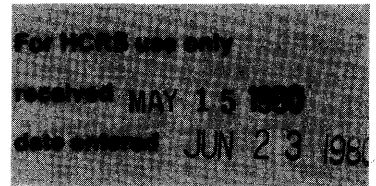


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Harrison B. Brown House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 400 Danforth Street _____ not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input 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. Stephen Parkhurst

street & number 400 Danforth 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

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 242 State Street; 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 Harrison B. Brown House of Portland, dating from 1861, is a vernacular example of the Italianate style.

The two-story building is of frame construction with two internal brick chimneys, hipped roof, bracketed cornice, clapboard siding, and brick foundation.

The 3-bay facade faces north-west and features a central entrance with enclosed projecting entry capped by a later added simple balustrade. The sides of this entry are fitted with elaborately framed oval windows. Fenestration is 6/6, save for the pavillioned left bay which consists of paired 4/4 windows.

The north-east side of the house is 3 bays long with 6/6 fenestration in the second story, and an elaborate projecting bay to the right side of the first story. The south-west side of the building is 2 bays wide, with 6/6 sash in the second story, and projecting bracketed bay windows below.

A two story ell in the rear contains a studio with large floor to ceiling windows overlooking Portland Harbor.

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 type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input checked="" 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 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 1861 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This property derives principal significance as the residence during most of his productive career of Harrison B. Brown, widely recognized 19th century marine and landscape painter.

Born in Portland in 1831, Harrison Bird Brown was orphaned at an early age and, leaving school, was apprenticed to a house and ship painting firm. His creative powers early demonstrated themselves in the drawings and paintings with which he covered the walls of the shop where he worked as well as every available scrap of paper.

Following his apprenticeship, he entered business for himself as a "sign and fancy painter" doing "oil graining, imitations of woods and marbles executed in the neatest manner". As a sideline at first, he produced landscapes and portraits and was encouraged in the former by Portland's art critic, John Neal. Brown soon began concentrating on the depiction of nature and was first listed in the Portland Reference Book in 1858 as a landscape painter.

His success seems to have been almost immediate. Between 1858 and 1860 five of his pictures, borrowed from their owners, were shown at the National Academy of Design in New York. Thereafter he was the only Maine artist of his day to exhibit there.

As his career became established he acquired numerous pupils including the sculptor, Franklin Simmons, and the animal painter, Scott Leighton.

Brown's output was large because he depended on the sale of his paintings for an income to support the fairly high standard of living which his family seemed to demand. His best work dates from the 1860's and early 70's when his style was delicate and detailed and his colors rich and vibrant. Some of his later work had the feeling of studio potboilers.

He was perhaps best known as a marine painter and his painting of White Head on Monhegan Island was exhibited in the Maine pavilion of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893.

In 1892 Brown moved with his family from Portland to London, England, where he died in 1915.

The house, built by Brown in 1861, was his residence until his departure for England.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland Reference Book. Portland, 1858.
 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., "Harrison Brown Most Popular Local Artist in 19th Century".
 Portland Evening Express, August 10, 1968.
 E. H. Elwell, Portland and Vicinity. Portland, 1876.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Portland West Quadrangle scale 1:24000
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UMT References

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>9</u> | <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>17</u> | <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>15</u> | <u>4</u> <u>18</u> | <u>3</u> <u>12</u> | <u>9</u> <u>12</u> <u>10</u> | B | | | | | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | Zone | Easting | Northing | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | D | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | F | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | H | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 61, Block I, Lot 1

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

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. Shettleworth Jr.
 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

[Signature] date 6/27/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *[Signature]* date 6/18/80