ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS:
OLD PORT & WATERFRONT

1 U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE
312 Fore Street

Constructed over a five year period, from 1868 to 1872, the United States Custom House is both historically and architecturally significant. Completed under the supervision of Alfred Mullett, supervising architect of the U.S. Treasury, the three-story building combines elements of Renaissance Revival and Second Empire styles. In 1973, the building was designated as a City Landmark and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2 SAMUEL BUTTS HOUSE & STORE
332 - 334 Fore Street

Built in 1792, the Samuel Butts House is one of only a few buildings along Fore Street that survived the Great Fire of July 4, 1866. The large central chimney and small window openings are distinguishing features of Colonial era architecture. Mr. Butts was a tailor and moved to Portland from Boston in 1784.

TOUR DURATION
20 - MINUTE WALK
(PLUS EXPLORING!)
• • • • • • • • • • •
TRAVEL DISTANCE
1 MILE

3 PORTLAND REGENCY HOTEL
20 Milk Street

The "State of Maine Armory" was built for Maine's National Guard in 1895. In 1990, after conversion to a hotel in 1984, the property was invited by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to become a distinguished member of the Historic Hotels of America. Fun fact: At the turn of the 20th century, the armory's drill hall was a popular civic auditorium and hosted the Maine Music Festival.

4 MARINER'S CHURCH
366 - 376 Fore Street

The Mariner's Church building was constructed in 1828 and designed by Asa Clapp. It sustained extensive damage during the Great Fire of 1866, along with many of the buildings along Fore Street. In 1969, the building was saved from demolition when the entire block was purchased by C.H. Robinson. Just a few years later, in 1973, it was declared a National Landmark.

5 HENRY'S PUBLIC HOUSE
375 Fore Street

This three-story brick building features a number of long, narrow windows with pointed arches at the top. The windows – known as lancet windows – draw upon the Gothic Revival style of architecture. Before the building housed Henry's Public House – an Old Port pub and restaurant – it was home to the Portland Seamen's Friend Society, an organization that provided food, entertainment, lodging, spiritual needs, and general advocacy for sailors.

U.S. Custom House ▶ ▶ ▶

6 THOMPSON BLOCK
117 - 125 Middle Street

Designed by architect George Harding in 1867, this commercial building is distinguished by its mansard roof. A mansard roof – also called a hipped gambrel – has four sloping sides, each of which becomes steeper halfway down. Along with the nearby Rackleff Building (127-133 Middle Street) and Woodman Block (133-141 Middle Street), Thompson Block is considered one of the most well-preserved Victorian streetscapes in all of Maine. In 1973, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places, solidifying its place as a true architectural wonder in Portland.

7 U.S. COURTHOUSE
156 Federal Street

The Edward T. Gignoux courthouse, when finished in 1911, was the first federal courthouse in Maine. It resembles architectural styles from the Italian renaissance revival and was designed by James Knox Tyler.

FUN FACT!

MANY OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN PORTLAND DON TWO DATES – THE OLDER IS THE DATE ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED AND THE NEWER IS THE DATE THE BUILDING WAS RECONSTRUCTED AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1866.

8 CUMBERLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
205 Newbury Street

The Cumberland County Superior Court was built in 1910 by local architect George Burnham. Burnham was trained in Beaux Arts architectural style, also known as Classical Revival. Along with three other buildings, the Cumberland County court is one of the few buildings in Portland composed entirely of granite.

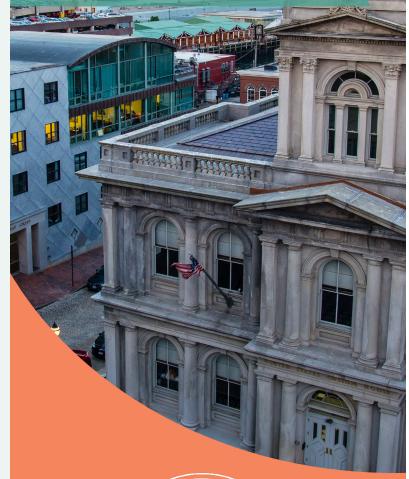### 9 PRINTERS EXCHANGE BLOCK
103 - 107 Exchange Street

The Printers Exchange Block was developed between 1866 and 1867 after the Great Fire. Charles Quincy Clapp was the architect for this block, and his building structure and design utilizes Italian details, with deep hip roofs, and arched windows. Originally, a twin building sat across the block to visually define the Exchange Street area through the built environment.

