

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Fort Western

AND/OR COMMON Fort Western

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Bowman Street

CITY, TOWN Augusta __ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maine VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE
Kennebec

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Augusta - Friends of Fort Western

STREET & NUMBER City Hall

CITY, TOWN Augusta VICINITY OF STATE 04330
Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Augusta STATE
Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1933, 1965 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress-Division of Prints & Photographs

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

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

As built in 1754, Fort Western was comprised of an oblonged-shaped log stockade about 160 by 62 feet with two two-story log blockhouses located at opposite corners of the palisade, with a large two-and-one-half story log Main Building located within its walls. The Main Building is 100 feet long, 32 feet wide and 16 feet high, and has a gabled dormered roof. Four large brick chimneys, spaced out at intervals among the building, arise above the roof. The square hand-hewn timber walls are 13 inches thick and are covered on the exterior by wood shingles. The building has 20 rooms and seven staircases. When first built the Main Building had officers quarters at each end and the large space in the center contained a kitchen, mess, barracks, and storage rooms. Later this central area became the large fur trading room and store, while the north and south ends of the building were refinished as the 18th century sitting rooms, bedrooms, and kitchens of the Howard family.

Restored in 1920, the Main Building is largely original. The two adjacent log blockhouses, each about 24 feet square, and the stockade are complete reconstructions. Fort Western is open to visitors and the Main Building is furnished as an 18th century trading post. The living quarters are also furnished and other rooms house exhibits and artifacts that illustrate the naval, military, and Indian history of the region.

In 1958 an organization called the Friends of Fort Western was formed to assist in the preservation of the fort.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Fur trade	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1754-1773

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1754, the Main Building of Fort Western is an original, superb, and little-altered example of an 18th century log fur trading post. As the starting point and main supply base of Benedict Arnold's expedition against Quebec in September 1775, Fort Western also has some associations with the War for Independence.

History

Fort Western was erected in 1754 under the direction of Gershom Flagg, a master carpenter from Boston, for the Proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase as a fortified fur trading post. The post was garrisoned by Lieutenant James Howard and 20 men. Because of the danger of Indian attack, no attempt was made to settle the country around the fort until after the fall of Quebec in 1759. A small garrison held the post until 1763 and its commander, James Howard, remained to settle in the area, receiving grants of land in 1763 and 1767. In 1769 he purchased Fort Western itself and about 900 acres of surrounding land from the Proprietors. Howard and his sons utilized the fort as a fur trading post and store.

In September 1775 it was here at Fort Western that Colonel Benedict Arnold assembled his supplies for his unsuccessful march against Quebec. On September 19 Arnold's force, 1050 men and including among the officers such men as Daniel Morgan, Christopher Greene, Henry Dearborn, and Aaron Burr, sailed from Newburyport, Massachusetts to the Kennebec River and up river to Gardinerstown (now Pittston, Maine). Here the men transferred to batteaux and rowed six miles up river to Fort Western, arriving at this latter post on September 24. From here, over the next several days, the troops began moving northward in divisions. In 1779 Fort Western was visited by and helped save the American survivors of the ill-managed expedition sent out by Massachusetts to dislodge a British force from Fort George at Castine, Maine. These troops were struggling southward overland through the wilderness towards Boston.

The Main building of Fort Western finally passed out of the Howard family hands and was divided up and used as a tenement house. In 1919 Guy P. and William Howard Gannett, descendants of the original Howard family, purchased the neglected main building. Restoring the structure in 1920, they donated the building to the City of Augusta in 1921. At the same time they also reconstructed the two blockhouses and stockade of the fort. The stockade was again rebuilt in 1960.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Maine, A Guide "Down East" (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 121-122.
- William Williamson, History of the State of Maine (1832)
- James North, History of Augusta, Maine (1870)
- Charles Nash, History of Augusta, Maine (1904)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>19</u>	<u>438500</u>	<u>4907100</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

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 Original prepared by Charles Snell

ORGANIZATION Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation

DATE 1972

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Washington, D. C.

STATE

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 National Park Service.

Designated: Nov. 7, 1973

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Boundary Commission
DATE Nov 27, 1978

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/5/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Fort Western

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description

A certain parcel of land, bounded to the west by the Kennebec River, which contains the rectangular Main Building of Fort Western. The southern line runs parallel to and is 90 feet from the southern end of the building; the eastern line runs parallel to and is 80 feet from the eastern side of the building; the northern line runs parallel to and is 90 feet from the northern end of the building; and the western line (the river bank) runs roughly parallel to and averages 105 feet in distance from the western side of the building. As of 1978, this nearly square parcel relates to the area street plan as follows: the southeastern corner is 55 feet north of the northern side of Williams Street, while the northeastern corner is 80 feet south of the southern side of Cony Street at its intersection with Willow Street.