

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 22 1985

date entered MAR 21 1985

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

1. Name

historic Portland City Hospital
and or common

2. Location

street & number Brighton Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Portland, N/A vicinity of
state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Housing Resources Corporation
street & number One Canal Plaza
city, town Portland, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04112

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

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

The Portland City Hospital is a large complex of two-and-one-half story brick buildings joined together by two story wings. Designed as a unified complex, each section has Colonial Revival style features which vary in degree of ornamentation. Variety is also evident in the roof configurations, which are either hipped, gabled or flat. The windows, which contain original sash, are flat arched for the exterior facades visible from the street. For rear elevations, facing "inward", a more plain segmental arch is used.

The main building, which is three-and-one-half stories high, is the most architecturally distinguished. A porch with a classical balustrade extends across the first story, while the hipped roof has a cornice with modillion blocks and a Dormer with a Palladian window. A belt course and decorative lintels also enhance the principal facade. Each subsidiary building has identical window treatment, plus a corbelled cornice and round arched entrance with a lunette.

The interior of these buildings were designed primarily for fire safety and contain little ornamental features. Wood mantelpieces in the main building are the only notable exceptions. Brick walls and plain cast iron hand rails characterize the rest of the interiors.

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/ 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 1902-04 **Builder/Architect** F. H. & E. H. Fassett

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Portland City Hospital is significant as the original city almshouse, constructed in 1902-04. Designed by one of Maine's leading architectural firms, Francis H. and Edward H. Fassett, the complex represented a commitment by the community to care for the impoverished citizens. This group of structures are actually several large buildings linked by smaller wings to form a complete ensemble which remains largely unaltered on the exterior.

Constructed between 1902-04 as the city almshouse, this complex continued a local tradition of providing a home for the indigent which began in circa 1760. The theory behind its construction was to bring the poor into one building for "convenience and economy". It was intended that this structure would be large enough to obviate the need for public assistance outside the institution by forcing the poor to commit themselves. This in turn would provide the incentive for them to become self-sufficient. Accordingly the interior was quite austere with virtually no ornamentation. The architect's design for the exterior, while fairly simple, is a stylish interpretation of the Colonial Revival mode. Clearly the architects were following instructions from the building committee to create an institution which, on the exterior, was a credit to the city without being austentatious.

With the decline of public institutions such as almshouses in the second quarter of this century, the complex underwent a conversion for use as the city hospital. In a sense its function did not change, for its purpose was to care for the sick who could not find assistance in private hospitals. More recently, the complex was vacated and awaits conversion subsidized housing for the elderly.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Reports of the City of Portland, 1901, 1903, 1904.

Archives, Greater Portland Landmarks, Incorporated.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1½

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 19 | 393160 | 4836640
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 269, Block B, Lot 1-41

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title 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 Ernie S. Pettrewody

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

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
for Delores Byers
Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 3-21-85

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration