

PH0017661

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

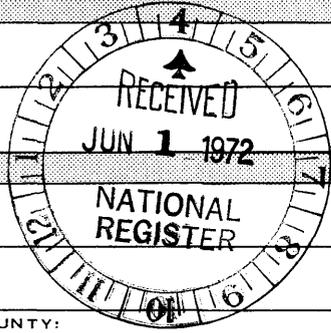
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Portland Club

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hunnewell - Shepley House



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
156 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Cumberland** CODE: **005**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 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) Bi-partisan Political Club

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Portland Club

STREET AND NUMBER:
156 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE:

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:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Cumberland**

ENTRY NUMBER: **JAN 25 1973**

DATE: **JAN 25 1973**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present ~~Portland~~ Club was built as a home by Richard Hunnewell in 1805. The house is located on the southwestern side of State Street between Pine and Spring Streets. The house is ³ three stories high, 48 feet wide, and 46 feet deep. The side walls are built of brick, the front and rear walls are of wood, clapboarded. It has two chimneys in each end wall. The roof is slightly hipped. The original 3 over 3 double hung windows of the third floor remain. The 6 over 6 double hung windows of the first and second floors are probably not original.

~~Alexander Parris~~ was the architect for the house. He worked in Portland from 1801 until about 1809 when he moved to Boston to practice architecture. Architectural drawings which Parris made for the house are now in the possession of the Boston Athenaeum. Because the house has been altered, these drawings are the only record of the original exterior and interior appearance of the building. Parris' plans show an enclosed main stairway, a vaulted entrance hall, a sideboard nook in the dining room wall, the windows set in from the wall surface of the side walls; all were current features of the architecture of this Federal period.

Parris' elevations show simple facades with detail use sparingly and elegantly. The front (northeast) facade of the building shows a classical entrance portico, a flat entablature supported on two Corinthian Columns, approached by a narrow flight of stairs. The entrance door is six-panel with a fanlight above. The right (northwest) facade shows a six-panel entrance door with a fanlight above, set in an arched opening. Pilasters and a curved moulding framing the door are gone now, but the doorway is intact (this side of the house looks today much as it did when Parris designed it.) A narrow cornice of dentils runs around the entire building; surmounted by a wooden roof parapet. This parapet is intact today and is of particular interest. Panels, set between the balusters above where window openings occur in the wall, have a design of pierced interlacing circles. This motif was first used by Charles Bulfinch in Boston in 1804. Parris must have seen this treatment personally, because it was not published until 1806 when Ascher Benjamin included the detail in his "American Builders' Companion". Parris' elevations show a carriage house and stable behind the house; neither exists today.

The house changed hands several times. In 1837 it was sold to Ether Shepley who conveyed it to his son George F. Shepley in 1868. During this period, the interior of the house was altered; it was given a contemporary victorian decor. At some point before 1876, a larger entrance portico, a roof with a balustrade supported on six columns, replaced the simple portico of Parris.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maine
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

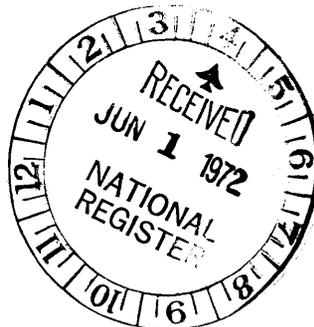
In the 1920's, the building became the home of the Portland Club, a Republican political club. John Calvin Stevens I, John Howard Stevens, and E. Leander Higgins, Portland architects, were engaged in 1923 to remodel the building and enlarge it. The architects desired to "preserve all the fine features of Colonial Architecture" which characterized the building. Some rooms were left intact, others were enlarged. The portico was removed. John Calvin Stevens I designed a new entrance doorway and portico, more in the federal period tradition, and he inserted a Palladian window over the entrance. These features remain today, as the exterior of the building has not been altered since 1924. The wide entablature of the portico, surmounted by a wooden balustrade, is supported on two fluted Ionic columns. Two fluted pilasters frame the entrance door which has sidelights and an elliptical arched transom. A wide stairway leads up to the entrance from the sidewalk.

The same architects designed two additions to the house: a 50 by 80 foot, two story meeting hall in the rear connected to the house by a 19 by 63 foot, two story wing. These additions stand today, and their exterior appearance is harmonious with the original structure.

The Portland Club has been well maintained. The building is in excellent condition today.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 6. Portland Express and Advertiser: "Portland Club Approves Plans for Remodeling Fine Old Colonial Mansion Into Club Home", May 1, 1923.
- 7. Shettleworth, Earle G. Jr.: "Only Four Parris Houses Remain" in Portland, Maine Evening Express, July 14, 1965.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

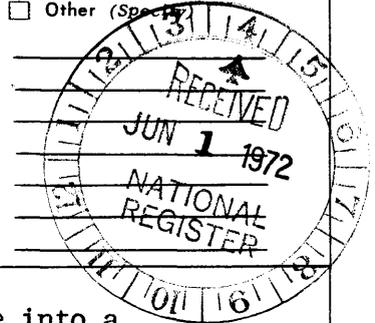
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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) **1805, 1920's**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Throughout its evolution as a home and its change into a political club, the Hunnewell - Shepley house has remained a handsome, dignified building. Now as the Portland Club, it is one or two known buildings remaining today out of the several which Alexander Parris designed and built in Portland. Because Parris' original drawings of this building are preserved, the Portland Club is an especially important example of Parris' early work. The changes of the 1920's are also of interest, for they were designed by the firm of John Calvin Stevens I, Maine's leading Shingle Style and Colonial Revival architect. The building's history is well documented, giving us today living evidence of previous changes in architectural taste.

The past residents of the house were important Portland citizens. Richard Hunnewell was the high Sheriff of Portland from 1809-1811 and 1812-21. At the age of fourteen, he had participated in the Boston Tea Party with his father. Nehemiah Cram was a prominent merchant. Ether Shepley was a Senator from Maine and Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court from 1848-55. His son, George F. Shepley, was Colonel of the Twelfth Maine Regiment during the Civil War, became a brigadier general in 1862, and acted as military governor of Louisiana. After the war, General Shepley was appointed a Judge of the U.S. Circuit Court.

The Portland Club was originally a Republican Club, active in political affairs. Recently it has become a bi-partisan club and continues to be active in local affairs.

The Portland Club is in excellent condition. It is one of the oldest buildings in Portland. It is an important feature of State Street, a major throughfare in the downtown area, which is lined with other handsome residences, churches, and institutions.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Elwell, Edward H.: Portland and Vicinity, Portland, 1876.
2. Gould, Nathan: "The Shepley House" in Part One of Gould's "Old State Street" Series, Portland Sunday Times, September 2, 1900
3. Hamlin, Talbot F.: "Parris, Alexander" in Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 14, New York, 1934.
4. Kimball, Sidney Fiske: Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and the Early Republic, New York, 1966 (original publication 1922).
5. Monkhouse, Christopher P.: "Parris' Perusal" in Old Time New England, Vol. LVIII, No. 2, Fall 1967.
(See Continuation Sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	43	39	07 N	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	70	15	58 W	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Earle G. Shettleworth Jr., Advisory Trustee**
Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.** DATE: **February 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Station A. Box 4197**

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Louisa Stewart</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u><i>Commissioner, Parks - Recreation</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u><i>May 22, 1972</i></u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert M. Utley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u><i>1/25/73</i></u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>Wm. M. [Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u><i>1-17-73</i></u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS