

Portland, ME 0410 QIA9 egetso9 .2.U Non Profit Org.

## **Observatory Notes**



**136** the number of days we were open for the season

• the number of days we had over 100 visitors

the number of days we had over 200 visitors

the number of days there were two or more cruise ships in port

 $350 \begin{array}{c} \text{the number of students from} \\ \text{eight different schools} \end{array}$ 





14,248 the number of visitors for the 2016 season

Visitors from 36 different countries. All 50 US states plus Puerto Rico and Washington, DC

The Observatory was the first thing mentioned in the NY Times article "36 Hours in Portland, ME"

35 active docents this season 8 new docents this season

Remember Greater Portland Landmarks as a source for local and distinctive gifts this holiday season! Observatory-themed merchandise, books featuring local history, gift packages and more are featured on our website at: www.portlandlandmarks.org

## Time and Place: Our History and Aspirations Shape Our Community

REATER PORTLAND HAS BEEN REDISCOVERED - with top-ten rankings in national 7 publications, a vibrant food and cultural scene, over 100,000 cruise ship visitors this year, and new residents coming to the area from all over the world . Why is it so appealing today? Part of its appeal is that it is an authentic place: a spectacular natural setting coupled with the commercial buildings, residences, monuments and neighborhoods that tell our story. Our buildings tell of economic feast and famine; of wars and disasters; of creativity and entrepreneurship; and of the aspirations of community leaders over the centuries that make this a place like no other. We see Commercial Street's magnificent warehouses greeting visitors to our harbor; the brick Old Port business district that arose from the ashes of the Great Fire of 1866, impressive public parks flanking the

Portland peninsula, and stately streetcar suburbs from the turn of the century, all of which give us our identity.

The community has worked at preserving this sense of place. One of the ways we've done that is through creating local historic districts that guide redevelopment in a way that protects our history. The first such districts in Portland, encompassing the Old Port, Spring Street, Western Promenade, Deering Street, Stroudwater, and several smaller historic areas and important designed landscapes, were created in 1990, after nearly 25 years of Landmarks' advocacy. Since then, Landmarks has continued to encourage district designation as a proven tool to strengthen economic development. Seeing the benefits to the community, the City Council has approved expansion of several original districts and designated additional ones, including three new districts created in the last 18 months.



HILARY BASSETT Executive Director

Greater Portland's newfound popularity finds us at a tipping

point. To keep pace with development pressure resulting from our "rediscovery," we continue to accelerate our protection of our history. Never has it been more important to set our sights, and our standards, high as we create the community of the future. And every indication is that we are succeeding!

Landmarks recently presented awards to nine projects and four individuals for their visionary leadership and transformative projects that do just that. These preservation initiatives are complex, requiring a strong vision, careful attention to specific circumstances, and the ability to deal with non-standard procedures and unforeseen conditions. They demand leaders who are creative planners, who are patient in working through a range of issues with stakeholders, regulators, designers, and contractors, who have a commitment to quality, and who will persevere to bring a project to completion. Above all, they require people with a passion for our special place.

The award-winners include endeavors that shape the public realm that everyone shares - projects that foster a sense of community, projects that are rooted in history and possibility. They do, and will, serve us well.

As greater Portland faces new opportunities, their good example should guide us. With major redevelopments in progress and coming soon in the India Street area, at the Portland Company site, all along our waterfronts, and in nearby residential neighborhoods, the pressures are great and the stakes are high.

In the 19th century, Portland's leaders developed civic buildings and public parks and promoted the City's beauty and amenities as an international seaport. In the late 20th century, the community stood up for history, even with a sluggish economy.

Today, business leaders embrace historic protections because all indicators point to positive economic impact from preservation, especially as we witness the "rediscovery" of the Portland area. As a community, we have a strong tradition of public participation in planning and decision-making. Let's celebrate our uniqueness and our place, and establish goals that integrate our past, present and future. We can aspire to and expect excellence.

## PRESERVATION UPDATES



The conversion of the former Schlotterbeck and Foss **Company's building at 117 Preble** Street in Portland into apartments is underway. The development team pursued historic tax credits, and the building was added

this summer to the National Register of Historic Places. The building is locally significant for its association with the pharmaceutical and food processing industry; as a rare surviving industrial building designed by Maine's most noted architect John Calvin Stevens; and as a rare example of the Art Deco Style of architecture in Portland.

Vacant for nearly ten years, the former Hay and Peabody funeral home at 749 Congress Street in Portland will be reused as a historic bed & breakfast. The development team received all city approvals in July and

construction is expected to begin this fall. Landmarks supported the project at all recent public hearings as it provides a compatible reuse for the historic house



while creating new townhomes at the rear of the site that are contextually appropriate to the traditional development patterns in the West End.



The Portland City Council voted to expand the boundaries of the India Street Historic District in June to encompass 96 and 100 Federal Street at the request

of the owners of both buildings. The owners wish to use historic tax credits (HTCs) to rehabilitate the six-unit brick apartment building at 96 Federal Street. Landmarks supported the proposed expansion and stepped up to complete the certification application to state and federal officials when no available public funding or adequate City staff time were available to do so, so that building owners can take advantage of HTCs as soon as possible. Development in the neighborhood continues at a steady pace. Seven projects in the neighborhood have received planning approvals or are under construction. In addition, a new six-story building is proposed for the corner of Washington and Congress Streets and a renovation project is planned for the North School.

Vacant for several years, the City has been working with developers and neighbors to find a new use for the Reed School that is compatible with neighborhood goals and is economically feasible. Developers Collaborative, the developers responsible for the successful adaptive reuse project for the former Nathan Clifford School in Deering's Oakdale neighborhood, are creating a plan to reuse the Reed School, located at 28 Homestead Ave. in Portland, as a pre-school for special needs students.

STAFF	EXECUTIVE Committee	TRUSTEES	ADVISORY TRU	STEES		
Hilary D. Bassett	Jane Batzell	Jane Briggs	Eric D. Altholz	Stephen Foote	Nancy V. Montgomery	John C. Serrage
Executive Director	President	Patti Butler	Eleanor G. Ames	Carol S. Goloff	Linda J. Murnik	Lynn E. Shaffer
Lorena Coffin	Ed Gardner	Elaine Clark	Richard Anderson	Douglas Green	Robert A. Nielsen, Jr.	Marjorie Shaw
Development Assistant	First Vice President	Carol De Tine	Howard Arnold	Dawn E. Hamilton	Sally G. Oldham	Alice Spencer
Kate White Lewis	David Robinson	Tom Dowd	Marc Bagala	Charles Hall	Ted O'Meara	Mary Louise Sprague
Director of Development	Second Vice President	Thomas Elliman	Ursula Baier	Tom S. Hanson	Pamela P. Plumb	Seth Sprague
Julie Ann Larry	Bruce Moir	Francesca Galluccio-Steele	Guy W. Bertsch	Cynthia Henriques	Caroline Pratt	Tom Stoughton
Director of Advocacy	Treasurer	Richard Gilbane	Joyce K. Bibber	Edward Hobler	Sally W. Rand	Jos Van Mierlo
Chloe Martin	Jane Hurd	Sarah Graulty	Victoria Bonebakker	John Reed Houghton	Charles W. Redman III	Barbara Vestal
Office and	Secretary	Kate Griffith	Gregory W. Boulos	John C. Knox	William S. Richards	John C. Watson

Communications Coordinator Alessa Wylie Manager of Education Programs Paul Ainsworth Bookkeeper Beth Ansheles External Bookkeeper

secretary Nate Stevens At Large Member

Lynn Hallett Don Head Candice Thornton Lee Patrick Morin Nicholas Noyes Caroline Paras George Reiche Ruth Townsend Story Jack Vreeland

Barbara Webster Brown Noelle Lord Castle Portia Clark Robert E. Cleaves, IV Malcolm L. Collins Paula Craighead Elizabeth J. Dubois Harland H. Eastman

Stephen S. Kolkhorst Denis Lachman Keri D. Lord Victoria Loring Susan Lucas William A. Macleod Mallory Kirk Marshall Sharon Miller

Carol Wilson Christopher N. Robinson Ioan Ross Susan C. Ruch Joel B. Russ John W. Ryan

Gail S. Schwarzer

Aurelia C. Scott

Jeffrey Selser

Donald N. Zillman

### GREATER PORTLAND LANDMARKS

93 High Street Portland, ME 04101 (207) 774-5561 www.portlandlandmarks.org Greater Portland Landmarks mission is to preserve and revitalize Greater Portland's remarkable legacy of historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and parks.

The Landmarks Observer is published by Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc., printed quarterly and mailed to the membership of Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. Additional copies are distributed free to the general public. Reproduction of its copyrighted contents and derivative works are encouraged in the cause of preservation. However, in order to constitute authorization for republication, bylines must be retained and the credit should read: "From the Greater Portland Landmarks Observer" followed by the date and volume number of the issue. For advertising rates and information please contact Greater Portland Landmarks at (207) 774-5561 ext. 105. Copyright © Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. 2016

#### **OBSERVER STAFF**

Hilary Bassett, Editor in Chief Kate White Lewis, Editor O'Brien Design, Graphic Design

www.portlandlandmarks.org

# 2016 Preservation Awards

2016 has been a stellar year for preservation in the greater Portland Region. On September 28th, two hundred people gathered at the Maine Irish Heritage Center for Greater Portland Landmarks' Preservation Awards Ceremony, to recognize 12 outstanding preservation leaders and projects. Each one represents the value that preservation brings to the quality of life for all of us. The 2016 Preservation Awards winners represent a range of programs and types. Landmarks invited the public to nominate any historic property or landscape that has been restored, rehabilitated, undergone sensitive new construction, or adapted to a modern use between January 1, 2013 and June 30, 2016. In addition, people, organizations or programs who have strived to educate and advocate for the cultural heritage of the greater Portland area were eligible for preservation awards. **Details about the winners are featured here:** 





As co-founder in 2006 and current executive director of the Friends of the Eastern Promenade, Diane Davison has worked tirelessly to preserve the historic landscape, protect its environmental integrity, and enhance its recreational use. With Diane's dedication and leadership, guided by the City's Eastern Promenade Master Plan,

the Friends have inspired community investment in the park, expanding trails, installing new benches, and scheduling concerts and programs that attract people of all ages and backgrounds. A crowning achievement is the recent comprehensive restoration of Fort Allen Park.

## **Restoration of Fort Allen Park, Portland**

The project revives the historic plan and features of the park while sensitively accommodating modern-day needs and including historical information. The Friends of the Eastern Promenade worked closely with the City of

- Jonathan Taggart of Taggart Objects Conservation, Conservator
- Becker Structural Engineers, Inc., Structural Engineer
- Cote Corporation, Crane and Rigging

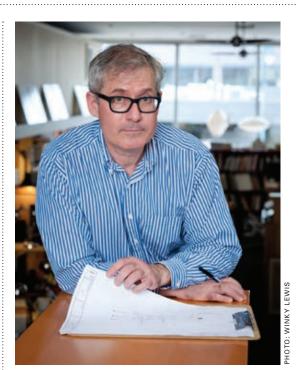
#### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RECOGNITION PROGRAM:**

- Boulos Family, Bandstand
- Martin's Point Health Care, USS Maine Cannon
- Norway Savings Bank, Interpretive Exhibits
- Crandall Toothaker, Civil War Cannon
- Edmund Gardner, III, Civil War Cannon
- Anonymous Friend, Flagpole

### **INTERPRETIVE PANELS:**

- Norway Savings Bank
- Anonymous Friend
- Montgomery Design
- Maine Community Foundation





## John Turk, AIA, Portland

In 25-years of volunteer and professional work John Turk has advanced historic preservation with his strong voice on the City's Historic Preservation Board, advocating for a synthesis of best preservation practices and design excellence. As a founding member of the Portland Society for Architects and a long-term board member and leader of the Architalx lecture series, John has been a strong advocate for high quality contemporary design that is compatible with Portland's historic character.

## George S. Hunt Block, 1886 660 Congress Street, Portland

Located on a challenging site and left vacant by a destructive fire in 2010, a meticulous exterior restoration combined with modern interiors that respect the building's surviving historic features have revitalized this landmark building. The rehabilitation of the severely compromised structure was achieved by the passion of its owner and the project team, resulting in a project that provides modern comfort and style in a historic setting.

#### PROJECT TEAM:

Portland, the Historic Preservation Board, and the public to implement the Park's master plan, creating a park that everyone can enjoy and celebrate.

### **FUNDING PARTNERS:**

The Mayor and City Councilors of Portland

- Capital Improvement Project Funds
- Community Development and Block Grant Funds
- Davis Family Foundation
- Maine Community Foundation

## **PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Portland Department of Public Services
City and State Historic Preservation Offices
Martha Lyon of Landscape Architecture, LLC, Landscape Design
Regina Leonard, RLA, Landscape Architect
R.E. Coleman Excavation, Inc., Contractor
Gorrill Palmer, Civil Engineer

www.portlandlandmarks.org

## Sharon and Frank Reilly, Portland

Sharon and Frank Reilly have provided the gracious driving force behind the effort to revive interest in, rehabilitate, and reinvigorate Lincoln Park, the city's first public park laid out in 1866. They have secured resources to develop a master plan, repair damaged pathways, and initiate restoration of the central fountain. By creating the Friends of Lincoln Park, and serving as "Chief Spear Carriers" they have focused their substantial skills on a nimble and inclusive campaign to revitalize the park.

- Guimond Group, Kenn Guimond, Developer
- PRESENT Architecture, Andre Guimond &

Evan Erlebacher, Architect

- Engineering Design Professionals, Larry Wichrowski, Structural Engineer
- John Thompson, Project Management

W.L. Construction, Inc., Wayne Lewis, General Contractor

- L&L Services, Larry Liston, Painting
- Cumberland Iron Works, Matt St. Cyr, Metalwork
- W. H. Demmons, Inc, Doug Martin, HVAC
- Southern Maine Plumbing and Heating,
- Lenny Drepeau, Plumbing
- Clark Insurance, Insurance
- Garand and Associates, Mark Garand, Accounting
- Law Offices of Ainsworth Thelin, Attorney
- People's United Bank, Lender
- The Lavoie Group, Chris Lavoie, Realtor

## **2016 Preservation Awards**



George S. Hunt Block, 660 Congress Street

## Nathan Clifford Residences (formerly Nathan Clifford School, 1907) 180 Falmouth Street, Portland

The project to create the Nathan Clifford Residences from a historic school designed by John Calvin Stevens is an excellent example of a local government working closely with a neighborhood and a local developer to reuse a beloved building. Supported by historic tax credits, the rehabilitation project retains major character defining features of the school's interior alongside modern energy efficient amenities and preserves public open space that benefits the Oakdale neighborhood.

#### **PROJECT TEAM:**

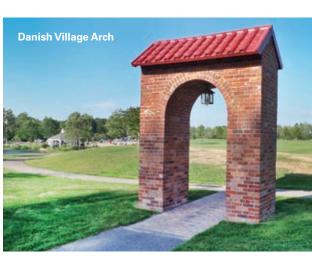
- Developer's Collaborative, Kevin Bunker, Developer
- Archetype Architects, Architect
- Tremont Preservation, Historic Consultant
- Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Civil Engineer
- Ransom Environmental Consultants, Environmental Consultants
- CCB, Inc., General Contractors
- Cito Selinger, Curtis Thaxter, Attorney
- Otis Atwell, Accountant
- Androscoggin Bank, Lender
- Coastal Enterprises, Lender

## Danish Village Arch, 1928

## **5 Durant Drive, Scarborough**

Scarborough's renewed efforts to recognize the significance's of its historic resources resulted in the relocation of this small landscape feature associated with the popular





Danish Village motel built on US Route One in 1928 by Portland hotelier Henry P. Rines. Faced with the impending redevelopment of the motel parcel in late 2015, the Scarborough Town Council approved funds to relocate and restore the arch in the Town's Memorial Park.

#### **PROJECT TEAM:**

- Town of Scarborough, Owner
- Hospice of Southern Maine, Landowner/Developer
- James G. Merry Building Movers, Inc., Mover
- C.W. Harmon Excavating, Inc., Site Work
- Hanscome's Masonry, Masonry
- Sullivan Landscapes, Landscape
- DSM Metal Fabricators, Roofing
- Irrigation Doctor, Site Irrigation
- Mitchell's Electric, Electrical Contractor
- Gurley Antiques Gallery, Lighting
- Top to Bottom Property Maintenance, Roofing





Nathan Clifford Residences

## Press Hotel (former Portland Press Herald (1924) and Gannett (1947) Buildings

**119 Exchange Street, Portland** 

The former Portland Press Herald building has been adaptively reused using historic preservation tax credits into the LEED-certified 110-room Press Hotel. The sensitively-restored exterior and modern interior of the new boutique hotel and restaurant celebrates the building's 87-year history as the home of Maine's largest newspaper. The project by creatively incorporates lettering, typewriters, and other features inspired by its former purpose, and includes art by local artists.

## **PROJECT TEAM:**

- Press Hotel LLC, Owner, Jim Brady, Developer
- Trust Hospitality, Manager Operator
- Archetype Architects, Architect
- Tremont Preservation, Historic Consultant
- Stonehill & Taylor, Interior Design
- Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Civil Engineer
- Structural Design Consulting, Structural Engineer
- Crabtree Engineering, Mechanical & Plumbing Engineer
- CHS Engineering, Electrical Engineer
- Kugler Ning Lighting. Lighting Design
- Thornton Tomasetti. LEED Consultant
- Wright-Ryan Construction, Construction Manager
- TJM Consulting, Kitchen Consultant
- Big Time Design, Restaurant Designer
- Autograph Collection Marriott, Franchisor
- Via Agency, Branding Agency
- Locke Hospitality Procurement, Purchasing Agent



677 Main Street, Westbrook 207-887-9231

Specializing in window and door restoration & repair www.bagalawindowworks.com



Over 3 Generations of Quality Craftsmanship Specializing in Historical & Architectural Restorations Slate Roofs = Copper Gutters = Copper Cornicing

247-5372

Route 202, Waterboro www.heritagecompanyllc.com 181 Western Promenade, Portland Maini Listed at \$2,750,000

RESURGENCE ENGINEERING AND PRESERVATION, INC. ALFRED H. HODSON III, P.E. 132 BRENTWOOD STREET

PORTLAND, ME 04103 V/F (207) 773-4880 AL@RESURGENCEENGINEERING.COM WWW.RESURGENCEENGINEERING.COM

engineering assessments and structural design to preserve and renovate historic buildings and structures

Become a member of Greater Portland Landmarks – see page 6

LANDMARKS OBSERVER / FALL 2016

Ed Gardner 207.773.1919

WWW.EDGARDNER.INFO

www.portlandlandmarks.org

## **2016 Preservation Awards**



#### **Press Hotel**

- Grove Networks, Information Technology
- Sparhawk Group, HVAC Commissioning
- Noyes Moving & Storage, FF&E Warehousing & Install
- Sound Consultant, El Media Group
- Fire Protection Consultant, Fire Risk Management, Inc.

## **Merrill Memorial Library**

**215 Main Street, Yarmouth** 

Originally constructed in 1904-1905, the Colonial Revival Merrill Memorial Library holds a prominent position in the center of Yarmouth. Using environmentally-friendly strategies, the library has been rehabilitated to serve the modern needs of library patrons. In addition to creating a safer and more welcoming library and preserving historic features of the building, the project has reduced the library's energy consumption by 30% using energy efficient systems and sustainable practices.

#### **PROJECT TEAM:**

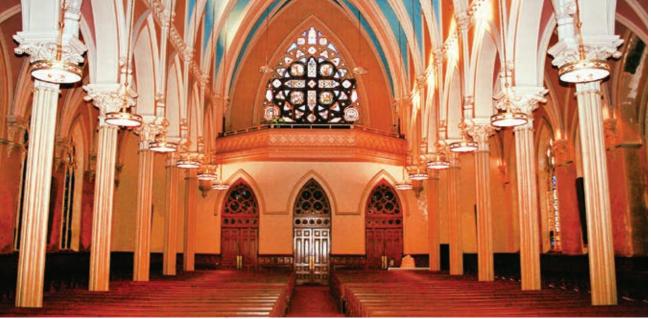
- Merrill Memorial Library, Owner
- Town of Yarmouth, Owner
- Barba & Wheelock, Architect
- Terrence Dewan & Associates, Landscape Architect
- Baker Design Consultants, Civil Engineer
- Structural Integrity, Inc, Structural Engineer
- Mechanical Systems, Mechanical Engineer
- Bartlett Design, Electrical Engineer
- Landry/French Construction, General Contractor
- Bagala Window Works, Wood Window Restoration
- Pond Cove Millwork, Finish Carpentry
- Bellefleur Masonry, Masonry
- Carol Liscovitz Photography, Photographer
- Shea Plastering Company, Plaster Restoration

## **Iron Preservation Projects**

## 510 and 519 Congress Street, Portland

Two small-scale iron preservation projects by StandFast Works Forge have improved the streetscape in the Congress





Maine Irish Heritage Center



**Iron Preservation Projects** 

Street Historic District. Through careful restoration and selective replacement the beautifully restored decorative cast iron base of Mechanics Hall (1857-1859) and wrought iron balconies of the W.T. Grant Block (1942) have greatly improved the historic facades on downtown Portland's main pedestrian and vehicular artery.

#### **PROJECT TEAM:**

- StandFast Works Forge, Iron Restoration
- Waterfront Maine, Owner
- Maine Charitable Mechanic Association, Owner

## **Meeting House Lofts** (former Roosevelt School, 1927) **341 Pine Street, South Portland**

Using a combination of rehabilitation and new design, the former Roosevelt School has been transformed into a 19 condominium units. The development team embraced



a high level of preservation standards in a community that does not have a historic preservation ordinance or require a formal design review. The project compatibly revitalizes a vacant school building, preserves cherished neighborhood green space, and provides much-needed housing for the greater Portland area.

#### **PROJECT TEAM:**

- Anew Development, Ethan Boxer-Macomber, Developer
- PDT Architects, Architect
- Meeting House Lofts Condominium Association, Owners
- Carroll Associates, Site Planning & Landscape Architecture
- Ransom Environmental Construction, **Environmental Consultants**
- Shelley Engineering, Structural Engineers
- Lowell Specifications, Inc., Specifications Consultant
- Zachau Construction, Jeff Zachau. General Contractor
- Sandy Agrafiotis, Photography

## Maine Irish Heritage Center (former St. Dominic's Church, 1888) **34 Gray Street, Portland**

Since moving into the closed St. Dominic's Church in 2003, the Maine Irish Heritage Center has faced numerous challenges to maintain and restore the 1888 church, including a structural failure in 2006 that caused its 4,100 ton cast iron bell to plummet two stories. The rehabilitation and repurposing of the historic church reflects the passion and hard work of dedicated volunteers and community leaders determined to discover, preserve, and communicate the fascinating story of Portland's Irish community.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

- Patricia McDonough Dunn, Chair
- Mark Hutchins, Vice Chair
- Lois Galgay Reckitt, Secretary
- Jason R. Hanley, Treasurer
- Dori Diebold
- Robert Kearney
- Sam Kelley
- Patricia J. McBride

#### **HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS:**

- Hon. Joseph Brennan

Merrill Memorial Library

www.portlandlandmarks.org

Hon. Gerard P. Conley Sr. John P. Doyle

- Rev. John J. Feeney
- Jack McCormack

Maureen Coyne Norris

#### **VOLUNTEERS**:

- Mary McAleney
- Deborah Gellerson
- Dorothy Wentworth
- Ann M. Lackey
- Mark & Anne Duval
- Margaret Feeney Lacombe
- Ms. Diane McCabe
- David & Mel Paul
- Dawn Brennan-Daley
- Dan Coyne
- Nancy & David Brenerman
- Vinnie O'Malley, Interim Executive Director

LANDMARKS OBSERVER / FALL 2016

**Meeting House Lofts** 

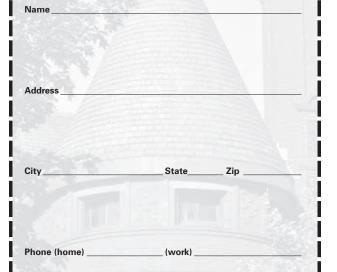
## Where there's a will...

Estate planning involves important decisions that reflect your passions and beliefs. When preparing your will, please consider including Greater Portland Landmarks as a beneficiary.

