

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 15 1985**

date entered **APR 11 1985**

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

1. Name

historic State Reform School Historic District

and or common Boy's Training School

2. Location

street & number Westbrook Street vicinity **N/A** not for publication

city, town South Portland, **N/A** vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Maine - Bureau of Public Improvements

street & number State House Station #77

city, town Augusta, **N/A** vicinity of state Maine 04333

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 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 State Reform School Historic District consists of seven nineteenth- and early twentieth-century institutional buildings prominently situated on high, open ground. The institution is bounded on the south by Long Creek and Interstate 295 and on the north and east by Portland International Airport. To the west is a modern residential development. The district incorporates all of the surviving historic structures within the grounds of what is now the Boy's Training Center.

Buildings and Sites Contributing to the Character of the District:

1. Administration Building: 1851-53, "Elizabethian" style, four stories, brick with granite trim, Greek Cross plan, Tudor arched windows, doors and porch, corbelled cornice, Gridley J. F. Bryant architect.
2. Cottage Number 1: 1893/c.1910, Colonial REVival, brick, two-and-one-half stories, gable roof, enclosed entrance vestibule, classical trim.
3. Cottage Number 2: 1896-97, Colonial Revival, brick, two-and- one-half stories, gable roof, portico with columns and balustrade, John Calvin Stevens, architect.
4. Cottage Number 3: 1903-04, Colonial REVival, three stories, brick construction, hipped roof, central pavilion with pedimented gable and porch supported on Tuscan columns, basement level rusticated brick, Coombs and Gibbs, architects.
5. Cottage Number 4: 1903-04 (same as above).
6. Grounds Building: 1903- 04, two-and-one-half story barn with one-and-one-half story wing, wood construction with clapboard siding, jerkin head gable end with cornice supported on paired brackets and windows with small paned lights, Coombs and Gibbs, architects.
7. A. R. Gould School: 1921, one-and-one-half story brick building with a steeply pitched hipped roof. Supporting a neo-classical belfry, central pavilion with pedimented gable end, porch supported on Tuscan columns.

Nonconforming Intrusions:

8. Cornish Building Gymnasium: 1956, two-story brick building with low pitched gable roof.
9. Cottage Number 5: c. 1970, one story trailer, metal and wood construction.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Various

Builder/Architect

Gridley J. F. Bryant, Coombs + Gibbs
(See description) John Calvin Stevens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The State Reform School for Boys is historically significant as the first institution of its kind in Maine. The buildings in the district, which are largely unaltered, reflect important developments in the efforts to rehabilitate wayward boys during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Moreover, the main building, constructed 1851–53, was designed by one of the leading architects in New England, Gridley J. F. Bryant of Boston. Two important Maine architectural firms, John Calvin Stevens of Portland and Coombs and Gibbs of Lewiston, provided designs for later buildings.

Maine's state legislature authorized construction of a reform school for boys on August 20, 1850. By the end of the year architectural plans had been prepared and a site selected in Cape Elizabeth, a rural suburb of Portland. Although similar institutions existed in other states such as New York and Pennsylvania, this was the first boys school in Maine. An early report noted that, "Our purpose is to reclaim them while they may be reclaimed, that we may not have to incarcerate and punish them, when they can only be incarcerated and punished." Constructed between 1851–53, the structure was built to house 300 inmates.

Boston architect Gridley J. F. Bryant included a specialization in prison design in his large practice. His Charles Street Jail in Boston (1848–1851) earned him international recognition. The Maine State Reform School building is similar to the Charles Street Jail in that it employed a cruciform plan with cells in the wings which radiate from a central core containing classrooms, workrooms, and eating facilities. The exterior design, termed "Elizabethan", featured Tudor arches, octagonal stair towers and a corbelled cornice. Granite lintels, sills and water table provide a sharp contrast to the red brick walls.

Throughout the nineteenth century the school changed in response to more progressive theories of juvenile reform. There were three departments intended to provide useful employment: farming, mechanical (shoemaking and a tailor's shop) and domestic (cleaning, baking, laundry). Originally, the boys were located in unheated cells during the night. In 1871 steam heating was introduced and three years later the cells were replaced by dormitories.

Another major change was the introduction of the "Cottage or Family system" in which the boys were housed in smaller dormitories, called cottages. As explained in the 44th Annual Report, "The boys of each cottage, living together as one family with their cottage father, mother and teacher, are surrounded by the comforts and wholesome influences of home itself..." Once again the Board of Trustees selected a leading firm to advance this cottage. Portland architect John Calvin Stevens designed cottage numbers one and two, completed in 1893 and 1897, respectively.

A major enlargement of the institution occurred in the early 1900s. Lewiston architects George Coombs and Eugene Gibbs designed two more cottages in 1903–04. They also prepared plans for a large new barn and, in 1905–06, designs to remodel the interior and exterior of the Administration Building. The new scheme removed all of the dormitory space and remodelled

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Reports of the Maine State Reform School, 1854-1921.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 20

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

19	394390	4832320
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

19	394840	4832260
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

19	394855	4832190
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

19	394450	4832040
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the main entrance (NE) of the building #1, the district boundary runs Se along the front drive to a point 75' SE of the same building thence easterly following the road to building #6, around this building at a 50' distance and then SW and W along the outer perimeter road passing the rear of buildings #7, 5, 4, 3, 9, and

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/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1985

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. Patterson*

title J.H.P.O. date 2/8/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in 1985 National Register date 4-11-85

John S. Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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STATE REFORM SCHOOL HISTORIC DISTRICT
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the supervisors' residence in the front of the structure. The only exterior changes were the replacement of large Tudor arched windows in the wings with smaller rounded arched windows. The construction of the Gould School in 1921 completed the major changes, by removing the classrooms from the hosues and centralizing them in one structure.

All of the buildings remain largely unaltered from their early twentieth century appearances. The removal of the cupola from the Administration Building is the only major change to that structure since 1905. Still used as a boys reform school, the institution has seen the addition of numerous other small structures following the cottage plan.

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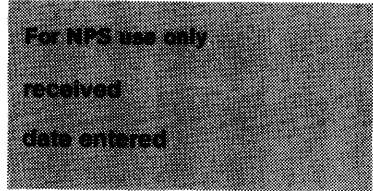
**National Register of Historic Places
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STATE REFORM SCHOOL HISTORIC DISTRICT

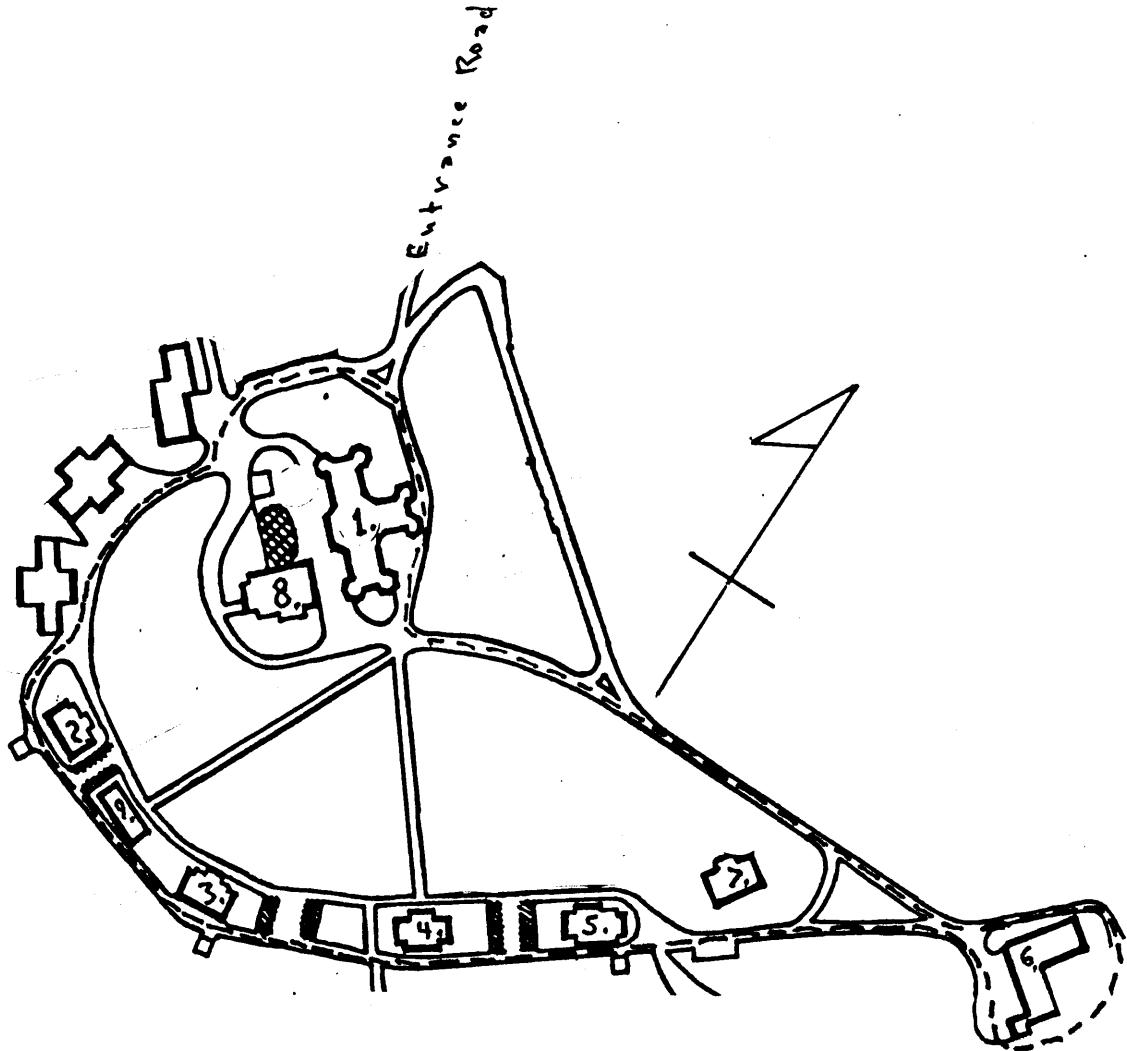
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2 then joining the inner perimeter drive N and NE to the entrance road and S to the point of beginning. This area includes all buildings fifty years old or more within the complex.



State Reform School Historic District, Portland, Maine

District Boundary-----

Scale: 1:3600 