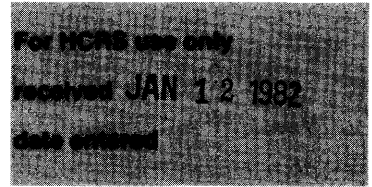


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Lancaster Block

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 474 Congress Street N/A not for publication

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

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ram & Company

street & number 103 Exchange Street

city, town Portland, vicinity of state Maine 04101

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		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

Portland's Lancaster Block of 1881 is a large and very well preserved example of Romanesque Revival style in a commercial context.

The block which faces northwest, is of brick construction with six stories. Originally it stood four stories high; in 1908 two stories were added, which are sympathetic to the original design.

The facade is seven bays wide, the central bay being a slightly projecting pavilion with triangular pediment above the fourth story. The first story has been modernized with a veneer of signage and siding which has not damaged the building. In the second story each bay consists of a large opening covered by a low brick arch; below this arch is a plate glass window with two small arched windows above. Immediately above the central bay is a granite block with "1881" carved upon it. The third-story bays are of similar detail, except that here each contains two 1/1 windows below small arched windows. The fourth-story bays consist of pairs of arched windows, fenestration being 1/1 with a small window above.

Above the fourth story is an ornate frieze with terra cotta panels containing floral motifs. Above the central bay of the fourth story is a granite block carrying the inscription "Lancaster".

The fifth story bays are rectangular, being paired 1/1 windows with small windows above; here the central bay is a lunette with keystone. Separating the fifth and sixth stories are recessed panels, two per bay. The sixth and top story contains bays consisting of paired 1/1 windows below brick arches with keystones. At the level of the flat roof there is a cornice with a wide projection.

The northeast side of the building is attached to another block to the fourth-floor level. The southwest side of the block is fully exposed. While this, like the facade, is seven bays wide, the bays are much more widely-spaced, though of equivalent detail.

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 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 1881 **Builder/Architect** Francis H. Fassett-John Calvin Stevens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lancaster Block is a robust Romanesque Revival building which stands as a key structure in Portland's Monument Square. This area, on the edge of the nationally recognized Exchange Street and Waterfront section, is now undergoing a similar rehabilitation and revitalization in which this block plays a vital role.

Built in 1881 from designs by Fassett and Stevens, this was the last of a number of important buildings erected by the noted Portland financier, John B. Brown, 1805-1881, who rose from grocery boy to become the leading capitalist in the city.^A The Lancaster Block, in fact, was built on the site of Lancaster Hall, constructed 30 years earlier by Brown. Both of these buildings were named after Brown's place of birth in New Hampshire.

The original prime tenant, Loring, Short and Harmon, Stationers, still remains one hundred years later in that capacity.

The fourth and fifth stories, added in 1908, are attributed to Francis H. Fassett's firm.

A. (See J. B. Brown Memorial Block - N.R. 5/23/78.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Shettleworth, E. G., Jr., Portland's Heritage, Portland Evening Express, July 16, 1966.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2
 Quadrangle name Portland West *with certified 7/12/83 D.M.C. sheet* Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>398425</u>	<u>48343210</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 27, Block F, Lot 1

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

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	date <u>9.29.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

EXP. 12/31/84

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

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

LANCASTER BLOCK

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

The Lancaster Block was one of only four major Queen Anne commercial buildings built between 1880 and 1885 in Portland. Two of these are already on the National Register. (J. B. Brown Block; First National Bank in Portland Waterfront Historic District.) It is distinguished by its restrained yet rich detail. Although credited to the firm of Fassett and Stevens, it is known that this was John Calvin Stevens independent design and his first business block in Queen Anne style which was not used by Fassett.

The commercial significance of the building lies in the fact that it represents the culmination of the career of J. B. Brown, Portland's greatest late 19th century capitalist and industrialist. It is also the most dominant commercial structure remaining in Monument Square, long a center of commerce in the city.