

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **NOV 27 1987**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic John D. Clifford House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 14-16 Ware St. N/A not for publication

city, town Lewiston N/A vicinity of

state Maine code ME county Androscoggin code 001

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. John D. Clifford IV

street & number 14 Ware St.

city, town Lewiston N/A vicinity of state Maine 04240

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Androscoggin Co. Courthouse

street & number

city, town Auburn state Maine 04210

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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John D. Clifford House is a 2½-story rectangular structure with a broadly overhanging hipped roof. Its design combines elements of at least four styles: Mediterranean Revival (i.e. stucco walls, wrought-iron balconies, and French doors); Prairie (blocky dimensions and hipped roof); Art Nouveau (arched door, trellises and windows); and Modern (steel casement windows).

The symmetrical facade is centered on an arched wooden door with a single circular light. The door is flanked by steel and glass French doors with shallow wrought-iron balconies. Arched teak trellises stand between the French doors and the house's outer corners. A simple stucco string-course divides the first and second stories. A broad but shallow wrought-iron balcony projects above the doorway and below the three arched windows of a second-story solarium. The solarium windows are flanked on either side by two steel casements. The symmetry of the facade is reinforced by two oversized copper downspouts with decorative fastenings, which flank the central bay.

The grade drops off considerably along the two-bayed side-walls, exposing the basement story at the rear. A small wooden porch stands on pylons in the center of the rear facade. Industrial casement windows punctuate both side and rear elevations.

The roof retains its original red asbestos shingles, laid in the "French pattern".

A single stuccoed chimney stands against the northwest wall.

The floorplan is symmetrically arranged around a central hall and stair. The front door opens into a small vestibule, which is separated from the hall by a wide multipaned wooden door, grained in imitation of hardwood. The original narrow wooden flooring of the hall was replaced by irregular flagstones in the 1950's, and the floorboards now cover the chimney throat of the living room fireplace. The stair features simple wrought-iron balusters supporting a wooden rail. The hall opens into a dining room on the right and a large living room on the left. Both spaces were originally separated from the hall by large multipaned French doors. The kitchen, remodeled in the 1950's and extended into a small breakfast room, occupies the northeast corner of the first floor.

The second story contains four simple bedrooms, a bathroom, and a solarium/sitting room. The basement encloses a two-car garage, children's play-room, vegetable cellar, and utility space. The house is still heated by its original oversized furnace (HB Smith, Westfield, MA, manufacturer), which has been converted from coal to oil. The large concrete coal bin beside the furnace has a decorated (recessed panel) surface.

(Cont.)

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 1926 **Builder/Architect** Gibbs & Pulsifer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clifford House is one of the most interesting of Maine's few Mediterranean Revival style houses. The Mediterranean Revival (or Italian Renaissance Revival) of the late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries exerted very little influence on the domestic architecture of Maine. The handful of Maine houses in this idiom are predominantly summer cottages in coastal resort towns, designed by out-of-state architectural firms (e.g. "Sonagee" in Bar Harbor, now altered; "Eeganos" in Bar Harbor, Guy Lowell, 1910 [NR]; Louise N. Grace House in Islesboro, Wilson Eyre, 1918). The Clifford House is virtually unique among the state's year-round houses, and is all the more remarkable as a product of a native architectural firm. As the house was built toward the end of the Mediterranean Revival vogue (c. 1890-1930), it also incorporates certain self-consciously "modern" features, such as steel casement windows, an arched door with round light, arched trellises, and a built-in garage, which are equally unusual for the place and period.

Eugene J. Gibbs and Addison G. Pulsifer of Lewiston were in partnership as an architectural firm 1911-27. Pulsifer was a real estate developer, and Gibbs was the primary designer. The firm had designed stucco houses with Mediterranean features as early as 1914 (H.G. Foss House, Auburn, ME, NR), but generally retained classical or colonial revival ornament. The progressiveness of the Clifford House may have been as much due to the client as the architect. The present owner remembers that Mrs. John D. Clifford (his grandmother) had wanted an "Italian Villa"; Mrs. Clifford is mentioned in a contemporary newspaper description of the house as having made a number of specific design decisions, such as to severely limit the amount of interior woodwork.

John D. Clifford was an ambitious Lewiston lawyer who became U.S. Attorney for Maine in 1933. Clifford briefly served in the Maine State Legislature (1915-16) and was an active organizer for the Maine Democratic Party. Eleanor Roosevelt was entertained in the house in the 1930's.

The period of significance of the Clifford house terminates in 1937.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lewiston Journal article, 12/18/26

Who's Who in New England, AN Marquis, Chicago: AN Marquis Co., 1938

Interview with John D. Clifford IV

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Lewiston, Maine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	4	0	3	3	3	0	4	8	8	4	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the City of Lewiston, Tax Map 29A, referenced as 16-18 Ware Street.

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Consultant

organization Adams & Roy Consultants, Inc.

date October 15, 1987

street & number 62 Marcy St.

telephone (603) 436-6427

city or town Portsmouth

state New Hampshire

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 *Eric S. Feltman*

title S.H.P.O.

date 11/24/87

For NPS use only

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

William Egan
Entered in the
National Register

date 12-30-87

Keeper of the National Register

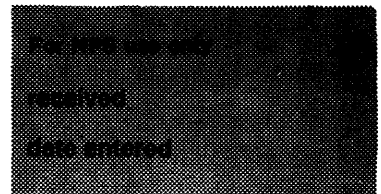
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet John D. Clifford House Item number 7

Page 2

All interior walls and ceilings are stucco plaster over wood lathe. The ceilings of the hall, living room, and dining room feature beam casings grained in imitation of hardwood. The interiors of all steel casements are also grained.

The front yard retains its original landscaping. The concrete front walk splits in two, around a circular planting, and connects to either side of a shallow concrete porch. The porch is separated from the planting by a low concrete wall.