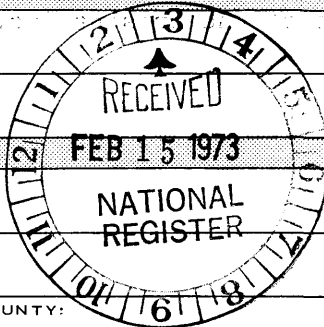


Hon. Peter N. Kyros

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maine</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Cumberland</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>MAY 7 1973</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON: \_\_\_\_\_  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Portland City Hall**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**389 Congress 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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**City of Portland**  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**389 Congress 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:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**  
DATE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	<b>Maine</b>
COUNTY:	<b>Cumberland</b>
ENTRY NUMBER	<b>MAY 7 1973</b>
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Portland City Hall rose from its ashes. The previous city hall, on the site of the present City Hall, completed in 1862, was burned in the Great Fire of 1866. It was reconstructed in 1867 by designs of Francis H. Fassett, Portland architect. In 1908, it burned again. So much damage was done that the building had to be removed.

The present Portland City Hall was designed by the New York architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings, assisted by local Portland architects, John Calvin I and John Howard Stevens. The impressive building was inspired by the New York City Hall, built 1803-1812. The cornerstone was laid in 1909; the building dedicated in 1912.

The City Hall fills almost the entire block bounded by Chestnut, Congress and Myrtle Streets and Cumberland Avenue. It is built in a "U" shape. The open side of the "U" is the main facade, facing southeast toward Congress Street. The building is 225 feet wide and about 135 feet deep. The 110 foot center of the facade is recessed 55 feet to form the "U". At the right rear of the building, along Myrtle Street, is a 150 foot long and 125 foot wide wing which houses an auditorium. The City Hall is four stories high and has a full basement. The tower is about 200 feet tall and can be seen from everywhere in the city. The granite for City Hall came from North Jay, Maine.

The main facade of the Portland City Hall is symmetrical. The details are tightly organized; the surface is kept quite flat. The recessed center are projecting wings frame a large entrance space which focuses on the recessed section of the facade. The first floor level is raised above the ground level. The entrance platform in front of the recessed section is approached by wide stairs directly in front or by narrow stairs and a platform along the inside face of each wing.

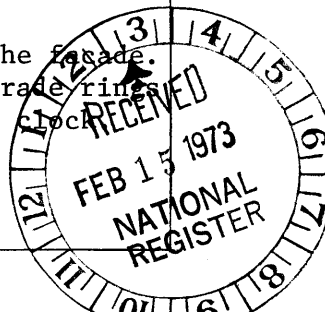
The recessed section of the facade has five bays. On the first floor are three arched portals which lead to the main entrance. On each side of these portals is an arched window. On the second floor are five rectangular windows with projecting, alternating arched and triangular pediments. The five third floor windows are simple squares. Above a dentil cornice and balustrade, five fourth floor dormer windows project from the roof.

Similar windows are found around the wings of the City Hall and down the sides: Square basement windows, arched first floor windows, rectangular second floor windows and square third floor windows which alternate with solid plaques of the same size. The wings and sides have no balustrades. The basement and first floor levels are rusticated.

The tower rises from the center of the recessed section of the facade. The square base has a round window in each face. Above, a balustrade rings open arches flanked by columns supporting a square section with a clock

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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Cumberland	
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	MAY 4 1973

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7. DESCRIPTION

2

Above the round dome is a flag pole and on top a weather vane.

The three entrance portals have wrought iron gates. The center one is topped by the phoenix and dolphins of the seal of the City of Portland.

The interior of the Portland City Hall has been excellently maintained. The public space remain the size they were originally and are handsomely painted. The main part of the City Hall houses the city offices and departments. The rear wing contains a public auditorium which seats 3,000 people and is used by the Portland Symphony Orchestra and for other concerts and events. The auditorium has been recently repainted and gives a splendid appearance. The auditorium contains the Hermann Kotzschmar organ, in 1912 the second largest organ in the world. Cyrus Hermann Kotzschmar Curtis, Portland native and editor and publisher of the Saturday Evening Post, gave this memorial to Hermann Kotschmar, Portland music instructor, composer and organist.



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1909-1912**

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When the Portland City Hall burned in 1908, a plan was put forth to build the new city hall bordering Lincoln Park with other new city, county and federal buildings, creating a municipal complex. The city voted against this plan and the present City Hall was erected on the old site, one block from Lincoln Park. The county and federal building were grouped around the park. Today these few blocks in the center of Portland form the heart of the city. Currently a new police station is being erected at the eastern end of Lincoln Park. Important new building is taking place first to the south - banks, offices, hotels, a convention center. The Portland City Hall because of its central, high location and tall tower, is the focal point for this whole district.

The Portland City Hall is an important example of the work of the firm of ~~Carrere and Hastings~~. John M. Carrere is quoted as saying he would rather have his reputation rest on the Portland City Hall than upon any other building he designed. The auditorium is excellent acoustically. The interior and exterior of the City Hall have a grand scale. The facades achieve an elegance because of their restrained detail. The entrance space in front of the City Hall is large and impressive; it creates a real transition between the street and the building. The Portland City Hall asserts itself today, maintaining its own unusual importance among new competitors.

The citizens of Portland use their City Hall for government and for entertainment. It has become a real part of their lives.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Exercises at Dedication of the New City Hall and Memorial Organ, Portland, Maine, August 22, 1912. Portland: 1912.

Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr. "City Quality In Its Official Residence". Portland, Maine: Evening Express, August 28, 1967.

Works Projects Administration. Portland City Guide. Portland: 1940.

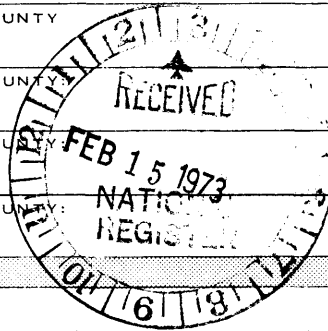
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		43 0 39 . 33 .	70 0 15 . 29 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/8 Acres

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: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: Nov., 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 February 12, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

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

Date 5/7/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 26 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 7 1973

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Greater Portland Landmarks Survey

1969                      Local

Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.  
Station A, Box 4197  
Portland, Maine                      23

