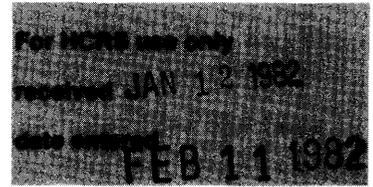


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Masonic Temple

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 415 Congress Street N/A not for publication

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

state Maine code 023 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social

4. Owner of Property

name Ram & Company

street & number 103 Exchange Street

city, town Portland, _____ vicinity of state Maine

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

date N/A N/A federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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

Portland's Masonic Temple, dating from 1911, is a large and well-designed example of a commercial block in the style of Beaux Arts Classicism. Designed by Frederick A. Thompson, the building is of brick construction, with a flat roof covering six stories.

The facade of the building, which faces southeast, is five bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance contains a recessed double doorway beneath a two-story arched bay flanked by large pilasters of Doric form.

The building's fenestration is complex. In the first story are a series of four large shop windows. At the second-story level and above the bays at the ends of the facade consist of double windows, each containing three panes; the central bays (two in the second story and three above that level) consist of triple windows.

Between the second and third stories is an ornate frieze with denticulation and triglyphs and metopes in the classical manner. Extending the full height of the third, fourth, and fifth stories are Corinthian pilasters and--framing the central bay--fluted attached columns in pairs. Between the fifth and sixth stories is a denticulated projecting cornice.

Although the sides and rear of the Masonic Temple feature more restrained detail, they are equally monumental in character.

The interior features a very large highly decorated hall two stories in height with attached Corinthian columns along all four walls reaching to the ceiling. The remainder of the interior consists largely of undistinguished office space.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1911 **Builder/Architect** Frederick A. Thompson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Masonic Building, designed by Frederick A. Tompson of Portland, is a restrained but impressive Beaux Arts structure located in a key position on Congress Street between the First Parish Church (N.R. 1/12/73) and the Portland City Hall (N.R. 5/ 7/73) and was completed in the same year as the dedication of the latter.

In addition to office space in the front with stores on the ground floor, the rear portion is occupied by the Grand Lodge of Maine which was initiated in 1820 and is the chief center of Maine Masonic activities. Prior to that lodges had existed in what is now Maine, then under the aegis of Massachusetts, beginning with a charter for a lodge in Falmouth (now Portland) in 1762, signed among others by Paul Revere.

Recently rehabilitated, the Masonic Building is a handsome contributor to one of Portland's finest streetscapes.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland City Guide, American Guide Series. Portland, 1940. **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1
Quadrangle name Portland West Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 27, Block B, Lot 7

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	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 January, 1981

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. [Signature]*

title S. H. P. O. date 12/15/81

For HCERS use only

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

[Signature] Covered in the National Register date 2/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration