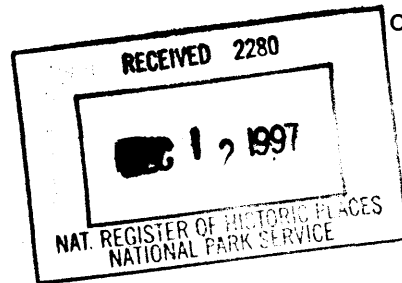


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1639

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jones, John Paul, Memorial Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bounded by Newmarch Street and Hunter Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Kittery Foreside N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 03904

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/4/97
Signature of certifying official/Title SHPO Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature] 1/7/98
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Jones, John Paul, Memorial Park
Name of Property

York, Maine
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
Contributing Noncontributing

_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
1	3	objects
2	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Monument

Landscape/Park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Monument

Landscape/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls _____

roof _____

other Granite Monument w/Bronze
Sculpture

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Jones, John Paul, Memorial Park
Name of Property

York, Maine
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Landscape Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1924-1926

Significant Dates

1924

1926

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Paeff, Bashka, Sculptor

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The John Paul Jones Memorial Park is a long, relatively narrow trapezoidal green space containing about two (2) acres that is bounded by Newmarch and Pierson streets. Its centerpiece is the imposing granite and bronze Sailors and Soldiers Monument that was completed in 1926 and located in the southern third of the park. The park is also the site of several other smaller memorial monuments. These are described in the Inventory List.

The park's landscaping is comprised of a grass cover punctuated along most of the boundary by a row of deciduous trees of mixed age. This overall pattern is modified by the presence of several other specimen trees at the northern end of the park which are located inside the outer row. The border trees do not extend south of the Sailor's and Soldier's Monument, although several trees have been planted at this end in the recent past. A 1935 aerial photograph of the park indicates that at that time an elliptical footpath extended from behind the monument to the north end of the park and inside the double row of elms that had originally been planted on the perimeter. In addition, two radial paths extended outward from the ellipse at the very north end. These paths no longer exist.

Inventory List

1. Sailors and Soldiers Monument, 1924-26 -- C

Bashka Paeff, Sculptor

The following description of the monument appeared in the June 1, 1926, edition of the *Portsmouth Herald*:

The memorial in a gold bronze symbolizes war in its fear and horror by means of a central group showing a mother protecting her child while out of the murk and cloud of war there emerges the torsos of two men who have made the last sacrifice in defence of home and country. On either side are groups which show the gallantry and courage of the sons of Maine in the war. Under it on the bronze are the words "Lord God of Hosts be with us yet -- Lest we forget. Lest we forget." Underneath this cut in the stone frame are the words: "From The State of Maine to Her Sailors and Soldiers."

It is eight by eleven feet and weighs 2,800 pounds. It is set in a beautiful granite frame with a sweeping curve at the top and mounted on a granite platform, classical in design with Roman seats and vases at the sides and steps in front. On the reverse is the seal of the State of Maine in bronze.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

The monument is unaltered, except for the loss of the vases which have been removed by vandals.

The granite work and flag pole were provided by the Smith Granite Company of Rhode Island at a cost of approximately \$20,000, whereas the bronze state seal was furnished by the Gorham Company.

2. SLOOP RANGER Monument, 1905 – NC

Moved to site in 1963 from nearby Badger's Island

Erected by the Paul Jones Club of the Sons of the American Revolution, the monument's bronze tablet mounted in granite bears the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF
THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP OF WAR
RANGER
LAUNCHED FROM THIS ISLAND
MAY 10, 1777
SAILED FOR FRANCE NOVEMBER 11, 1777
JOHN PAUL JONES, CAPTAIN
WITH DISPATCHES OF
BURGOYNE'S SURRENDER
RECEIVED FEBRUARY 14, 1778
THE FIRST SALUTE
TO THE STARS AND STRIPES
FROM THE FRENCH FLEET
CAPTURED THE
BRITISH SLOOP OF WAR DRAKE
APRIL 24, 1778

ERECTED BY THE PAUL JONES CLUB
OF PORTSMOUTH
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1905

Beneath the principal tablet is a smaller marker that states that the monument was moved to its present location from Badger Island in 1963.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

3. The Province of Maine Monument, 1931 --NC

Erected by the Colonial Dames of Maine in August, 1931, this small monument at the southern end of the park is comprised of a bronze tablet mounted to a rounded piece of granite. The tablet bears the following inscription:

