

PH 0005070

Hon. William D. Hathaway

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maine</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JUL 23 1973</b>

HIS  
0627900  
N 4952220  
M H 0005070  
0262500  
0262750  
0262900

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: *and site of Fort Foster*  
 "The Rim" <sup>^</sup> "Rim Point", "Moore's Point", ~~Newcomb on Survey~~  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:  
 "Fort Foster", "Fortifications", "The Rim"

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*S of East Machias # 45.1*  
 CITY OR TOWN:  
 East Machias *me.*  
 STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Washington** CODE: **029**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

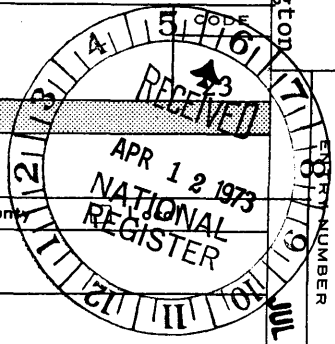
OWNER'S NAME:  
**Austin Geel**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Machiasport** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Registry of Deeds, Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Machias** STATE: **Maine**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



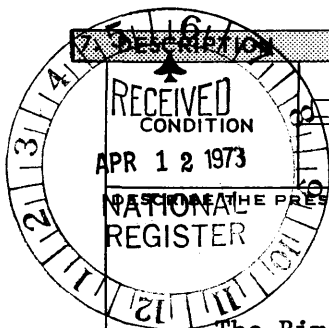
STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Washington**

ENTRY NUMBER: **JUL 23 1973**

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

REPRESENT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### FORT FOSTER ON THE RIM, OR NEWCOMB POINT

The Rim is a narrow neck of land between the lower reaches of the East Machias River on the north and the Machias River on the south. Extending in an easterly direction, its southeastern point marks the confluence of these two rivers at the uppermost end of Machias Bay.

Recognizing its strategic value, the early settlers along each river united in erecting a system of earthen breastworks close to the edge of the southern shore on high land well above the tidal range. These breastworks do not extend the entire length of the shore; beginning about half-way from the eastern tip and continuing to a shallow tidal inlet near the western end. Beyond this, there are other traces.

There are no available records of the growth on the land when the original settlers came (1763) but as there were two dwellings with the usual outbuildings and a guard house burnt by Sir George Collier's expedition in 1777, it is safe to assume the land had been fairly well cleared at that time. This, no doubt, facilitated the labor in throwing up a set of earthworks possibly 6 feet in extent.

However, by 1920 the land was again covered by a heavy growth of spruce and fir which was later cut for pulpwood. Following the usual cycle the land was cleared for blueberries and the "Fortifications" were distinctly visible - even from the old town road running down the middle of the Point.

Except for the south easterly end where Mr. Geel has blueberries a new growth of hardwoods, spruce and fir (twenty year stock) and a tangle of alders, blackberry vines and brush is creeping over the land again - all of which would readily fall before an attack by axes, bush scythes and chain saws.

Time and nature have taken their toll: Some intervals are only waist high and others at shoulder height. On the whole, they are in remarkably good condition. Underbrush, though hampering visibility on each side, has found little foothold on their gently sloping surfaces.

An elderly man, living nearby, has spoken of a road leading from the "Fortifications" to the town road and signs of a flanking wall from the eastern end seen during his boyhood.

Although the time presents a problem, the view from this area is spectacular, Machiasport down the Bay, the new bridge up the Machias River and Money Island (of pirate fame) in the East Machias River with high, rocky hills on the opposite shores combine a unique setting in scenery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

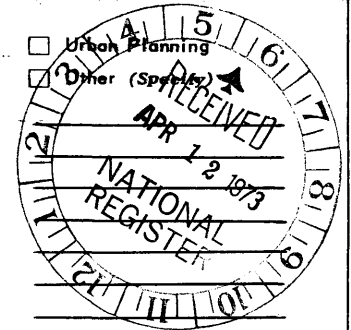
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1775, 1776 and 1777

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/Philosophy  | <input checked="" 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

The people of the Machias area were particularly ardent patriots during the Revolution. In the "First Naval Battle of the Revolution" on June 12, 1775, the British ship the "Margaretta" was fired upon from Scott's wharf on the Rim Point by Col. Benjamin Foster and a party he led. After dropping down to Machias Bay, the "Margaretta" was captured.

Shortly after this event, a Committee of Correspondence was chosen by the inhabitants and intrusted with the defense of the town. The Committee decided to build a fort at the rim near the Avery House.

In July, 1775, the British sent the "Tatmagouch" and the "Diligence" to retake the "Margaretta". Both vessels entered Machias Bay but surrendered without resistance to Capt. Jeremiah O'Brien and Col. Benjamin Foster.

Three weeks later another expedition was sent from Halifax. The force comprised about one thousand men sailing on "a frigate, a twenty-gun ship, a brig of sixteen guns and several schooners". By this time the townspeople had built a breastwork on Scott's Point and when a party of 500 men landed they were driven back. The whole British force returned to Halifax.

Sufficiently alarmed, the inhabitants continued to ~~arm~~ against the British. In July, 1776, they constructed a boom across the narrows at the Rim. A breastwork was completed on the south of the river in September. Sylvanus Scott, who lived on the Rim, was directed to build another breastwork near his house. This fortification, with a watch-box and house for the men, was Fort Foster.

On August 13, 1777, the British sent two 44 gun frigates with two smaller ships of 28 and 18 guns under the command of Sir George Collier to deal with the recalcitrant inhabitants. Benjamin Foster immediately took charge of Fort Foster and Major Stillman took command on the south side of the river. When the brig "Hope", which was acting as a transport, encountered the boom at five in the evening, Foster fired upon her. The British succeeded in landing the next morning, however, Fort Foster was deserted after the cannons were destroyed and on August 15 the people of Machias regained possession of Fort Foster and the British ships were harassed on their way to sea.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ahlin, J.H. Maine Rubicon. Down East Settlers During The American Revolution, Calais, 1966.  
Centennial Memorial Machias, Machias, 1863.  
 Collier, Sir George. A Detail of Some Particular Services Performed in America During The Years 1776, 1777, 1778 and 1779, New York, 1835.  
 Drisko, G.W. History of Machias, Machias, 1904.  
 Dunnack, H.E. Maine Forts, Augusta, 1924.

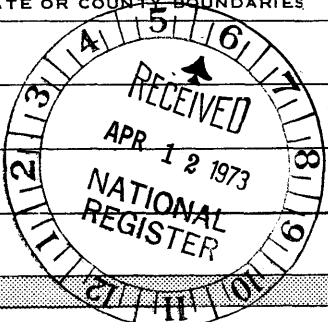
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	44	43	14	67	24	09			
NE	44	43	10	67	23	16			
SE	44	42	51	67	23	04			
SW	44	42	57	67	24	17			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **200 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Micah T. Whittier, 1st Vice President**

ORGANIZATION: **East Machias Historical Society** DATE: **July 21, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **East Machias** 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 Liaison Officer

Date April 10, 1973

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

Robert K. Guley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/23/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7 13 73