

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 26 1984**
date entered **NOV 23 1984**

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

1. Name

historic Portland High School

and or common

2. Location

street & number 284 Cumberland Avenue **N/A** not for publication

city, town Portland, **N/A** vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 City of Portland

street & number City Hall

city, town Portland, vicinity of state Maine 04101

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 Me. 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 Portland High School is a large four story brick building with stone trim. Constructed in an E-shaped plan, the school consists of two distinct sections. Forming the center bar of the "E" is the original structure, built in 1863. Designed in the Italianate style, it features combinations of square headed and round arched windows with stone lintels and sills. Above the third floor square headed windows on each elevation is a brick corbell table. The round arched entrance porch dates from the late nineteenth century and the hipped roof is an alteration following a 1911 fire.

the main portion of the school is designed in a neo-classical style characteristic of the early twentieth century. The principal facade, fronting Cumberland Avenue, is relieved by a central and flanking end pavillions which, at the third and fourth floor levels, have Tuscan columns in antis. The central pavillion contains the main entrance recessed behind three round-arched entrances. The tapestry brick walls are banded for the second floor, and there are stone belt courses above the first, second and fourth floor levels. A simple brick parapet caps the flat roof. This is further embellished above the central pavillion by a carved stone cartouche. All of the windows consist of nine-over-nine double-hung sash. Similar classical motifs are employed on the northeast and southwest elevations.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1863, 1918 **Builder/Architect** George M. Harding, Miller & Mayo, G. Henri Desmond

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Portland High School is a significant structure architecturally combining as it does the remains of George M. Harding's 1863 Italianate design, visible from the rear, with the much grander neo-Classical main facade of Miller and Mayo in consultation with G. Henri Desmond which enfolds three-quarters of the earlier building. The institution is educationally important as well with its roots in one of the earliest urban public secondary school systems in the country.

The work of George M. Harding in Maine and particularly in Portland is well known and in many cases represented on the National Register. His design for the 1863 high school, while restrained, shows great dignity and as originally conceived had a more steeply pitched roof forming a classical pediment. This was lost in a 1911 fire which gutted the building and was replaced by one nearly flat.

Miller and Mayo were an extremely prolific firm, some of whose work is also on the National Register, but their collaboration with G. Henri Desmond, the noted Boston architect very likely contributed to the high style of the main facade. Desmond, incidentally, was the architect of the major expansion of The Maine State House including the redesign of the dome in 1910.

The Portland Latin School for boys, of which the present High School is the lineal descendent, was founded in 1821, and was combined with a later school for girls in the 1863 building which was then divided by a solid wall to prevent any mingling of the sexes. Very shortly, however, an enlightened principal, calling this the "wall of prejudice" caused a door to be cut through and thus upper level co-education came into being, again at an early date in public school history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gribben, Peter E., A History of Portland High School. Portland, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Portland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	9	8	4	4	0	4	1	8	3	1	4	5	1	6	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 27, Block B, Lot 1

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/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title S.H.P.O. date 10/9/84

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 11/23/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration