

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Daniel How House

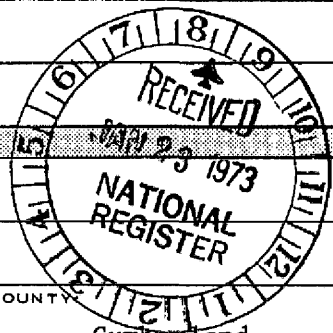
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Daniel How House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
23 Danforth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Cumberland CODE: 005



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments One business Three Apts.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Herbert R. Schwartz

STREET AND NUMBER:
23 Danforth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

48
10 46 28 30
0 55 85 5 0

STATE: Maine	COUNTY: Cumberland	ENTRY NUMBER: 1973	DATE: APR 24 1973

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <u>Slightly</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Daniel How House was built in 1799 by Daniel How, a Portland hatter who later became a merchant. While it has interior detail and the exterior austerity and proportions of a Colonial house; the lightness of the interior, the room use, and the chimney arrangement are Federal, making the house transitional between the two periods. The house has been restored and stands as majestically today as it did when it was built. High on an embankment on the northwestern side of Danforth Street, it faces southeast toward the street. Originally the house overlooked Portland Harbor, but later landfill and construction has moved the harbor back and blocked it from view.

The brick for the two and a half story house probably came from a nearby brickyard. A common bond is employed with seven rows of stretchers between each row of headers. Two brick chimneys are built into either end wall. The granite on fieldstone foundation enclose a full basement, forty feet by thirty feet. The gable roof has been reshingled in asphalt. A one story gable roofed wing extends from the rear of the house; it is early but probably not original with the house.

The exterior of the Daniel How House has been restored as closely as possible to its original appearance. Because the original entrance had been removed, a sympathetic one has been reconstructed: Pilasters, supporting a wide entablature with dentil molding, frame the center doorway and fanlight above it. The two windows to either side of this doorway have brownstone lintels. The tops of the five windows on the second floor above are flush with the eaves. The side and rear windows have no lintels, a brick course continues above the window frame. All the windows are six over six, new replacements of the original windows. The windows on the facade are shuttered.

The center hall of the Daniel How House contains a front and rear stairway, separated on the first floor by a vaulted passageway and on the second by a fanlighted doorway. On each floor there are two rooms to either side of the hall, each with its own fireplace. The large fireplace in the kitchen has a Dutch oven.

With the exception of one mantle, all the original woodwork throughout the house is intact. It has been scraped down and repainted. This woodwork includes horizontal wainscoting with various moldings in most of the rooms; enclosures framing the indented windows, many of them panelled; and cornice moldings of classical design. The main stairway is particularly handsome: Pilasters mounted in the sloping wainscoting beside the stair pair with columns at the foot and head of each rail run of the double stair; the balusters are delicately turned; sawn scroll blocks are mounted at the end of each stair. The right front room on the first floor is noteworthy for the wave motif of the

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

chair rail and the two keystone arches framing the set back windows to either side of the fireplace.

The floor to ceiling height of the first floor is ten feet; of the second floor nine feet six inches. With the large windows, this gives the whole house a light, airy feeling.

The Daniel How House currently has a combined use. A business occupies the first floor, two apartments the second floor, and a third apartment the attic.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

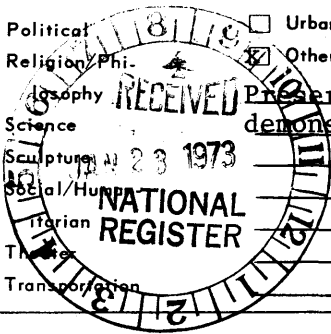
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1799

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | <u>Preservation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>demonstration.</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Daniel How House is one of the oldest residences on "The Neck" in Portland, surviving the Great Fire of 1866. Although used for the last one hundred years as a tenement, the basic features of the house have been little altered during its lifetime. The interior woodwork, remarkable in that it has been preserved throughout the house, is handsomely detailed and of the finest craftsmanship. It is of light, elegant design, the most complete remaining example of the work done in Portland at the end of the eighteenth century.

The house is interesting because it combines elements of two periods. While the facade appears Colonial, with a low roof line and paired windows, the depth of the house and the large window size suggest the spaciousness of the Federal period. On the interior, classical colonial detailing is used for the woodwork, but the room use and the generous space and emphasis given to circulation are more current with the time when the house was built. Removed from Boston, Portland was not quick to adopt current building styles. The How House was one of the last houses built before the Federal style really took hold in Portland.

The restoration of the Daniel How House was a demonstration project conducted by Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. and the Junior League of Portland, Maine, Inc. The restoration showed the community the feasibility of restoring an old building and adapting it to a contemporary use, returning it to the city as a living part of the urban fabric. For this reason also the Daniel How House is a landmark.

This restoration sparked activity in the neighborhood around the Daniel How House. Many other buildings have been and are being restored. Abutting the Daniel How House property from Pleasant Street on the northwest are the Joseph How House, 1818, a three and a half story double brick house built for a son of Daniel How, and the John How House, 1817, a two and a half story brick town house built for another son. Nearby are several brick Greek Revival residences. This historic residential area is an asset to Portland.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Daniel How House 1799. booklet published by Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. and the Junior League of Portland, Maine, Inc.; no date.

Goold, Nathan: "Mansion to Tenement", Portland Sunday Times, Portland, (January 28, 1900).

Hutchinson, Gloria: "Saving Landmarks is Just A Beginning", Maine Times, Topsham, Maine, (September 25, 1970), pp. 8-9.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 39 ' 14.0N	70° 15' 30.5W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.055 Ha La

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. DATE: June, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Mundy
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date January 15, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/24/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/16/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS