

PH0365238

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 25 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAR 10 1977

**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 Byron Greenough Block

AND/OR COMMON

Lower H.H. Hay Block

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Free and Middle Streets

CITY, TOWN

Portland

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st Honorable David Emery

STATE

Maine

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

23

COUNTY

Cumberland

CODE

005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

J. B. Brown and Sons

STREET & NUMBER

57 Exchange Street

CITY, TOWN

Portland,

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

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

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Byron Greenough (H. H. Hay) Block is a four story triangular brick building situated at the intersection of Free and Middle Streets near the center of the Portland peninsula. The original exterior has been altered by the addition of the fourth story and various up datings of the first story store fronts, but it retains most of its Greek Revival detailing and hence its massive, solid presence.

The building has two sections, with a slight horizontal offset to accommodate the rise in the ground level to the west. The major facade, facing north on Middle Street, is about 90 feet long. There are five bays, each determined by the vertical continuity of the windows on each story, to the section nearest the street intersection; six bays to the western section.

Granite columns support a wide lintel above the first story. Originally, large windows and entrances alternated between the columns and signs for H.H. Hay and Sons covered the lintel. In 1889, 38 feet of the store front was remodeled with new windows. Today the first story has modern store fronts.

The original window openings with granite sills and lintels remain on the second and third floors. The projecting brick stringcourses of the original cornice remain except on the most westerly three bays, but the wooden balustrade was removed for the addition of the fourth story in 1919, designed by John Calvin Stevens. The brick and detailing of this story match the original brick and trim; it is difficult to tell it has been added.

The cornice has bricks set in relief as dentils, supporting a wide overhanging wooden molding. The roof is flat, with a penthouse on the western section.

The facade facing southeast toward Free Street, about 100 feet long, is largely intact. There are four bays to the section nearest the intersection, and six bays to the western section. The windows are detailed as on the Middle Street facade. The cornice continues around the building. The first story is mostly solid brick with some windows blocked up and receiving doors inserted.

Facing the intersection of Free and Middle Streets is a narrow one bay facade. The detail of the Middle Street facade originally carried around to this facade. In 1889, a plate glass bay window was inserted. The third and fourth stories show the original slight bow to the brick at the middle of this facade.

The last three bays of the western section now form a separate building which does not connect through the party wall to the rest of the original block. This building has been sandblasted recently, and, with the offset of its fourth story windows and the lack of stringcourses between the third

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and fourth stories, does not look as if it were part of the original block. However, a sketch on an H. H. Hay bill of 1868 shows that it was.

The granite for the trim on the Byron Greenough Block came from Kennebunkport. It is in good condition today. The brick is in good condition also. The walls were probably painted originally. Today, mustard yellow paint is peeling from them,

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/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 checked="" 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

1848, 1919

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Byron Greenough (H. H. Hay) Block occupies a crucial location in downtown Portland - the triangular land at the intersection of two major streets. It is a stately architectural solution for a building on such a difficult site. Its unusual shape and long history as the home of the H. H. Hay Drug Company give identity to that part of Portland's downtown today, as they have in the past.

One of the older Greek Revival commercial buildings in Portland, the Byron Greenough Block survived the Great Fire of 1866. The simply articulated Greek Revival features of the building - the granite columns, lintels and sills, the brick stringcourses, the balance of the vertical bays created by the windows with the horizontal continuity of the flat brick walls give the building a massive dignity.

The Byron Greenough Block acts as a foil to the more elaborate Victorian period commercial buildings opposite it on Free Street, and will be able to hold its own against whatever new construction finally faces it on Middle Street. The block is an appropriate anchor for the rhythmic building facades along Middle Street, which, with the recent Maine Way urban renewal improvements, is a focal point of downtown Portland.

The Byron Greenough Block is named for the man who built it in 1848, Byron Greenough. He made and sold hats and furs, using the building as his place of business until around 1856. He was active in the local Baptist church and apparently bequeathed the block to the church in 1871 - 1872, after which it yielded a substantial annual income. The Maine Baptist Missionary Convention sold the building in 1924.

Henry Homer Hay (1820 - 1895) moved his wholesale and retail drug, paint and dyestuff business to this block in 1856, renting the space. His sons joined him in the business and it became H.H. Hay and Son, continuing in the same location. In 1945 the block was sold to the company, which owned it until 1964. H.H. Hay was a member of the New Jerusalem church, the Natural History Society and the Board of Trade. He was respected by his contemporaries as an honest, hard working and talented business man. The long tenancy of his company have given the block the name it is most commonly known by; his business made it a landmark in a personal sense.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds, Registry of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse, 142 Federal Street, Portland.

Portland Advertiser, March 22, 1848, "Granite of Maine".

Portland Daily Press, May 28, 1889

Continued pg 2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

LEBONUM
3.4.77

A

1	9	3	9	8	5	7	0	4	0	3	4	3	3	5
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Marilyn Pomeroy
Mary-Eliza Wengren

ORGANIZATION Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

DATE January 1977

STREET & NUMBER Station A Box 4197

TELEPHONE (207) 774-5561

CITY OR TOWN Portland, Maine

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 National Park Service.

Carole S. Fretwell
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF [Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3/10/77

ATTEST: [Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3/9/77

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Portland Directories, 1848-1860, Portland, Maine, collection of the
Maine Historical Society, Portland

Portland Transcript, November 1, 1893, "Pillars of Portland XLII; Henry
Homer Hay - Our Oldest Druggist".