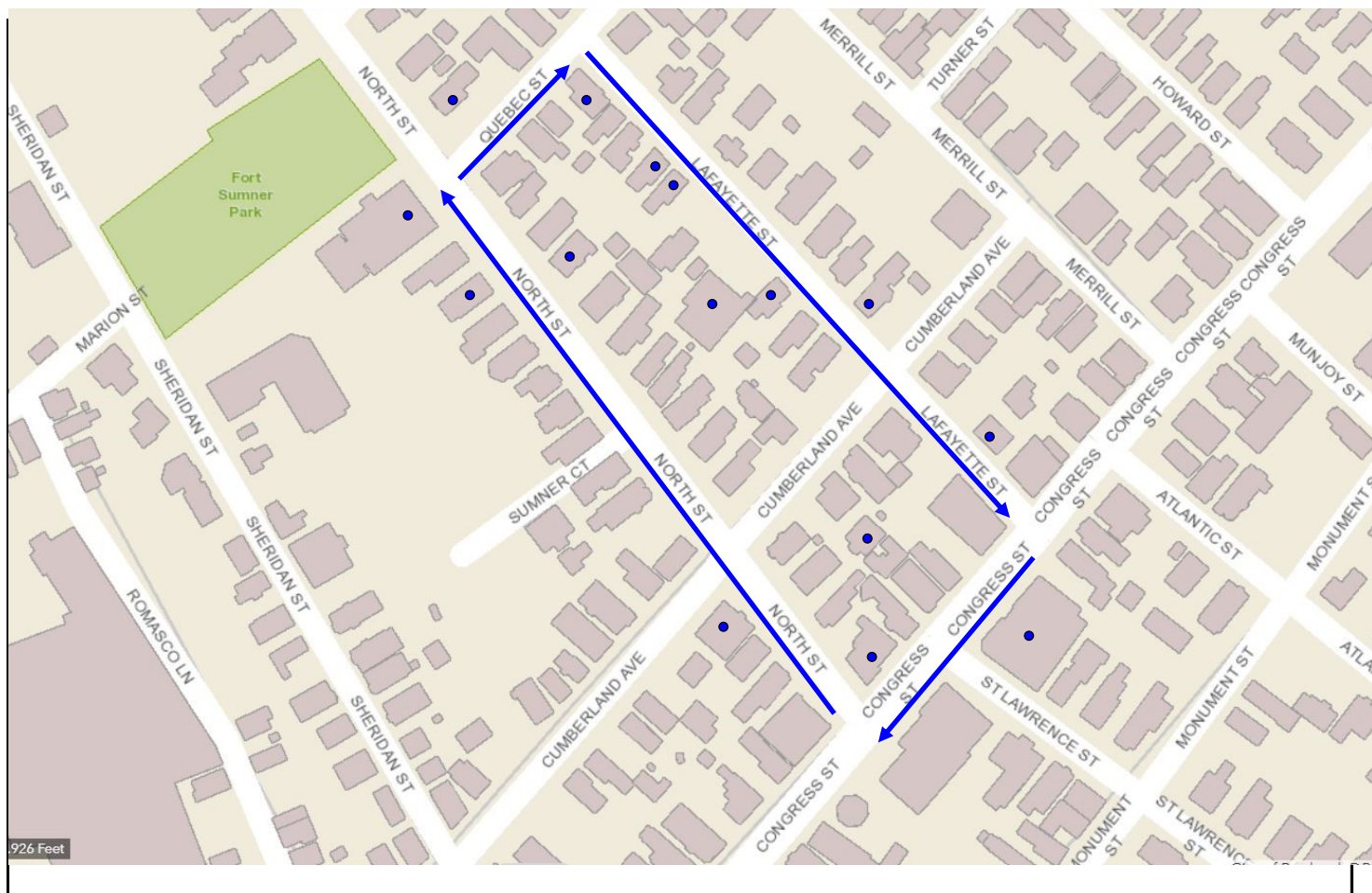


Greater Portland Landmarks' *Walk Around the Block*

A Diverse Neighborhood: Early Settlement and Immigration on Munjoy Hill April 2, 2018



Munjoy Hill

Munjoy Hill rises 161 feet above Casco Bay on the eastern end of the Portland peninsula. The Hill's namesake George Munjoy (c1626-1680) settled near present day Mountfort and Fore Streets in 1659. He fled Portland after an Indian attack in 1676 and never returned.

For over a century Munjoy Hill was the city's most densely populated and ethnically diverse neighborhood. However it was one of the last neighborhoods on the peninsula to be developed because its primary functions from the city's founding in the 1630s until the 1840s were as an occasional gathering place and a pasture for cows.

As the hill's population increased, in 1836 City officials bought up much of what is now the Eastern Promenade, despite public outcry at the waste of public money. While the Eastern Prom was preserved for future public use, on the other side of the hill, tons of gravel were removed to fill in Back Cove.

The upsurge in activity along Fore and India Street in the 1840s and 1850s led to a residential boom on the Hill, attracting workers from the Portland Company and railroad. Many of these homes were built in the Greek Revival Style that predominated during this period. On the western side of the hill, the area between Washington Avenue and North Street developed a unsavory reputation in the early 19th century.

The area would be mostly destroyed in a few decades by a catastrophic fire with significant impact on the entire city. The Great Fire of July 4th and 5th, 1866 spread from Commercial Street to North Street. It destroyed 1,500 buildings and left over 10,000 people homeless. The field below the Observatory was turned into a makeshift tent-city by the Army, then replaced by wooden dormitories until permanent housing could be built.

Several early homes to the east of North Street survived the fire including the Benjamin Noble House (1856) at 65 North Street and the double house of Eliphalet Clark and Moses Gould at 79 North Street (c1847).

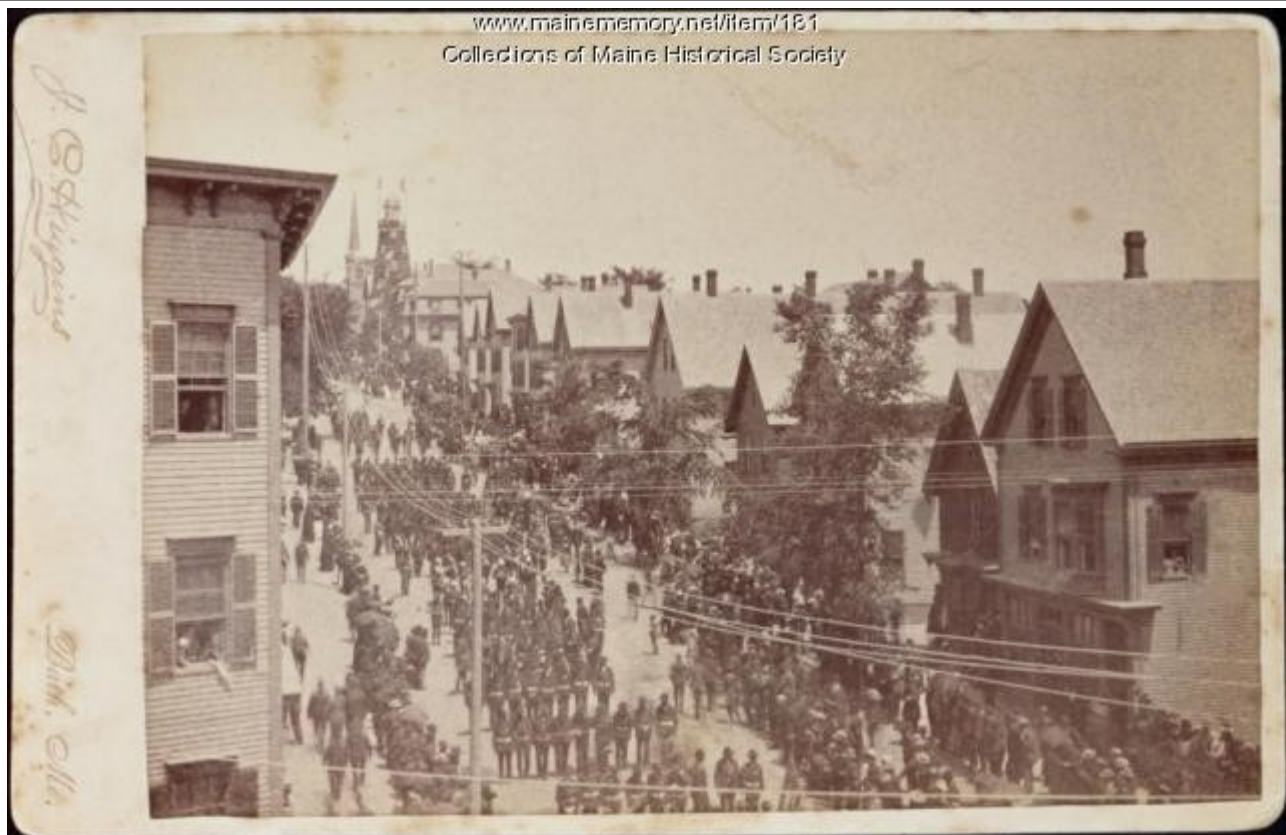
Following the Great Fire, the city's need for housing drove development on Munjoy Hill. This development was largely middle-class homes, with a few high style residences in the Italianate and Second Empire Style. A few years earlier in 1863 the city's horse drawn street car line had reached Munjoy Hill helping to make the hillside areas attractive for development after the fire.

Congress Street

Originally known as Back Street, reflecting its position to other early streets, Fore and Middle, it later was known as Queen Street and extended up Munjoy Hill in 1792 as far as a stone wall and gate near the present day intersection with Washington Avenue. Although the origins of the name Congress are unrecorded, it may be presumed that Congress seemed a better name than Queen in a city turning away from its British origins following the War of 1812. It first appears to be called Congress around 1823. The extension up Munjoy Hill beyond the historic gate was laid out in 1795 and appears to have been first called Congress Street by city government in 1836 when it was extended to the Eastern Promenade.

Architectural Character of the Street

From the Eastern Prom to Merrill Street This section is fairly eclectic with two-and-a-half and three story frame dwellings of various styles. There are gable end dwellings, Second Empire dwellings with mansard roofs, triple decker apartments with flat roofs and Colonial Revivals with hip roofs. There is also one early cape at 81 Congress Street and a double house at 45 Congress Street. Most dwellings are two or three bays wide. Most buildings are on raised brick foundations set back a few feet from the street. Some dwellings feature a retaining wall at the sidewalk. Entrances are generally on the street façade, although there are a few examples of primary entrances on the side facades. Parking is accommodated generally in narrow drive-ways to the side of a dwelling or at the rear of dwellings.



GAR Parade 1885

129 Congress Street—

The site of the Charles Eastman barbershop. Eastman (1821-1880) was a barber, second hand clothing dealer, mariner and hack driver. He was a financial supporter of the Abyssinian Meeting House and School. He owned and operated several barbershops with his four sons, including one on this site. His obituary states: “No man did more for the poor fugitives escaping from slavery than he.”

The shop at the corner of Congress and High Street was for many years Hilton’s Drug Store, operated by Theara Hilton. The drug store also served as a local Post Office. For a period of time (c1897) Mr. Hilton lived at 1 North Street above the store, he and his wife Mary later lived in a dwelling at 31/33 Congress Street. Theara Hilton died in 1939.



1924 Tax Photo
Hinton Drug Store



1890 Photo
TJ Stevens Drug Store

North Street

North Street was laid out in 1727, connecting Congress Street (then known as Mountjoy Street) to Sandy Point, site of Tukey's Bridge. Five residences on North Street were lost during the Great Fire of 1866, but several pre-fire houses remain.



28 Cumberland (seen from North)—circa 1881

The Second Empire house at the rear of Nos. 7 and 11 North Street was built c1881 when Captain Harden Tucker (c1831-1909) purchased the land from the family of Samuel Osborn, a grocer at 5 North Street.

Harden Tucker was a sea captain, who lived on Waterville Street prior to moving to North Street. He was born in Trescott, Maine, in Washington County.

He married twice, first to Mary Burgess of Portland in 1854 and second to Eda (Etta) Blake of Portland on 31 July, 1866.

Although he was a sea captain and mariner for many years in the 1890s he operated the Eureka Laundry on Temple Street in Portland's downtown.

He died of "acute indigestion and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.



14-16 North Street – George Hearn House—1867

Hearn was born in England and worked as a provisions dealer. He owned the home from 1867 to 1886.

In 1898 dentist Dr. Frank Dolley is living in the house.



45 North Street—YB Fuller House—1884 - VB?

The house passed to Herbert C. Fuller who was born in Nova Scotia and worked as a grocer. A Fuller owned the property from 1884 to 1950.

In 1898 VB & Son (Vernal B. and Herbert C. Fuller) were grocers at 22 North Street.



48 North Street—Franklin Berry House—1884

Franklin Berry, a Civil War veteran, has this home constructed in 1874. It was owned by the Berry's until 1916.

Then Melville and Alma Alley moved into the home care for Melville's father. Melville was a janitor at the Monument Street and Shailer Schools.

In 1898 Andrew Whitehouse, a machinist at the Portland Company also lived there.

Franklin Berry—26th Regiment, Maine Infantry (9 months, 1862-63)

Organized at Bangor and mustered in for nine months' service October 11, 1862. Left State for Washington, D. C., October 26. Duty in the defenses of that city till November 16. Moved to Fortress Monroe, Va., 16, thence sailed for New Orleans, La., December 2.

Regiment lost during service :

34 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded

1 Officer and 130 Enlisted men by disease.

Total 165.



Shailer School—1880-1881

Designed by Charles Kimball, this school was named after William Hosmer Shailer who was a pastor of the First Baptist Church. It took the overflow of students from North School. The Shailer School was dedicated and completed in 1882.

Dr. Shailer was born in 1807 in Connecticut and studied in Massachusetts and New York. He “accepted the call of the Baptist church in Brookline, MA.” His wife was Elizabeth Payne, daughter of the founder of Colgate University.

Charles Kimball was born in Lovell in 1852, and was the son of a dentist. His family moved to Portland when he was very young and he graduated from Portland High School in 1869.

By 1871 he was working for George M. Harding, a local architect. In 1874 he left Portland for Lewiston and established a practice with George M. Coombs. Kimball & Coombs dissolved later that year, and Kimball had opened his own office in Portland by 1875. He practiced alone until 1887, his death. He never married.



1914 Class

63 North Street—Benjamin Noble House—1856

One of the oldest structures on Munjoy Hill, this 2 1/2 story Italianate wood frame house was built by Benjamin F. Noble after his return from the California Gold Rush. This house is significant because Nobel and his two brothers became prominent developers of Munjoy Hill and this house may have set the style for subsequent houses in the area.

Benjamin's brother Nymphas B. Noble, a local entrepreneur lived next door. During the 1880s Nymphas ran Forest City Mineral Spring, which was a rival of Poland Springs for a short time.

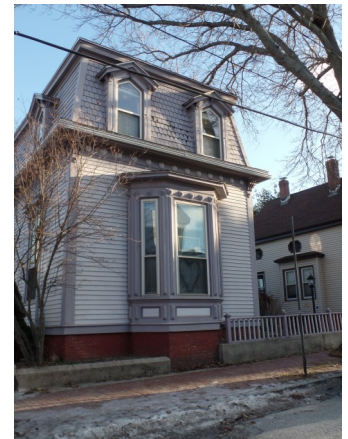


80 Quebec Street—Queen Anne

Like Montreal Street, Quebec Street reflects the railroad connection which made Portland Canada's winter port and stimulated the economic growth of our waterfront city. The street was laid out in 1852 connecting North Street to the Eastern Promenade.

In 1898 Fred A. Billings owned the property. He ran a grocer store located at 117 Congress Street.

Charles Ipcar, son of artist Dahlov Ipcar, owned the house from 1983 to 1998.



Lafayette Street

Lafayette Street was laid out from Congress Street in 1849 and named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, who visited Portland in 1825 as part of a nationwide tour. It was extended to Quebec Street in 1856.

Architectural Character of the Street

Lafayette Street is eclectic with multiple scales and styles of homes. Dwellings range from one story capes to three story and include examples Italianate, Second Empire, and vernacular styles. While a front gable is the predominate roof form, examples of mansard, flat and side gable are also present. Most dwellings are two or three bays wide. Early homes have very high brick foundations, while later dwellings are built on lower brick foundations.

African Americans on Munjoy Hill

From the mid 19th century onward the neighborhood on Lafayette and Merrill Streets was home to a number of Portland's black residents, many of whom worked on Portland's waterfront or in nearby businesses. While some black residents were native to Maine, many were from Canada, particularly from Nova Scotia. Others came to Portland from Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Cape Verde, West Indies, Portugal, and other states like North Carolina, Virginia, New York, Wisconsin, and Georgia. The men worked as seaman, waiters, janitors, stewards, cooks, clerks, hotel porters, house painters, and laborers. While many women stayed home, others worked as laundresses, seamstresses, housekeepers, and elevator operators.

48 Lafayette Street

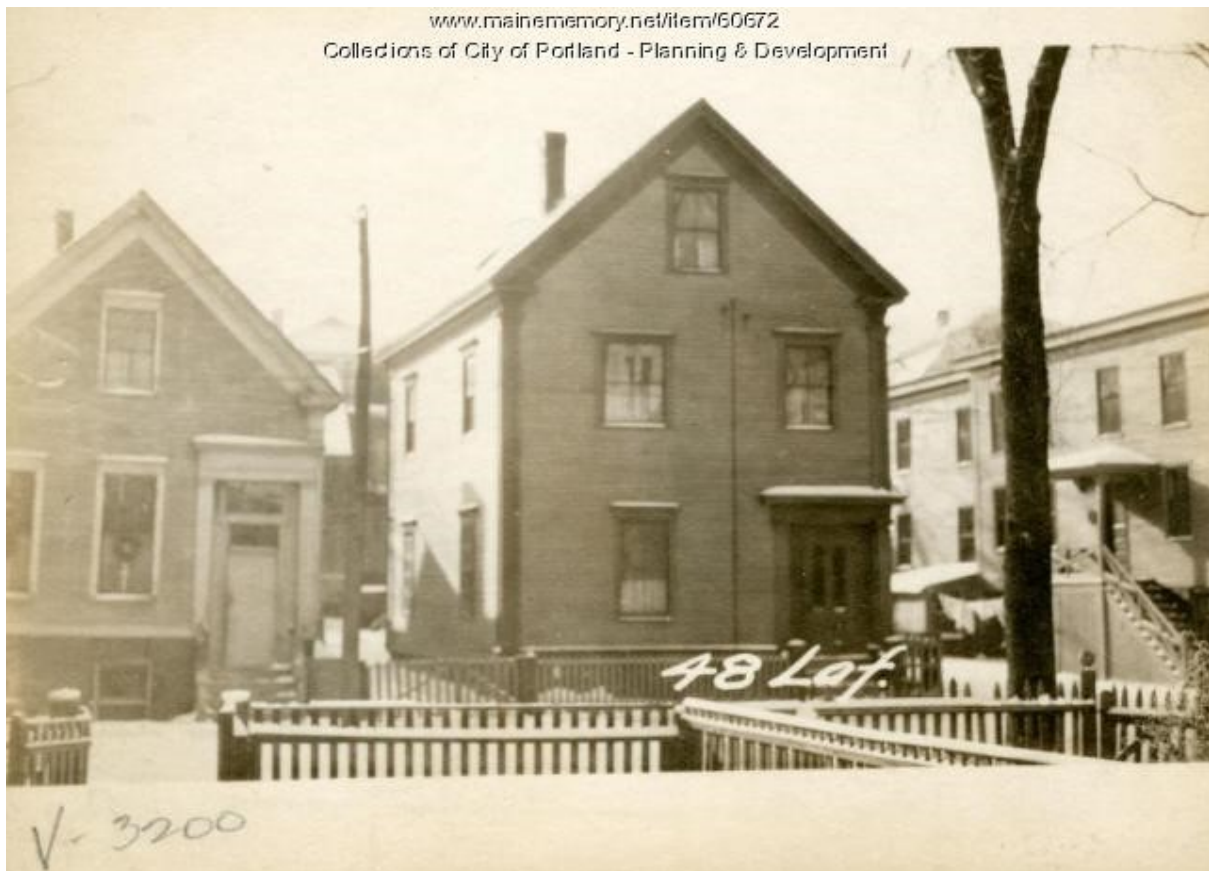
David Augustus Dickson (1887-1979) came to the United States from Kingston, Jamaica, in 1911 and became a naturalized citizen in 1916. His wife, Mary Daly (1890-1981), came to the US in 1914.

David worked as a shipper (1930), porter (1940) and janitor at Cressey & Allen's retail music store on Congress Street for many years. He later worked as an elevator operator and janitor at Porteous, Mitchell and Braun Department Store (1941-1943) and as a janitor at Associated Hospital Service of Maine (1950s). Mary worked as a maid and seamstress. In 1950 she was named Maine State Mother of the Year.

David and Mary greatly valued education and all five of their children went onto higher education. The four sons graduated from Bowdoin College. Three became medical doctors. The fourth received his master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard, served in World War II, and went onto spend 40 years as a teacher and university president.

Their youngest and only daughter, Lois, was valedictorian of Portland High School in 1950 and class president of Radcliffe College. A few years after her graduation she became the vice-president and director of the Washington DC office of the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB). While with the CEEB she designed and implemented the Pell Grant Program. She married Emmett J. Rice, an economist, and had two children E. John Rice Jr. and Susan E. Rice, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and U.S. National Security Advisor for President Obama.*

Although David and Mary Dickson moved to 51 Melrose Street in the early 1960s, the Dickson family continued to own the house at 48 Lafayette Street until 1984.



46 Lafayette Street (formerly 24)

In 1850 William J Jones purchased land from Harriet Peterson on Lafayette Street. US Census records indicate William was born in the Danish West Indies and came to the US through Canada. He became a naturalized citizen in 1892.

William J Jones worked variously as a mariner (1850-1869), a cook (1875), a wood and coal dealer (1885-1888), and a laborer (1880, 1890-1891). His widow Mary [Elizabeth] remained in the house after his death. She lived in the dwelling with two of their three sons, Alfred, Edward and Abraham.

In 1899 Mary deeded the house to Abraham and two lots at 44 and 46 Lafayette Street.

In 1922 the dwellings were purchased by George Simms. His family had been living in the dwellings since 1916 according to street directories.

George was a clergyman at A.M.E. Zion church on Monument Street who was born in Washington DC. He lived in the dwelling at 46 Lafayette with his wife Lila, a native of South Carolina, and four of their children.



1924 photo

Old Stable—34 Lafayette Street
34 Lafayette Street, c1899
Charles E Thomas Livery Stable

The brick building at 34 Lafayette Street replaced an earlier wood structure on the site. Both stables were connected to Thomas' dwelling, now demolished.

Charles died in 1907, his wife Ellen died in 1939. His heirs owned the property on Lafayette Street into the 1920s.

His son Fred operated the livery stable with his father and continued to operate the stable after his father's death, although he and his wife lived in a house at 29/31 North Street.

It was later used as a storage building for a variety of businesses before being converted into housing in the late 20th century.



30 Lafayette Street

The dwelling at 30 Lafayette Street appears to have been built for Samuel S. Libby, a blacksmith and machinist, in the late 1870s or early 1880s to replace an earlier dwelling. In 1929 the dwelling was purchased by Jennie McClean.

Jennie McClean (1872-1946) was the daughter of Joseph and Tempe Hill of Gardiner. She married Joseph McClean of Augusta in 1899. Joseph and his son Robert ran a grocery store in Gardiner for many years.

Joseph (1871-1945) came to the United States in 1884/5 from Barbados, West Indies. At the time of their marriage Joseph was a cook in a hotel and Jennie worked as a bookkeeper.

Jennie and Joseph had two children, Helen and Vivian. When the couple divorced after 1920, Jennie and the girls moved to Portland.

According to city directories, Jennie worked as a dress maker. In 1929 she bought 30 Lafayette Street for \$3600. Both daughters lived in the house with their mother for a time and worked as elevator operators. Helen worked at Loring Short and Harmon's at 474 Congress Street and Vivian worked across the street at 477 Congress Street in the Chapman Building.



23 Lafayette Street—Curtis Family House, eventually inherited by Mary Curtis Rundlett

The Curtis family moved from Bangor to Portland and lived in this house on Lafayette Street for about 30 plus years.

Curtis & Son Co. John B. Curtis' (1827-1897) first began to consider the possibility of producing chewing gum from spruce sap as a young man working in the North Woods of Maine. Kitchen experiments led to Curtis and his father becoming the first people to manufacture spruce gum commercially around 1848.

By the time the Curtis family moved from Bangor to Portland, Curtis & Son Co. was a successful, growing business in need of factory headquarters. The company built their factory at 291 Fore Street after the great fire of 1866 (the Hub Furniture store today.)

Lauded as the first brick factory in the world devoted to the manufacture of chewing gum, the Curtis & Son Chewing Gum Factory employed about 200 workers, mostly women, and produced 1,800 boxes of gum daily at peak operations.

Although Curtis & Son Co. would be sold to a competitor chewing gum company in 1910-11, the company and their factory put Maine on the map and Maine-made chewing gum in the mouths of people worldwide.



www.maine-memory.net/item/60414
Collections of City of Portland - Planning & Development



7 Lafayette Street (1849-1852)

One of the earliest houses remaining on Munjoy Hill, 7 Lafayette Street was built on land owned by Enoch Moody and Isaac Fickett.

Although Fickett, a caulker in the shipbuilding industry, owned the property until 1852 he does not appear to have lived in the dwelling, instead living on Hampshire Street

In the 1850s the house was owned by the Littlejohn family. George Littlejohn was a cooper. He died in 1856 at age 30 either in New Orleans or Havana, Cuba of Yellow Fever. His wife moved to Waterville Street.

From 1882 –1918 the dwelling was the home of the Silver family. Patrick Silver, was a carpenter who lived in the dwelling with his wife Bridget and their children.



Carleton's Castle

The Gothic Revival style castle was the work of the Irish born Henry Rowe (1810-1870), one of the city's first professional architects. Intended as Rowe's home, it was erected in 1845, suffered a damaging fire and was rebuilt. However, the Rowe was forced to sell the house for back taxes of \$15.60 to the pioneering photographer and attorney, Samuel L. Carlton (1822-1908).

Carleton lived in what became known as Carleton's Castle until his death on April 12, 1908, at the age of 84 years. His widow, Mrs. Caroline E. Carleton continued living there until 1912 and then the house was vacant for two years and was demolished in 1914.

Built of wood with siding cut to resemble stone, the whimsical manse drew national attention and was perhaps the most pretentious and unusual residence in the city.



1924 Tax Photo





Research: Nancy Ellenberger, Julie Larry, Alessa Wylie, Derek _____

Photo credits: Maine Historical Society, Maine Memory Network, City of Portland