

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99001187

Listed: 10/08/99

Battleship Maine Monument

Penobscot

ME

Property Name

County

State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

10/8/99  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**8. Statement of Significance: Area(s)**

"Art" is the applicable area of significance under Criterion C.

This information was confirmed with Kirk Mohny, National Register Coordinator, MESHPO, by telephone.

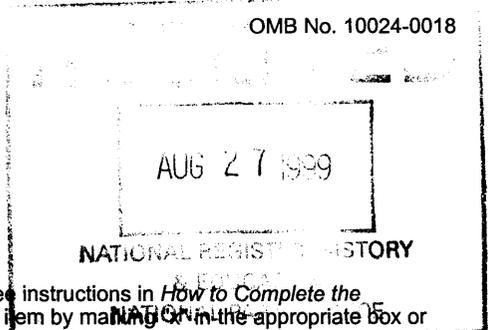
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

11857



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking  in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Battleship Maine Monument

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of Main and Cedar Streets  not for publication

city or town Bangor  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Penobscot code 019 zip code 04401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 8/23/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title SHAO  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

by [Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 10/8/99

Battleship Maine Monument  
Name of Property

Penobscot, Maine  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Recreation and Culture/Monument/Marker  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Recreation and Culture/Monument/Marker  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Stone/Granite  
walls Stone/Granite  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof N/A  
other Shield and Scrolls Affixed to Granite  
Base

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BATTLESHIP MAINE MONUMENT

PENOBSCOT, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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Located in Davenport Park at the intersection of Main and Cedar streets, the Battleship Maine Monument is comprised of a triangular shaped granite structure to which is affixed the bronze shield and scroll work that was recovered in 1912 from the battleship USS MAINE. The monument is surmounted by a bronze light standard that is crowned by an eagle.

The monument, which is 12' long on each side, is formed of ashlar granite blocks that rest on a granite plinth and are capped by a slightly projecting cornice (the upper edge has recently been covered with stainless steel as has the top of the structure). The edges are slightly battered, and the overall form depicts the prow of a ship. Affixed to the leading edge of the structure is the shield and partially replicated scrolls that were salvaged from the USS MAINE in Havana Harbor. A recent restoration of these decorative features under the supervision of a professional conservator has resulted in the red, white, and blue color of the shield with gold borders, and the deep red, green, and bronze color in the scrolls. Affixed to the front of the plinth is a bronze plaque that bears the following inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS  
OF  
THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR  
1898  
SHIELD AND SCROLLS  
RECOVERED FROM WRECKAGE  
OF U.S.S. MAINE  
BLOWN UP HAVANA HARBOR, CUBA  
FEBRUARY 15, A.D. 1898  
ERECTED BY THE CITY OF  
BANGOR  
A.D. 1922

The light standard consists of a tall plinth, a fluted shaft, and a stylized capital that supports an entablature to which are attached two arms that each hold one suspended globe lamp. The eagle is attached to the central shaft, whereas short finials surmount the arms.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1922

**Significant Dates**

1922

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Kent, Edwin S., Architect

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Erected in 1922 by the City of Bangor in memory of Spanish-American War veterans, the Battleship Maine Monument is a granite structure in the shape of a ship's prow to which is affixed the shield and scrolls that were recovered from the sunken vessel. The monument is the largest and finest of the Battleship Maine memorials in the state, and one of only about a dozen known Spanish-American War memorials in Maine. It was designed by the Bangor architect Edwin S. Kent, and dedicated on October 17, 1922. The monument is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its design significance.

The effort to erect a monument in Bangor to the veterans of the Spanish-American War using a portion of the sunken USS MAINE (which was salvaged in 1912) was led by Mayor Flavius O. Beal, Rep. Frank E. Guernsey, and Gen. Joseph S. Smith who successfully lobbied for the MAINE's shield and scrolls. However, the subsequent formation of a Battleship Maine Memorial Committee failed to identify a suitable location, and the project languished until 1917 when the United Commercial Travelers in cooperation with the City sponsored a voting contest to determine where the residents preferred to have it located. Post Office Mall was chosen and a design by the architectural draftsman Charles L. Flint was selected, but the project was again put on hold until 1919 when a new base was designed by Harold A. Rich. No further action was taken, and in 1920 a city employee sold the relics to the Union Iron Works, although the shield and most of the scrolls were subsequently recovered. This episode must have spurred the community to action, and a donation of \$100 by the Chamber of Commerce was followed by a City appropriation of \$6,000. By this time, the Post Office Mall site had been rejected in favor of the location in Davenport Park. With a new design in hand, a contract in the amount of \$5,300 was awarded to the Bangor contractor McPherson & Barrows. The oration at the dedication was delivered by the USS MAINE's chaplain, the Right Reverend Monsignor John Chidwick, of New York.

Little is as yet known about Edwin S. Kent, the designer of the monument. Bangor city directories indicate that as early as 1914 he was employed as a draftsman in the office of Bangor architect Frederick A. Patterson, and he appears to have remained in this position until the mid to late 1920s. By 1932, however, he had established his own architectural practice in Bangor. The *Maine Register* reveals that by 1938-39 Kent had relocated to the cross river town of Brewer where, as his advertisement pronounced, he specialized in municipal buildings, apartment houses, and development and residential designs. His known work includes an addition in 1939-40 of a chapel to St. John's Church in Bangor, and at least one house from the late 1930s in the Westland Terrace subdivision, also in Bangor.

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BATTLESHIP MAINE MONUMENT

PENOBSCOT, MAINE

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The Battleship Maine Monument is unquestionably the largest and most impressive memorial to the event of the ship's destruction and the Spanish-American War itself in the state. As more fully described below, memorials to this brief conflict were commonly made from salvaged pieces of the USS MAINE, and three such memorials (including the subject monument) have been identified in Maine including one in Portland's Fort Allen Park that is comprised of a 6" gun, and the other in Lewiston which is a 10" projectile. The Cumberland Club in Portland also has several pieces of the battleship including a port hole window, and a key to one of the ammunition lockers. Memorial plaques, which the Navy produced from salvaged bronze castings and then distributed at request, are known to exist in Eastman Park in Saco, and at an American Legion post in Portland. Finally, Portland is also home to the state's one known example of "The Hiker" figural memorial. It is also reported that a figural memorial of a specific veteran exists in the town of Hiram (Eastman interview).

[The following information about the broader context of Spanish-American War memorialization in America appeared in an article in Volume 21, No. 2 of *CRM* (1998), that was written by Ronald W. Johnson and Mary E. Franza.]

Memorialization of the Spanish-American War combined traditional construction and materials with factual information as well as symbolic patriotic messages. The graves of those killed in action and the veterans are scattered throughout the U. S. From Arlington National Cemetery to the national cemetery in Sitka, Alaska, and provide the most fundamental examples of post-war memorialization. The marble tombstones bearing the name, life dates, unit, and state provide the most fundamental memorial to those who served and fought. Typical 19<sup>th</sup>-century cemetery and funeral monuments such as rough boulders or dressed stone are another form of commemoration. Soldier statues are a relatively common Spanish-American War memorial. Other memorials feature a soldier or a sailor figure with a warship - symbols that project America's recent arrival as a naval power on the international scene in the 1890s. Unlike the brutal internal Civil War and its more local military unit or specific battle action memorials, many Spanish-American War monuments illustrate America's presence on the world stage. Some memorials depict a Liberty/Columbia/Eagle figure that represents the nation's essence in the late-19<sup>th</sup>-century. The most elaborate Spanish-American War memorials are professionally designed structures featuring dressed stone (usually marble) with a symbolic figure, military-oriented statues, and explanatory plaques. The most poignant memorials display salvaged artifacts or recast metal removed from the battleship *Maine*'s twisted remains. Monuments have been erected at the battle sites in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

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BATTLESHIP MAINE MONUMENT

PENOBSCOT, MAINE

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Just as the devout in the Middle Ages revered relics reputed to represent early church history, a more secular era constructs its version of venerated objects. The purpose of these war memorials was to give the observer pause for reflection and a reminder of armed conflict as well as providing instruction in patriotic values. A major difference between the Spanish-American War memorials compared to those of earlier American wars is their allegorical and symbolic artwork. For the most part, Civil War monuments are literal manifestations that depict soldiers and sailors with limited evidence of subliminal patriotic messages. Monument designers and builders in the early 1900s chose to broaden patriotic messages with mythic forms that symbolized the role and influence of the nation on the world stage. The majestic female figure representing America/Columbia/Liberty with a warship prominently appears in a number of large memorials. It sends a message to the viewer that America had much more meaning than the traditional military presence depicted in the soldier and sailor monuments, the grave marker type memorial, or salvaged remnants of the *Maine*. The United States had arrived on the international scene, and the larger monuments such as the Central Park [NY] or Hartford [CT] memorials literally interpret the emergence of America's overseas influence. Although the issue of whether or not the U.S. should take on a colonial empire was hotly debated at the time, these larger memorials instruct their viewers to accept the glory, honor, and especially the sacrificial responsibility of foreign involvement. Monuments and memorials that were raised in the early 1900s provided not too subtle messages that helped prepare Americans for even larger and deadlier foreign adventures in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, these extant cultural resources provide instruction and interpretation of America's past.

Overall, there are not many Spanish-American War memorials commemorating events of 100 years ago. These cultural resources project a patriotic message long after the war's veterans passed from the scene, and give contemporary Americans an appreciation of and information about an almost forgotten conflict. If one searches with a modicum of diligence, a Spanish-American War memorial will be spotted somewhere to remind Americans of 1998 that the nation fought a short war a century ago, a war whose aftermath gave America an overseas empire marked by consequences that affect the nation even at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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BATTLESHIP MAINE MONUMENT

PENOBSCOT, MAINE

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Author's telephone interview with Dr. Joel Eastman, Professor of History, University of Southern Maine, May 17, 1999. Notes on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

"Bangor's 'Maine' Monument." *Bangor Daily News*, March 21, 1914.

Johnson, Ronald W., and Franza, Mary E. "A Splendid Little War: Does Anyone Remember in 1998." *CRM*, Vol. 21, No. 2. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1998.

Kent, Edwin S., Architect File. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

"Shield of Battleship Maine Now Enshrined." *Bangor Daily News*, October 18, 1922.

"The Maine Shield Dedicated at its Final Resting Place." *Bangor Commercial*, October 17, 1922.

"The Monument at Davenport Park, Bangor, Maine." One page summary of events leading to the erection of the monument. Bangor Public Library Reference Department, July 23, 1954.

Thompson, Deborah. *Bangor, Maine, 1769-1914: An Architectural History*. Orono, ME: University of Maine Press. 1988.

Battleship Maine Monument  
Name of Property

Penobscot, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	5	1	7	8	6	0	4	9	6	0	2	4	5
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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4 

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 See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date May, 1999

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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BATTLESHIP MAINE MONUMENT

