National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

Name 1.

historic Deering Street Historic District

and/or common

Location 2.

street & number	Congress,	Deering,	<u>Mellen,</u>	and State	Streets.	N/A not for publication
city, town	Portland,		N/A_ v	icinity of	-congressional district	
state	Maine	code	23	county	Cumberland	code 005
3. Clas	sificati	on				
Category X_district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquis being cons		Accessib yes: r	cupied in progress I e	Present Use agriculture _X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park _X_ private residence _X_ religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pr	oper	ty			
name	Muntiple	Ownershi	p			
street & number	NA					
city, town N/	A		NA vi	icinity of	state	N/A
5. Loca	tion of	Lega	l Des	cripti	on	•
courthouse, regis	try of deeds, etc	· Cumbe	erland Co	unty Regi	stry of Deeds	
street & number						····
city, town		Portl	and,		state	Maine
6. Repr	esenta	tion i	n Exi	sting	Surveys	
title Portland	Historic Res	sources I	nventory	has this pro	perty been determined	eligible? X_yesn

date 1976

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town

Augusta,

state Maine

federal X state county local





7. Description

Condition X_ excellent X_ good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one _X_ unaitered _X_ altered	Check one _X_ origina moved
	unexposed		

e al site d date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Deering Street Historic District represents a homogeneous and cohesive grouping of major Victorian residences dating from 1850 to 1898 and representing all the important late 19th century architectural styles. The district encompasses all of Deering Street, State Street from Congress Street to Park Avenue, and adjoining portions of Congress and Mellon Streets. The area represents a residential development important in the history of population movement in Portland as will be seen from the statement of significance. The houses, mostly brick, are large and finely built and represent the upper middle class wealth of their original owners. The scale of construction is uniform throughout. The buildings are in general exceptionally well maintained and have suffered relatively little alteration.

The boundaries are delineated to include all structures connected by time and scale to the historical development of the area.

Buildings and Sites Contributing to the Character of the Districts:

Building #	<u>Street #</u>	
		Congress Street
1	673	Margaret W. Reeves - Charles A. Lord House, c. 1850-52 Greek Revival, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
2	675	Margaret W. Reeves - Charles P. Kimball House, c. 1856-57 Transitional Greek Revival - Italianate, 3½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
3	681	William Hammond House, 1850 Italianate, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim, Italianate cupola removed
4	723	Dr. E. Eugene Holt House, 1883-84 John Calvin Stevens, Architect, while in the firm of Fassett and Stevens Romanesque Revival, 2½ Stories, brick with wood, stone and metal trim
5	727	Woodbury Davis House, 1870 Italianate, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
6	737	Israel P. Waterhouse House, 1878 Stick Style, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
7	743	Samuel T. Pickard House, 1884 John Calvin Stevens, Architect Queen Anne, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded first story, remainder shingled with carved wooden decorative panels

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature IIIIItary IIIIIItary IIIIIIIIII IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII	<pre> science sculpture X social theater transportation</pre>
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates N/A

Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Deering Street area began as a cow pasture, part of the vast holdings of the Nathaniel Deering family. It is fondly remembered in Harry W. Lothrop's "The Boys of Eighty Five" as the site of tent shows and fairs. Lothrop reminisces about the best sledding in town on State Street running down through the pasture, then through Deering Oaks and on to the railroad tracks.

As Portland expanded, the pressure to develop additional residential areas was inevitable. By the 1850's, new homes in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles were being built around Longfellow Square and down State Street towards Deering's pasture. Nathaniel Deering gave the city land for streets in the area and began dividing his land into house lots.

Three or four homes were built at the High Street end of Deering Street. The first was the Upham-Sager House, 1859-60, a transitional Greek Revival-Italianate double house.

But the major development of Deering Street came after the Great Fire of 1866. The downtown was rebuilt with business blocks, and as a result new residential areas had to be developed further out to absorb the displaced families. Deering Street was a principal recipient of this new building boom. The area flourished with residences of many of Portland's leading citizens.

Many homes were built on speculation. Simon H. Libby, a builder who had already worked on State Street in the 1850's, constructed four such double houses at 11-13, 15-17, 19-21, and 22-24 Deering Street, in the Italianate and Mansard styles. All the homes were promptly occupied by leading merchants such as John N. Lord, who served as president of the A. H. Berry Shoe Company and the Deering Land Company. And there was Sidney W. Thaxter, who earned a Congressional Medal of Honor in the First Maine Cavalry during the Civil War and established a successful flour and grain business.

The most significant of Libby's buildings is the Thomas Brackett Reed House, designed by Francis H. Fasset. This monumental double house was built in 1875-76 on the corner of Deering and State Streets. It is of brick, four stories high, with a hipped roof of slate. The windows have sandstone caps with interesting patterned tiles set in the stone.

Thomas Reed Brackett lived at No. 32 from 1888 until his death in 1902. One of Portland's leading citizens, he served as the Republican representative to Congress for 22 years, three years as Speaker of the House.

Some of Portland's leading architects also played a major role in the growth of the Deering Street area. Francis H. Fassett designed several homes such as the Mansard style double house at 12-14 Deering, built in 1868, and the General Francis Fessenden House at 31 Deering Street, built the same year. Fessendan, who rose to the rank of general during the Civil War, returned to Portland to practice law with his brother and in 1876 was elected mayor of Portland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maine Historic Preservation Commission, <u>Portland Historic Resources Inventory</u>. Augusta, 1976.

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11. Form Prepared By		
ame/title Frank A. Beard, Historian		
rganization Maine Historic Preservation	Commission	date July, 1982
treet & number 55 Capitol Street	1	telephone 207/289-2133
ity or town Augusta,	1	state Maine 04333
	ervation	Officer Certification
he evaluated significance of this property within the		
	iocal	
as the designated State Historic Preservation Officer 65), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in ccording to the criteria and procedures set forth by state Historic Preservation Officer signature	the National Registe the National Park So	r and certify that it has been evaluated
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For NPS use only Thereby certify that this property is included in MulourBy	the flational Registe Informa In the Jactional Regist	
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Chief of Registration		

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

	i STREET HIST sh <mark>eet</mark>	item number 7 Page 2
Building #	<u>Street #</u>	
8	749	Mellen E. Bolster House, 1881 Francis H. Fassett and John Calvin Stevens, Architects Italianate, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
9	757	Daniel F. Emery, Jr., House, 1883 G. Wilton Lewis of Boston, Architect Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood, stone, metal and terra cotta trim
10	763	Clarence Hale House, 1884 Francis H. Fassett, Architect Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
11	769	J. Henry Rines House, 1887 Francis H. Fassett and Frederick A. Tompson, Architects Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
		Deering Street
12	1 & 3	Thomas O. Goold Block, 1860 Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim
13	2 & 4	Immanuel Baptist Church, 1925-27 E. Leander Higgins, Architect Gothic Revival, 1 story, brick with wood and concrete trim Parish House: 2½ stories, brick with wood and concrete trim
14	5 & 7	Edward E. Upham - Charles Sager Houses, 1859 Transitional Greek Revival - Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim
15	6	George M. Harding House, 1868 George M. Harding, Architect Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with aluminum siding, Mansard cupola removed
16	9	William Allen, Jr., House, 1865-66 George M. Harding, Architect Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wooden trim, Italianate cupola removed
17	10	Rufus Deering House, 1864 Italianate, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
18	11 & 13	William Ross - John N. Lord Houses, 1867 Simon H. Libby, Builder Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim

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19 12 & 14 Captain Russell Lewis - Captain Jacob S. Winslow Houses, 1868 Francis H. Fassett, Architect Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wooden trim, Mansard cupola removed

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form DEERING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

	sheet	Item number 7	Page 3
<u>Building #</u>	<u>Street #</u>		
20	15 & 17	Simon H. Libby - Thomas H. Weston Hous Simon H. Libby, Builder; Samuel A. Kni Masons Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood	ight and Nathan E. Redlon,
21	19 & 21	Alfred Woodman - John A. Poor Houses, Simon H. Libby, Builder Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wood ar	
22	22 & 24	Simon H. Libby Block, 1874-75 Simon H. Libby, Builder Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood	len trim
23	23	Fred E. Allen House, 1898 John Calvin Stevens, Architect Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, brick wi	th wood and stone trim
24	26	Fessenden V. Carney House, 1879 Francis H. Fassett, Architect High Victorian Gothic, 2½ stories, bri metal trim	ck with wood, stone and
25	27 & 29	Samuel W. Larrabee – Edwin A. Norton H Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood	
26	30 & 32	Edward E. Preble - William H. Anderson (Thomas B. Reed House, N. H. L.) Francis H. Fassett, Architect Simon H. Libby, Builder; Samuel A. Kni Masons Italianate, 3½ stories, brick with woo tile trim	ght and Nathan E. Redlon,
27	31	General James D. Fessenden House, 1859 Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wooden	
28	33-39	Simon H. Libby Block, 1866 Simon H. Libby, Builder Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wood an	nd stone trim
29	38	William W. Whipple House, 1869 Italianate, 2½ stories, brick with woo Colonial Revival portico	od and stone trim,
30	40	Harrison T. Whipple House, 1876 Simon H. Libby, Builder Stick Style, 2½ stories, frame with cl	apboarded exterior

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form DEERING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet		Item number 7	Page 4
Building #	<u>Street #</u>		
31	42	Warren Burbank House, 1877 Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarde Italianate cupola removed	d exterior,
32	43	Francis A. Waldron House, 1867 Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarde Italianate cupola removed	d exterior,
33	44 & 46	Henry M. Payson Block, 1883 Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood and s	tone trim
34	45 & 47	Joseph E. Gilman - Mrs. J. O. Bancroft Houses Mansard, 3 stories, frame with clapboarded ex of a pair of two story facade bay windows	
35	48 & 50	Henry M. Payson - Captain Jacob S. Winslow Bl Queen Anne, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories, brick with wood and s	
36	49	Charles Payson House, 1868, remodelled 1908 Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone Colonial Revival portico	trim,
37	51 & 53	Edward P. Chase Block, 1874-75 Lemuel M. Lovejoy, Builder Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wooden trim	I
38	52	William H. Thaxter House, 1884 John Calvin Stevens, Architect Shingle Style, 2½ stories, brick frist story stone trim, remainder frame with shingled ext	
39	57 & 59	Joseph C. Noyes Block, 1868-69 Levi P. Newcomb, Architect Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone	trim
40	58 & 60	William H. Thaxter - W. H. Hobbs Block, 1887 John Calvin Stevens, ARchitect Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, brick with wood	en trim
41	64 & 66	William H. Anderson Block, 1876-77 Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and st	one trim
42	68 & 70	William H. Anderson Block, 1876-77 Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and st	one trim
43	72 & 74	William H. Anderson Block, 1871 Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone	trim
44	73	General Francis Fessenden House, 1868 Francis H. Fassett, Architect Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone	trim

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form DEERING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

	sheet	Item number 7 Page 5
<u>Building #</u>	<u>Street #</u>	
		Mellen Street
45	10	Hezekiah Winslow House, 1879 Mansard, 3 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
46	11	James E. Wengren House, 1876 Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
47	14	Jotham F. Clark House, 1880 Francis H. Fassett and John Calvin Stevens, Architects Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim
48	15	William H. Roberts, Jr., House, 1898 John Calvin Stevens, Architect Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
49	24	Malcolm F. Hammond House, 1882 Francis H. Fassett and John Calvin Stevens, Architects Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood, stone, metal, and terra cotta trim
50	30	George S. Payson House, 1898 John Calvin Stevens, Architect Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, brick with wood and slate trim
		State Street
51	201 & 203	Nathaniel P. Cushman Block, 1855 Nathaniel P. Cushman, Builder Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim
52	206 & 208	Thomas R. Hayes - Lucretia Ten Broeck Houses, 1860 Simon H. Libby, Builder Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wooden trim
53	207	John Murch House, c. 1851 Greek Revival, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories, frame with shingled exterior
54	209 & 211	John W. Munger Block, 1855-56 Simon H. Libby, Builder Venetian Gothic, 3 stories, Brick with wood and stone trim
55	212	Sewall C. Chase House, 1868 Mansard, 3 stories, brick with wooden trim
56	218	Henry M. Payson House, 1876-77 Francis H. Fassett, Architect Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and stone trim

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Continuation	sheet		Item number	7	Page 6
Building #	<u>Street #</u>				
57	231	Northgate Apartme William R. Miller Colonial Revival,	and Raymond J. M		
58	234 & 236	George S. Hunt Bl Samuel A. Knight Rogers, Carpenter Queen Anne, 2½ st	and Nathan E. Red		·
59	235	Mrs. A. T. Jones Francis H. Fasset Queen Anne, 2½ st	t and John Calvin		
60	238 & 240	Jacob S. Winslow Queen Anne, 2½ st		wood and stor	ıe trim
61	242 & 244	Samuel A. Knight 1879-80 Knight and Redlon Queen Anne, 2½ st	, Masons; Rogers,	Carpenter	-
62	243	Augustus G. Schlo Francis H. Fasset Stick Style, 2 st	t, Architect		
63	471 & 473 Cumberland	Cyrus Cressey Blo Mansard, 3 storie			fire in 1974
64	477 Cumberland	Samuel H. Coleswo Shingle Style, 2½			iding
65	252	Samuel H. Coleswo Queen Anne, 2½ st	rthy, Jr., House, ories, frame with	1892-93 asbestos sidi	ng
66	256	William G. Hart H Italianate, 2 sto aluminum siding		-roofed tower,	frame with
67	257	Thaddeus C. Lewis Queen Anne, 3 sto		-	
68	261	Thomas Wildes Hou Thomas Wildes, Bu Mansard, 3 storie	ilder	minum siding	
69	263 & 267	Austin D. Sulliva John Calvin Steve A. D. Smith, Buil Queen Anne, 2 sto	ns, Architect der		

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

DEERING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

DEERING STREET HISTOR. Continuation sheet		Item number 7 Page 7	
Building #	<u>Street #</u>		
70	264	Charles M. Tobie House, 1887 Fassett and Tompson, Architects Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood trim	
71	272	John H. Hill House, 1893-94 Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood trim	
72	273	Walker H. Brown House, 1894 Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, frame with aluminum siding	
73	275	George F. Loveitt House, 1893 Enoch W. Hunt, Architect and Builder Colonial Revival, 2 stories, frame with aluminum siding	
74	276	George E. Dow House, 1887 John Calvin Stevens, Architect Queen Anne, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim	
75	278 & 280	William H. Sanborn Block, 1886 John Calvin Stevens, Architect Richardsonian Romanesque, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim	
76	279	Llewellyn M. Leighton House, 1889 Queen Anne, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories, brick with wood trim	
77	286 & 288	Windsor Apartments, 1911 John J. Cunningham, Sr., Architect F. W. Cunningham & Sons, Builder Colonial Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and cast ston trim	
78	287 & 289	Lester A. Mercier Block, 1908 Calvin S. Lane, Architect Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, frame with aluminum siding	
79	291 & 293	Lester A. Mercier Block, 1908 Calvin S. Lane, Architect Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, frame with shingled exterior	

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

DEERING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT Continuation sheet

Item number 8



During the 1880's, Fasset designed three imposing homes on Congress Street. The first, the Mellen E. Bolster House (1881) at 749 Congress Street was done together with his partner John Calvin Stevens, I in the Italianate style. Then, working in the Queen Anne style, he built the Clarence Hale House in 1884 at 763 Congress Street and the J. Henry Rines House in 1887 at 769 Congress Street. Even though these homes have been readapted to commercial uses, their strong architectural character has not been spoiled.

Another well known architect active in the Deering Street area was John Calvin Stevens, I. First in conjunction with Fassett's firm and later with his own firm, established in 1883, his work had a significant impact on the area.

One of his first designs as an independent architect was the Dr. E. Eugene Holt House built in 1883-84 at 723 Congress Street. This two-and-a-one-half story Romanesque Revival building is made of brick with trim of wood, stone and metal. Stevens used clapboards and shingles for the Queen Anne style home of Samuel T. Pickard (1884) at 743 Congress Street.

One of Steven's major contributions to the history of American architecture was his work in formulating the Shingle Style. The William H. Thaxter House (1884) at 52 Deering Street is an example of this new original style.

Deering Street and the related areas along Congress, Mellon and State Streets continued to grow through the 1890's, becoming fully developed by the turn of the century.

Changes of use have come to the area during the 20th century. Many buildings have been converted into multiunit dwellings, frequently with doctors offices. Other buildings, on Congress Street in particular, have been put to commercial use. But still the rate of owner occupied buildings is high, and the architectural character of the neighborhood has remained the same.

The Deering Street area is an outstanding and compact example of residential architecture from 1850-1900. It also tells us much about the leading citizens of one of Portland's most dynamic eras during the post-fire reconstruction.



Beginning at the SE corner of the Margaret W. Reeves-Charles A. Lord House (1) lot, the district boundary runs west along the north side of Congress Street, crossing State Street, to the SW corner of the William Hammond House (3) lot, thence northerly along the rear property lines on the west side of State Street, westerly along the rear property lines on the south side of Deering Street, and southerly along the rear property lines on the east side of Mellen Street to the north side of Congress Street which it follows westerly, crossing Mellen Street, to the SW corner of the J. Henry Rines House (11) lot. The line then runs north along the west side of this lot, easterly along the rear property lines on the north side of Congress Street and northerly along the rear property lines on the west side of Mellen Street to the NW corner of the George S. Payson House (50) lot where it turns easterly along the north side of this lot, crosses Mellen Street, and follows the rear property lines on the north side of Deering Street and the rear property lines on the West side of State Street northerly to the NW corner of the Windsor Apartments (77) lot. From this point the line runs easterly along the south side of Park Street, crossing State Street to NE corner of Lester A. Mercier Block (79) lot and southerly along the rear property lines on the east side of State Street and easterly along the rear property lines on the north side of Deering Street to the northern corner of the Thomas O. Gould Block (12) lot from which point it turns south along the west side of High Street, crossing Deering Street to the east corner of the Immanuel Baptist Church (13) lot, thence westerly along the rear property lines on the south side of Deering Street and southerly along the rear property lines on the east side of State Street to the point of beginning.

The boundaries are delineated to include all structures connected by time and scale to the historical development of the area.

