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DAVID HARRY / THE FORECASTER

Now the home of Hub Furniture, this building at 291 Fore St. in Portland was once home to a gum factory. It is considered "in peril" by Greater Portland Landmarks.

Greater Portland Landmarks lists 5 new 'Places in Peril'

By David Harry

PORTLAND — From concrete blocks in the city's West End, to the church towering over Parkside, to a one-room school house in Cumberland, this year's "Places in Peril" list covers history small and large.

Released Monday ahead of nonprofit Greater Portland Landmarks' annual meeting, the

list is both a warning and a celebration, GPL Executive Director Hilary Bassett said at a press conference Monday.

"Our goal is to broaden awareness of historic buildings and streetscapes and to advocate for their preservation, protection and adaptive re-

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Council again OKs tax break plan for West End housing

By David Harry

PORTLAND — City councilors Monday reaffirmed their decision to grant tax breaks for an Avesta Housing project at 17 Carleton St.

Councilors also authorized Bangor-based Waterfront Concerts to proceed with scheduling concerts for the Maine State Pier next summer, while promising to look at ways to control concert noise.

In a meeting that lasted 90 minutes, the City Council also postponed votes on a two-party agreement with the Maine Department of Transportation for work on Forest Avenue and on amending the city policy on how Community Development Block Grants will be distributed.

The tax increment finance zone for Avesta was approved Aug. 3 by a 7-2 vote, with Councilors Jon Hinck and Justin Costa opposed. The council approved a 22-year TIF that would return \$722,000 in increased property valuations for the proposed 37-unit housing development.

But the council voted without a required third-party review of the need for the TIF, which was obtained Aug. 24. After 20 minutes of public comment Monday on the TIF and about 15 minutes of council discussion, the vote remained unchanged, with Hinck and Costa still opposed.

Continued public opposition to granting the TIF focused on Avesta's financial strength, the true purpose of TIFs, and the quality of the consultant analysis from Sean Carpenter of Global Deal Funding.

"When TIFs first started, the developer got a benefit to do the project, but the benefit was in a public way," Holm Avenue resident Robert Hains said. "(Avesta) needs a TIF giveaway to get other giveaways; it boggles the mind."

By securing the TIF, Avesta can gain points on its application to the state for low-income housing credits it can sell to investors to finance construction costs for the project, which

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Clinton touts Obama links, rips 'failed' GOP policies

By Christopher Cousins and Michael Shepherd

Bangor Daily News

PORTLAND — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton told an adoring crowd Friday that the United States will return to what she called the failed Republican policies of trickle-down economics unless voters keep a Democrat in the White House in

2016.

"I want the American people to understand what the choice is," said Clinton. "(Republicans) want to return to the failed policies of trickle-down economics. We can't let the hard work that has been done by President (Barack) Obama to be ripped away."

Clinton brought her campaign to the gymnasium of King Middle

School, an aging building adjacent to Deering Oaks park. The setting was a stark departure from the scene that has surrounded previous presidential visitors, such as independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who attracted more than 7,000 people to Portland's Cross Insurance Arena in early July.

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Hillary Clinton waves to supporters during a campaign event on Friday, Sept. 18, at King Middle School in Portland.

TROY R. BENNETT / BDN

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