

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

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

For NCRS use only
received MAY 15 1980
date entered JUN 22 1980

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

1. Name

historic Williston-West Church & Parish House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 32 Thomas Street _____ not for publication

city, town Portland _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

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	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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of Williston-West Church

street & number 32 Thomas Street

city, town Portland, _____ vicinity of _____ state Maine 04101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

street & number 142 Federal Street

city, town Portland, _____ state Maine 04101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Portland Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, _____ state Maine

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Williston-West Church of Portland, designed by Francis H. Fassett and built in 1877, is a large brick complex of irregular plan in the Victorian Gothic style with denticulated cornice.

The facade faces east and is dominated by a 3-story tower, square in plan, built into the northeast corner of the building. The first story of the facade is covered by an ornate, partially enclosed 1-story porch. The second story contains a large Gothic window with simple tracery, flanked by two smaller windows. The tower itself has a pair of lancet windows in each side of its second story, while there is a larger pair in the third. The tower roof is hipped, while the roofs of the rest of the church are cross-gabled.

The north elevation is dominated by a central 3-bayed projecting wing with an ornate stained-glass window flanked by lancets below a rose window. The rear of the church, facing west, is 3 bays wide, each bay separated by attached buttresses. The most distinctive feature here is a large rose window.

A wing containing stained-glass windows on both its east and west sides runs south from the church to the parish house. The latter, built in 1905 on designs by John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens, is a large 2-story building of compatible style and detail.

At the time of the construction of the parish house Stevens also added the one story porch on the east facade of the church and also, unfortunately removed some of the High Victorian Gothic ornamentation, particularly on the tower.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 1877, 1905 **Builder/Architect** Francis H. Fassett, John Calvin Stevens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although not a highly significant architectural monument, the Williston-West Church is interesting as an amalgum of the talents of Maine's most noted mid-19th century architect, Francis H. Fassett, and her most famous nationally known architect, John Calvin Stevens, who designed, respectively, the church and the parish house. In this case the original Fassett building was probably a more outstanding work in its original state that it is today having been shorn of many of its Victorian ornaments by Stevens.

Of far greater significance, however, is the fact that at the Williston-West Church was founded in 1881 the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor by the Reverend Francis E. Clark (1851-1927). Beginning with a little band of neighborhood children who gathered in the church vestry for a religious meeting, the nucleus of the Christian Endeavor movement was formed which became nation-wide and eventually international in scope. Mr. Clark believed "that the young people of the world had not sufficient opportunity for religious activities, and that the way to secure for them the privileges of satisfactory Christian growth was to organize them into a body which had definite personal and religious duties."

Non-denominational in organization, the Christian Endeavor was the well-spring of the Sunday school movement which for the first time provided suitably oriented religious instruction for children. As individual demonstrations began developing their own Sunday school curricula, the size of the Christian Endeavor was reduced to some extent. There remains, nevertheless, an international membership of several hundred thousand, representatives of which will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the organization at the Williston-West Church in 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland City Guide. Portland, 1940.

Portland Historic Resources Inventory. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Portland West **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A	1 9	3 9 17	4 17 15	4 18	3 13	3 13 10	B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 62, Block E, Lot 5

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/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1980
 street & number 242 State 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 Earle S. Fretter
 title S.H.P.O. date 5/9/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bruce Van Donge</u>	date <u>6/22/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrus</u>	date <u>6/17/80</u>
Office of Registration	