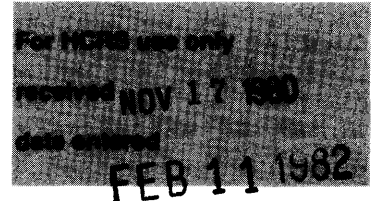


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Adam P. Leighton House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 261 Western Promenade

N/A not for publication

city, town Portland

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 1st

state Maine

code 23

county Cumberland

code 005

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 type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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 Eric and Gail Hartglass

street & number 261 Western Promenade

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, Portland, Maine

city, town Portland

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Portland Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta

state Maine

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 Adam P. Leighton House of Portland, Maine, built in 1903 on designs by Frederick B. Thompson, is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style. This building is of brick construction with 2 1/2 stories, hipped roof, bracketed cornice, three internal brick chimneys, and a portico.

The facade, which faces west, is three bays wide (as are the other sides), and contains a central entrance covered by a wooden portico with open balustraded terraces to each side. This portico is supported by two clusters of modified Doric columns, and its roof is balustraded. Fenestration throughout the house is 1/1. To the right of the entrance is a projecting two-story bay containing three windows in each story. The central bay in the second story consists of a set of French doors.

The half-story contains three dormer windows on the facade and one on each side of the house; all of these are gabled, save for the central facade dormer, which has an arched roof.

The brickwork on the corners of the house is designed to mimic quoins.

A full basement derives natural light from ground-level windows on the sides of the house beneath a string-course.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903 **Builder/Architect** Frederick B. Thompson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Apart from its architectural merit as a fine Colonial Revival residence, this house derives primary significance as the house of Adam P. Leighton, founder of the picture postcard industry in America and later Mayor of Portland.

Hired in 1867 by Hugh J. Chisholm, later to become a famed paper magnate, Adam Leighton went to work in Chisholm Brothers bookstore in Portland at \$5.00 per week. By 1872 he had become manager of the company and was producing and distributing the popular lithographed view books throughout the country and Canada. After 1880 these began to feature photographic halftones and from this evolved the first picture postcards in the United States, views of Portland in the upper left hand corner of a card.

Public acceptance of the picture postcard did not really develop until the World Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. Color postcards appearing at the time became immensely popular but publication costs were high. Leighton travelled to Europe and struck a deal with the House of Frey at Frankfurt-am-Main in Germany to publish cards with far superior color quality at lower cost. Thus began the classic period in the history of the color picture postcard in America which produced some of its finest examples of lithographic art.

Leighton's firm, Leighton & Frey Souvenir View Company, continued to grow rapidly and by 1903 his prominence in the City of Portland included positions as vice-president and director of three banks, partnership in four industries, and numerous elective offices. In 1904, with his son, Hugh, he founded the Hugh C. Leighton Co., for many years the largest postcard manufacturer in the country. In 1908 Leighton was elected Mayor of Portland.

Over sixty million cards were in stock at the height of the Leighton company's business and their importation from Germany accounted for a large percentage of customs duties at Portland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Harding, R. Brewster, Greetings from Maine. Portland, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	9	7	0	8	0	4	8	3	3	6	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H

Zone				Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 63, Block A, Lot 9

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian / Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1980

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

city or town Augusta state Maine

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. Fittsworth

title S.H.P.O.

date 10/30/80

For HCERS use only

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

Sharon Ryan
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2/11/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration