Form	No.	10-300	(Rev.	10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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	TYPE ALL ENTRIES (COMPLETE APPLICABL	AL REGISTER FORMS LE SECTIONS	
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HISTORIC POI	rtsmouth Naval Shipya	cd		
AND/OR COMMON				
K±t	ttery Navy Yard			
LOCATION	N			
STREET & NUMBER				
	Seavey Island		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
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STATE	<u>Kittery</u> —	CODE	COUNTY	CODE 031
	Maine	23	York	031
CLASSIFIC	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT		XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	PARK
	вотн		EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	-RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		TRANSPORTATIO
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7 DESCRIPTION

CO	NDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
≚EXCELLENT —GOOD —FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED	XORIGINAL S MOVED	ITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Historic District, on Seavey Island, comprises some 62 architecturally and historically significant buildings. Dating from the early 18th century, but primarily spanning the years 1850 to 1900, the district's buildings are well preserved and protected. The district consists of the oldest part of the Naval Shipyard and contains most of the residential installations and historic industrial structures as opposed to the southern part of Seavey Island which contains buildings of more recent vintage. Most of the architecture in stylistically Greek Revival with earlier Federal and later Italianate, Mansard, and Colonial Revival lexamples.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

- 1. Gas Plant
- 2. Navall Investigative Service Building
- , Navel Investigative Service building
- 3. Production Ship (Isaac Hull Street): mid-19th century, Greek Regival, 2 stories, brick with stone trim, gable goof:
- 4. Sewage Pumping Station
- 5. Administration Supply Storehouse (Isaac Hull Street): 1865, Greek Revival, 2¹/₂ stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof, originally boathouse and carpenter shop.
- 6. Production Shop Supply Storehouse (Isaac Hull Street): 1902, 2 stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof, stepped gable.
- Storehouse (Wyman Avenue): 1874, Greek Revival, 2¹/₂ stories, brick, gable roof, originally quarters.
- 8. Bus Shelter
- 9. Public Works Shop
- 10. Public Works Storehouse
- 11. Public Works Supply and Storehouse (Wyman Avenue): mid 19th-century, Greek Revival, 1¹/₂ stories, stome with match-boarded half story, gable roof, originally a stable.
- 12. Storehouse
- 13. Storehouse (Wyman Avenue): 1851, Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof, originally stable for cattle.
- 14. Scale House.

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U.NITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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- 15. Production Shop (Isaac Hull Street): mid- 19th century, Greek Revival, 2¹/₂ stories, brick with stone strim, gable roof.
- 16. Public Works Shop (Isaac Hull Street): 1859, Greek Revival, 1¹/₂ stories, brick with match-boarded half story, gable roof, originally a storehouse.
- 17. Production Shop
- 18. Production & Public Works Shop
- 19. Administration Building
- 20. Quarters L
- 21. Garage & Quarters
- 22. Quarters A, Commandant's Quarters (Charles Morris Avenue): 1724?, 1818, Federal with Colonial components, 2½ stories, clapboarded with vertical match-boarded one-story apses, gable roof; ornate facade featuring balustrated second- story porch.
- 23. Tool House Quarters A
- 24. Production Shop
- 25. Medical Admin. & Bank (MacDonough Avenue): 1853, Greek Revival, 3½ stories, stone, gable roof; originally head house, boiler and engine house.

26. Post office & Administration (MacDonough Avenue): 1855, Italianate, 2 storistories with clock tower, brick with stone trim and wooden tower; originally machine shop and steam engineering house.

- 27. Admin., Tel. Exchange, Police Station, Comm. Center.
- 28. Supply Storehouse, Radiographic Space (Johnson Street): mid 19th century, Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with stone trim.
- 29. Memorial, "U.S.S. Sailfish"
- 30. Bus Shelter
- 31. Guest House (Wyman Avenue): early 20th century, Colonial Revival, 1 story clapboarded, gable roof.

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- 32. Quarters K (Wyman Avenue): Mid-19th century, Greek Revival, 2 stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof, colonnaded 1-story facade porch.
- 33. Garage & Storage, Quarters B
- 34. Elevated Water Tank
- 35. Valve House for water tank
- 36. Garage (Qtrs. K) & Public Works Storehouse (Wyman Avenue): 1851, 1½ stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof, originally a shell house.
- 37. Cemetery (Wyman Avenue): 1820 on, U.S. Naval Cemetery.
- 38. Cold Storage Building (Wyman Avenue): 1857, 1 story, brick with stone trim, hip roof, originally a shell house.
- 39. Storehouse (Wyman Avenue): 1855, 1 story, brick with stone trim, hip roof, originally a shell house.
- 40. Radiographic Building (Wyman Avenue): 1848, 1 story, stone, hip roof, originally a magazine.
- 41. Navy Exchange, Service Station (Wyman Avenue): 1859, 1 story, stone, hip roof, apertures in ends of building to contain explosion; originally a magazine.
- 42. Radiological Decontamination Building

1 1 -

- 43. Fire Station & Administration Building (Sicard Street): 1865, Greek Revival, 2¹/₂ stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof with wooden double facade dormers.
- 44. Quarters B (Crane Street): 1849, Greek Revival, 2¹/₂ stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof; formerly the shipyard Commander's House
- 45. Quarters C&D (Dennett Street): mid-19th century, Greek Revival, 2½ stories, brick with stone trim, gable roof.
- 46. Quarters E&F (Dennett Street): 1833, Federal, 2½ stories, brick with stone trim,gable roof.
- 47. Quarters G,H,I, & J (Dennett Street): mid-19th century, Greek Revival, 2½ stories, brick with stone trim, gable; built as a row house with four entrances.
- 48. Administration Building (MacDonough Street): c. 1900, Colonial Revival, 3 stories, brick with stone trim, flat roof.

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- 49. Administration Building
- 50. Garage & Ambulance Station
- 51. Dispensary & Dental Clinic (Charles Morris Avenue): c. 1900, Colonial Revival, $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories, brick with stone trim, hip roof.
- 52. Material Test Laboratory, Training, Print Shop
- Officers Club, Theater, and Library (Pope Street): 1857, Greek Revival, 3 53. stories, clapboarded, gable roof, originally the ordinance and armory building.
- 54. Quarters 0 (Sicard Street): mid-19th century, Greek Revivalories, shories with brink with, stonestringogable roof.
- 55. Quarters P (MacDonough Avenue): late 19th century, Mansard, 3 stories, brick with stone trim, Mansard roof.
- Dispensary (Goodrich Avenue): 1864, Greek Revival, 2¹/₂ stories, brick with 56. stone trim, gable roof, originally the point shop.
- 57. Garage Quarters 0 & P
- 58. 40 High Explosive Magazines
- 59. Supply Office & Storehouse
- 60. Armory & Gymnasium
- 61. Storehouse
- 62. EM Barracks & Mess, Public Quarters (Burrows Avenue): mid-19th century, Italianate, 3½ stories, brick, gable roof, veranda on first and second stories at south side.

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While a number of structures in the district are not contributary to the district from an architectural point of view they are not intrusions in the ordinary sense because they are a part of the whole physical entity in terms of their use as Navy Yard facilities. The following numbered structures fall into this classification: 1,2, 4, 8, 12, 14, 17, 21, 23, 30, 33, 34, 35, 50, 57, 59, 61.



PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
X 1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	X MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
≭ 1700-1799	ART	K ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
<u>×</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	LINDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

30

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located at the mouth of the Piscataqua River, between Maine and New Hampshire, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has been in existence for nearly 180 years and was the first navy yard established by the Navy Department after its formation in 1798. However, this governmental establishment was but a continuation of a tradition of shipbuilding and maritime activity which began only a few years after the first European contacts with the area. The earliest visitor, Martin Pring in 1603, described it as "a noble sheet of water, and of great depth, with beautiful islands and heavy forests along its banks". In 1614, the redoubtable Captain John Smith was equally impressed and as early as 1650 the British Government selected this popt as a suitable location to build ships for the Royal Navy. The immediate availability of mast timber was, of course, a prime consideration in addition to the obvious geographical advantages.

For a number of years only small vessels were built but in 1690 the 54 gun frigate "Falkland" was launched followed, in 1696, by the 32 gun "Bedford". In 1749 the 60 gun "America" slid down the ways, the largest Royal Navy ship ever built in the New World.

In the years prior to the Revolution this kind of activity meant that there was assembled in the Portsmouth-Kittery region a concentration of skilled workers in all trades and arts necessary to the building and repair of ships. In December of 1774, in what has been not unreasonably claimed as the first organized military effort of the Revolution, the British military post as Castle William and Mary near the mouth of the river was captured and the military stores seized. Some of this material was later used at the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill.

A far more important and long range result of this action, however, was the acquisition of the shipbuilding sites by the revolutionary cause together with the already sympathetic and highly skilled labor force. The birth of American and, later, United States naval shipbuilding commenced almost immediately. In December of 1775 the Continental Congress authorized the construction of fr3 frigates. One of these, the 32 gun "Raleigh", was to be built at POrtsmouth under the direction of John Langdon, leader of the operation against Castle William and Mary, who offered his island in the river (now Badger's Island) to be employed for the purpose. Langdon's Island continued to be used exclusively by the American government for naval purposes until the official "Navy Yard" was established in 1800. Launched in May of 1776 the "Raleigh" served creditably until captured by the British in September, 1778.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, <u>Portsmouth - Kittery Naval Shipbuilding</u>, <u>Activity</u>, 1975
<u>Portsmouth Naval Shipyard</u>, U.S. Govt. Printing Office 1976 - 602 - 761 #37
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, <u>Quarters "A"</u>, 1976
Portsmouth - Kittery Armed Services Committee,Submarines, 1967

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

54

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the north shore of Seavey Island 200 feet west of Bridge Number 1, proceed easterly along the north shoreline of the island to a point 250 feet southeast of Bridge No. 2. Proceed southerly along the east edge of a parking lot to the southerly side of the end of Burrows Avenue, thence westerly along the southern side of Burrows Avenue 280 feet, thence at a 90° angle southerly to the northern side of Newton Street. Proceed westerly diagonally across Goodrich Avenue 310 feet thence southerly, southwesterly and

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

STATE	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PRE	PARED BY	
NAME / TITLE	Frank A. Beard, Historian	
	Robert L. Bradley, Architectural H	istorian
ORGANIZATION		DATE
	Maine Historic Preservation Commiss	sion April, 1977
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHÔNE
	31 Western Avenue	289-2133
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
	Meineta	Maine
12 STATE HIS	STORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	R CERTIFICATION
	THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY	WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIC	DNAL 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE (, le, b. Hettleworth, Jr.											
TITLE	S.H.	P. 0	,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	/				5/	12/7	7
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In spite of its relatively small size, the second ship built at Portsmouth, the 18 gun sloop "Ranger", was one of the more famous in American naval annals under the command of John Paul Jones. Launched in May, 1777, Jones took her to France to announce the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. With Brest as his base he terrorized English shipping, raided the west English coast and captured the British sloop of war "Drake" in the most spectacular single ship action up to that time between the two navies.

In November of 1778, the 74 gun ship of the line, "America", the second of that name to be built at Portsmouth, was launched. Like her predecessor, she was, up to that time largest naval vessel ever laid down on the North American continent. She was turned over to the French in return their services and their loss by accident of a ship of the line in Boston Harbor the same year. In 1799 the 38 gun frigate "Congress" was launched.

In April, 1798, Congress established a Navy Department separate from the War Department. One of the first actions of this new agency was the purchase in 1800 of Dennett's Island, adjacent to Langdon's, as the site of the first Navy Yard. Although a small garrison was provided in 1806, little activity took place until stimulated by the War of 1812. In October of that year Captain Isaac Hull, fresh from his dramatic victory as commander of the "Constitution" over the British frigate "Serapis", became the first commandant. The 74 gun ship of the line "Washington" was launched in July, 1815 and served as flagship of the Mediterranean squadron until 1818. Subsequently about 43 surface vessels were built for the Navy at the Portsmouth yard, the last being in 1912. The first steam vessel was the side wheel frigate "Saranac", 1238 tons, launched in November, 1848. In 1851 a floating balance dry dock and marine railway was constructed. 350 feet long and 105 feet wide outside, it was successfully operated until sold in 1907.

In April of 1861 the yard was placed on a war footing and the keels of two 9 gun screw propulsion steam sloops were laid. One of these, the "Kearsarge" achieved lasting fame when she sank the "Alabama", commanded by Captain Raphael Semmes, the notorious Confederate raider, off Cherbourg in 1864. In 1863 and 1864 two 4 gun ironclads were constructed.

The Navy Yard achieved its present size in 1866 with purchase of Seavey Island, about three times the size of Dennett's Island and separated from it by the narrow Jenkins Gut. Part of the gut was converted into a 750 goot drydock which still exists and the rest was filled in making one large island now called Seavey Island in its entirety. The historic district here nominated occupies almost entirely the area of Dennett's Island.

With the launching of the "L-8" in 1917, the Portsmouth Navy Yard became the first government facility to build a submarine. Since that time it has been the only yard devoted exclusively to submarine construction and repair and, in 1958,

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with the launching of the "Swordfish", the first government yard to build a nuclear powered submarine. Submarine construction at the yard was terminated in 1969 since which time the emphasis has been in support of a continuing program of attack and fleet ballistic missle submarine overhauls. Between 1917 and 1969 134 submarines slid off the ways at Portsmouth.

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Historic District contains a remarkable and extensive collection of 19th century industrial structures of unusually fine design. There is also a distinguished row of officers' quarters executed in brick in the Greek Revival tradition. The most striking building is, of course, Quarters A, residence of the senior naval officer. Built probably in 1724, it was moved to its present location shortly after the island was acquired by the Navy Department in 1800. During the occupancy of Captain and Mrs. Thomas Mac-Donough (1815-1818) the entire house was remodeled and enlarged with a new fadade in the Bulfinch tradition which was a strong influence on public arc_hitecture at the time. This gracious home well befits the importance of its occupants and sets a tone suiting the age and traditions of Shipyard.

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During the period from the end of the Civil War to World War I comparatively few naval ships were constructed at the yard since, with the exception of the short-lived war with Spain, the nation was at peace. In addition, the facilities in Portsmouth were not large enough for the construction of the huge steel battleships and cruisers required by the Navy after 1890. These years did see the important changeover from wood to ironclad to iron and steel hulled ships with a corresponding adaptation of construction and repair facilities.

In 1905 an event of international significance took place at the Navy Yard with the signing of the Russo-Japanese Peace Treaty. President Theodore Roosevelt offered the good offices of the United States to negotiate terms for ending the war between these two nations. These negotiations were carried out at the nearby Wentworth Hotel in Portsmouth and the signing took place in the Administration Building (48) where a plaque now commemorates the event.

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From the early colonial period to the present day this shipbuilding site served first, the British government, later, the revolutionary colonies and, finally, the United States through the eras of sail, steam and and advanced use of atomic power in subpresently the most scientific marines. This early naval shipbuilding industrial complex was truly self sufficient. It represents one of the country's earliest complete industrial operations. It was the first Navy Yard established by the United States Government. It was the site of the construction of John Paul Jones' "Ranger", of the "Kearsarge" of Civil War fame, and of the first government built submarine. The architecture represented in this historic district ranges from the rich Federal of Quarters A, through some of the finest Greek Revival industrial buildings to be found anywhere, to examples of Italianate, Mansard and the Colonial Revival. In terms of longevity, distinguished history and service, and architectural merit it can well be argued that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard holds a significance unmatched by any other similar facility in the country.

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northwesterly on Pearson Street around the southern perimeters of buildings no. 53 and 52 to the center of Howell Street. From this point proceed southwesterly on Howell Street to the intersection with Remey St., northwesterly on Remey Street to a point 40 ft. west of the westerly end of building no. 25, and thence northerly along an alley on the west side of building no. 14. From this point proceed northwesterly and northerly around the western perimeter of buildings no. 3 and 1 to the point of beginning.

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The determination of the district boundary is based on two factors: security and historicity. Those areas immediately to the west and south of Isaac Hull, Remey, Howell, and Pearson Streets are beyond the so-called "Atomic Fence" which sets off a maximum security area devoted to nuclear submarine repair and maintenance. The areas to the south of Goodrich Avenue and Newton Street contain buildings largely of 20th century vintage not chronologically or architecturally compatible with those in the district as delineated.



