

856-860 CONGRESS STREET

SHAW-WALKER

First cut #020R - Half cut #020R - Third cut #020R - Fifth cut #020R



A-I

TO DISTRICT BUSINESS ZONE  
CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION  
COMPLAINT

Location  
854-856 Congress St.

INSPECTION COPY

COMPLAINT NO. 54/82

Date Received 10/11/54

Location 854-856 Congress St. Use of Building

Owner's name and address ~~Harry Fireman, 1122 Commercial Ave.~~ Telephone

Tenant's name and address Telephone

Complainant's name and address NFO Telephone

Description: Second story piazza is in weakened condition due to one of the concrete footings being completely washed out to the base and now hanging askew. This footing about 10 inches square on top and 16 inches square at bottom and about three feet tall has never been below present grade of sidewalk and presumably the other three front footings holding up the piazza are to the same grade.

NOTES: Furthermore the washout may have weakened the underpinning of the front wall of building.

The above washout probably dates back to hurricane "Edna".

10/25/54 - Harry Fireman - given message to  
corner corner - 1122 Commercial Ave - inspection  
of house for damage from fire, wind and rain

53 E 6

10/25/54 - Letter - WND  
11/3/54 - Given form in place but base only  
about 1 1/2 ft below sidewalk grade. Asked  
N.F.C. for list of red tag. Planned to  
home and was asked to phone  
John Neal, contractor. Planned to  
phone and left message for  
him to make form 4/1/55  
and phone for inspection before pouring  
concrete. - WND

C-856-866 Congress St.  
Registered Mail  
Return Recpt.  
10-28-54-McD  
11-16-54

October 25, 1954

Miss Ida Fireman  
61 St. Lawrence St.

Dear Miss Fireman:

The supports of the second story front piazza of the building which you are reported to own or control at 856-860 Congress Street are found to be broken, weakened or out of repair so as to be unsafe or dangerous.

As authorized and directed by Section 109 of the Building Code of Portland, copy enclosed, you are hereby required to have made new temporary supports to make the situation temporarily safe before October 28, 1954; and you are further required to have made before November 16, 1954 such repairs and alterations as are necessary to permanently correct the dangerous conditions.

Due to heavy rain or otherwise the concrete pier next to the corner on the end toward St. John Street has practically failed, has tilted out of position, and is no longer competent to support the wooden post over it and that part of the piazza which that post was intended to support.

You are further required to notify all tenants in the building of this danger and to warn them to keep off of the piazza until it is made safe.

Examination of our records shows that this piazza was strengthened and repaired under a permit issued on September 10, 1951 after an order so to do was issued.

The contractor who applied for the permit was Mr. Lucien O. Herrick. On his application for the permit he agreed to extend the piers no less than four feet below the grade of the ground around the pier. In the case of this particular pier it is evident that he did not do so, since the bottom of the pier is now exposed and is scarcely a foot below the grade of the nearby public sidewalk. Perhaps this defect contributed to the failure, but we are unable to compel him to make good the defect, but ask to you as owner to correct the danger.

Very truly yours,

Inspector of Buildings

WNCD/H  
Encl Sect. 109

RETURN RECEIPT

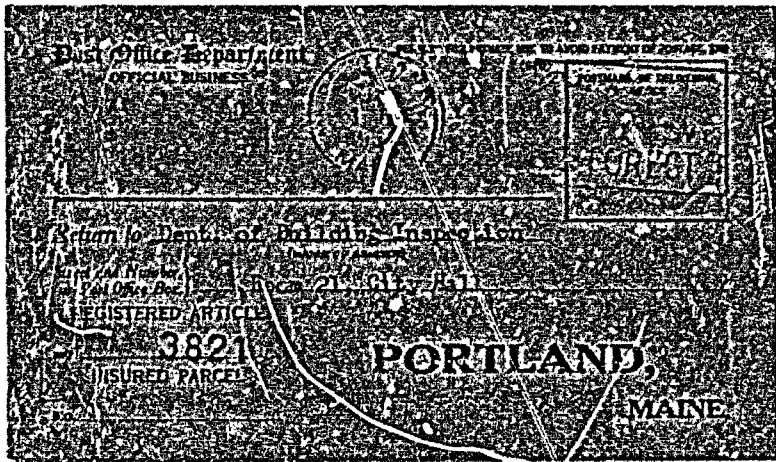
Received from the Postman for the Registered or Insured Article the original number of which appears on the front of this Card.

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

Date of delivery *10/13/36* *1936*





034



( ) LIMITED BUSINESS ZONE

# APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Class of Building or Type of Structure Third Class

Portland, Maine, Sept. 10, 1951

PERMIT ISSUED

01688  
SEP 16 1951

CITY OF PORTLAND

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, MAINE

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to ~~erect~~ alter ~~rebuild~~ ~~repair~~ ~~and~~ ~~improve~~ ~~the~~ following building structure ~~and~~ equipment in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code and Zoning Ordinance of the City of Portland, plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith and the following specifications:

Location 856 Congress Street Within Fire Limits? yes Dist. No. 5  
Owner's name and address Ida Fireman, 61 St. Lawrence St. Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Lessee's name and address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor's name and address Lucien Herrick, 54 Sheridan St. Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_ Specifications \_\_\_\_\_ Plans no No. of sheets \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed use of building Dwelling No. families 2  
Last use \_\_\_\_\_ No. families 2  
Material frame No. stories 2 1/2 Heat \_\_\_\_\_ Style of roof \_\_\_\_\_ Roofing \_\_\_\_\_  
Other buildings on same lot \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated cost \$ 150. Fee \$ 2.00

## General Description of New Work

To strengthen and repair support front and rear piazzas and steps leading to them ~~and~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~front~~ ~~corner~~ ~~toward~~ ~~St. John Street~~, pier is to be provided beneath the front piazza post ~~and~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~front~~ ~~corner~~ ~~toward~~ ~~St. John Street~~, pier to be ~~12"~~ 12" square at the ~~bottom~~ top and 16" square at the bottom, to extend far enough below the grade on the low side of the pier so that there will be tendency for the pier to slide toward the public sidewalk and no less than 4' in any case. Pier to be extended no less than 6" above the grade on the high side and wooden post to be anchored to pier by metal dowel or equivalent.

A certain bracket near this post at right angles to the side wall of the building is to be thoroughly examined, a good bearing for it made certain and permanent anchorage to be provided at the top to the masonry underpinning.

An iron pipe supporting the rear end of piazza and top of steps is to be equipped with a concrete pier similar to that outlined above but no less than 8" square at the surface of the grade and 10" at the bottom of the pier.

It is understood that this permit does not include installation of heating apparatus which is to be taken out separately by and in the name of the heating contractor. PERMIT TO BE ISSUED TO Lucien Herrick

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY  
REQUIREMENT IS WAIVED

## Details of New Work

Is any plumbing involved in this work? \_\_\_\_\_ Is any electrical work involved in this work? \_\_\_\_\_  
Height average grade to top of plate \_\_\_\_\_ Height average grade to highest point of roof \_\_\_\_\_  
Size, front \_\_\_\_\_ depth \_\_\_\_\_ No. stories \_\_\_\_\_ solid or filled land? \_\_\_\_\_ earth or rock? \_\_\_\_\_  
Material of foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness, top \_\_\_\_\_ bottom \_\_\_\_\_ cellar \_\_\_\_\_  
Material of underpinning \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness \_\_\_\_\_  
Kind of roof \_\_\_\_\_ Rise per foot \_\_\_\_\_ Roof covering \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of chimneys \_\_\_\_\_ Material of chimneys \_\_\_\_\_ of lining \_\_\_\_\_ Kind of heat \_\_\_\_\_ fuel \_\_\_\_\_  
Framing lumber—Kind \_\_\_\_\_ Dressed or full size? \_\_\_\_\_  
Corner posts \_\_\_\_\_ Sills \_\_\_\_\_ Vort or ledger board? \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
Girders \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Columns under girders \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Max. on centers \_\_\_\_\_  
Studs (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. Bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet.  
Joists and rafters: 1st floor \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd \_\_\_\_\_, roof \_\_\_\_\_  
On centers: 1st floor \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd \_\_\_\_\_, roof \_\_\_\_\_  
Maximum span: 1st floor \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd \_\_\_\_\_, roof \_\_\_\_\_  
If one story building with masonry walls, thickness of walls? \_\_\_\_\_ height? \_\_\_\_\_

## If a Garage

No. cars now accommodated on same lot \_\_\_\_\_, to be accommodated \_\_\_\_\_ number commercial cars to be accommodated \_\_\_\_\_  
Will automobile repairing be done other than minor repairs to cars habitually stored in the proposed building? \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:

## Miscellaneous

Will work require disturbing of any tree on a public street? no  
Will there be in charge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto are observed? yes

Ida Fireman

Signature of owner By: L. J. Herrick

INSPECTION COPY

## NOTES

~~9/1877 - L. e. h. p. o. t. e. n. a. l. m. t.  
v. c. e. r. v. a. n. g. u. s. f. i. n. d. e. n. t. m. t.  
w. k. a. t. e. p. e. x. c. e. p. t  
e. p. u. s. = "W. i.  
l. a. n. t. P. a. t. a. s. e. t. m. d. i. t. p. l. o. w. i. o."  
"d. p. 2. x. 4. c. i. l. l. m. t. e. l. c. i. l. l. m. t.  
e. l. l. m. t. e. l. l. m. t. e. l. l. m. t.~~

Permit No. 511688  
Location 856 Cong. St.  
Owner Geo. W. Thurman  
Date of permit 9/10/51  
Notif. closing-in  
Inspn. closing-in  
Final Notif.  
Final Inspn. 11-27-51, A.C.C.  
Cert. of Occupancy issued [Signature]

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1863. It is a very long letter, and it contains a great deal of information about the state of the country at that time.

*[The page contains faint horizontal lines across its entire width.]*

March 22, 1954

Y403 H2723-158

Memorandum from Department of Building Inspection, Portland, Maine

856 Congress Street—Amendment #1 to permit 51/1668 for Ida Fireman  
by Lucien Herrick—9/26/51

Amendment #1 to permit 51/1668 is issued herewith based on the plan filed with the application for amendment and on the basis that the floor timbers are to be supported on 2x3 nailing strips at the end (x6 studs and diagonal 4x6 girder in the same manner as indicated for the 4x6 intermediate girders.

AJH/G

Cc: Miss Ida Fireman  
61 St. Lawrence Street

(Signed) Warren McDonald  
Inspector of Buildings





## APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO PERMIT

Amendment No. 1

Portland, Maine, Sept. 25, 1951

PERMIT ISSUED

SEP 26 1951

CITY of PORTLAND

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, MAINE

The undersigned hereby applies for amendment to Permit No. 51/1638, pertaining to the building or structure comprised in the original application in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code and Zoning Ordinance of the City of Portland, plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith, and the following specifications:

Location 856 Congress Street Within Fire Limits? yes Dist. No. 3  
Owner's name and address Ida Fireman, 61 St. Lawrence Street Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Lessee's name and address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor's name and address Lucien Herrick, 54 Sheridan Street Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_ Plans filed yes No. of sheets 3  
Proposed use of building dwelling house No. families 2  
Last use \_\_\_\_\_ No. families 2  
Increased cost of work 150. Additional fee 25

### Description of Proposed Work

To remove existing front and rear piazzas and construct new 1-story front ~~and rear~~ piazzas as per plans.

### Permit Issued with Memo

#### Details of New Work

Is any plumbing involved in this work? \_\_\_\_\_ Is any electrical work involved in this work? \_\_\_\_\_  
Height average grade to top of plate \_\_\_\_\_ Height average grade to highest point of roof \_\_\_\_\_  
Size, front \_\_\_\_\_ depth \_\_\_\_\_ No. stories \_\_\_\_\_ solid or filled land? \_\_\_\_\_ earth or rock? \_\_\_\_\_  
Material of foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness, top \_\_\_\_\_ bottom \_\_\_\_\_ cellar \_\_\_\_\_  
Material of underpinning \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness \_\_\_\_\_  
Kind of roof \_\_\_\_\_ Rise per foot \_\_\_\_\_ Roof covering \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of chimneys \_\_\_\_\_ Material of chimneys \_\_\_\_\_ of lining \_\_\_\_\_  
Framing lumber—Kind \_\_\_\_\_ Dressed or full size? \_\_\_\_\_  
Corner posts \_\_\_\_\_ Sills \_\_\_\_\_ Girt or ledger board? \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
Girders \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Columns under girders \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Max. on centers \_\_\_\_\_  
Studs (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. Bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet.  
Joists and rafters: 1st floor \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd \_\_\_\_\_, roof \_\_\_\_\_  
On centers: 1st floor \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd \_\_\_\_\_, roof \_\_\_\_\_  
Maximum span: 1st floor \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd \_\_\_\_\_, roof \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

with memo By AGJ

Ida Fireman

Signature of Owner by: Ed Herrick

Approved: 9/26/51 WMR

INSPECTION COPY

Inspector of Buildings

854 Congress Street-I

7/24/51/AL

September 18, 1951

Miss Ida Virean  
61 S. Lawrence Street  
Mr. Lucien Herrick  
54 American Street

Dear Madam & Sir:

In relation to the front piazza and steps at 854 Congress Street for the repair and strengthening of which a permit was issued to Mr. Herrick as agent for Miss Virean on September 10, it appears from my own examination that the horizontal beam of more than one of the large brackets supporting the piazza is badly rotted. While I could not get up there to see for myself closely, I suspect that all the brackets are damaged and perhaps the floor joists are rotten also. It becomes evident that the piazza must be practically rebuilt.

Because of this situation I have phoned Mr. Herrick that he is not to continue with the work any farther than providing the concrete pier beneath one wooden corner post and a similar concrete pier beneath the iron pipe column under the top of the steps leading to the piazza.

If the piazza is to be satisfactorily made safe, it is necessary to rebuild all of it, using as much of the lumber as may be found sound and fit for use. To accomplish that, it is necessary that you have some competent party make a plan of the new structure showing the size, spacing and spans of all members, the character of foundations and all supports and that this plan be filed as a blueprint with application for an amendment to the permit already issued.

The type of bracket construction used on the piazza has always been questionable as a permanently safe support, and I doubt if we can issue a permit for supporting the structure in this manner. It is recommended that you abandon the bracket idea and support the new structure at all points necessary by means of no less than 6x6 posts anchored to and bearing upon concrete piers constructed in accordance with Building Code requirements. Even so because the piazza is so high above the ground it may be desirable to provide knee braces between the wooden posts and the floor construction.

This letter then is a notice that all work is to be stopped under the permit already issued except for providing the new concrete piers mentioned.

The structure as it stands now is not particularly safe as regards the public sidewalk, so that it is important that we hear from you before September 24 what course you intend to pursue; also that you notify me at the same time upon what date you estimate you can have the plans made and the application for amendment filed.

Very truly yours,

Warren McDonald  
Inspector of Buildings

WVCU/G

January 11, 1935

File Permit No. 54/20103-1

Paritan Advertising Company,  
132 High Street,  
Portland, Maine.

Gentlemen:

With relation to the alterations to billboard at 355 Congress Street under building permit No. 5 /2010, we find that the greater portion of this billboard is such more than fifteen feet above the ground beneath the billboard while the Building Code provides:

"No detached billboard shall be in any point more than fifteen feet above the ground or more than fifty feet in length. Detached billboard shall have at least three feet of open space between the ground and the lowest line of such sign or billboard."

Please look over this situation without delay and advise this office what proposal you have for remedying the situation.

Very truly yours,

MoD/H

Inspector of Buildings.



COPY

## APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

84 2010  
Permit No. 2010  
Issued Dec. 4, 1934Class of Building or Type of Structure Billboard

Portland, Maine, November 20, 1934

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, ME.

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to erect alter install the following building structure equipment in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code of the City of Portland, plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith and the following specifications:

Location 654 Congress Street Ward 7 Within Fire Limits? yes Dist. No. 1Owner's name and address Puritan Advertising Co., 142 High Street Telephone 5-0357Contractor's name and address C. Ber Telephone

Architect's name and address

Proposed use of building No. families

Other buildings on same lot

Plans filed as part of this application? yes No. of sheets 1 *Imp. copy with plan cont.*Estimated cost \$ Fee \$ 1.00

## Description of Present Building to be Altered

Material No. stories Heat Style of roof Roofing

Last use No. families

## General Description of New Work

To remove seven center sections of existing eleven section poster panel, and  
To relocate lower two sections as shown on plan submitted

It is understood that this permit does not include installation of heating apparatus which is to be taken out separately by and in the name of the heating contractor.

## Details of New Work

Size, front depth No. stories Height average grade to top of plate

To be erected on solid or filled land? earth or rock? Height average grade to highest point of roof

Material of foundation Thickness, top bottom

Material of underpinning Height Thickness

Kind of Roof Rise per foot Roof covering

No. of chimneys Material of chimneys of lining

Kind of heat Type of fuel Is gas fitting involved?

Corner posts Sills Girt or ledger board? Size

Material columns under girders Size Max. on centers

Studs (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. Girders 6x8 or larger. Bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet. Sills and corner posts all one piece in cross section.

Joists and rafters: 1st floor 2nd 3rd roof

On centers: 1st floor 2nd 3rd roof

Maximum span: 1st floor 2nd 3rd roof

If one story building with masonry walls, thickness of walls? height?

## If a Garage

No. cars now accommodated on same lot, to be accommodated

Total number commercial cars to be accommodated

Will automobile repairing be done other than minor repairs to cars habitually stored in the proposed building?

## Miscellaneous

Will above work require removal or disturbing of any shade tree on a public street? noWill there be in charge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto are observed? yes

Puritan Advertising Co.

Signature of owner By (Signed) B. SLUGH

INSPECTION COPY

A.P.F.

Ward 7

Permit No. 34/2010

Location 858 Congress St.

Owner Ruston Adv. Co

Date of permit 12/4/34

Notif. closing-in

Inspn. closing-in

Final Notif.

Final Inspn. 1/10/35. add.

Cert. of Occupancy issued None.

NOTES

work probably O.K. plan  
not add.

1/16/35 - At west  
end of lot  
found 6 9 ft  
above ground

1/17/35 - Better - m.d.