

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 12 1986  
date entered SEP 11 1986

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

1. Name

historic Seavey-Robinson House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 580 Ocean Street N/A not for publication

city, town South Portland, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Donald Clerico

street & number 580 Ocean Street

city, town South Portland, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04106

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 N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Seavey-Robinson House is located on a residential street consisting mostly of buildings dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This area does not possess the potential for an historic district.

The Seavey-Robinson House is a one-and-one-half story wood frame building with clapboard siding and a gable roof with wide over-hanging eaves. The house has six-over-six double-hung sash and a veranda without a roof extending across the principal facade. The exterior is distinguished for its abundance of delicately-scaled decorative woodwork. Over the main entrance, which has pilasters and sidelights, is a shallow gable roof portico with cresting and vergeboard. There are bracketed cornices over the windows and, at the half-story level on the principal facade, distinctive grille-work. This elevation also features curved panelling at each corner and across the top of the wall. Vergeboard cut in an acorn motif extends along the cornice. Finally, the veranda has a balustrade with intricate scroll-work.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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** c. 1854–57 **Builder/Architect** ~~Joseph Seavey~~, Carpenter

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Now located in a built-up urban section of South Portland, this charming "Carpenter Gothic" farm cottage is a rare survivor attesting to the city's rural past when this region across the Fore River from Portland was farming country which supplied the needs of those living in the town. Its original owner, Joseph Seavey, was a carpenter in what was then part of Cape Elizabeth. The house he built, with its elaborate decorative woodwork, served as a display of his abilities as a builder and demonstrated his knowledge of the latest picturesque styles.

By 1860, Seavey had moved his practice up the road in what was then called Knight's Village, but which is now the center of South Portland. Elipalet C. Robinson acquired the house in 1864 when the developing transportation facilities put this area in commuting distance to Portland. Robinson worked for C. E. Jose and Company in the city. The Robinson's owned the house well into this century.

The Gothic cottage, particularly in a rural context, is comparatively rare in Maine and it is most unusual to find one still surviving in what is now an urban setting. The ingenious arrangement of decorative detail in the main facade is particularly to be noted.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland Sunday Telegram, November 10, 1935.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	3	9	9	1	0	0	4	8	3	0	8	5	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 21, Lot 73

### 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, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eric S. Feltz*  
title S.H.P.O. date 8/5/86

### For NPS use only

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

*J. Alford Byers* Entered in the National Register date 9-11-86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration