

**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

For HCRS use only  
received **NOV 15 1979**  
date entered **JAN 20 1980**

**1. Name**

historic How <sup>Houses</sup> Family Historic District Frank A Beard approved name change 1-16-80 CE  
and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Danforth and Pleasant Streets  not for publication  
city, town Portland  vicinity of congressional district First  
state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 (See continuation sheet)  
street & number  
city, town  vicinity of  state

**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  has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records  
city, town  state

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

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

The How Family Historic District comprises three architecturally and historically significant buildings. Dating from 1799 to 1818, none of the buildings has undergone major alterations. The district is residential.

### Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

1. Daniel How House (23 Danforth Street): 1799, Federal, 2½ stories, brick with granite trim, gabled roof, four end chimneys, Doric entrance with fanlight. (N.R. 4/23/73)
2. John How House (40 Pleasant Street): 1817, Federal, 2½ stories, brick with granite trim, gabled roof, four end chimneys, arched recessed entrance with fan and sidelights.
3. Joseph How House (30-32 Pleasant Street): 1818, Federal double house, 3½ stories, brick, gabled roof, four end chimneys, arched recessed entrances with fans and sidelights.

There are no nonconforming intrusions within the district.

The one story flat roofed brick building to the west of the John How House is not attached to it and is not within the district.

## 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 checked="" 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 1799, 1817, 1818

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Daniel How, a hatter originally from Methuen, Massachusetts, came to Portland in 1795 and three years later married Abigail Mussey, daughter of Benjamin Mussey. The following year he built his home on his father-in-law's land at what is now 23 Danforth Street. (N.R. 4/23/73).

At the time of the marriage of his second son, John, Daniel How erected as a wedding gift the handsome seven room Federal house on the back of his property facing on Pleasant Street (No. 40). In addition to the recessed fan doorway there is a beautiful hanging staircase and all seven rooms have working fireplaces.

The following year Daniel's brother, Joseph erected the double house at 30-32 Pleasant Street beside that of his nephew. There are two fireplaces on each of the three full floors on both sides of this very large house, making twelve in all.

When the Daniel How House was built, Commercial Street did not exist and from the elevated location on Danforth Street it commanded an unobstructed view of Cape Elizabeth, the islands, and the harbor. A few rods from the front steps was a high bank which held back the tide. Now surrounded by later commercial development, the three How Houses exist as a Federal period "island" which recalls the appearance of this section of the city in the years immediately following the War of 1812. All three houses have been recently refurbished and are in excellent condition.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Shettleworth, E. G., Jr., "Portland's Heritage", Portland Evening Express, July, 9, 1967.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 1/2

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	9	3	9	8	5	2	0	4	8	3	4	0	0	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 40 B, Lots 7, 8, 9  
40 D, Lot 6

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/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1979

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Shettleworth*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/9/79

**For HCERS use only**

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

*John T. Sully* date 1/20/80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *[Signature]* date 1/14/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 15 1979
DATE ENTERED	JAN 20 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

---

1. Daniel How House

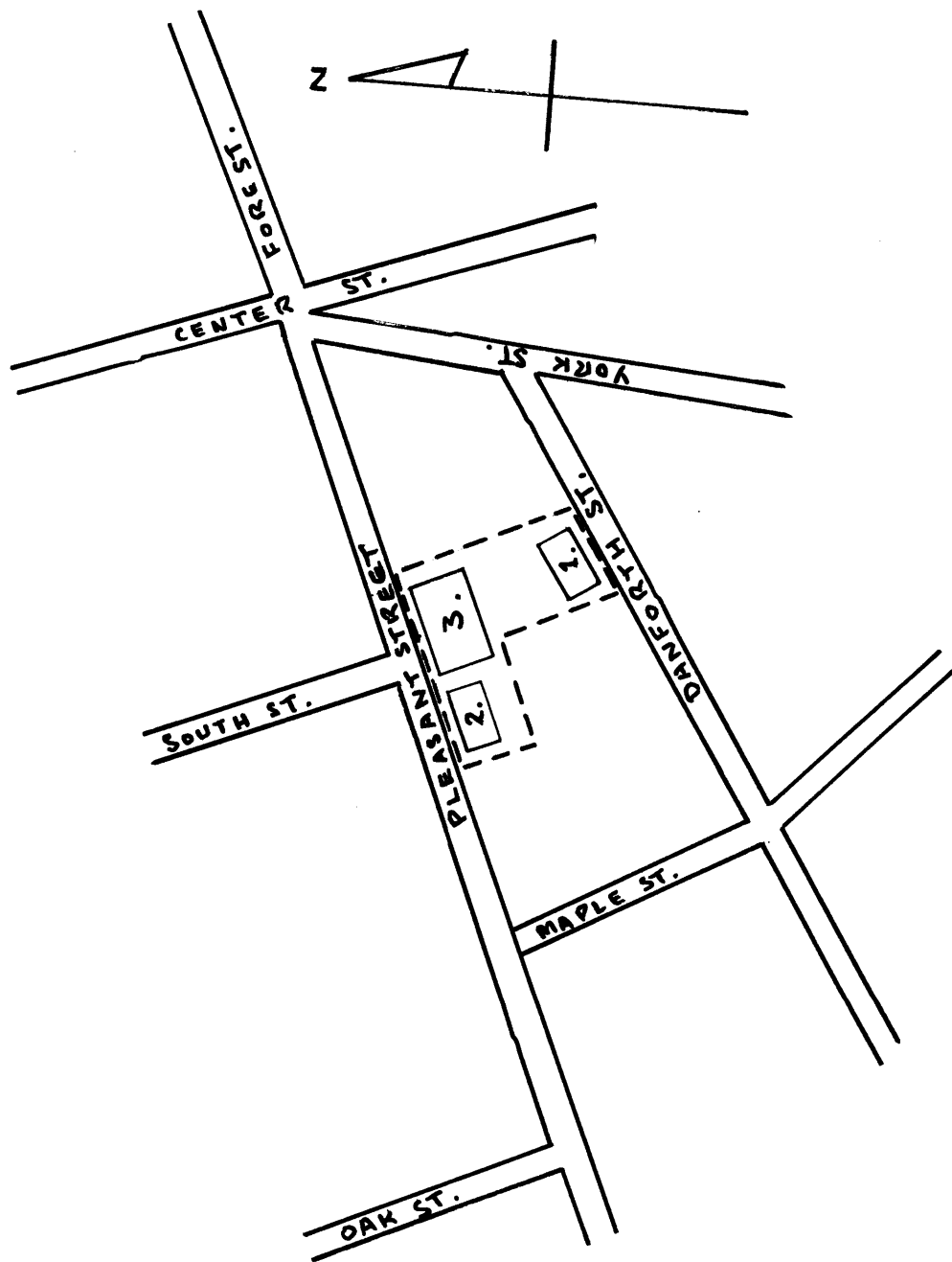
Gerard and Olive Larrivee  
6 Chesly Street  
Westbrook, Maine 04092

2. John How House

G. A. Hecksher  
Pleasant Avenue  
Peaks Island, Maine 04108

3. Joseph How House

Paul Stevens  
32 Pleasant Street  
Portland, Maine 04101



HOW FAMILY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 PORTLAND, MAINE

District Boundary-----