PENOBSCOT, MAINE

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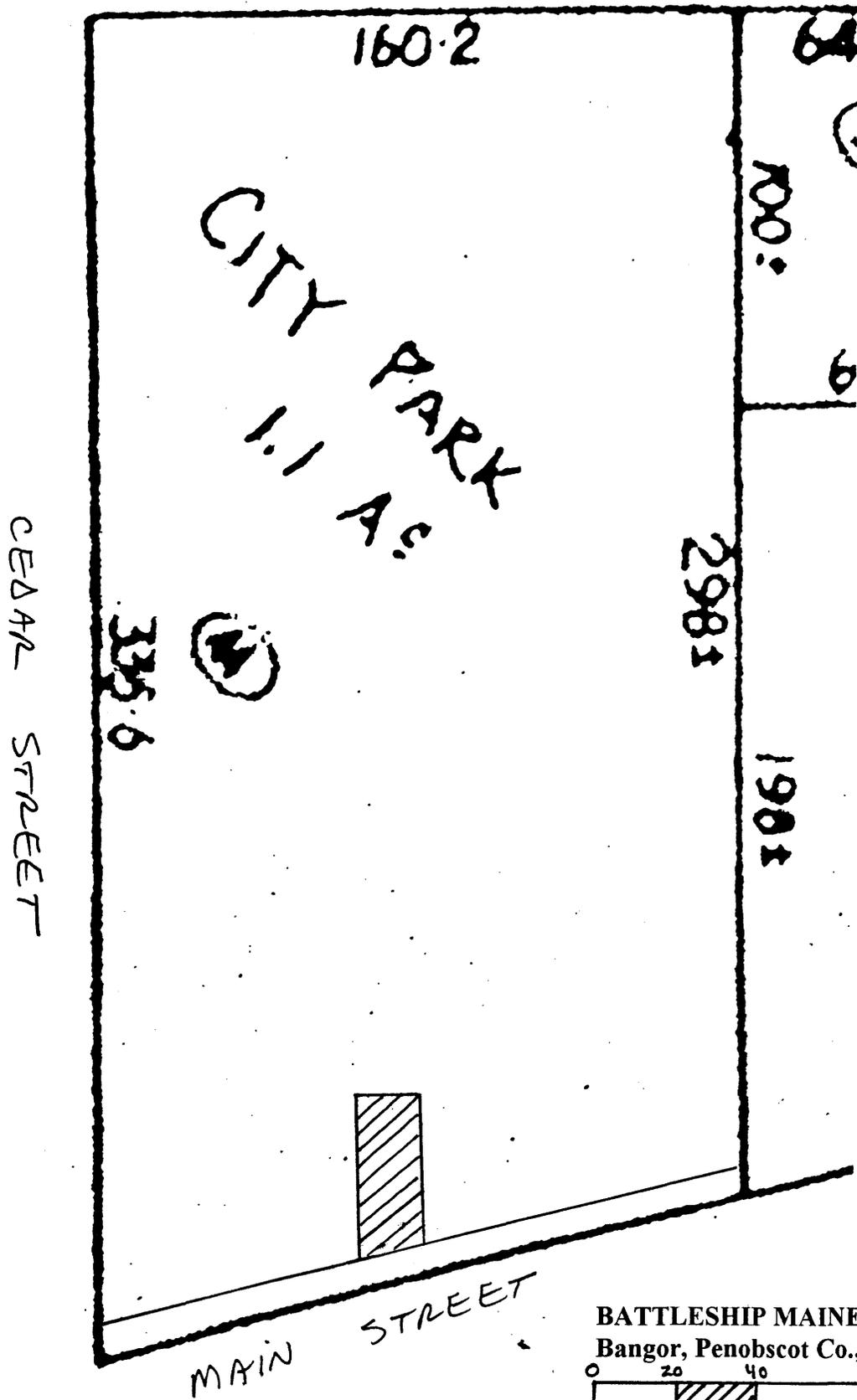
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## **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

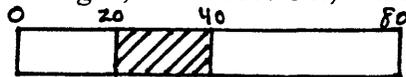
The nominated property occupies a narrow rectangular lot in Davenport Park near the intersection of Main and Cedar streets. This lot is approximately 15' wide and 50' deep, and includes the entire base of the monument as well as the paved path that leads from the sidewalk to the front of the monument. See map.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The boundary embraces the entire historic site of the Battleship Maine Monument including the paved walkway to the base of the object.



**BATTLESHIP MAINE MONUMENT**  
Bangor, Penobscot Co., Maine



Scale: 1" = 40'



Nominated area is shown in crosshatching.