

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUN 19 1984

date entered JUL 19 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Griffin House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 200 High Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Portland,

N/A vicinity of

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 George Silverman

street & number 200 High Street

city, town Portland,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04101

**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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Griffin House, a two-story wood frame building with a mansard roof, is located at the intersection of two nineteenth century residential streets in the City of Portland. The house has a brick foundation, clapboard siding and a slate roof. Its main cornice is molded and has modillion blocks. At each corner of the structure are thin paneled pilasters.

The principal (north) elevation is symmetrical with a central entrance. This entry consists of double doors set beneath a segmental arched transom and a small porch with a bracketed cornice supported on chamfered posts. Paired windows have segmental arched caps for the first story and pedimented caps for the second story. The dormers have scroll-shaped brackets and small, pedimented caps. On the east elevation is two bay windows with bracketed cornices.

Attached to the west side is a three-story wing which is a later addition. Although constructed of the same materials, it has no ornamentation.

## 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 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** 1871 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This large and impressive Mansard house is the finest of its kind in this immediate area of Portland. It is also important as a reflection of the movement of the residential population of Portland from the waterfront area devastated by the Great Fire of 1866 to the northern and western parts of the Portland peninsula. Old photographs of the house show all the land to its north and west to be open fields, part of the "Deering Pasture."

As originally built in 1871 by Charles S. D. Griffin, an executive of the Portland Gas Company, it was a single family house, but in 1876 it was divided into two units for Griffin and his son, C. S. D. Griffin, Jr. Griffin's heirs retained ownership until 1936. In the 1960's it was operated as a rooming house and had begun to suffer a certain amount of decay. Acquired by the present owner in 1982, it has recently been beautifully and carefully restored.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland City Tax Records, 1871 and 1876.

Portland Directory, several years.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	1	9
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 Zone 

3	9	1	7
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 Easting 

8	1	8	1	0
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 Northing 

4	1	8
---	---	---

 Zone 

3	1	4
---	---	---

 Easting 

2	1	0	1	0
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 Northing

B 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

C 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

D 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

E 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

F 

--	--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--	--

 Easting 

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 Northing

G 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

H 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 36, Block F. Lot 26

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date May, 1984

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 *Lucas S. Feltrewood*  
title S.H.P.O. date 6/8/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 7/19/84

*for Allures Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration