

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Franklin B. Hough House

AND/OR COMMON  
Franklin B. Hough House**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER  
29 Collins Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
LowvilleCONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
30STATE  
New YorkVICINITY OF  
CODE  
36COUNTY  
LewisCODE  
49**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 ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Dr. John Miller

STREET &amp; NUMBER 37 Shady Lane

CITY, TOWN  
Lowville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
New York**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lewis County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
LowvilleSTATE  
New York

13367

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE  
None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED (minor)

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Franklin B. Hough House, built between 1860 and 1861, is a rectangular, two-and-a-half story, brick building, resting on stone foundations, designed and moderately ornamented in the style of an Italian villa.

The house is set back from Collins Street and is approached by a semi-circular driveway. Its front facade is dominated by a projecting central bay which extends the full height of the house and is capped with its own gable roof. This bay houses the front doorway, which is reached by a short flight of stone steps. The entrance is framed by a heavy hoodmould on consoles, and the double doors are enclosed by an elliptical fanlight and flanking sidelights. The second story window above the doorway is of the same double hung sash dimensions as the other windows. It also possesses the same white segmental hoodmoulds as the other windows, although its mould does have a finial. The sill of this window is styled in an elaborate fashion as well, unlike the plain sills of the other windows. On the third story of the bay there is a small circular window.

The central bay is flanked on either side by two windows at both the first and second story level.

The Hough House has a hip roof, topped by a rectangular belvedere. The roof has a dentillated cornice, and below that runs a dentillated brick breeze.

The interior of the house has been left basically unchanged since Hough's occupancy. The rooms are characterized by high ceilings. A spiral staircase dominates the entrance hall.

There is a small frame garage attached to the northwest corner of the house. Formerly, on the south side of the house there was a large wooden bay. This was removed circa 1967 and was replaced by a glassed-in porch, built of brick and the same native stone as that used in the foundations.

Other structures on the three-and-a-half-acre property include a sugar shanty and a chicken coop, both of which date from the historic period.

Most of the property to the rear of the house has been reforested. The house was in the hands of the Hough family until 1967 when it was sold to the current owner.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 1863-85 (years of Hough's occupancy) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Franklin B. Hough first realized the need for the formulation of a conservation policy for America's timberlands in the decade following the Civil War. As the supervisor of the New York State census in 1855 and 1865, he noted a sharp drop in the production of forest products in certain areas, in the interval between the two censuses. As a result, he sought to impress upon the public and the Federal Government the need to curb the rapid destruction of the Nation's forests. His efforts to awaken the country brought about his appointment as the country's first Federal forest official, and in that capacity he laid the basis for the development of the present United States Forest Service.

Dr. Hough's residence for over 20 years is located at 29 Collins Street, Lowville, New York. The two-and-a-half story Italianate brick house is still used as a private residence.

### Biography

Throughout his life, Hough displayed a great variety of interests. Born on July 22, 1822, he entered Union College in 1840, was graduated in 1843, and then decided on a medical career. Admitted to Western Reserve Medical College, he received his M.D. degree in 1848, whereupon he established a practice in Somerville, New York. Greatly intrigued by local history, he collected and edited historical materials pertaining to the early history of the area. But Hough also displayed deep interest in geology and botany. All such interests had to be put aside with the outbreak of the Civil War, and until 1863 Hough served first as an inspector in the United States Sanitary Commission and then as a surgeon in the 97th New York volunteers. Upon his return from the war, Hough established residence on Collins Street in Lowville.

Some years after settling in Lowville, Hough became alarmed at the Nation's reckless use of its forests. Oddly enough, his concern about the accelerating devastation of timber lands stemmed from his supervision of the New York State census in 1855 and 1865. In comparing the reports for the census, Hough observed that the production of forest products had greatly fallen for certain areas in the State between 1855 and 1865. As a result, Hough realized that our forest resources were not limitless and that action should be taken to protect the timber lands. But it was not until 1873, when he spoke before a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, that he elicited an effective response from an audience. In his speech, entitled "On the Duty of the Government in the Preservation of Forestry," Hough pointed out that as forests extended from State to State, the problem of protecting them concerned the Nation. Moreover, he declared that training in forestry was vital,

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 460000 4848400  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C 18 459410 4848000

B 18 460000 4848000  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D 18 454430 4848400

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

9/9/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

~~(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)~~ THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

~~(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)~~ 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

9/20/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

~~(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)~~

~~(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)~~

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and that forestry education should be developed in the United States. Greatly impressed by the speech, the Association authorized the drawing up of a memorial to be presented to Congress. Hough became its main author. Once sent to Washington, the memorial failed to receive immediate action. During the following two years, Hough continued to press the case for forest preservation before the public, presenting in one instance several talks on forestry at the Lowell Institute, Harvard University. Finally in 1876, Congress, by an amendment to the appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture acted upon the dormant memorial.

Instead of creating a commission, as the memorial suggested, to study the nation's forests, Congress simply authorized the Department of Agriculture to investigate the forests and submit a report on timber lands and forestry practices. Subsequently, Hough received from the Department the appointment as the first federal forest official on August 30, 1876, at \$2,000 a year. Hough quickly organized a small unit, which later grew into the Division of Forestry and subsequently became the Forest Service. In the following years, Hough studied forestry problems and practices in the United States and Europe, producing three bulky reports that became instrumental in the development of forest management in the United States. This work later received international recognition, as the International Geographical Congress, when it met in Venice, presented a diploma of honor to Hough.

In addition to his work as a federal employee, Hough helped to promote the cause of forestry by other means. He initiated the publication of the American Journal of Forestry in September 1882; and although the journal survived only until October 1883, it has been "credited with laying the foundation on which a native forestry literature has been built."<sup>1</sup> And in 1885 Hough wrote the bill that created the vast Adirondack Forest Preserve in New York.

Hough died on June 11, 1885. Since that date, his work in behalf of forestry has gained increasing importance and influence. With no hesitation, we may rightfully call him the father of forestry in the United States.

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<sup>1</sup>Henry Clepper (ed.), American Forestry: Six Decades of Growth (Washington, 1960), p.51.

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George Armstrong, ed., Forestry College: Essays on the Growth and Development of New York State's College of Forestry, 1911-1961 (Syracuse, New York, 1961).

Henry Clepper, ed., American Forestry, Six Decades of Growth (Washington, D.C., 1961).

Henry S. Graves, "Franklin B. Hough," Dictionary of American Biography (New York, 1943).

Romeyn Hough, "The Incipency of the Forestry Movement in America," American Forestry vol. XIX (August 1913), pp. 547-550.

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The Franklin Hough national historic landmark boundaries are coterminus with the present Hough House lot boundaries. This lot consists of two contiguous parcels which form a rough L shape. The base of the L, which is the northerly parcel is trapezoidal, while the other parcel is rectangular. These two parcels comprised the Hough House property as it was conveyed by the Hough family to the present owner and can be seen on the accompanying map entitled "Street Map of the Village of Lowville," drawn by R. E. Bush, dated 1956 and reduced in scale to 1" = 1600'.