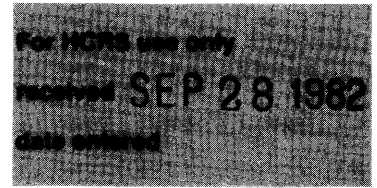


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# 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 Sparrow House

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 35 Arlington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Portland, N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School

street & number 50 Goddard Avenue

city, town Brookline, N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

## 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 Maine 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 Warren Sparrow House of Portland, Maine is a well-preserved and highly detailed example of the Gothic Revival Style in a residential context.

The 1½-story house is of frame construction with central brick chimney, steeply-pitched gabled roof, board-and-batten siding, and brick foundation.

The facade, which faces south-east, is three bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance consists of a projecting, gable-roofed enclosed portico, sided in board-and-batten. Fenestration is 2/1 and features prominent labelled lintels. A triplicate lancet window occupies a tall, gabled dormer above the entrance.

The sides of the house contain windows at three levels. The first story of the south-west side carries a two-sided bay window. On the north-east end of the house is a later added one-story ell with multiple 2/1 windows. A most distinctive feature of the Sparrow House is its very elaborate bargeboards decorating the gables. These differ from each other in detail.

## 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** 1852 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Perhaps second only to the "Gothic House" (N.R. 12-31-74), also in Portland, as an example of classic Gothic Revival architecture, the Sparrow House, nevertheless, possesses a central bay unequalled in Maine in detail and adherence to legitimate medieval tradition. The detailing of the bargeboards is also exceptional.

One of the first residences constructed in the Deering section of Portland, this house remained fairly isolated until the suburb "filled up" during the period of 1880 to 1920. Today the Warren Sparrow House is an historical and visual landmark in its neighborhood.

Warren Sparrow (1814-1897) moved to Portland in 1845, after pursuing a varied business career in Missouri and Massachusetts. Here he took over a dry goods business, opened the first store locally to deal only in carpets, and began an insurance business, Warren Sparrow and Company. He was one of the original members of the State Street Congregational Church and one of the organizers of the street railway in Portland.

It has proven impossible to attribute this building to a specific architect. There were at least three respectable Gothicists working in Portland at the time.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellen Saunders, The Sparrow House. Manuscript at Maine Historic Preservation Comm.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4  
 Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	9	3	9	6	5	9	0	4	8	3	5	8	1	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 125, Block N, Lot 14

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1982

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 *Carol S. Feltham*

title S.H.P.O. date 9/23/82

**For HCERS use only**

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

*J. Belmont* date 10/29/82  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of the Bureau