10 PRESS HOTEL
119 Exchange Street

Constructed in 1923, this stately brick and stone building was formerly known as the Gannett Building. Until 2010, it housed the offices and printing plant of Maine's largest newspaper, the Portland Press Herald. Local developer Jim Brady bought the building in 2012 and transformed it into a 110-room boutique hotel, the aptly named Press Hotel. Many of the building's architectural details remain intact – and the hotel is filled with salvaged artifacts and print-themed decor that celebrate its "storied" history.
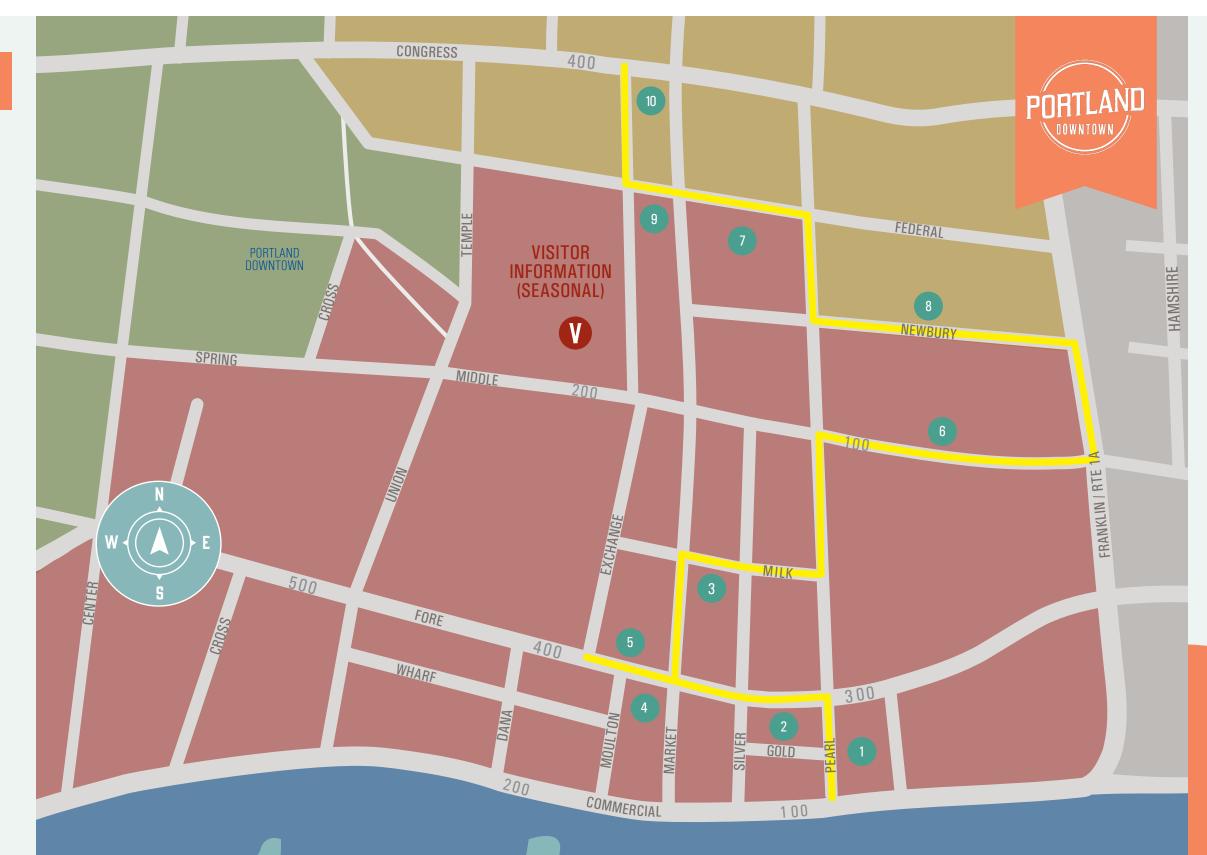
PORTLAND
DOWNTOWN

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PORTLAND DOWNTOWN

VISITOR INFORMATION (SEASONAL)

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ABOUT PORTLAND DOWNTOWN

Portland Downtown, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, stimulates a thriving, vibrant, and sustainable downtown community.

ABOUT THE WALKING TOURS

Undergraduate students from USM's Tourism & Hospitality program designed custom self-guided walking tours through a creative academic curriculum in partnership with Portland Downtown. The City of Portland provided a matching grant to have the walking tours made into professionally designed brochures, which are available for free at locations around Portland and on-line. We hope you enjoy!

PORTLAND DOWNTOWN

CITY OF PORTLAND MAINE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE
Tourism & Hospitality

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HISTORICAL FACT–CHECKING PROVIDED BY

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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