

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 21 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Marine Hospital

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
331 Veranda Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1st: Hon. Peter N. Kyros

COUNTY:
Cumberland

CODE:
23

CODE:
005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>U.S. Public Health</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Outpatient Service Clinic</u>

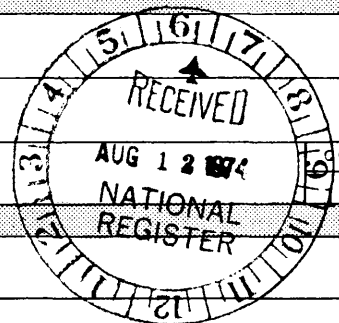
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Department of the Navy

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maine Historic Resources Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta,

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

AUG 21 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Portland Marine Hospital is a large, three story brick and granite building which was designed on an H plan in order to allow for the maximum sunlight and ventilation of its rooms and porches. Its siting atop a peninsula by the ocean was probably done in the 19th century belief that sea air was healthful.

The Marine Hospital is an imposing and dignified structure of the Italian style popular in mid-19th century America. The facade is comprised of three parts, a central section of five bays with a cast iron porch and a flanking section of two bays on either side. The first story of the middle section has a central entrance with a sidelight on either side. The doorway is flanked on either side by two windows possessing granite sills and lintels. The first story of each side section has a doorway and a window. While the windows have granite sills, the lintel for both the windows and doorways are provided by a thick projecting granite stringcourse just above them.

The second and third story facade of the central section basically repeats the design of the first story. However, the second and third story flanking sections eliminate the doorway and feature two windows with granite sills and lintels instead.

The highlight of the facade is the three story cast iron porch. This remarkable porch exhibits an intricate array of geometric and plant forms in iron on a large scale. The porch is topped by a thick projecting molding with a series of large dentils. This cornice molding is carried out in brick around the entire roofline of the building.

Both side walls of the front portion of the hospital are two bays deep with two windows at each of the three levels. The first story windows have granite sills with the massive granite stringcourse acting as the lintels. The second and third story windows possess granite sills and lintels. The corners of the building are decorated with large granite quoins in the Italian manner. The rear walls of the first section repeat the design of the side walls.

Both walls of the middle portion of the hospital were originally comprised of a series of windows and doorways on each level with a three story cast iron porch in front of it. These porches were of the same design as that on the facade. At some point, the second and third story porches were enclosed with wood, while the first story ones remained open as originally planned.

The front and side walls of the rear section of the hospital are identical in design to the side and rear walls of the front section. The rear wall is plainer than the front and side elevations of the building. While the brick cornice is present, no granite stringcourse appears between

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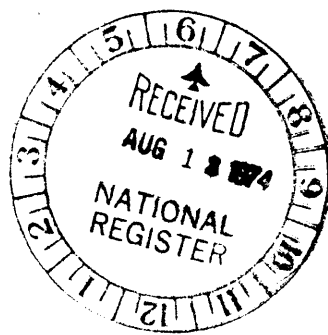
(Number all entries)

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7. DESCRIPTION

the first and second story windows, and no iron porches were used. Moreover, the door and window arrangement does not entirely follow the symmetrical arrangement which is evident on the other walls.

Although the exterior of the Portland Marine Hospital has been altered by the partial enclosure of its side porches, the general appearance of the building is basically unchanged from its completion in 1859. The Marine Hospital remains the grand Italianate structure it was conceived as, situated on its commanding promontory with its splendid cast iron porch across the facade.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1855-59

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Maritime History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Portland's Marine Hospital is a rare surviving example of a series of such buildings erected during the 1850's from designs by Ammi B. Young, Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury Department. Constructed of brick with granite trim, this Italian style Marine Hospital may be the only one in the nation to retain its original exterior Italianate iron work. Young is noted in American architectural history for his creative use of cast iron as both a structural and an ornamental feature in his buildings. The grand three story cast iron porch on the facade of the Portland Marine Hospital probably ranks as one of Young's major surviving achievements in employing cast iron for both a practical and a decorative purpose.

The Marine Hospital has its roots deep in the maritime history of Portland. On July 1, 1798, Congress established the Marine Hospital Service which allowed the president to collect twenty cents a month from every U.S. seaman engaged in foreign and coastal trade. These funds were to be spent for the relief of sick and disabled seamen in the district in which they were collected. Portland was the largest port in Maine, and by 1805 it was taking advantage of the program. The Collector of Customs acted as the government's agent to find a local physician to attend any seaman who needed help.

