger Parker Cleaveland had entered Harvard University, where he was a hard-working and devout, but popular student. Graduating in 1799, young Cleaveland was considered the man of most talent and promise by his classmates, being the best general scholar. Following his college graduation, he taught school at Haverhill, Massachusetts, and York, Maine. Apparently, his skill as a teacher had already manifested itself; so highly was he regarded in York that its citizens remarked "they had rather lose their minister than their schoolmaster." Despite this popularity and his obvious talent for teaching, Cleaveland decided to apprentice in the practice of law. Influenced by his devoutly-religious parents, however, Cleaveland soon abandoned law for the ministry. But just as he began his theological studies, he was offered a position as tutor in natural philosophy and mathematics at Harvard in



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October, 1803. Never feeling that he had actually received a divine calling to enter the ministry, Cleaveland was again considering a law career when, in May, 1805, he was invited to become Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Bowdoin College, which was recently established at Brunswick, Maine. He accepted the professorship at Bowdoin in October of that year and remained at the college more than fifty years, until his death in 1858 (Woods, 1859, 375-435).

Not long after arriving at Brunswick in the autumn of 1805, Cleaveland contacted local architect and builder Samuel Melcher III about building the house on Federal Street. According to Melcher's ledger, the main part of the house and a one-story summer kitchen with adjoining porch were finished by November, 1806, the year he married Martha Bush (Shipman, 1985; Cleaveland and Packard, 1882). The house and land cost approximately \$3200, a considerable sum in 1806, forcing Cleaveland to increase the amount of his original mortgage loan. In 1807, he petitioned Bowdoin College to buy the house and lease it back to him, which was finally done in 1813. Beginning in 1824, however, in gratitude for his service to the college, Cleaveland was allowed to live in the house rent free for the remainder of his career at Bowdoin, a period of 54 years. Following Cleaveland's death in 1858, his son-in-law Peleg Chandler, a prominent Boston attorney and Bowdoin graduate and trustee, purchased the house for use as a summer home. The Chandler family owned the house nearly a century more, until 1951 (Cleaveland and Packard, 1882).

Although Cleaveland was hired to teach mathematics and natural philosophy, which mostly involved physics, at Bowdoin College, in 1808, he began to teach other courses to fill deficiencies in their science curriculum, including chemistry and mineralogy. His voluntarily teaching these two new subjects so impressed the college board that it voted to pay him an additional \$200 annually to continue to teach them and gave him the new title of Lecturer, and later Professor, in Chemistry and Mineralogy (Woods, 1859).

It was mineralogy that would earn him his greatest scientific reputation, yet he became involved in the subject almost accidentally. In 1807, when local lumbermen blasted through granite bedrock in the Brunswick area to construct a sluice-way for floating their boards from the upper mills to the loading docks, they encountered crystals of quartz and cubes of pyrite, which they thought might be diamonds and gold. They took these minerals to Cleaveland, the only scientist at the local college, to find out whether they were, indeed, valuable minerals. In the early nineteenth century, mineralogy in America was in its infancy, and Cleaveland had no training in the subject. In fact, Cleaveland, who would become the "father of American mineralogy" often remarked to his students that when he graduated from Harvard "he did not know that there was more than one kind of rock in the world" (Cleaveland and Packard, 1882; Woods, 1859, p. 407). Recalling the general ignorance of American mineralogy at the time, the eminent New England geologist Benjamin Silliman remarked that it was:

...a matter of extreme difficulty to obtain... even the names of the most common stones and minerals, or to find any one who could identify even quartz, feldspar or hornblende, among simple minerals, or granite, porphyry, or trap, among the rocks. We...well remember with what impatient, and almost despairing curiosity, we eyed the bleak and naked ridges that impended over the valleys and plains that were the scenes of our youthful excursions. In vain did we doubt that the glittering spangles of mica, and the still more alluring brilliancy of pyrites, gave assurance to the existence of the precious

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metals in those substances; or that the cutting of glass by the garnet or by quartz, proved that these minerals were the diamond; but if they were not precious metals, and if they were not diamonds, we in vain inquired of our companions, or even our teachers, what they were (Silliman, 1818, p.407)

Using a chemistry book, Cleaveland identified the minerals from the lumbermen as best he could and then he packed up a box of specimens for Dr. Dexter, Professor of Chemistry at Harvard. Dexter complimented Cleaveland on the correctness of his arrangement and description of the minerals, then he provided as much additional information as he could supply, and sent some other minerals back to Cleaveland in exchange.

His cousin Nehemiah Cleaveland recalled Parker's initial encounter with mineralogy:

I accompanied him...in his first visit to the Falls, and helped him bring home the first basket of stones he ever collected. I remember his earnest and baffled endeavors to determine the characters and names of these rocks and stones. I was with him, too, when he opened the little package from Prof. Dexter, and examined its contents. Great was the rapture with which he unrolled and handled those tiny bits of marble and lava, brought mostly, as their labels showed, from distant and classic shores. Such was the origin of those collections and exchanges which at length built up the large and valuable cabinet which now adorns the [Bowdoin] college walls. And thus accidentally, as it were, began that enthusiastic pursuit of mineralogical knowledge which in a few years gave the Bowdoin professor so high a place among the scientific celebrities of the time. It is certainly more than possible that his mind would never have taken that turn, but for the Topsham sluice-way excavation. (Woods, 1859, p. 405)

For many years, mineralogy remained Cleaveland's "ruling passion." He explored the rocks around Brunswick, but "the mineral treasures of his native region [did not] long escape his scientific curiosity and rapacity. On his visits to Byfield, the country, for miles around, was laid under contribution for specimens" (Woods, 1859, p. 406) His half-brother, Rev. Dr. John P. Cleaveland, observed these scientific expeditions personally:

I helped him in breaking open several composite rocks in the street wall opposite our own door, that he might get fresh fractures. I well remember, too, the forenoon of a warm day in the first week of June, in 1811, when he made his first visit to the Devil's Den in Newbury. This was a small cavity on the right of the old road from Dummer Academy to Newburyport, four miles from the house where the Professor was born. It had been visited once before by a professor from Harvard, and once by some professor from foreign parts; but its riches were reserved for my brother's eye. He returned to my father's house with one or two candle-boxes filled; and my mother's kitchen was at once turned into a laboratory, and the floor strewn with fragments of every variety which the den had yielded. Serpentine (both common and precious), greenstone (crystalline), pure hornblende, simple feldspar, asbestos and amianthus..., quartz (crystallized), black tourmaline or schorl, were a part of the day's spoils. No miser ever worshipped his money as he did these specimens. Many of them, which I helped him reduce and pack up on that day, have long had a place in French, German, and Russian cabinets. (Woods, 1859, p. 406)

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Through similar collecting expeditions and reading the little that was available on the subject, Cleaveland gradually accumulated a vast amount of mineralogical knowledge. In his eulogy of Parker Cleaveland, Leonard Woods, then-president of Bowdoin College, described the present state of mineralogy and noted the importance of Cleaveland's work in its advancement:

A change for the better in the state of this science had, doubtless, taken place within a few years before the publication of the work of Prof. Cleaveland. Some able articles on the subject had been written by Seybert of Philadelphia, Mitchell of New York, and Waterhouse of Cambridge. Extensive and beautiful cabinets had been brought to this country by Dr. Bruce and Col. Gibbs. Courses of lectures on mineralogy had been recently established in several of our colleges. A geological survey of the United States had been made by Maclure; and a Journal of Mineralogy had been established. But the effect of these measures had been rather to excite a public curiosity, than to furnish the means of gratifying it. They created a want, which could only be met by a thorough, systematic, and American treatise on mineralogy. The works of the great German and French mineralogists had not yet been translated; and if they had been, could not have supplied the information which was wanted respecting our wide-spread and newly opened American localities. It was the good fortune of Professor Cleaveland to furnish this needed work exactly at the right juncture of circumstances. His *Elementary Treatise on Mineralogy and Geology* was published in 1816. A few years earlier or later, it might have met a less flattering reception. Appearing when it did, and being such as it was, it was a perfect success, and placed the author at once in the front rank of living mineralogists.

