

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine  
 COUNTY: Cumberland  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: DEC 12 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Eastern Cemetery  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Congress Street, corner Mountfort Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st: Hon. Peter N. Kyros  
 STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Cumberland CODE: 005

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Cemetery</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

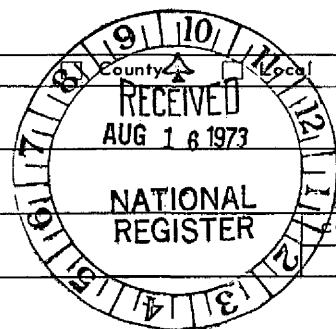
OWNER'S NAME: City of Portland  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 389 Congress Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cumberland County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 142 Federal Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: None  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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07M P&F  
056 HC 84/051968/191  
07M 91-9-1

PH 3017472

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eastern Cemetery is located on the eastern end of the Portland peninsula. It contains about 5.3 acres and is roughly triangular in shape, bounded northwest by Congress Street (290 feet), northeast by Mountfort Street (710 feet), southeast by Federal Street (690 feet) and southwest by the rear lot lines of houses on India Street and by the North School on Congress Street (455 feet). The cemetery is situated on high land, dropping from about 90 feet to about 60 feet above sea level toward the southeast, so that it overlooks Portland Harbor and Casco Bay beyond.

The Eastern Cemetery was chartered in 1668. It was the only burial place for the territory which was called Falmouth, incorporated as the Town of Portland in 1786. The earliest recorded burial was in 1718. Originally only the southeastern half of the present cemetery was used, the southwestern corner being the oldest section. The other half was unfenced and used as a public common. In 1820 this half became part of the cemetery. The cemetery was used until the 1860's and occasionally after that.

The main entrance to the cemetery is from Congress Street. A 10 foot wide grass road perpendicular to Congress Street leads into the cemetery and turns at a right angle to the left, exiting at Mountfort Street. Grass paths emanating from this road give access to all sections of the cemetery. The present cast iron and granite fence along Congress Street was erected in 1852. The granite receiving tomb to the right of the entrance was erected in 1849; it is 8 feet long, 6 feet wide and 6 feet high. A small wooden Gothic shed abuts the tomb. On Mountfort Street, a modern chainlink fence surmounts the cut granite retaining wall, built in 1852, which separates the cemetery from the street. On Federal Street, a high retaining wall of fieldstone with a cut granite cap, also built in 1852, separates the cemetery from the street. A modern chainlink fence separates the cemetery from the buildings on India Street and from the North School.

The northwestern half of the Eastern Cemetery is fairly level. Slightly raised burial plots cause the ground plane to fluctuate gently. The most visible section of the cemetery, this half has usually been well maintained. The Longfellow Garden Club has been attempting to restore the Eastern Cemetery; some work has been done here. This half of the cemetery contains several burial plots defined by cut granite posts and iron fencing. Some large tabular monuments have brick or granite bases, others are supported by pillars. There are buried vaults and many obelisk and columnar monuments, as well as simple vertical headstones.

The highest point in the Eastern Cemetery is along Mountfort Street, just to the east of the grass road. About midway from Congress Street toward Federal Street and parallel with Federal Street, the cemetery begins to drop off, forming a long bank which levels again before the

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7. DESCRIPTION

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Federal Street retaining wall. This half is the older section of the cemetery. The monuments are mainly simple vertical headstones. There are a few horizontal slabs. This section is in very poor condition. Many of the monuments have been shattered; fragments lie scattered on the ground. Other monuments lie toppled. Many have been defaced.

The grave markers exhibit a variety of carving as well as shapes, sizes and types. The majority of the monuments are only lettered. Of those that are carved as well, designs of willows and angel heads predominate. Many of the stones are similar. Some stones bear carved hands or funeral urns, one a sun, one a lamb; others bear more personal symbols. No extensive research has been done concerning the stone carving. Some stones are presumably the work of local carvers. The Mary Waite stone, 1756, which shows a stylized angel head, is thought to be. Other stones were brought from neighboring states. The Tabitha Longfellow stone, 1777, which shows an angel head with two pair of wings, is thought to be the work of Henry Christian Geyer, a Boston carver. The Joseph Stockbridge stone, 1761, which shows a human profile, is thought to be from the Connecticut River Valley. The monuments are of sandstone and slate in many colors, and of marble and granite. The granite monuments show greater weather deterioration; on many the lettering is illegible. The sandstone and slate monuments are generally in better condition, although some slate monuments are fractured.

The Eastern Cemetery has always contained trees, most of which planted themselves. One tall cedar tree remains. Only one of the many huge elm trees remains. New young trees of varying kinds have been planted. Some of the brush in the older section of the cemetery has been cut down, but many monuments remain overgrown. Throughout its existence, the Eastern Cemetery has been sometimes maintained, sometimes neglected. Current lack of care is evident in the poor condition of the monuments themselves and of the cemetery grounds.



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Chartered 1668. Used through late 19th century.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                         |                                                 |                                               |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                               |                                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |                                                 |                                               |                                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Within the Eastern Cemetery are the graves of the men and women who lived what is now the history of Portland, Maine. There are 4,054 graves in the cemetery. Some of these people are unknown to us today. Others were outstanding residents, some important beyond their town and state, and so are known to us.

The early religious leaders of Portland are buried in the Eastern Cemetery: Reverend Thomas Smith (1701-1795), for 69 years the pastor of the First Parish Church, whose diary is an invaluable Portland history source; Reverend Samuel Deane (1733-1814), also a minister of the First Parish Church; Reverend Edward Payson (1783-1827), the pastor of the Second Parish Church.

Men who played an active role in the government of Portland are buried here: James Milk (1710-1770), a deacon of the First Parish Church and civic leader; Moses Pearson (1696-1778), a representative to the Massachusetts General Court and a town treasurer, clerk and selectman; Enoch Freeman (1706-1788), a Judge of Probate and selectman; William Tyng (1737-1807), sheriff before the Revolution; Colonel John Waite (1732-1820), a town treasurer and sheriff for 34 years; Joseph Holt Ingraham (1752-1841), a selectman and representative to the Massachusetts General Court; six Mayors of Portland.

Early business and professional leaders are buried here: Francis Douglas (1772-1829), a publisher of the Daily Eastern Argus; Joseph Holt Ingraham, a silversmith and the builder of Ingraham Wharf; Asa Clapp (1762-1848), a merchant who determined much of Portland's growth.

Soldiers of many wars are buried in the Eastern Cemetery, from the earliest colonial wars through the Civil War. The commanders of the Enterprise and the Boxer are buried side by side.

The cemetery contains the graves of several nationally known figures: Commodore Edward Preble (1761-1807), Commodore of the U.S.S. Constitution, father of the American Navy; Charles Codman (1801-1842), a landscape artist; Rear Admiral James Alden (1810-1877), explorer and cartographer.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Elwell, Edward H. Portland and Vicinity. Portland: 1876.  
 Hoadley, William F. Historical Facts of People Buried in the Eastern Cemetery. 1897.  
 Hull, John T. "Walks in the Eastern Cemetery No. 1." Post Scrapbook, Vol. 4, p. 54.  
 Jordan, William B., Jr. and Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr. "Eastern Cemetery." Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.  
 Smith, Mason Philip. "Burial Ground Art." Down East Magazine, Vol. 12, No. 4, November, 1965, pp. 16-19, 42-43.  
 (See Continuation Sheet)

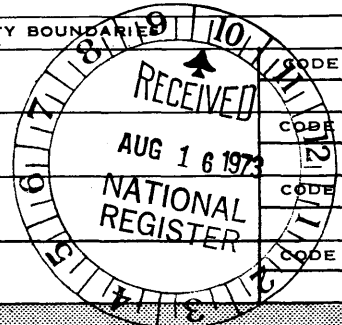
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	43	39	45	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	70	15	03	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5.3 Acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



19/399150/422000  
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE: **May 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **31 Western Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: James H. Wundy  
 Title: State Historic Pres. Officer  
 Date: August 13, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest A. Connelly  
 Associate Director, Professional Services  
 DEC 12 1973

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: Wm. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12-4-73

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

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Many of the men buried in the Eastern Cemetery were responsible for buildings which are monuments in Portland today: Jonathan Bryant (1741-1825) built Portland Headlight in 1791; Samuel Freeman (1743-1831) laid the cornerstone for the present First Parish Church, 1825; Joseph Holt Ingraham built his residence at 51 State Street in 1801; Captain Lemuel Moody (1767-1846) built the Portland Observatory in 1807.

Levi Cutter (1775-1856) was Mayor of Portland when the Eastern and Western Promenades were laid out.

The monuments in the Eastern Cemetery are important themselves. They provide a record of Portland's past. The monuments are art. Many of them are typical for their period; some of them are singular and beautiful. They provide a visual delight. The monuments should be repaired and well preserved.

The Eastern Cemetery is simultaneously two places. It is an ancient cemetery and as such communicates an incredible sense of place. It is quite visible from much of the Portland Harbor waterfront and from the eastern slope of the center of the city. The sheer size of the cemetery creates an isolation from its surroundings. The way the cemetery is raised up from the surrounding ground level for most of its border reinforces this isolation.

The Eastern Cemetery is also a valuable open area within a congested section of the city. The gentle contouring and dramatic slope toward Portland Harbor make the cemetery a beautiful spot. One has a clear view of the harbor and much of the city. The clean air is invigorating. Portland is becoming more dense; the role of the Eastern Cemetery as open space is extremely important.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES 2

Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration. Portland City Guide.  
Portland: 1940, pp. 277-279.