THE
PROVINCE OF MAINE
ORIGINALLY EXTENDING FROM THE MERRIMAC TO
THE KENNEBEC RIVERS, WAS GRANTED AUGUST 10, 1622
TO
SIR FERDINANDO GORGES AND CAPTAIN JOHN MASON
BY
THE COUNCIL FOR NEW ENGLAND
ESTABLISHED AT PLYMOUTH BY KING JAMES I IN 1620.
THIS TERRITORY WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN THEM IN 1629 AND
CONFIRMED BY THE COUNCIL IN 1635, WHEN
GORGES RECEIVED THE EASTERN PORTION, EXTENDING
FROM THE PISCATAQUA RIVER TO THE KENNEBEC
WHICH THEREAFTER RETAINED THE
ORIGINAL NAME OF THE PROVINCE OF MAINE

4. Marine Corp Monument, 1984 -- NC

This recently installed monument, which is located in the vicinity of the SLOOP RANGER monument, is a memoriam to the men and women from Maine who served in the Marine Corps since 1775. Its polished granite base and shaft stand about three feet high on top of which is mounted a tablet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Originally dedicated on November 11 (Armistice Day), 1924, as a memorial to Maine's sailors and soldiers who served in World War I, the John Paul Jones Memorial Park is a two-acre trapezoidal green space that was named in 1927 by the State Legislature in memory of the commander of the first American warship. The park is the site of a striking granite and bronze war monument designed by sculptor Bashka Paeff. The installation of this original memorial has been followed by the erection of three smaller monuments in 1931, 1963 (a relocated monument), and 1984. The park meets criterion A for its association with the State of Maine's effort to honor its war veterans, and criterion C for its significance in art and landscape architecture. Criteria consideration F also applies by virtue of the park's commemorative purpose.

The development of the park was closely associated with the construction of the Interstate Memorial Bridge, a three span 900' long structure over the Piscataqua River between New Hampshire and Maine that was completed in 1923. As directed in Chapter 44 of the *Acts and Resolves* of the 79th Legislature (1919), the bridge was to be a memorial to the sailors and soldiers from the two states who served in World War I. In addition, the legislature directed that a special memorial to the veterans be constructed on the Maine side of the bridge. According to a plan dated March 13, 1923, the land occupied by the park was acquired by the State Highway Commission for the approach to the new bridge. In a 1926 article about the history of the memorial that was published in the June 1, 1926, edition of the *Portland Press Herald*, Percival P. Baxter (who was governor at the time the monument's design was chosen) stated that this property had been obtained for the purpose of establishing a "Memorial Park...forever dedicated to that purpose." The site offered the opportunity to develop a distinctive approach to the state, and in its function as perhaps the most significant gateway to Maine in the mid 1920s (and for many years thereafter), this green space represents an important landscape design.

Following the completion of the bridge, Governor Baxter appointed a committee of former servicemen to consult with him in regard to a suitable monument. A competition was subsequently held in which some twenty designs were considered. The \$10,000 commission (subsequently augmented by an additional \$5,000) was awarded in May of 1924 to sculptor Bashka Paeff (1893-____) of Boston. Paeff, who was born in Minsk, Russia, was a student of Bela Pratt. Among the works noted in her entry in the *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers* (1926) were portraits in bas relief of William Dixon Weaver, Jane Addams, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louis D. Brandeis and Sherman Whipple. No additional information about her career has as yet been discovered.

In the original submission of her competition entry, Paeff described the statuary in the following manner:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

The central figure, clutching a child in fear and horror, representing 'Civilization', looking upon the death, horror and devastation at her feet and about her. The distant background represents the heroism and self-sacrifice of the soldiers as they emerge out of shell holes and drag their wounded comrades to safety, while about them and around them is bursting of bombs and clouds of death. The dogs, who are ever faithful in war as well as peace, are here again, close, devoted, faithful friends to their comrades to the end.

In his history of the memorial, Baxter stated that Paeff originally suggested the title "The Horrors of War" for the sculpture and then later felt that "The Sacrifices of War" was more appropriate. Baxter noted that as a result of subsequent discussions that he had had with the sculptor, they concluded that Kipling's lines "Lord God of Hosts be with us yet, lest we forget, lest we forget" best expressed the spirit of the memorial. It is this verse that was cast into the bronze tablet.

Paeff's design for the memorial was regarded at the time as being both unusual -- perhaps even radical -- and controversial. This is apparent from the account of the monument's dedication that appeared in the June 1, 1926, edition of the *Portsmouth Herald*. The reporter noted that:

At one time it was feared that Miss Paeff's design was suggestive too much of the horrors of war and did not portray the valor of the sons of Maine. By the addition of the groups of soldiers in action this objection was obviated and now it is regarded as one of the foremost memorial monuments in the country -- original in character and symbolism, and deeply impressive. And as a bit of sculpture it has few equals. It is far removed from the stereotyped war memorials of the past in which soldiers and sailors stood at dress parade with guns and drums and cannon and balls woven into the design to signify war.

Baxter explained that the controversy over the memorial's design was focussed in part on that portion of the sculpture that showed soldiers emerging from the shadows of war and carrying their wounded comrades. He also noted that newspaper accounts had reported at one time that his successor, Governor Ralph Owen Brewster, advocated the abandonment of the design. The newspaper accounts of both the dedication of the park in 1924 and the monument two years later also indicate that the memorial became a focal point of controversy between pacifists and militarists. Ultimately, the original design was modified by substituting a line of soldiers marching to the front in place of the wounded soldiers, but the central figure and theme remained unaltered. Baxter himself greatly admired the memorial, and stated that "In the opinion of many who are well informed on such matters there is nothing in this country to surpass or perhaps equal it." He described its symbolism in the following way:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

It portrays the suffering and anguish of womanhood; the terror of childhood; the sacrifice of manhood. Over the figures hang the oppressive storm clouds of War, into which are marching soldiers ready for battle. The figure of a dog crouching beside his master's dead body portrays the fidelity and the service rendered man by the humbler members of the animal kingdom. Desolation, waste and the awfulness of War stand out in every line and shadow.

Judging from the design of most World War I memorials erected in the state, the war memorial in Kittery was indeed a distinctive tribute to the veterans. The vast majority of memorials in this period were bronze tablets set into boulders and frequently placed in proximity to a community's Civil War monument. Other towns dedicated newly constructed bridges in memory of their veterans, and in some cases memorial buildings and hospitals served to commemorate the conflict. Of additional note is the fact that in 1938 a group organized under the name State-Wide War Veterans' Memorial, Inc. was actively promoting the erection of a new memorial on the Eastern Promenade in Portland (and applying to the Public Works Administration for funding). This proposed structure, consisting of a Neo-Classical building surmounted by a 160' tall granite shaft, was designed by the Portland architect John P. Thomas. If nothing else, the onset of World War II probably put an end to the idea.

Within the space of three years of the memorial's dedication, the legislature formally named the state park in Kittery the John Paul Jones Memorial Park. Research undertaken to date has not provided a definitive answer as to whether the park had been named before, although contemporary accounts and Baxter's statements clearly indicate the intention that it be forever a war memorial. Ironically, the 1927 legislative action appears to have had the effect of largely obscuring the original intent of the park. Thus, what began as a noble effort by the State to memorialize her veterans of World War I, has been virtually lost in the historic record.

Like many public parks throughout the state, the John Paul Jones Memorial Park has had its share of additions in the way of memorials to subsequent wars or events of note. Thus, in 1931 the Colonial Dames of Maine erected a small tablet describing the original land grant that established the Province of Maine, and in 1963 a monument to the SLOOP RANGER was moved from a nearby site where it had been erected in 1905. The most recent addition, a Marine Corp memorial, was made in 1984. These small objects, two of which are located at the north end of the park, neither contribute to the significance of the memorial nor detract from it. Although the construction upriver of the Interstate 95 bridge over the Piscataqua River has long since become the principal point of entry into Maine for automobile traffic, the park and its War Memorial continues to serve as a gateway with highly symbolic meaning.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Acts and Resolves As Passed by the Seventy-Ninth Legislature of the State of Maine.
Augusta, Maine: Kennebec Journal Company, 1919.

“Ex-Governor Baxter’s History of Maine State Memorial.” *Portland Press Herald*, June 1, 1926.

Fielding, Mantle. *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers*. 1926.
Enlarged Edition edited by Genevieve C. Doran. Greens Farm, Connecticut: Modern Books and Crafts, Incorporated, 1974.

Journal Register of the Executive Council. 1919-1927. Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Kittery, Ancient and Modern. Kittery, Maine: Kittery Booklet Committee, 1931.

“Kittery Tablet is Dedicated.” *Kennebec Journal* (Augusta), June 1, 1926.

“Maine Dedicates Her Memorial At Kittery To Her Sons In World War.” *Portland Press Herald*, June 1, 1926.

“Maine’s Memorial To Soldiers And Sailors Dedicated At Kittery.” *Portland Press Herald*, November 12, 1924.

State of Maine Plan Showing Land in Kittery, Maine to be Taken For Approach to Kittery-Portsmouth Interstate Bridge. March 13, 1923. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

“Unveil Kittery War Memorial.” *Portsmouth Herald*. June 1, 1926.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

JONES, JOHN PAUL, MEMORIAL PARK

YORK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Boundary Description:

The nominated property occupies the Town of Kittery tax map 4, lot 201.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the John Paul Jones Memorial Park