The distinguishing merit of his work, in comparison with those which preceded it, may be stated in a few words. The mineralogical world had been previously divided into two principal schools, that of France and that of Germany. The German school, at the head of which was the celebrated Werner, regarded the external characters of minerals as the proper basis both of description and classification. The French school, at the head of which was the equally celebrated Abbé Haüy, regarded the internal composition of minerals, or their true nature as ascertained by chemical analysis, or their crystalline structure including the primitive form and integrant molecule, as the only proper basis of a scientific arrangement and description. Prof. Cleaveland does not hesitate to say, with the French school, that the true composition of minerals should be the basis of arrangement, as far as it is known; but that, when it is not known, or until it becomes known, the external characters may be provisionally employed for the purpose of classification; and further, that while minerals may be scientifically arranged according to their internal composition, they may be best described by their external characters. In thus combining the excellencies of the French and German schools, Prof. Cleaveland does not claim to be original. He refers in his preface to Brongniart. as having effected with good success the union of the descriptive language of the one, and the scientific arrangements of the other. But while his work was formed on the model of Brongniart, it was executed in a manner entirely his own, and gives assurance of a master's hand. It not only placed the labors of the great European mineralogists before the American public in an accessible and attractive form, but by adding new species and new localities, acquiring an American character, and do something to pay the debt of science which America was then owing Europe (Woods, 1859, pp. 407-409)

Thus, what distinguished Cleaveland's *Elementary Treatise on Mineralogy and Geology* was that it was the first volume on mineralogy published in America and the first anywhere to include

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mineral species and localities from America. As noted in an extensive review in *The American Journal of Science* of 1818:

[This work exhibited]...more or less extensively, American localities, and gives the leading features of our natural mineral associations. Thus it appears that the work of Professor Cleaveland was eminently needed; the science, at large, needed it; and to American mineralogists it was nearly indispensable. It appeared too at a very opportune moment. Had it come a few years sooner, it might not have found many readers. Now it is sustained by the prevailing curiosity, and diffused state of information regarding mineralogy; and, in turn, no cause could operate more effectually to cherish this curiosity, and to diffuse this information still more widely, than this book. Professor Cleaveland is therefore entitled to our thanks for undertaking this task...

In our opinion, this work does honor to our country, and will greatly promote the knowledge of mineralogy and geology, besides aiding in the great work of disseminating a taste for science generally...The manner of execution is masterly. Discrimination, perspicuity, judicious selection of characters and facts, and a style chaste, manly, and comprehensive, are among the attributes of Professor Cleaveland's performance. It has brought within the reach of the American student the excellencies of Kirwan, Jameson, Haüy, Brochant, Brongniart, and Werner; and we are not ashamed to have this work compared with those of these celebrated authors (Silliman, 1818)

But the impact of Cleaveland's Treatise was not confined to America, as demonstrated by comments in the *Edinburgh Review* (Scotland), which concluded "We have no doubt it would be found the most useful work on mineralogy in [the English] language" and in an 1819 letter to Cleaveland from Englishman John Vaughan:

Mr. Humboldt [a famous German scientist], who was in England, had a copy [of Cleaveland's Treatise] in his possession, and his impressions must have coincided with those of all the learned, more especially as he took care not to return it to the Geological Society, of whom he had borrowed it, and felt not a little bereft on that account, though another was given them...Dr. Clarke, the Professor of Mineralogy in the Cambridge University, and the noted traveler, uses no other [than the Treatise] at his lectures, and recommends it to all his hearers as the best. And further, the Geological Society, and many private individuals, have formed or remodeled their collections upon your arrangements (Woods, 1859 p.410-411).

In 1822, a second, greatly enlarged edition of Cleaveland's work was published, and quickly went out of print. His Treatise was considered the standard American authority on mineralogy, it was used as a textbook in colleges across the country, and it set the standard for future works on the subject. Although intending to, Cleaveland never produced a third edition of his mineralogical textbook because of his ever-expanding duties at the college, which now included teaching chemistry, mineralogy, and natural philosophy, as well as his new responsibilities at the recently-established Maine Medical School, where he was Professor of Chemistry and *Materia Medica* and Secretary of the Medical Faculty. Nonetheless, his first edition of *Elementary Treatise on Mineralogy and Geology* served to introduce American minerals and mineral localities to the world, to establish a clear and concise method of presenting information that remains the basis of modern mineralogy texts, and to inspire worldwide interest in American geology.

