

1004-0019
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received JUN 20 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Hamblen Block or Hamblen's Row

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 188-194 Danforth Street N/A not for publication

city, town Portland, N/A vicinity of congressional district

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Portland, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Hamblen Block (1835) consists of four adjacent brick row-houses of almost identical configuration. Each is three-and-one-half stories tall above a half-story basement, the common foundation being of field-stone with granite trim. Their pitched roofs are asphalt and/or slate shingled, shielded by parapets, and prominently separated by party-wall projections, each of which abuts two chimnies. The block's gable ends are flat, unornamented, and irregularly fenestrated.

The four facades retain a sharp and quite uniform appearance, although inspection reveals small idiosyncracies of later date. Each is three-bayed with entrance hall to the right, the doorways framed by simple Greek Revival surrounds. Two of the entries (nos. 188 and 194) retain their original sidelights. One original door (no. 192) has been replaced by Victorian double doors, with an iron railing replacing the original wooden bannister.

Each facade window has a brownstone sill and lintel. Fenestration is as follows: short, double-sash on the basement and top half-stories, full double-sash on the first floor, and triple sash on the second floor. Number 190 is the exception, the second-story windows having been reduced to double-sash length (date unknown). About one-third of the windows retain their original 6/6 and 6/6/6 glass (3/3 in the half-stories).

The brickwork is painted on all elevations save for the rear walls of the two middle units (nos. 190 and 192). The facade windows had shutters as late as 1924.

An ornamental iron-work balcony that originally extended across the entire facade, below the second-story windows, was long ago removed. A few iron supports remain as evidence.

Small yards for each unit extend to the block's rear. The rear elevation is plain but regularly fenestrated. The windows are segmentally arched with brick lintels. A one-story brick ell extends to the rear of number 188.

The interiors are simply ornamented in the Greek Revival manner, with original doors, railings, mantels, etc.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1835 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Portland's Hamblen Block is one of the two oldest surviving units of brick Greek Revival row-houses in the state. The type is extremely uncommon in Maine generally, the few other examples, with the exception of the Samuel True Block (1835-36) in Bangor, being confined to Park Street in Portland.

Portland's Park Street row-houses, including the notable Park Place Row, were constructed exclusively in the late 1840's, more than a decade after the Hamblen Block. While Park Place Row is the largest and perhaps most decorative of the city's rows, its originally uniform facade is interrupted at two points by later Victorian bays. Except for the most minor changes, notably the replacement of one door and certain window sashes, the Hamblen Block remains completely uniform.

Bangor's True Block, dating from the same year as the Hamblen, has experienced numerous exterior alterations and is in poor physical condition.

The Hamblen Block is named for its developers, Nathaniel and Eli Hamblen, who financed numerous other rows and double-houses during Portland's westward expansion.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland City Guide, American Guide Series. Portland, 1940.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	9	8	0	8	0	4	8	3	3	3	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 57, Lots K6, K7, K8, K9

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Commission date 4/83

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207-289-2132

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

E. S. Hetherington

title S. H. P. O.

date 5/20/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/21/83

Albion Bryn
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Hamblen Block

Item number 4

Page 2

188 Danforth Street - Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

190 Danforth Street - Horace Gilmore

192 Danforth Street - Fr. Reginald Goan

194 Danforth Street - Sallie Ullman

All properties are occupied by owners.