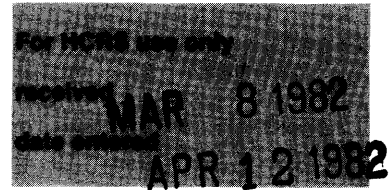


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



1. Name

historic North School
and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 248-264 Congress Street not for publication
city, town Portland, vicinity of _____ congressional district First
state Maine code 023 county Cumberland code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

4. Owner of Property

name Housing Resources Corporation
street & number One Canal Plaza
city, town Portland, vicinity of _____ state Maine 04112

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cumberland County Registry of Deeds
street & number _____
city, town Portland, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None 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 type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The North School of Portland, Maine, dating from 1867 was originally a brick Italianate style institutional building of three stories with granite trim and a Mansard roof (now gone). In the period 1920-1922 the roof was radically altered, as was much of the fenestration.

The facade, which faces southwest, is dominated by a large, projecting tower of four stories, rectangular in plan. The entrance to the school originally faced southwest in the first story of this tower; today doorways are in its sides. Crowning the tower is a projection above a parapet which contains a clock face in each of its sides. Originally the building's bays consisted of tall, arched windows; many of these were replaced in the 1920's by clusters of four rectangular windows to admit more light.

Replacing the 1867 Mansard roof, the 1920's modifications provided a low parapet in the Tudor Revival style. Later additions to the base of the tower and to the south side of the facade have affected the symmetry and perpendicular thrust of this very distinctive building.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1867 **Builder/Architect** Levi Newcomb

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Portland's North School of 1867 is significant to the history of education in Maine. It was the first school built in Portland, and almost certainly in Maine, designed to implement the organizational and educational principles espoused by Henry Barnard for graded classes of instruction in separate rooms for different age groups.

Combining 1300 pupils from the four schools destroyed by the Great Fire of 1866, the North School was the largest elementary school in the State. In adopting the economy of scale recommended by Barnard's School Architecture of 1848, the erection of the school was the largest new construction project using public funds undertaken as a result of the 1866 fire. The management of the school under a principal supervising 24 teachers in as many classrooms, combining the grammar and primary grades in one building, made the North School the model of modern school design to be adopted elsewhere in Portland and in Maine.

In 1894 the North School became the home of two new educational programs. Through the progressive philanthropy of Mayor James Phinney Baxter, rooms in the Mansard attic were repaired and fitted with woodworking apparatus; this marked the introduction of manual training into Portland's grammar schools. Also in 1894, the North School introduced the first "school banking" system, designed to encourage its pupils to set aside small amounts of money on a regular basis. The adoption of these special programs reflected the special character of the school population in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Located adjacent to Portland's historically ethnic neighborhoods, the North School educated large numbers of immigrant and first-generation students. The school building survives as an isolated landmark to these ethnic communities, having educated pupils of at least 15 different nationalities.

The North School continued to be a leader in progressive education well into the twentieth century. In 1913, it was open for summer recreational use; in 1921-22 toilet facilities and a gymnasium were added. Also in the years between 1920 and 1922, John Calvin Stevens, I designed extensive renovations and modernizations for the building. His "open air classrooms," created by large banks of windows housed special nutritional classes beginning in 1924. At the time of these changes the Mansard roof was removed.

Until the mid-1970's North School was used by the Portland School Department as an elementary school. For the past few years it has been boarded up symbolizing the end of an era in the history of education in Portland.

Rehabilitation of the building is now being contemplated. The plan is to convert the building which for so long served the youth of Portland into an apartment complex serving the City's elderly.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Manuscript information on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

10. Geographical Data

PLAN NOT DRAWING

Acreage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	9	9	0	6	0	4	8	3	4	8	9	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

Assessor's Map 20, Block A, Lot 2

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Hist./Robert L. Bradley, Arch. Hist./Bette A. Smith, Ass't.

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eula S. Fletchworth*

title S.H.P.O.

date 2/18/82

For HCRS use only

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

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/12/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration