

O'Brion Street

O'Brion Street was originally laid out in 1857 as part of Beckett Street. When Beckett Street was bisected in the 20th century for the construction of the former Marada Adams School (1958), the southern half of the street was renamed O'Brion Street by order of the City Council for William H. O'Brion, a longtime city councilor from Munjoy Hill who died in 1960.

Architectural Character of the Street

O'Brion Street is eclectic with multiple scales and styles of homes. Older homes tend to be located close to the Eastern Prom, as the land in and around Wilson Street was a pond and not developed until the late 19th century. Dwellings range from one-and-a-half to three stories in height and include examples of Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and vernacular styles. There is one modern four-story building at the corner of Wilson Street. While a front gable is the predominate roof form, examples of mansard, flat, and side gable are also present. Most dwellings are built on lower brick foundations. The dwellings are generally set at or near the sidewalk. Entrances are generally on the street façade with a covered stoop or one-story porch, although there is an example of a primary entrance on the side facade. Parking, where provided, is accommodated in driveways to the side of a dwelling. O'Brion Street includes multiple lots that are undeveloped or used as parking lots.

Address: 11 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: 1864

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name: William H. Weeks House, William H. Weeks, builder

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

11 O'Brion Street is a two-and-a-half-story, side-gable, multi-family home with Italianate details. The one-by-five-bay home has 1/1 vinyl sash windows, vinyl siding, and two gable dormer windows. Although it has received alterations, the residence retains the bay window and bracket-supported hood over the main entrance that reflect its earlier character.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

The street elevation of 11 O'Brion resembles the 1924 record, although it has been altered by the application of vinyl siding and the removal of details at the bay window, windows, eave, and gable end. The main elevation facing south has been significantly altered; the door opening has been reduced in height as well as narrowed with the replacement of the double Italianate doors by a single modern entry door. However, the original wooden brackets supporting the hood over the entry remain. A second entry door was added on the south elevation in the first bay and second story windows were shortened and paired, altering the original window pattern. Despite alterations, the building's scale and form are compatible with the adjacent buildings and the majority of its changes can be reversed to restore its architectural integrity.

Address: 12 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1870s

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name:

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

12 O'Brion Street is a distinctive one-and-a-half-story, Second Revival dwelling characterized by a two-sided mansard roof with a very low upper slope that appears flat from the roadway. Significant elements of the now multi-family home include a flared slope between the curbs, and peaked crowns over several windows. A square bay window in the façade features panel insets below the lights, as well as pilasters, a wide frieze, and a large cornice.

The house has wood clapboard siding and is two by five bays wide, including a rear ell, which also has a mansard frame. The main entrance in the façade's second bay is accessed by wooden stairs. The door and sidelight appear to be original. The entry has a simple, paneled entablature and is topped by a bracketed hood.

Windows are replacement 1/1 vinyl sash with narrow sills and trim. Dormer windows and window pairs on the eastern elevation have peaked cornices with detailing below the peaks. The roof is asphalt and has two chimneys on the interior upper slope.

A front-gambrel addition has been added since 1924 and is connected to the main structure by a low entrance between the two structures. The addition's gambrel roof has a flared lower slope that matches that of the main structure.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

The most significant change to 12 O'Brion since 1924 is the gambrel addition on the eastern side of the property. Losses include a small porch to the left of the main entry, ornate verge boards on the façade side, and 6/6 windows. Due to the close proximity of the addition to the main structure, the rear ell with covered porch on the eastern elevation is no longer visible. However, the majority of the main structure's distinctive form has been preserved and could be returned to its original state with minimal measures.

Address: 15 O'Brien Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1858-59

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name: Hiram Johnson House

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

15 O'Brion Street is a good example of the front-gable, multi-family dwellings built on the narrow lots that typify Munjoy Hill's historic character. The mid-nineteenth-century, two-and-a-half-story structure is clad in wood clapboards, and is vernacular in style, though it boasts an Italianate-influenced main entry hood with brackets. The house otherwise lacks ornamentation.

Distinguishing features include a two-story ell, featuring a large low-pitched gable addition, which extends straight from the main structure's rear, connecting to an additional, east/west-facing gable addition. As a result, the entire property occupies an L-shaped footprint. The property has several traits in common with other front-gable Munjoy Hill houses, including moderately overhanging eaves and an asymmetrical, three-bay façade. The main entry in the first bay is the house's most detailed element, featuring the original door with a single light within panels. The main entry hood is supported by original brackets with finials, and the door is flanked by abbreviated sidelights, which have been updated since 1924.

The western elevation of the house's sizable ell is clearly visible from the road, and exhibits several additional entrances, including three ground-level entries, two of which have second-story porches, above. Two of the entrances feature contemporary sloped hoods supported by braces.

The dwelling has replacement 6/6 sash windows, with additional shapes and sizes throughout, and the house's roof is asphalt shingles. There are two chimneys: one on the interior eastern slope of the main structure, and one on the peak of the rear ell.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

15 O'Brion Street has suffered some common losses such as shutters, and some more significant changes such as the addition of entrances and a porch on the western elevation. The porch that is farther back from the road was present in 1924, and looked similar to the current structure. At least two windows have been added to the western elevation as well. The property's garage has been updated since 1924, though it exhibits a similar cross gable form. These changes do not diminish the dwelling's historical integrity, as the overall form and unornamented appearance have remained.



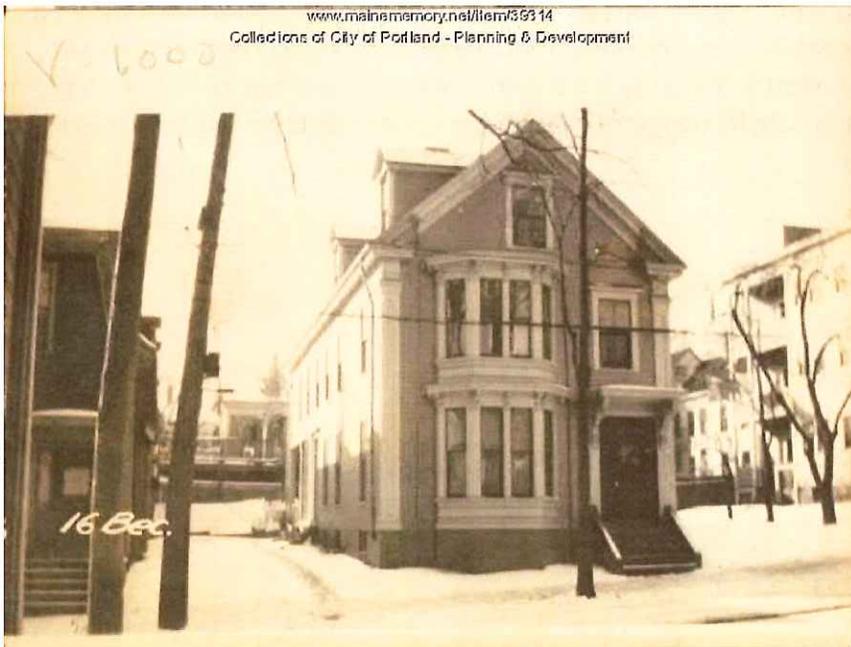
Address: 16 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1870s

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name:

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

16 O'Brion Street is a good example of the wood-frame, front-gable dwellings built on the narrow lots that typify Munjoy Hill's historic character. The 1924 tax record for the house indicates it was constructed circa 1870. The multi-family, two-and-a-half-story structure is clad in wood clapboards and exhibits several Italianate elements. The house is characterized by a slightly recessed entry topped by a bracketed hood, and a two-story canted bay window with bracketed cornices. Additional distinguishing features include eave returns supported by robust Greek Revival-influenced pilaster corner boards, wooden window trim with simple crowns, and wide friezes below the gable and eaves. The house has replacement 1/1 vinyl sash windows, and the roof is asphalt shingles.

Structurally, the dwelling possesses a simple, rectangular footprint, and the front-gable roof features a shed dormer and a pedimented gable dormer over the eastern elevation. The first floor of the eastern elevation is recessed below the first two bays of the second story, creating a covered porch, below. There is also a secondary entrance on the eastern elevation. The façade is two bays wide with the main entrance in the second bay. The entrance's wide hood is supported by elaborate s- and c-curve brackets. The single, unglazed door is flanked by full sidelights consisting of grids of narrow panes. The two-story bay window bears wooden trim, cornices, and brackets on both stories.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

The majority of 16 O'Brion Street's distinguishing features, including recessed porch on the eastern elevation, were present in 1924. Common changes include loss of 6/6 and 2/2 windows and updated steps to the main entrance. Though it is difficult to discern the main entrance details in the 1924 record, the main entry appears to be a single door, as it is today. The shed dormer over the eastern elevation was previously a second gable dormer. These changes do not diminish the dwelling's historical integrity. 16 O'Brion retains its original form and a high level of detail, which communicate its period of construction and contribute to Munjoy Hill's historical character.

Address: 22 O'Brien Street
Approximate/Documented Date of Building:
Surveyed: 8/17/2018
Historic Name:
Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

22 O'Brion Street is a typical example of the triple-deckers built on Munjoy Hill in the early twentieth century. The building exhibits characteristics generally associated with the triple-decker form, including deeply overhanging eaves with wide friezes below, a three-story bay window, and a covered entry porch. 22 O'Brion boasts some Colonial Revival details that are not common to the Hill's triple-deckers, including diamond mullion windows and a paneled entablature joining two windows.

The structure is clad in wood clapboards, has paneled corner boards, and several replacement 1/1 vinyl sash windows. There are additional 1/1 windows in the façade that appear to be original and boast diamond mullions in the upper lights. The building is two bays wide by eight bays deep, with the main entrances in the second bay. The partial, covered entry porch exhibits overhanging eaves, dentil moldings, a wide frieze, slightly tapered, round column supports, and a single pilaster support. Two main entry doors provide access to separate units. The entrance entablature includes multiple pilasters and a replacement sidelight with a single wooden panel, below. The doors have large lights over panel insets. About half the windows in the façade exhibit cornices set high above wide friezes, which exaggerate the window height.

The eastern elevation has covered balconies in the first bay. The rear half of the western elevation projects slightly from the main structure. The roof is flat and has two interior chimneys and a small roof deck.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

Changes to the structure include replacement of the entry porch's columns and a slight change in their locations. The porch base has been enclosed, and the balustrade on its roof has been removed. Although the porch has been altered, the general form and most significant elements remain. The rest of the dwelling appears largely as it appeared in 1924. The trim has been painted in a manner that serves to emphasize the dwelling's details more than in the past. 22 O'Brion retains a high level of detail and distinguishing features, and contributes to the historical architectural fabric of Munjoy Hill. The porch could be returned to its original character with minimal measures.

Address: 27 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1872

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name:

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

27 O'Brion Street is a wood-frame, two-and-a-half-story, front-gable dwelling with a similar footprint and proportions to many neighboring O'Brion Street homes. The 1924 tax record for the Greek Revival property estimates it was constructed circa 1872. The vernacular, single-family home is clad in wood clapboards and presents a simple, unornamented appearance. The structure's primary architectural features are its two pedimented gable dormers and elements common to Munjoy Hill front-gable homes, including corner boards, eave returns, and an asymmetrical façade. The house has suffered very few losses, although a recent pop-up gable addition on the rear ell is prominently visible and alters the side elevation rooflines. This is especially the case when viewed from the west.

The house is two-by-four bays wide and has replacement 6/1 sash windows, with smaller replacement casement windows on the rear ell. The main entry is in the first bay of the façade, and is accessed by side-facing steps. The replacement door has a simple surround, topped by a cornice. Full sidelights comprised of small panels flank the door. The façade's windows are not placed symmetrically, but are weighted slightly to the left.

The asphalt roof's two gable dormers are located on the interior eastern slope, along with a single chimney.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

27 O'Brion has not suffered many losses to the main structure since 1924. An unglazed door has been replaced with a door that features a grid of six small lights. The sidelights are quite similar to those present in 1924, though they have been updated from four panes to five slightly smaller panes. The house once had 2/2 windows, and the main entry steps have been updated, though they retain the same basic form.

The most observable alterations to the dwelling are to the rear ell, such as the addition of contemporary windows of various sizes and styles. While most changes are not easily visible from the road, the roof's prominent pop-up gable dormer is taller than the main structure and impacts the house's roofline. 27 O'Brion otherwise retains the features and form that reflect its nineteenth-century origins, and the dwelling contributes to the historic character of the Hill.

Address: 28 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1889

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Contributing or Noncontributing:



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V-5500

28 Dec.

Introduction

Though it has received alterations, 28 O'Brion retains a form and footprint consistent with the surrounding dwellings on the street. The 1924 tax record for the front-gable, two-and-a-half-story property estimates it was built in the late 1880s. Like many of Munjoy Hill's front-gable houses, 28 O'Brion exhibits an asymmetrical, two-bay façade. The building has vinyl siding and replacement 1/1 and 4/4 vinyl sash windows. Distinguishing features include a narrow window pair and a canted bay window on the façade, and dormers on the eastern and western roof slopes.

The main entry is in the second bay and is accessed by side-facing steps. The replacement door has a narrow band of trim, which is unusual for houses of this style and era on the Hill, as even significantly altered properties often retain their entablatures or bracketed hoods. The rear ell features a secondary entrance along with a row of casement windows and a second-story porch.

The asphalt shingle roof features a gable dormer on the eastern slope, and a large composite or Nantucket dormer on the western slope consisting of two gables connected by a central shed form. There is a chimney on the interior eastern slope.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

Although it has received alterations, the building retains a form and footprint consistent with the surrounding dwellings on the street. Losses to 28 O'Brion Street include corner boards, friezes, eave returns, and clapboard siding. The façade bay window once boasted a bracketed cornice, dentil moldings, lights with slightly rounded corners, and panel insets below the lights. One of the house's most distinctive architectural features was the elaborate main entry; the double-door entrance featured long lights on the doors, and was covered by a portico with square columns, pilasters, brackets, and a gently arching frieze. The entrance was accessed by a set of front-facing masonry steps.

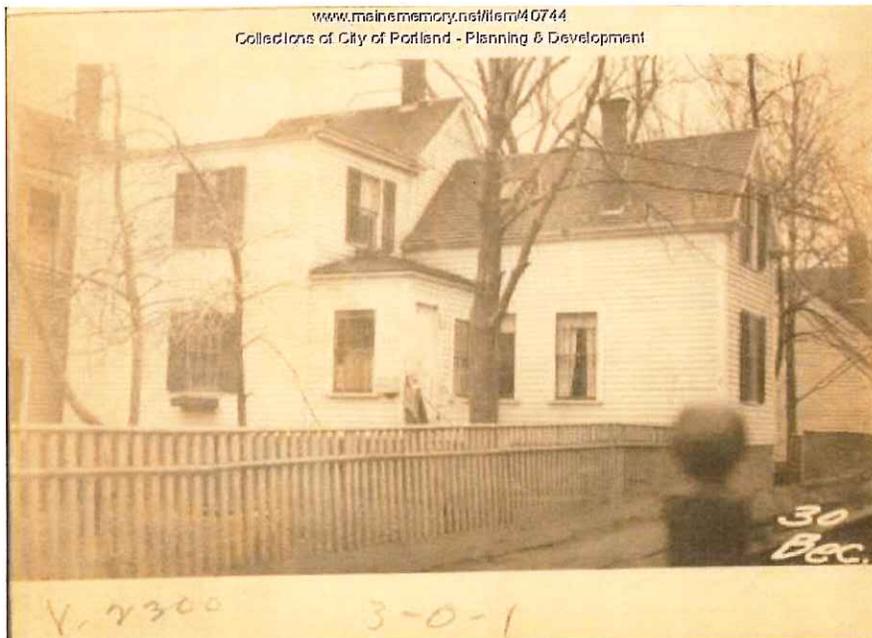
Address: 30 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1850s

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name:

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

30 O'Brion Street is distinctive on Munjoy Hill for its irregular compound massing, set far back from the street. According to its 1924 Tax Record, the roughly L-shaped, single-family home was built in the mid-nineteenth century. The house is vernacular in style, with few decorative elements. The wings and bays bear gable, hipped, and flat roofs at varying heights, and are one, one-and-a-half, and two stories tall. The dwelling has an unusual main entry placement, with the door providing access to a one-story vestibule located where the two main wings of the house join.

The house is approximately four-by-two-bays wide, with the longest elevation facing the road. Windows are replacement 1/1 vinyl sash with shutters. The gable end of the eastern wing has simple eave returns. The lower gable roof has a chimney pipe, while the upper gable roof has a brick chimney on the interior peak.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

Because 30 O'Brion was built in a simple, vernacular style, it has not suffered the losses common to more embellished historic homes. Since 1924, it has received replacement siding and windows, all visible windows boast shutters, and a chimney was replaced by a chimney pipe. The house otherwise retains its historic character and could easily be returned to its original state. The house's unusual layout and mid-nineteenth-century vernacular style contribute to the Hill's diverse historical architectural history.

Address: 31 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1870s

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing, Noncontributing Outbuilding



Introduction

Although the two-and-a-half-story, front-gable house has received alterations and losses, 31 O'Brion has a form and footprint consistent with the surrounding dwellings on O'Brion Street. The 1924 tax record for the property estimates it was built circa 1870s, as with 27 O'Brion Street, next door. The house's gable roof bears a slightly lower-pitched roof than similar dwellings in the area.

The two-by-four-bay house includes a rear ell, which was present in 1924. Period features include eave returns and a bracketed hood over the main entrance. The entrance is in the first bay of the façade, and has a replacement unglazed door with single sidelight. The current proportions, style, and placement of the door do not speak to the house's original character. However, the entry still retains a wide hood supported by ornate brackets. The house has replacement shingle siding and 1/1 vinyl sash windows. Like 27 O'Brion Street, the façade's windows and door are weighted to the left. There is a window pair in the gable and the house's eaves are encased in vinyl.

The asphalt roof's shed dormers extend nearly the full width of the main structure. Each dormer has clapboard siding and three casement windows. There is a single chimney on the interior eastern slope. A contemporary one-story multi-directional shed-roof building sits at the rear of the property. This structure is noncontributing due to its date of construction.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

Common losses to 31 O'Brion Street include corner boards, friezes, clapboard siding, 2/2 windows, and bracket pairs below the gable, eaves, and eave returns. A two-story covered porch on the rear ell's eastern elevation has been reduced in size so it is flush with the main structure. The large shed dormers on both slopes impact the dwelling's roofline and appearance when viewed from the road. The main entrance was once slightly recessed and boasted two glazed doors with large lights over panels. Several of these alterations can be reversed to restore much of the dwelling's earlier Italianate character.

Address: 33 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building:

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name:

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

33 O'Brion Street is an excellent example of a front-gable Italianate house on Munjoy Hill. The two-and-a-half-story, multi-family home is characterized by an ornate portico, a two-story bay window, and paired brackets supporting returning eaves. The house also boasts paneled corner boards and dentil moldings below the eaves and gable. A one-story addition with a low sloped roof was added off the east elevation of the house sometime after 1924. The addition is small but close to the road, and does not complement the main structure's style or features.

The house is three by approximately four bays wide (including the one-story eastern elevation addition, and a rear ell that is not easily visible from the road) and has replacement one-over-one vinyl windows. The main entry portico in the first bay features round tapered columns and square pilasters with paneled plinths. The supports each feature three brackets of various styles, and there are dentil moldings below the roof's cornice. A single main entry door has one light over panels, as well as a large, single-pane sidelight to the left. The two-story canted bay window to the right features recessed panels below the lights, cornices, dentil moldings, and paired brackets on both levels.

The gable roof is asphalt and has one pedimented gable dormer on the eastern slope. There are two chimneys: one on the main structure, and one on the ell.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

In addition to the common changes of replacement windows and siding, 33 O'Brion's most observable change is the one-story addition to the east elevation. The house's windows once exhibited small crowns. These were likely removed with the application of replacement siding. The portico's larger columns with the same plinths as the pilasters have been replaced with thinner columns with no bases. However, the portico's various brackets have remained.

Although the house's addition does not complement its style and period of construction, it is understated and does not overwhelm the main structure and its many original features. On the whole, the building retains its historical integrity and its many details contribute to the historical character of Munjoy Hill.

Address: 36 O'Brien Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: 1868

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name: Enoch F. Rowe House

Contributing or Noncontributing: Noncontributing



Current Architectural Description

36 O'Brion Street has a similar form and footprint to nearby front-gable dwellings. However, the two-and-a-half-story Italianate home has received significant alterations that have impacted its proportions and diminished its historical integrity. The two-by-six-bay dwelling exhibits replacement siding and replacement 6/1 vinyl sash windows, which do not reflect the mid-nineteenth-century origins or style of the home. Windows in the first bay are now larger paired windows, and the crowns have been removed. The dwelling does retain the original bracketed hood over the second bay's main entry. What was likely a double-door entry in 1924 is now a recessed single-door entry with a transom composed of a horizontal row of square panes.

On the eastern elevation, several windows have been relocated and added, and a small vestibule entry in the first bay has been removed. The recent addition of a double-door entry with fully glazed doors, a large paneled entablature, and sidelights dominates this elevation. The original gable dormer over the eastern elevation featured a single window, and now features a window pair. A second matching dormer has been added to the elevation.

The western elevation features windows of various styles and sizes. The roof is asphalt shingles and the chimney present in 1924 has been removed.

Address: 39 O'Brien Street
Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1899
Surveyed: 8/17/2018
Historic Name:
Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

39 O'Brion Street is a wood-frame, two-and-a-half-story, front-gable dwelling with a similar footprint and proportions to many neighboring O'Brion Street homes. The 1924 tax record for the property estimates it was constructed circa 1899. Although the main entrance has been significantly altered, the dwelling's other larger structural elements and several stylistic details communicate its era of construction. The house is characterized by two-story canted bay windows on the façade and eastern elevation, a recessed, somewhat obscured main entry, and a disproportionately wide set of entry stairs. The multi-family residence has replacement siding and replacement 2/1 vinyl sash windows.

The house is two bays wide by approximately four bays deep, including a rear ell with a three-story wooden fire escape on the eastern elevation. The façade features the majority of the original architectural details, including eave returns supported by small brackets, a narrow 1/1 stained-glass window on the first story, and wooden trim and bracketed cornices on both stories of the bay window. The side-facing entry is in a recessed alcove, and as a result is only visible when approaching the house from the west. The entry does not exhibit any trim, and the alcove and area immediately surrounding it bear wooden clapboards that are narrower than the rest of the house's siding. Wooden steps stretch from the extreme left of the façade to the bay window in the second bay, meaning half the steps lead directly to the façade wall.

Windows on the eastern elevation are various sizes and styles. The house's overhanging eaves have friezes and intermittent brackets, below. The asphalt roof has a single chimney adjacent to the interior peak. There is a pedimented gable dormer over the eastern elevation, and a low-pitched shed dormer over the western elevation.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

The most drastic observable change to 39 O'Brion Street is the recessing of the main entrance, and widening of the main entry steps. The main entrance was once a double-door entry covered by a portico with turned supports and a spindlework frieze. The house boasted corner boards, narrow corner trim on the bay windows, and shutters. Despite these alterations, the house still retains several period details and a form and proportions that are comparable to other front-gable houses on the street, which reflect the dominant building style in the neighborhood in the late nineteenth century. With moderate measures, this property could be returned to its earlier character.

Address: 40 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1895

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

40 O'Brion Street is an excellent example of a wood-frame, front-gable dwelling on Munjoy Hill. The two-and-a-half-story house exhibits a similar footprint and proportions to several other residences on O'Brion Street, though it sits on a larger lot. The tax record for the property estimates it was built circa 1895. In addition to retaining several nineteenth-century elements, the house has been updated to exhibit more elaborate details. These additions have been added with care, though they are not generally associated with homes of this era and style. Updates include shingle siding in the gable, gable panel detailing, entablatures joining vertical windows on the side elevations, and a narrow band across the gable, connecting the eave returns.

The house has vinyl siding and replacement 1/1 vinyl sash windows. Notable original features of the two-by-four bay home include corner boards, eave returns, wide friezes, a recessed, double-door main entry, and a two-story canted bay window. The main entry has a rectangular transom light, and is topped with a hood supported by brackets with finials. The bay window features panel insets and bracketed cornices on both levels.

The western elevation features ribbon windows in the last bay of the first and second stories. The roof is metal sheets and has one chimney on the interior eastern slope. A shed dormer with two windows sits over the western elevation.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

Common changes to 40 O'Brion Street since 1924 include the loss of shutters and 2/2 windows, and an update to the main entry steps. The bay window was previously painted in a manner that emphasized the window details. The stylistic additions to the house have been executed with care, though they do not enhance the house's original vernacular Italianate features. At the same time the dwelling retains several period details that contribute to the Hill's historic character, and the majority of the alterations it has sustained are reversible.

Address: 42 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: 2019

Surveyed: 10/12/2019

Historic Name: N/A

Contributing or Noncontributing: Noncontributing



Introduction

42 O'Brion Street is a three-and-a-half-story front-gable dwelling, and was in mid-construction at the time of the 2019 survey. The three-by-six-bay building has a simple, rectangular footprint and features decks on all three stories of the façade. It is designated as noncontributing due to its date of construction.

Address: 43 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1895

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

43 O'Brion Street is a typical example of the triple-deckers built on Munjoy Hill in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although it has lost ornamentation and the covered entry porch common to triple-deckers on the Hill, the building still retains traits generally associated with the triple-decker form. Characteristics include a long, narrow footprint, an asymmetrical façade, deeply overhanging eaves, and three-story bay windows.

The two-by-four-bay dwelling has a single main entry door in the first bay of the façade. The entrance is accessed by concrete steps with iron railings. The replacement door features an arched light and is topped by a low-pitched gable hood. The building exterior, including bay windows, is clad in vinyl siding, and has replacement 1/1 vinyl sash windows. The overhanging eaves are encased in vinyl. There is a three-story wooden fire escape on the eastern elevation.

The hipped roof is asphalt shingles and has two chimneys, one on the interior peak, and one on the interior eastern slope.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

Losses to 43 O'Brion since 1924 include corner boards, a wide frieze, crowns over windows, and brackets below the eaves on visible elevations. The main entrance originally boasted two doors, which provided access to separate units. A covered porch with side-facing steps had turned supports, spindlework balusters, and a spindlework frieze. Two square windows on the western elevation, likely with colored panes around the borders, have been removed. The missing porch and reduction in number of doors is a significant alteration to the proportions of the façade. However, the majority of changes can be reversed to restore the building to its earlier character.

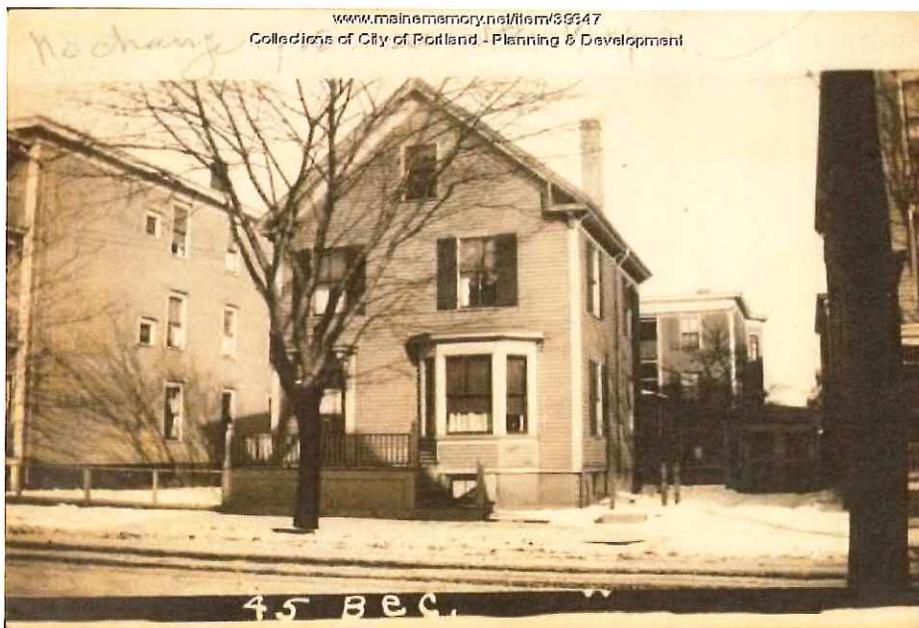
Address: 45 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building:

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name:

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



Introduction

45 O'Brion Street is a good example of the front-gable, two-and-a-half-story homes commonly built on Munjoy Hill's narrow lots in the late nineteenth century. The dwelling exhibits several features we associate with vernacular front-gable homes with Italianate influences on the Hill, including an asymmetrical façade, eave returns, a bracketed hood over the main entrance, and a canted bay window. The house is clad in vinyl siding and features replacement 2/2 and 2/1 windows with wooden trim.

The dwelling is two bays wide by four bays deep, including a one-story rear ell, with the entrance in the façade's first bay. The entrance boasts the original single entry door with a light within panels, as well as the original ornate brackets beneath the hood. The single-story canted bay window to the right has wooden trim and dentil moldings below the cornice. The gable, eaves, and eave returns are encased in vinyl. The asphalt shingle roof exhibits a long shed dormer with three diamond mullion windows on the western elevation. There is a single chimney on the eastern interior slope. A small one-car garage sits on the northeast corner of the property.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

45 O'Brion Street has incurred several changes, many of which stem from updates to its siding, including the loss of friezes and corner boards. Brackets below the eaves and eave returns may have been lost when the eaves were encased in vinyl. Other common losses include shutters, and a larger side-facing porch, which has been replaced with front-facing steps. The chimney was also reduced in height and the garage was remodeled.

Because the house originally exhibited a modest, relatively unornamented appearance, it has been able to retain its historic integrity and character despite losses it has suffered. The house's form and features, such as the main entrance bracketed hood, still communicate its era of construction, and the majority of its updates are reversible. The property could be restored to its earlier state.

Address: 49 O'Brion Street

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: 1880

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Contributing or Noncontributing: Contributing



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Introduction

49 O'Brion is immediately recognizable as a triple-decker, with traits common to the multi-family dwellings built on Munjoy Hill in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Common architectural elements include an asymmetrical façade, a long, narrow footprint, three-story bay windows, a flat roof, and overhanging eaves. 49 O'Brion also exhibits some unusual elements; the building can be distinguished from other local triple-deckers by its natural cedar shingle siding and vestibule main and side entrances.

The building is two-by-five bays wide, and features a three-story bay window and side-facing vestibule entrance on the façade, and an additional three-story bay window and side-facing vestibule entrance on the western elevation. The dwelling has replacement 1/1 vinyl sash windows, and retains two square casement windows with colored border panes on the eastern elevation. The roof is flat and features at least one interior chimney.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

The 1924 tax record for 49 O'Brion indicates that at the time of the survey, the building had been remodeled. In 1924, the dwelling exhibited a three-story covered porch over the main entrance, which likely featured two doors to separate units. The dwelling no longer retains the porch, and the double main entry has been turned into a single side-facing door with access to a one-story vestibule. Windows have replaced the second- and third-floor porch access doors, and are disproportionately small in the wide bay. Similarly, the building's side entrance on the western elevation once boasted a bracketed door and has been altered to a side-facing vestibule entry.

Additional, more common changes to 49 O'Brion Street include the loss of wood clapboard siding, 2/1 and 2/2 windows, window crowns, and corner trim on the bay windows. Despite alterations, the building is clearly recognizable as a triple-decker of a similar form and era to others on Munjoy Hill.