

# Grand Trunk Railroad Office Building

One India Street, Portland



## Significance

The three-story Neoclassical style brick office building at the corner of India and Commercial Streets is the only building that survives from the extensive Grand Trunk Railroad complex in Portland. Built in 1903, it originally served as offices for the railroad and for the transatlantic steamship operators that used their wharves and sheds. The Grand Trunk (and later Canadian National) was an important source of Portland's prosperity between the 1850s and 1960s, serving as Canada's main shipping route in winter between Montreal and the ice-free port of Portland. The Grand Trunk Office Building is a contributing building in Portland's Waterfront Historic District. In 2012, the vacant deteriorating building was named one of Landmark's Places in Peril.

## Project Scope

The interior of the building was carefully deconstructed to expose elements of the original architecture, including 14-foot floor to ceilings, original hardwood flooring, and exposed beams. On the exterior, extremely deteriorated masonry walls were rebuilt and repointed. The massive copper cornice was restored and replaced. A new roof was built to replace the failed roof that had allowed seagulls, pigeons, and owls to take up residence in the formerly vacant building.

## Recognition

Early on, Gorham Savings Bank decided to restore the building and take advantage of historic tax credits to finance a high quality rehabilitation which required solving challenging problems and investing significant time and resources. The project team worked meticulously to preserve as much of the building as possible. During the restoration Gorham Savings Bank filmed their work and compiled a documentary video. The beautifully restored landmark is a treasured building at the gateway to the India Street neighborhood.