

PH 06-1234

HB 2n19

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 8 1974

3-7-80
N
6-10-74

1. NAME

COMMON:
A. B. Butler House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
4 Walker Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1st; Hon. Peter N. Kyros

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

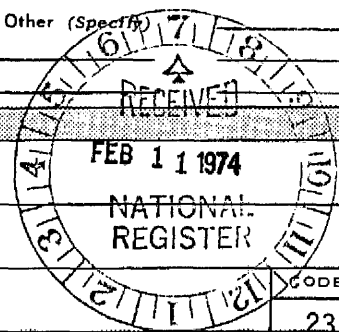
OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Millard S. Peabody

STREET AND NUMBER:
4 Walker Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23



STATE:

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:
23

COUNTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A. Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 8 1974 DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Matthew Stead designed this "Italian Villa" for Albert Berry Butler (1832-1907), a Portland dry goods merchant; it was built in 1868. The house stands on the eastern side of Walker Street, one house lot in from Congress Street, essentially unchanged from when A. B. Butler lived in it.

Because it is one story high with a mansard roof covering what is actually the second story, the A. B. Butler House appears small, although it is thirty-five feet wide and forty feet deep. It is built of wood. The foundations, brick where they show for three feet above the level of the surrounding ground and fieldstone below, enclose a full basement. The mansard roof is tiled in a diamond pattern with slate of red and beige tones. The flat area of the roof is tarred. There is a cupola in the center of the roof, reached by a continuation of the interior stairs. From its arched windows one can see in all directions. The house has three interior chimneys.

Except for a change in paint, the exterior decoration of the A. B. Butler House has been untouched, affording today a most complete example of the detailing of this type of cottage dwelling. The first story is clapboarded above the brick foundation; the clapboards have a beaded lower edge. The corners of the house are encaded with a columnar band comprised of overlapping crescents of wood between flat boards. Half-ovals of sawn wood form a band below each of the bay windows to either side of the front door, and along the wide panelled cornice which runs around the whole house. Over the corner columns and above every window, corbels are hung from the overhang of the roof as part of the cornice. Gable windows pierce the mansard roof; each has a sawn scroll decoration under its gable. The cupola windows have keystones above each arch and columns between them; the cupola has a cornice similar to that on the house but with smaller proportions.

The front door is emphasized by a pedimented hood supported by elaborate, corbelled brackets. There was a porch across the front of the house now missing. The repetition of the decorative motifs, sometimes at a slightly different scale, makes the exterior quite lively.

The windows on the house are predominantly four light. An exception to this are the two light windows on the side of the facade bays. An extention, used as part of the kitchen, has been added across part of the rear of the house. Although finished to match the rest of the house, it is not contemporary with it.

The interior of the A. B. Butler House has its original fresco work intact. The narrow, double doored entry hall features two women in classical dress, facing each other from opposite walls. The center hall and gracefully curving stairway are painted with trompel'oeil panels from the first floor up to the cupola. Real wooden moldings are painted over

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Cumberland	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1974

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

on the first floor; trompe l'oeil moldings are painted on the second floor. This fresco work is mainly gray with white, brown, and red tone highlights. It is in excellent condition.

The house was laid out with all of the living rooms on the ground floor. The two front parlors have their painted decoration intact. The floor to ceiling height of the first floor is twelve feet. This great height makes the rooms feel elegant. The first floor architraves and ceiling cornices employ heavy moldings; they are deep, standing far out from the wall surface, and have many curves and projections. Their heaviness is suitable to the majestic size of the rooms.

On the second floor, the floor to ceiling height is ten feet. This floor is quite spacious and is well lit by the many gable windows. Heavy moldings are employed for the three rooms in the front of the house; flat moldings for the rooms in the rear. A trap door in the floor of the center rear room opens on a narrow rear stairway to the first floor.

The A. B. Butler House has undergone a minimum of modernization. The interior and exterior are currently being restored.



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input 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) 1868

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

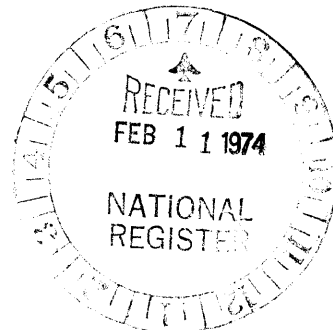
The Butler House was built in 1868 by Albert Berry Butler, a prominent nineteenth century Portland dry goods merchant. Born in Hallowell, Maine in 1832, he started his business at the age of eighteen and continued in it until his death 56 years later. Butler's store was first located in Hallowell and then in Bath. In 1855 he moved his business to Portland, where he remained until his death in 1907. His obituary stated;

He was ever a highly respected citizen, alike in business and social life, having had a long and honorable career and his familiar figure will be sadly missed from our friends in business and social circles.

The Butler House is one of two buildings extant in Portland which were designed by the architect Matthew Stead. The second building is the Merchant's Exchange Building on Exchange Street, now the Gaslight Restaurant.

Matthew Stead came to Portland from St. John, New Brunswick, remaining from c. 1868 through c. 1869. He was active in the rebuilding after the Great Fire of 1866, designing several blocks in the business district.

The A. B. Butler House is an outstanding example of the Italianate-Mansard Roof style which became popular in Portland around the time of the Civil War. The house has been well preserved on the exterior. On the interior, the entire frescoed wall scheme is intact and in good condition, a rare instance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Portland Daily Press, Portland, Maine, Vol. 7, June 15, 1868. p.2

Portland Directory, Portland, Maine, 1858-59 to 1920.

Post Scrapbook, Vol. 5, Maine Historical Society, Portland,
"Albert Berry Butler", p. 213.

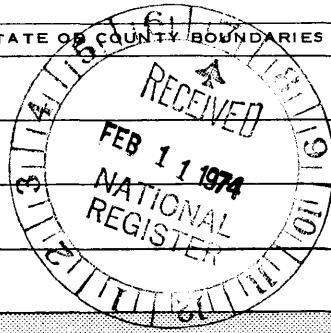
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 39' 9"	70° 16' 11"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary-Elizabeth Wengren, Consultant

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A. Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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:

National State Local

Name James H. Mundy

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 7, 1974

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

AB Wengren
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/74

ATTEST: Ann Mundy
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.7.74