The first doctor for the Portland Marine Hospital was Nathaniel Coffin, a native of Newburyport, Massachusetts, who studied at Guy's and St. Thomas Hospitals in London. 1806 saw thirty seamen use the Marine Hospital Service in Portland. Because of the absence of a hospital facility, sailors were boarded with private families or allowed to remain with their own families if they were local men, and Dr. Coffin visited them. This plan lasted until 1824 when ailing seamen were sent to the almshouse. Coffin looked after them there until his death in 1826. His work was continued by Dr. James A. Weston.

Sailors and citizens soon began to protest that the hospital was kept in the poorhouse which was connected with the town jail. A movement was started to secure a marine hospital from Congress. The local Congressman, Francis O.J. Smith supported the idea and filed a bill in January of 1836 for funds from the 24th Congress. The measure was defeated by that Congress and the following one.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr., The Architecture of Portland, Maine, 1830 to 1870, 1970, unpublished undergraduate thesis filed at the Colby College Library, Waterville, Maine

Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr., "Marine Hospital" article in the Portland, Maine Evening Express, August 2, 1967, p.32

Wodehouse, Lawrence, "Ammi Burnham Young", Journal of The Society of Architectural Historians, December, 1966.

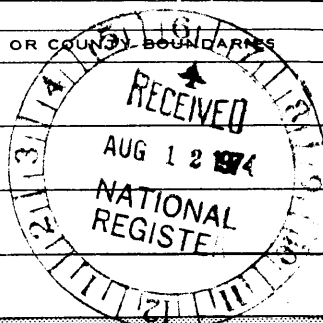
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 41' 17.9"	70 ° 14' 50.7"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE: **June 13, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Mundy

Title S.H.P.O.

Date August 7, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/21/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.16.74

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

The contract for the City of Portland to take care of sick and disabled mariners expired in 1840, and they were placed under the care of Osgood Noyes, who is listed in the 1841 Portland directory as, "Keeper, Marine Hospital". Noyes' "Marine Hospital" was situated at the head of Hancock Street in a two story wooden building formerly used as a sailors boarding house.

In October of 1852, Congress finally appropriated \$11,000 to purchase a site for a permanent marine hospital. Josiah S. Little, John B. Brown, and Charles A. Alexander were appointed the commissioners to select it. On the road to Falmouth in what was then Westbrook, they selected the present location of Martin's Point, a picturesque peninsula overlooking Casco Bay. Just a year before, the Veranda, a summer hotel which opened on the Point in 1847, had burned, and the land was available from F.O.J. Smith. Yet it was not until May of 1855, that the property transaction was completed.

In the meantime, one of the commissioners, Charles A. Alexander (1828-1888), applied to the government for the position of architect and superintendent of the proposed Marine Hospital. Alexander had arrived in Portland from Boston in 1851 and rapidly had become the city's leading architect. Made in 1852, his bid for the hospital was supported by a fellow commissioner, John Bundy Brown, the city's most successful businessman, as well as William Pitt Fessenden, a prominent Maine politician. However, Alexander's request was not granted, because Ammi B. Young had recently been appointed Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, a new position which included direct responsibility for designing Federal Buildings.

Born in Lebanon, New Hampshire, in 1798, Young worked as an architect and builder in New Hampshire and Vermont before moving to Boston in 1838. The year before he had won the competition for designing the Boston Custom House, and this brought him to that city, where he maintained an architectural practice until 1854. Two years before, Young was appointed Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, a position which he held for almost ten years. He retired to his home in Washington, D.C., in 1862 and died there twelve years later in 1874.

During his tenure as government architect, Ammi B. Young planned approximately seventy buildings which were actually constructed. Most of these buildings were in the Italian style, and all of them were of masonry construction and iron construction for the purposes of durability and fire resistance. Of Young's work for the government, several of his designs were for marine hospitals built in such diverse locations as St. Marks, Florida; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Illinois; Galena, Illinois; Burlington, Iowa; and Cincinnati, Ohio. According to Lawrence Woodhouse's

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

article on Young published in the December, 1966 issue of the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, "Few hospitals still stand, and none of them have retained the original Italianate iron decoration." Thus, the Marine Hospital at Portland is a rare surviving example of this building type and may be the only one of its kind with Young's elaborate exterior iron work intact.

Between 1853 and 1859, Congress appropriated \$96,000 for the construction of the Portland Marine Hospital. The building was designed by Young in 1854 and erected between 1855 and 1859 under immediate supervision of Lt. W.B. Franklin of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It was officially opened on July 1, 1859, and was one of the few marine hospitals in the nation to operate for a long period of time. It ceased to function as a hospital in 1952 and became a Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in 1956. More recently, it has been used as a U.S. Public Health Service Outpatient Clinic. Situated on a rise overlooking Portland Harbor, the Marine Hospital is a symbol of the city's maritime past and, in a broader context, has a special place in the development of American architecture.