For further information, please contact Kate Lewis at Greater Portland Landmarks, 207-774-5561 x105



I'd like to become a member of Greater Portland Landmarks



## Places In Peril Update Fall 2016

As we award outstanding preservation projects and leaders, Landmarks is closely monitoring the 19 endangered Places in Peril we have listed since 2012. **Below are updates on three of these places**:



## Grand Trunk Building

The Neo-Classical Grand Trunk Railway building at 1 India Street in Portland was built in 1903 and is the only surviving building from the extensive Grand Trunk Railroad complex in Portland. 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. Although highly visible at the junction of Commercial and India Street, the building was vacant for several years with broken windows, rotting trim, and damaged masonry. Vacant and unsecured, the building was listed on Landmarks' 2012 list of Places in Peril.

Work is now underway to restore the Grand Trunk Railway's Office Building at 1 India Street led by Gorham Savings Bank. Masons are working on the exterior while work on the interior proceeds. The work is being funded in part by the use of Federal and State Historic Tax Credits.



surplus property in 1960, the United States government conveyed Fort Gorges to the City of Portland, which continues to own the property today.

Battered by wind and weather and overgrown with vegetation the fort shows signs of masonry deterioration that compromises its structural integrity. The Friends of Fort Gorges have stepped up to raise funds for a longterm preservation plan. They are actively building awareness and raising funds to preserve the fort, but the scale, lack of access, and large financial needs of the fort create tremendous challenges to its preservation. The Friends' efforts to increase access to the fort will be aided next year by safety improvements by the Army Corps of Engineers. The work mainly mitigates potential falling and drowning hazards and has been approved by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the City's Historic Preservation Board.



## Maine National Guard Armory

The former Maine National Guard Armory is a gateway landmark that provides a striking visual introduction to the City of South Portland. Completed in 1941, the Armory was built in the flurry of new government construction following the United States' entry into World War II, when new shipyards and a steel fabricating plant were built in the Cushing's Point area for the mass-production of Liberty ships. The building features details in the Art Deco style, including glass block windows, sculptured eagles, and carved keystones with images of tanks, grenades, and bullets. After the military vacated the property in 1996, the building sustained significant interior damage from a leaking roof. Much of the exposed concrete is deteriorating. The Armory was owned by the City of South Portland from 2006-15. The City of South Portland sold the property to Priority Real Estate Group of Topsham last year and work began this summer to convert it into a gas station and convenience store. In June the drill hall and garage were demolished to make space for the new gas pumps and parking lot. The first floor of the historic head house will be reused as a store and coffee shop while the second floor will be leased to a local martial arts school. The new uses will preserve the Art Deco details of the building's exterior and the high ceilings and exposed framing inside the building.

Email

6

\$40 Individual
\$60 Household
\$100 Lemuel Moody Membership

Payment: 🛛 Check enclosed	<b>Credit card</b> (circle one)
VISA / MasterCard #	Ехр

Make checks payable and mail to: Greater Portland Landmarks 93 High St., Portland, Maine 04101 (207) 774-5561 • www.portlandlandmarks.org

## Fort Gorges

Named after Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Fort Gorges (1858-1864) was one of three forts in Portland Harbor built in reaction to the threat of foreign naval powers, initially provoked by the War of 1812. When completed, Fort Gorges was already deemed obsolete due to technological advancements in rifled artillery and high-explosive ammunition developed during the Civil War. Declared

LANDMARKS OBSERVER / FALL 2016

# Xho We Are

## JANE BATZELL AND **ROBERT E. CLEAVES IV**



Greater Portland Landmarks Board President Jane Batzell, and her husband Robert E. (Bob) Cleaves IV, have both served as Landmarks Board leaders in the last few years, with Bob's term between 2008 and 2014, and Jane's service starting in 2014. They bring different perspective to preservation, from Bob's experience growing up as a Maine native, and Jane's experience growing up in Washington, DC.

#### Tell us a little about your background.

**Bob** – I am a Maine Med baby. I come from a long line of Mainers. My grandmother taught in a one-room schoolhouse and my grandfather worked for the war department in Madawaska. My mother was active in the Junior League in Portland, and a champion of Landmarks in the 1970s. She used to take me to the How House while she chipped paint. I grew up in Cape Elizabeth in one of the first subdivisions called Sherwood Forest. My father had a lumber business with an office at 142 High Street that overlooked Congress Square.

Jane – I am a native of the city of Washington, DC. I met Bob in DC and moved here in 1979. I grew up in an old house, and have always been attracted to older neighborhoods and older homes. When I was first here one of my close friends was working for Landmarks and another close friend was on the board.

#### What got you interested in preservation?

Bob – I didn't think about it much until Ted O'Meara called me to recruit me for the board.

Jane – It is a passion of mine. It is very important. The United States in general hasn't honored history like the Europeans do: naming places for famous people and famous dates. Other countries take more pride in their history. One of the best ways to teach kids history is through hands-on educational materials.

