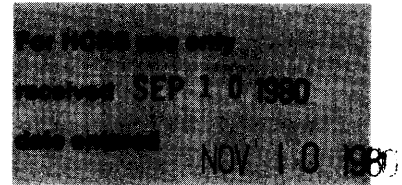


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Porter, Bell, Brackley Estate

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Lower Main Street

___ not for publication

city, town Strong

___ vicinity of

congressional district 2 nd

state Maine

code 23

county Franklin

code 007

3. Classification

Category

- ___ district
- building(s)
- ___ structure
- ___ site
- ___ object

Ownership

- ___ public
- private
- ___ both
- Public Acquisition**
- ___ in process
- ___ being considered

Status

- occupied
- ___ unoccupied
- ___ work in progress
- Accessible**
- ___ yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- ___ no

Present Use

- ___ agriculture
- ___ commercial
- ___ educational
- ___ entertainment
- ___ government
- ___ industrial
- ___ military
- ___ museum
- ___ park
- private residence
- ___ religious
- ___ scientific
- ___ transportation
- ___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Commander J.D. Cicio

street & number Box 11 FPO

city, town Seattle

___ vicinity of

state Washington 98762

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Farmington

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date _____ ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____

state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Porter, Bell, Brackley Estate built in 1866 and located in Strong, Maine, is among the best examples of the Italianate style of architecture in Maine.

The building itself has all the key components of the Italianate period. The main house is of frame construction with a hip roof and square cupola on a granite slab foundation. The structure is two stories in height and has an exterior of clapboarded siding. The main facade faces the west and is three bays wide with an ornately columned portico over the front entranceway. The portico is supported by modified Doric order columns. Dentils under the eaves flow together with bracketed cornices and pilasters, these coupled with elliptical transom windows in the entablature give the house an air of elaborate beauty. Above the portico there is a three part window and fenestration throughout the house is 6/6. There is also a one story flat roofed addition on the south side of the structure done in accordance with the rest of the structure.

A two story ell on the east side of the house connects with the carriage house and a full length porch runs the length of both sides of the ell. There are two simple doorways in this part of the building and the clapboarded exterior is in keeping with the overall appearance. Connected to the far end of the ell is a two story pyramidal roofed carriage house with simple square cupola and clapboarded siding. The doorway is located on the north end of the east side at the head of a long driveway. 6/6 windows are present on the north, east and south sides on both stories.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1866

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This highly detailed and beautifully proportioned Italianate residence is the equal of any to be found in either urban or coastal contexts in what might be considered more sophisticated areas. That it exists as a striking landmark in the small, remote community of Strong is the more remarkable.

Originally this home and another, virtually its twin, were built by Alexander and James Porter, prosperous mill men in the region. Their principle enterprise was a match and, later, toothpick factory which survives today as the Foster Manufacturing Company.

The James Porter House eventually became a hotel which burned in 1971. Alexander Porter unfortunately succumbed to certain "temptations of the flesh" and lost his business and most of his property. Fortunately he had transferred ownership of the house to other members of his family so that they were able to remain there until it was sold to the Bell's and later the Brackley's.

This handsome estate survives today in excellent condition and virtually unchanged. Its significance as a fine example of its style in a remote location and as a local landmark is unquestionable.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Butler, F.G., History of Farmington. Farmington, 1885.
Butler, Natalie, Unpublished History of Strong, Maine.

10. Geographical Data

~~ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED~~

~~UTM NOT VERIFIED~~

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2
Quadrangle name Kingfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	4	0	3	4	7	5	4	9	6	1	7	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's map U-5, lot 24

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/James Schimmer, Intern

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1980

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta state Maine

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Eileen B. Fetherston

title S.H.P.O.

date 8/29/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Barbara Ann O'Neil

date 11/10/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patricia Anderson*

date 11/6/80

Chief of Registration