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Cleveland's contribution to mineralogy was rewarded in many ways. He received the respect of scientists across Europe and America; a species of feldspar (cleavelandite) and a room in Mammoth Cave renowned for its gypsum formations were named in his honor; and he received honorary membership in more than sixteen scientific and literary societies at home and abroad. Later in life, he was appointed Regent of the Smithsonian Institute by President Franklin Pierce, a grateful former student of Cleveland's. Shortly after publication of the Treatise, Cleveland was offered professorships at Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, William and Mary, and other colleges, but even though some of these schools offered to double his salary (his annual salary at Bowdoin began at \$800 and never exceeded \$1200), he elected to "stay by old Bowdoin" (Bowdoin College, 1894; Hatch, 1927, pp. 31-32).

Some thought that Cleveland's decision to remain in a teaching position at Bowdoin was foolhardy. An article in the Boston Advertiser urged that "...it was very desirable that a man so able and learned as Professor Cleveland should no longer be compelled to devote to mere elementary teaching-a duty which younger men could perform as well-so large a proportion of the strength and time that might otherwise be given to original investigations, and to labors that would extend the area of science." But others viewed Cleveland's teaching position as "...the very niche that was made for him and fills it to admiration (Hatch, 1927, pp.31-32). Judging from the praise of former students, Cleveland was a talented teacher:

The reputation of Prof. Cleveland as a teacher of the Natural Sciences stands confessedly unrivalled. The cause of his remarkable success in instruction is perfectly evident to one who has enjoyed the great privilege of being his pupil, and yet, such a degree of perfection as an instructor has never been attained by another. In all his demonstrations, definitions, and questions he combined the faculties of conciseness and clearness to a degree and in a manner apparently impossible. No pupil will ever forget his scrupulous politeness and affability, while they also remember his rigid and unalterable rules of discipline, his own remarkable punctuality, which led him to expect the same from all who were in any matter connected with him. They will also remember his patience and kindness in imparting knowledge and his never ceasing exertions to make every pupil a participant in his own vast acquirements.

There was a magnetic influence emanating from him that was impossible to remain unaffected. He could make the most abstruse subject intensely interesting. There was a freshness about it; he brought it home, made it live, connected it with actual life...

In the class room and laboratory he ruled as King...but any one who sought him in his house or while working in his garden found 'Old Cleave' cordial and kind as a parent, full of humor and information (Hatch, 1927, pp.31-34).

But it was also noted that students' "esteem and affection [for Cleveland] did not cease when his boys had reached maturity and were judging their former teachers not merely by their kindness of heart, but by what they had done to fit their pupils for the battle of life"(Hatch, 1927, p.34). Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a Bowdoin graduate, gave the most famous tribute to the beloved professor in the poem Parker Cleaveland, written on his visit to Brunswick in the summer of 1875, the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation:

Among the many lives that I have known,  
None I remember more serene and sweet,

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More rounded in itself and more complete,  
Than his, who lies beneath this funeral stone.  
These pines, that murmur in low monotone,  
The walks frequented by scholastic feet,  
Were all his world; but in this calm retreat  
For him the Teacher's chair became a throne.  
With fond affection memory loves to dwell  
On the old days, when his example made  
A pastime of the toil of tongue and pen;  
And now, amid the groves he loved so well  
That naught could lure him from their grateful shade,  
He sleeps, but wakes elsewhere for God hath said, Amen! (Riverside, 1922, p. 416)

Cleaveland seldom traveled from his Brunswick home. A contemporary of Cleaveland remarked that "his bump of caution is of prodigious size. Unlike some of his brother and contemporary savants, he is eminently a 'keeper-at-home'...we are bound with gratitude to remember that at his chosen post of duty he has remained ever steadfast, useful, and honored"(Cleaveland and packard, 1882, p.128). On October 15, 1858, while getting ready to go to the college for his daily meeting with students, Cleaveland died in the house on Federal Street where he had lived more than fifty years. The house and surrounding neighborhood, which are part of the Federal Street Historic District, retain much of the early nineteenth- century character that Cleaveland would have enjoyed as he entertained students at his home or made the short journey to and from classes at his beloved Bowdoin.

**PARKER CLEVELAND HOUSE**

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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Previous 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 Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University: **Bowdoin College**
- Other (Specify Repository):

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM Reference:     **Zone Easting Northing**  
                          19 422090 4862020

Verbal Boundary Description:

Town of Brunswick, Maine Tax Map U-8, Lot 88 (see attached map).

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property is the original house and lot occupied by Cleaveland and owned by Bowdoin College

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**Dr. Joanne Kleussendorf  
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