#### Jane, how did you get involved on the board?

Jane – When Bob termed off, he knew I would be interested.... When I get involved in something I really believe in, I get very passionate and driven. I was ready to come in right away and do my best for the organization.

#### How have you seen greater Portland change since you have been here?

Bob – I remember Portland before the Holiday Inn by the Bay. My first memory of it was shaking Gerald Ford's hand there. I was here when you could take a rail car from South Portland in to Portland. I remember riding into Portland to take swimming lessons at the Y, to go to Recordland and the Boom Boom Shop, which sold psychedelic stuff and Peter Fonda posters. There was an incredible Jewish Deli where 1 City Center would be. There was the Ski Chalet and Benoit's, where I used to get Cub Scout gear.

When I was a kid, Portland was a smelly, industrial, loud place. There was a chicken rendering place in South Portland where the tanks are now. Where Shipyard Brewing is, there was a foundry. You could see sparks flying. It was very cool and very loud.

Jane – There were only 2 good places to eat and only one restaurant open until 10 pm. I do remember Porteous, like a big city department store. The change in the food scene here has been amazing. Now you wouldn't think of it as a smelly industrial city. Since 1979, there has been a lot of change.

#### What does preservation mean to Portland today?

Bob - Going to your preservation awards event last month was phenomenal for me. It was amazing. I didn't really understand preservation. I thought it was for wealthy people preserving their mansions. Preservation goes way beyond architecture, it goes to parks, community spaces. It is truly preserving community.

Jane - It is about teaching history every day. It is aesthetically more pleasing, a real driver of why Portland is popular and the city is economically successful. If we didn't have Landmarks, we'd have a lot more buildings that are generic, that all look the same. We'd have that all over the city. Preservation is why the restaurants have come in - many of those restauranteurs were visionary. Preservation is a huge driver of the economy. I can't say it enough. I am deeply upset when I see buildings torn down and not reused. We need to be teaching people about the quality of these buildings. They couldn't be built today. I have extraordinary gratitude to the founders of Landmarks. They were visionary about history.

#### What would you like to see for the organization?

Jane – I would like our presence and value to be better known to the greater Portland community. I would like to ensure a financial footing for our work for another 50 years. Every year that goes by is another year of history. Buildings that are being built today may need to be preserved in the future. I would like to explore other stewardship models like we have with the Observatory. It would be great to explore more collaboration with other preservation groups. I also would like to pursue collaboration with developers and business leaders so they can see Landmarks as a partner to create the most successful, respectful, economically viable projects we can.

#### What do you think of Landmarks role in the community?

Bob - I see Landmarks as protector of the assets of history for the city. The educational component is huge. Almost every day, I see tour buses or boats in the city. People are *really* interested in learning our history, and Landmarks can play a central role. Portland is under greater pressure than ever before, as part of the reurbanization of the country. Accommodating that growth brings challenges to preserving our history.

## Historic Preservation is good business. Greater Portland Landmarks is honored to recognize our Business Partners.

#### PRESERVATION DIRECTORY

- Bagala Window Works Barba + Wheelock Architecture,
- Sustainability + Preservation Benchmark Residential
- & Investment Real Estate Blaiklock Carpentry, Inc.
- Bryony Brett Stained Glass
- Building Envelope Specialists Inc.
- Casco Bay Engineering
- Casco Bay Insulation
- Castle Kitchens
- City of Portland Historic **Preservation Division**
- Clark Insurance

#### James Kroll Fine Woodworking Jean Philippe Lefevre

- Knickerbocker Group Kolbert Building
- Last Chance Woodworking
- Little Wolf Copper & Lighting, Inc.
- Maine Dry Stone
- Maine Masonry Company
- Maine Paint
- Marvin Design Gallery by Eldredge
- Masonry Preservation Associates
- Mid-Maine Restoration, Inc.
- New England Castings LLC/ **Bellingham Bell Company**
- Overhead Door Company of Portland Parker Painting

Preservation Timber Framing, Inc.

PC-Products Co.

Peter Lord Plaster & Paint

Restoration Resources

& Preservation, Inc.

Sebago Stonework

StandFast Works Forge

Studio A Architecture

Townsend Real Estate

Ward Clapboard Mill

Your Kitchen Imagined

Stone\*Henge Restoration

= Taggart Construction, Inc.

WBRC Architects – Engineers

Woods & Co. Civil Engineering

Resurgence Engineering

Pownalborough Restorations

Richard Curtis & Associates

Right Solutions Waterproofing

Richard Irons – Restoration Masons

#### **PROGRAM AND EVENT SUPPORT**

- Heritage Company Coppersmiths
- KevBank
- Norway Savings Bank
- Unum

#### **MEDIA SPONSOR** Maine Media Collective

#### **GRANITE CIRCLE**

- Archetype Architects Portland, ME Bagala Window Works
- East Brown Cow Management, Inc. Portland, ME
  - Portland, ME
- Resurgence Engineering & Preservation, Inc.
- Portland, ME Scott Simons Architects Portland, ME
- **BRICK CIRCLE** Brady Enterprises

