

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 28 1973

40155C  
 19 NR33440

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Fort Gorges

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: E of Portland Harbor  
Hog Island, Portland Harbor

CITY OR TOWN: Portland Me. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Cumberland CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" 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 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Abandoned	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

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

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

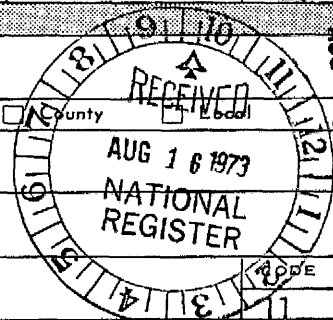
TITLE OF SURVEY: HABS, Me 134

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal     State     County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: 1st Street and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C.



STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Cumberland
ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 28 1973
DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)

- Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

- Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

- Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Gorges, named for Sir Ferdinando Gorges, is located in Portland Harbor on what was once Hog Island. This small island was a barren rock and the fort, when it was built, completely covered the island.

The fort is entirely constructed of granite with some brick work in the interior. The whole fort is topped with earthen ramparts.

There are spaces for fifty-six short range guns in the two story gun galleries on the south, east and west walls of the fort. Additional guns could be placed atop the earthen ramparts. The north wall of the fort however, was constructed with only rifle slits. Apparently the designers never counted on the fact that the fort could be out flanked.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858 1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of Fort Gorges was begun in 1858 and was the third of a trio of forts built to protect Portland Harbor, Fort Preble and Scammell having been built prior to Fort Gorges.

The fort was built in the style of Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina under the direction of Captain ~~Casey~~ of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The chief stonemason for the construction was Reuben ~~Smart~~ who had worked on Fort Knox on the Penobscot completed in 1846. He lived and worked on Hog Island for seven years until the fort was completed.

In ~~1864~~ the fort was completed but with the Civil War drawing to a close the fort was never garrisoned. The advent of ironclad vessels and heavier longer range guns made Fort Gorges obsolete before it could be used. Following its completion, a Civil War veteran was appointed caretaker and lived in the fort with his family in the spacious officers' quarters.

This era ended with the entry of the United States into World War I. During this period, the Navy used the fort to store mines and munitions. Following the war, a New York firm removed the guns for scrap metal. Again during World War II, the Navy used the fort for storage of mines, cables, nets and other anti-submarine equipment.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dunnack, Henry E. Maine Forts. Augusta, Me.: Charles E. Nash & Son, 1924.

Hilton, John J. "Portland Harbor's Fort Gorges." Down East Magazine, June 1973.

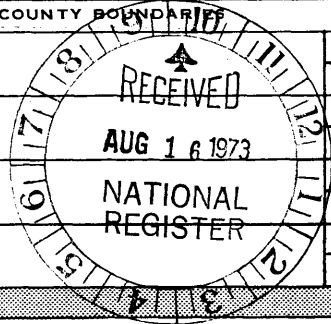
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		43 . 39 . 46 .	70 . 13 . 20 .	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Richard D. Kelly

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Comm. DATE: June 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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. Mundy

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date August 13, 1973

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

Robert M. Kelly  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/28/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8/23/73

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 28 1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

2

In 1960 the U.S. government gave Fort Gorges to the City of Portland. Some restoration was done at this time and the hopes are that it will continue.

There were no battles fought at Fort Gorges, nor were there any troops stationed there. The construction of Fort Gorges was actually ill-timed as it was built at a time when military technology was advancing more rapidly than anyone, at the time, could have imagined.

The significance of Fort Gorges lies in its remarkable state of preservation and in the fact that it remains today as an excellent example of mid-nineteenth century fort construction (in spite of the rifle slits in the north wall).

