

# George S. Hunt Block

660 Congress Street, Portland



## Significance

The George S. Hunt Block at 660-662 Congress Street was designed in the Queen Anne Style by noted Portland architect Francis Fassett and his associate Frederick Thompson in 1886. Its storefronts were added in 1912 and 1950. One of the most architecturally significant buildings in the Congress Street Historic District, the building is located on a challenging site and was left vacant by a destructive fire in 2010. Years of deferred maintenance, fire damaged structural elements, and acute water damage were some of the challenges to revitalizing this important historic structure.

## Project Scope

The extensive repairs on the building's exterior included repair of the slate Mansard roof, cleaning and spot pointing the brick, replacement windows, restoration of the pressed tin frieze and dentil ornamentation, and rehabilitation of the leaded glass transoms and multi-pane double hung windows. The rotten, but prominent wood storefront windows were replaced in kind. Fragments of the building's historic features were salvaged and incorporated into the modern aesthetic of the new interior layout. New building systems and code improvements were creatively incorporated into the project's design.

## Recognition

To bring new life to this landmark building in the Congress Street Historic District owner Kenn Guimond and Andre Guimond and Evan Erlebecher of PRESENTArchitecture combined a meticulous exterior restoration with contemporary interiors that respect the building's surviving historic features. The rehabilitation of the severely compromised structure to standards that exceed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation was achieved by the passion of its owner and the project team, who have created a project that provides modern comfort and style in a historic setting and bolsters revitalization efforts in the Longfellow Square area.