#### SHINGLE CIRCLE

- Abyssinian Meeting House Portland, ME Breakwater Technology
- Portland, MF
- Gnome Landscaping Falmouth, ME
- Grandview Window Cleaning
- Portland, ME Great Falls Construction
- Gorham, ME
- GrowSmart Maine Portland, ME
- Highlands Woodturning Castine, ME
- Karen Gallagher Interiors

- North Yarmouth, ME
  - Kolhert Ruildin

- Baker Newman Noyes
- Bangor Savings Bank
- CBRE/the Boulos Company
- The Danforth Group
- Ocean Gate Realty
- Wright-Ryan Construction

- West Falmouth, ME
- Martin's Point Health Care

- Clarke Painting & Property Management
- Complete Home Evaluation Services
- Cornerstone Building & Restoration
- CWS Architects
- Decorum Hardware & Lighting
- Ed Somers Woodworking
- Fineartistmade
- Freeport Woodworking
- Gnome Landscapes, Design, Masonry & Maintenance
- Green Mountain Window
- Groundroot Preservation Group LLC
- The Heritage Company **Coppersmiths**, LLC
- Highlands Woodturning
- Historic New England Historic **Homeowner Program**
- Home Again by Hancock Lumber
- Innerglass Window Systems LLC.

- Baker Newman Noyes Portland, ME
- Benchmark Residential & Investment **Real Estate** Portland, ME
- Clark Insurance Portland MF
- Cornerstone Building & Restoration Portland, ME
- Heritage Company Coppersmiths, LLC East Waterboro, ME
- Ocean Gate Realty Portland, ME
- Taggart Construction, Inc. Freeport, ME
- Verrill Dana
- Portland, ME
- Wright-Ryan Construction Portland, ME

- Court Square Properties Cape Elizabeth, ME
- Cunningham Security Systems Yarmouth MF
- CWS Architects
- Portland, ME
- Developers Collaborative Portland, ME
- Home Remedies Portland, ME
- SMRT, Inc. Portland, ME
- WEX South Portland, ME

- Portland, ME
- M-Co Engineering Plus Freeport, ME
- Maine Irish Heritage Center Portland, ME
- Portland Paddle Portland, ME
- Portland's Choice Realty-Rachel Cooney Portland, ME
- Reed & Company Architecture Portland, ME
- Scratch Baking Company South Portland, ME
- Spring Point Ledge Light Trust South Portland, ME
- Stern Consulting International Portland, ME
- Triangle Lodge #1 AF & AM Portland, ME
- Yarmouth Historical Society Yarmouth, ME

Please join other businesses in advancing historic preservation by becoming a Landmarks Business Partner today. You will be recognized for your community support with a listing in every issue of the quarterly Landmarks Observer and receive discounts on advertising and many other great benefits. Please call 774-5561 for more information.

www.portlandlandmarks.org

LANDMARKS OBSERVER / FALL 2016

## Landmarks Calendar

Greater Portland Landmarks engages in advocacy and education to preserve the extraordinary historic buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes that make greater Portland an increasingly popular place to live, work and visit. We invite you to join us!

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## The Preservation of Portland Since 1961 Fridays, 10:30 am — 1:30 pm (CLOSED Nov. 25 and Dec. 30)

Landmarks will be open to view our new large scale murals depicting the evolution of Preservation in Portland in images and text in the Gregory W. Boulos Gallery of Architecture and Design at Landmarks' Safford House headquarters, 93 High Street, Portland

## Lecture: Why you Can't Buy a Forest In a Can

Tuesday, November 15, 6 pm – 7 pm

Managing and Restoring Diversity in our Woodlands and Gardens. Presented by William Cullina, Director of Horticulture/Plant Curator at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, Monument Square, Portland, ME

## **Museum Shoppers' Day**

## Saturday, November 19, 9 am — 4 pm

Support Landmarks and the Portland Observatory among other local museum and cultural sites who will be represented at Museum Shoppers' Day at **Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm in Falmouth, ME**. Purchase goods that support local non-profit organizations in time for the holiday season!

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

## Lecture: Why Your World Looks the Way It Does and Why It Matters

## Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 6 pm — 7 pm

Cultural Landscape as Visual Culture. Presented by **Kent Ryden**, Professor Emeritus of American and New England Studies at the University of Southern Maine. **Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, Monument Square, Portland, ME** 



## $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{RNERST} \otimes \mathbb{NE}$ building & restoration

Residential & Commercial Restoration, Renovation, Maintenance, Additions and New Construction.



Lecture: Urban Cemeteries: Opportunities for Horticulture Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 6 pm – 7 pm Presented by Dennis Collins, Horticultural Curator at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA. Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, Monument Square, Portland, ME

For more information, and to register for events and programs: www.portlandlandmarks.org or call 774–5561



#### Come tour this amazing property as part of the John Calvin Stevens Society! For more information: **25highlandst.com**

CONTACT TOM LANDRY: LANDRYTEAM@BENCHMARKMAINE.COM | 207.775.0248