Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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## 7 DESCRIPTION

	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X_EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	X_UNALTERED	_xORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. Lawrence Congregational Church in Portland is a unique and dramatic example of the Queen Anne style in an ecclesiastical context.

The building's first story and tower are of stone construction, while the is of frame construction with slate siding. The gabled roofs are covered with slate.

The exterior of the church is dominated by a circular tower at its west corner. This tower is entirely built of stone, and is two stories tall with an open belfry above. On the first story the noth-west and south-west sides of the tower are encased by arched entrances below decorative peaks, the principal doorway lying on the north-west side. This doorway consists of two pairs of double doors with plate tracery in the arch above. The secondary doorway to the south-west is comprised of a double door with similar, though smaller scale, decoration above. The second story of the tower contains two tall arched windows. The belfry contains arched apertures, each with a decorative peak above. The tower roof is conical. Attached to the tower between the two entrances, and rising to a height of two stories, is a small circular turret with a conical roof. This turret contains two narrow arched windows at different levels and five rectangular windows just below the roof.

The principal sections of the North-west and south-west walls of the church are identical. These consist on the first story of three arched stained-glass windows with plate tracery above. These are flanked by a pair of smaller arched windows. As with the entrances, there is a decorative peak above the larger window dows, while between the groups of peaks is crenellation. The upper level of both sides of the church is inset from the lower story, and lies in the gable ends. Decoration here features a large circular rose window flanked by miniature attached turrets. At the junction of roof and wall on each corner of the gable ends are additional miniature turrets.

To the left side of the north-west facade is the main entrance to the church. This is contained in a projecting gabled entry with an arched stained-glass window on each of the two sides. The doorway is arched, and above it in the entry gable end is a small rose window.

Beyond the main entrance, running to the north-east , is an attached parish hall in stone. Here decorative detail is more restrained in the seven-bay-wide two-story facade.



PERIOD	PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION			
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SPECIFIC DATES 1897 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Arthur B. Jennings			ings		

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Lawrence Church, a large and architecturally unique complex, stands near the top of Munjoy Hill, a culturally mixed neighborhood which it serves without regard to creed. Though nominally a Congregational church, it is now surrounded by a population predominantly Catholis in religious affiliation. It is particularly noted **66**r its Thirteen Class, founded in 1905, which now numbers a thousand men of all faiths and races.<sup>1</sup>.

The parish dates from 1857 when "eight Christian men residing on Munjoy Hill formed a corporation under the laws of the state for the purpose of building a house of worship on St. Lawrence Street". The following year St. Lawrence Chapel was built. The present church, erected in 1897, was dedicated in 1922 as a memorial to Rev. Abiel Holmes Wright who had served as pastor from 1871 to 1903.

The building was designed by Arthur B. Jennings of New York City, an architect of unusual imagination, noted for his design of the fanciful stone summer residence in Camden, Maine, known as "Norumbega" (N.R. 7/12/74). Jennings is remembered for his massive stone buildings of eclectic design incorporating elements of Richardsonian Romanesque and the Chateauesque style.<sup>2</sup>.

St. Lawrence Church, both because of its architectural distinction and its record of community service, stands as a focal point for this important urban neighborhood.

- 1. The Thirteen Class, a non-sectarian men's discussion and social action group includes large numbers of resedents of the immediate local area. Known throughout the city, this group has addressed itself particularly to the socio-economic problems peculiar to the Munjoy Hill community.
- 2. St. Lawrence Church is unique in Maine ecclesiastical architecture and reflects the romantic and fanciful approach typical of Jennings.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1

Portland City Guide, American Guide Series. Portland, 1940

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn, <u>Biographical Dictionary of American</u> <u>Architects</u>. Los Angeles, 1970

<b>10 GEOGRAP</b>	HICAL DATA				
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ORGANIZATION				DATE	
STREET & NUMBER	<u>Maine Historic P</u>	reservatio	on Commission	October TELEPHONE	<u>, 1978</u>
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criteria and procedu	res set forth by the Nation	nal Park Service	e.	• •	
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