

100014 Peter N. Kyros
029457

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 31 1974

DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
F.O.J. Smith Tomb

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Evergreen Cemetery-Stevens Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

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"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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"/> 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) Tomb

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Evergreen Cemetery

STREET AND NUMBER:
672 Stevens Ave.

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Federal St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

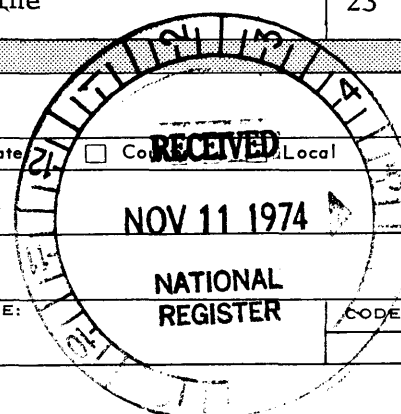
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of the myriad of architectural styles which became revived in nineteenth century England and America was the Egyptian. Because of the ancient Egyptians' belief in life after death and the funerary purpose of nearly all their surviving architecture, nineteenth century architects found the style especially appropriate for cemetery gates, tombs, and monuments. While never gaining wide popularity, the Egyptian Revival did leave such major monuments as entrance gates to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass., and the Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, Conn. F.O.J. Smith's tomb in Portland's Evergreen Cemetery is the only sophisticated example of the style in Maine. The choice of Egyptian reflects Smith's independent intellect as well as his enlightened awareness of the current architectural styles of his time.

F.O.J. Smith erected his tomb at Forest Home, his wooded estate on the outskirts of Portland. He is believed to have constructed the tomb at the time of his daughter Lizzie's death about 1860. After Smith's own death in 1876, the section of his estate on which the tomb stood was sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland for a convent. The tomb and its occupants were moved to the nearby Evergreen Cemetery, their present location.

Smith's tomb consists of a granite vault which is covered by a mound of earth and is fronted with a granite Egyptian style facade. The facade's central section is designed in the manner of a pylon, the form used for the gateways of Egyptian temples. The stonework of the wall is rusticated in a cyclopean or rough-hewn fashion. The wall slopes inward toward the top, which is capped with a pronounced gorge and roll cornice.

The entrance to the tomb is located at the center of the facade wall. A marble door is enframed by a finished granite pylon, which is, in turn, enframed by another finished granite pylon. Centered above the pylon immediately enframing the doorway is a modified sun disk, another frequently used Egyptian motif. Directly over the second pylon is a rectangular granite block bearing the carved initials "F.O.J.S."

The rough-hewn rusticated granite of the central section is repeated on the two flanking walls which taper downward with the contour of the mound behind them. Each of these side walls has a thick cornice of finished granite. This cornice does not extend completely to the ground but ceases where it joins a square rough-hewn pedestal at either end of the tomb facade. Each of these two pedestals has a finished granite pyramid mounted on top of it.

On the marble door of his Egyptian tomb, F.O.J. Smith placed the following inscription:

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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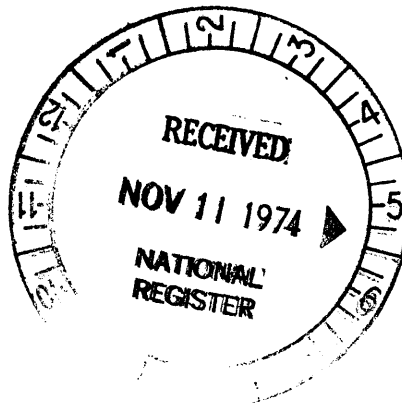
7. Description

1.

NATURE
teaches that
All Flesh Must Die.

RELIGION
inspires Hope that all
Spiritual Beings will
live forever, in spheres
and forms to which they
are fitted.
Believe in
GOD,
and fear not to leave wholly
to Him the Great Future.
His plans for Heaven
as for Earth must be
All-wise, Benevolent
and
Inimitable.
All men can know of future life.

Such an inscription on such a tomb is fitting for one of Maine's most colorful and versatile nineteenth century figures.



8. 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) 1860

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beyond its significance as an unusual Egyptian style tomb, the resting place of F.O.J. Smith seems peculiarly appropriate. Flamboyant, ambitious, visionary, impractical and an opportunist with a flexible conscience, Smith has been called by one historian "Maine's magnificent failure." He was ceaselessly active in pursuing the world's goods, but intempered by deep moral conviction.

A native of New Hampshire, "Fog" Smith, as he came to be called, came to Portland as a young lawyer in 1823 and soon demonstrated a penchant for controversy that became a dominant factor in his long and stormy career. He first gained notoriety as author of a pamphlet attacking the lottery system as a means to "defraud honest industry...and to take from the poor the pittance of poverty itself." Since the lottery funds were to be used in part to finance the Cumberland and Oxford Canal with which many of the leading citizens of Portland were involved, Smith, because of his audacity, became a prominent, if disputed public figure.

In 1827, he became editor of the Argus, a National Republican paper, and from this time until his death in 1876 Smith was almost continuously involved in both journalism and politics. He shortly determined, however, after assuming the editorship, that the winds of Democracy were blowing in Maine and with typical concern for practical opportunity rather than abstract theory, he turned the support of the paper to the candidacy of Andrew Jackson. During the remainder of his career one constant in Smith's politics was his inconstancy. He supported Harrison and Tyler in 1840, Polk in 1844, the Whigs in 1848, the Democrats in 1852, the Republicans in 1856, the Independants in 1860 and the Democrats in 1864. He strongly supported Lincoln and the prosecution of the Civil War at the outset but, firmly convinced of white racial superiority, he was horrified by the Emancipation Proclamation and became Maine's most noted and most detested Copperhead.

In other fields Smith was equally active and controversial. He was deeply involved with Samuel F.B. Morse in the development and promotion of the electric telegraph. Admidst claims of corruption and counter-claims he founded the Portland Gas Co. His scheme to link Lake Sebago by canal with the Androscoggin River was a dismal failure as was

(See Continuance Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thomas L. Gaffney, A Glimpse of F.O.J. Smith, Politician, Maine Historical Society Newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 2, 1970.
 D.C. Colesworthy, School is Out, Boston, 1876
 The Portland Transcript, April 29, 1876; Oct. 21, 1876; Oct. 28, 1876; Dec. 2, 1876.

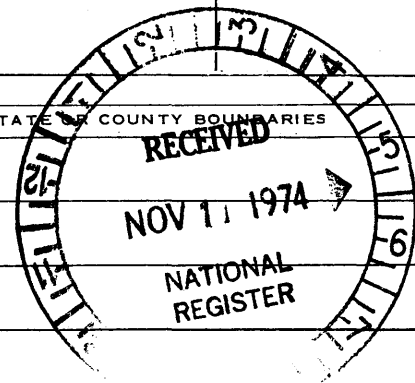
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 40' 50"	70° 18' 06"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



19/344325/4837000
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 OTH ref
 10-1-75

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Architectural Historian
Frank A. Beard, Historian Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: 10-24-74

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 November 6, 1974

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

AR... ..
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date DEC 31 1974

ATTEST: Deoxy Emery
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 31 1974

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8. Significance

1.

his plan to construct a great manufacturing center on the banks of the Presumpscot River.

To his friends he was known as a man of warmth, generosity and charm and he achieved in his early career sufficient popularity to be elected to the Maine House of Representatives, the Maine State Senate, becoming its President, and the United States Congress where he served as a representative for three undistinguished terms.

By the end of his life "Fog" Smith, through his opportunism and perfidy had become a lonely and largely discredited figure. His private life had been no less colorful and at times sordid than his public one. At the time of his death on October 14, 1876, two of the three executors whom he had appointed to administer his estate refused to serve. His obituary in the Portland Transcript closed with the words, "he failed in most of his endeavors, and his record serves as a warning rather than an example".

The self-chosen design of his tomb sets it apart as his peculiar faults indeed set this talented man apart during his lifetime.

