

PH0354554

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 15 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 29 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 Hayford Block
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 47 Church Street
CITY, TOWN: Belfast
STATE: Maine
VICINITY OF: ---
COUNTY: Waldo
CODE: 23
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: ---
PRESENT USE: ~~2nd - Hon. William Cohen~~ 1st

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Hayford Block Corporation
STREET & NUMBER: 47 Church Street
CITY, TOWN: Belfast
STATE: Maine
VICINITY OF: ---

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Waldo County Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Belfast
STATE: Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:
DATE:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
CITY, TOWN:
STATE:

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 first section of the Hayford Block, built in 1866, is a large triangular granite and brick structure of three stories in the "flat iron" form, with a flat roof and greatly overhanging bracketed cornice. The attached addition, built in 1869, is a four story rectangular building which continues the main facade along Church Street but runs off at an angle away from Main Street in the rear. Except for the additional story, the architectural detail of the older section is carried on in the addition on the Church Street facade.

Working from right to left on the main (or Church Street) facade and starting from the highest level of the building, there are eleven evenly spaced square windows with granite lintels and sills on the fourth floor of the addition. These fourth floor two-over-two windows and those on the two floors below in the addition are separated into groups of four, three, and four by projecting brick panels.

The third floor of the block contains eighteen rectangular two-over-two windows with granite lintels and sills along the main facade, three across the narrow point of the building (with the words "Hayford Block 1866" above) and seven along the the secondary facade on Main Street.

The second floor is identical to the third in all respects except that the sixth window on the main facade is a granite framed loading aperture.

The first floor is completely granite framed and faced and comprises commercial shops with large plate glass windows. Progressing again right to left along the main facade the opening sequence is: single (stage) door, double door, window, window, double door, window, window, double door, window, window, double door, window, ornate arched entrance with the words "Opera House" carved above arch, two-over-two window, double door, two-over-two window, two-over-two window. The narrow point of the bilding has three two-over-two windows, and the secondary facade has seven.

The slope of the land allows for a basement open to the street beginning at the point of the building and running along the secondary (Main Street) facade. At this level on the narrow point of the building is a double door flanked by square plate glass windows. The basement level of the secondary facade continues with a series of shop windows and doors. From right to left these are: a large display window of six panes, a double door, two more six paned windows, a double door, another display window and a single door.

The rear of the rectangular addition which slants away from Main Street is windowless on the fourth floor and on the three remaining floors has identical evenly spaced rows of eight two-over-two windows with granite sills and lintels. The remaining wall of the addition, which is behind the auditorium stage, is blank.

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Internally, the Opera House, historically termed Hayford Hall, is impressive in its stylistic restraint. Its doors and internal window shutters are panelled and the balcony which runs around three sides of the hall has ornamental panelling in horizontal blocks. A lower moulding on the balcony is supported by decorative dentils. The proscenium is a graceful and simple low arch. The hall is 94 feet deep, 60 feet wide and 22 feet high; the stage measures 23 feet by 25. Seating capacity is 1300 though the seats have been removed.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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) <i>4.25.77</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1866, 1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the first commercial structures erected after the disastrous fire of 1865, the Hayford Block, with its impressive transitional Greek Revival and Italianate features, reflected the determination of Belfast citizens to achieve an architectural and cultural level beyond anything that had gone before. The finely appointed opera house, coupled with what was then the most up to date in commercial and business space design, seemed to point the way toward a broadly based and bright future for the city.

Financed and owned by Axel Hayford, a prominent businessman and also mayor of the city, the three story portion of the building was completed in 1866 at the sharply angled corner of Church and Main Streets. The addition, containing four stories and including the opera house (then called Hayford Hall), was built in 1869. The dedication of the hall took place on the evening of May 12, 1869 at a "Grand Fancy Calico Dress Ball", the proceeds of which were to be "devoted to the purchase of a handsome drop curtain for the stage to be painted by our accomplished local artist, William M. Hall".

Still considered the finest structure of its kind in 1888, it displayed the first five electric arc lights ever lit in the city.

Over the years the stage of the opera house was graced by leading figures of the legitimate stage and vaudeville in an era when travelling companies flourished and community theatres provided almost the only public entertainment available. Productions of local origin also frequently found their way to the boards of this spacious house.

The Hayford Block holds a well deserved position of importance in the history of Belfast at mid-century and serves as a reminder of the aspirations of the then thriving seaport and commercial center.

