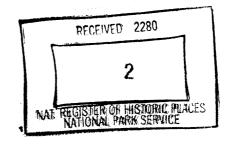
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



OMB No. 10024-0018

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 <u>EIGHTH MAINE REGIMEN</u>	NT MEMORIAL	
other names/site number		
2. Location		
street & number <u>13 Eighth Maine Avenue</u>		N/A not for publication
city or town Peaks Island, Portland	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME	county <u>Cumberland</u>	code <u>005</u> zip code <u>04108</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the Historic Places and meets the procedural and pro ☑ meets ☐does not meet the National Register of nationally ☑ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ see con Signature of certifying official/Title Maine Historic Preservation Comm State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does recomments.) Signature of certifying official/Title	ofessional requirements set forth in 36 priteria. I recommend that this proper attinuation sheet for additional comme better the proper better the proper shadow of the proper shadow of the proper shadow of the property of	S CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ty be considered significant ints.)
4. National Park Service Certification hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action 16:4:06
 ☑ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined not eligible for the 		10 -1 -00
National Register. removed from the National Register.		
other, (explain):		

Name of Property		CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE County and State	
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box) ☑ building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	Number of Resources within Pr (Do not include previously listed resource: Contributing Noncontribu	s in the count.) ting buildings
	·		structures
		1	Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register	
N/A		None	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
DOMESTIC / Hotel	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	DOMESTIC / Hotel	
SOCIAL / Clubhouse		SOCIAL / Clubhouse	
RECREATION AND CULTUR	RE / Museum	RECREATION AND CULTURE /	Museum
7. Description			
Architectural Classification		Materials	
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instructions)	
LATE VICTORIAN/ Shingle Style		foundation <u>STONE</u>	
		walls WOOD / Shake	
		roof ASPHALT	
		other <u>Brick (chimney)</u>	

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

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL Name of Property		CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE County and State	
8. Sta	atement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)	
⊠A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	MILITARY ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION ADCHITECTURE	
□В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	ARCHITECTURE	
⊠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.	Period of Significance	
		1891-1956	
Criteria	Considerations		
(Mark "x"	in all the boxes that apply.)		
Property	y is:	Significant Dates	
□ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	<u>1891</u> <u>1901</u>	
□ B	removed from its original location.		
□ c	a birthplace or a grave.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)	
□ D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation	
□ 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.	Architect/Builder Fasset, Francis (1823-1908)	
Narrativ Explain th	re Statement of Significance he significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	Tompson, Frederick (1857-1919)	
9. Maj	or Bibliographical References		
Bibliogr Cite the b	raphy ooks, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or	more continuation sheets.)	
Previou	s 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: Maine Historic Preservation Commission	

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property64 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 9 4 0 3 8 5 3 4 8 3 3 7 5 4	3 1 9
Zone Easting Northing 2 1 9	Zone Easting Northing 4 1 9
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	a doc sommand ones.
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSI street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 city or town AUGUSTA state M	ON date February 24, 2006 telephone (207) 287-2132
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the properties A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having la	·
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the property	erty.
Additional items Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
namestreet & number	telephone
situ or town	etate zin code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS FORM 10-900-a OMB Approval No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL Section number 7 Page 2

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

MATERIALS, continued

Walls:

ASPHALT

SYNTHETICS / Vinyl

DESCRIPTION

The Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial is a large Shingle Style building located on the southwestern edge of Peaks Island in Portland Maine. Designed by the Portland architects Fasset and Tompson in 1891, the seasonal building faces north northwest towards a short road appropriately named Eighth Maine Avenue. (For ease of description the building will be described from this point on as facing north.) Several small wood frame cottages closely flank the Regiment building to the east and west, while the undulating shore of Casco Bay is less than 100 feet to the south.

At its core, the Regiment building is a two story, gable-roof structure, oriented north to south, with massive 'A' shaped cross-gable dormers on the east and west sides of the asphalt roof. The roof line continues below the level of the dormers and wraps around the gable ends to create a continuous skirt that covers a broad porch on all sides of the building. On the gable ends second floor balconies are situated on the porch roof. Appended to the southeast corner of the building is an octagonal, three-story tower that is almost free-standing above the first floor level. The exterior cladding is a mixture of painted clapboards on the first floor, and painted wood shingles, asphalt roofing shingles (applied in places over the wood shingles), and vinyl shingles on the other levels. The building sits on a high fieldstone foundation, and due to the downward slope of the surrounding grade towards the shore the southern elevations feature a raised basement level under the porch and above the foundation. A small rectangular, flat roof addition extends from the south elevation of the building at this level.

The north side of the building provides the main facade. A wide staircase ascends the raised foundation at the center of the five broadly arched porch bays. The porch supports are shingled, square pillars between which is a decorative railing with quatrefoil cutouts, and topped with a recently added wooden railing extension. At the eave lines arched wooden panels connect the pillars. Under the porch the recessed building wall contains a single two-over-two window and massive two-leaf door. On the second floor a pair of sixteen-over-two windows are positioned next to the wooden door that leads to the solidly shingled balcony. The peak of the gable wall has a slightly flared, overhanging projection. A vertical flag pole is fixed to the interior northwest corner of the balcony.

The west side of the building features six porch bays behind which are six large two-over-two windows, three of which are set in a protruding bay. (All the windows on this level measure approximately 7'7" high by 43" wide.) Above the porch roof the steep 'A' shape dormer contains two closely set pairs of the sixteen-over-two windows. The building's only chimney, made of brick, NPS FORM 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL
Section number 7 Page 3

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

protrudes through the ridge peak of the dormer. A second, smaller dormer is located to the north of the large dormer and features a single sixteen-over-two window under a steeply gabled roof. The side walls of both the dormers on this side of the building are clad with asphalt shingles. Due to the slope of the grade, halfway along this elevation the stone foundation yields to asphalt shingled basement wall. A wood batten door and two windows are set into this basement wall.

The east side of the building is similar to the west side, with the exception that two small dormers are set to the sides of the main 'A' shaped dormer, and there are three one-over-one (replacement) windows in the basement level. The base of the tower, which is located at the south corner of this elevation, contains five large two-over-two windows. The second floor of the tower contains three twelve-over-two and two two-over-two windows above which two multi-pane circular windows mark the third level of the tower. The interior of this uppermost story is accessed via a wooden staircase from the south end balcony. The roof of the tower is flat, however, the wide cornice flares out from base to eaves. This detail is further highlighted through the use of patterned shingles.

As mentioned previously, the south elevation, while otherwise similar to the front of the building, has an addition, built by 1909, that runs across most of the building's width (ending shy of the tower porch) and projects about fifteen feet to the south. This addition, which has four modern windows on the south side, has a flat roof, and a door on the east side. With the exception of the tower, all of the wood shingle siding on the south elevation has been replaced with a painted vinyl shingle. Cutting across the porch roof, down to the roof of the addition, and then continuing to the ground is a wooden staircase built for use as a fire escape. Interestingly, there is no direct access from the wrap-around porch to the ground on the south, east, or west sides of the building.

The interior of the Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial building contains public assembly spaces on the first floor, a dining room and kitchen facilities in the basement, and lodging rooms on the second floor. The first floor is essentially one large open space with a small room in the northeast corner and a cozy room in the tower. Immediately to the east of the entry door is a reception area and a two-run staircase against the east and west walls. To the east of the door is the Veteran's room, which contains an Eastlake bedroom set donated to the Regiment. In the early twentieth-century this room was reserved for the use of the elderly veterans who attended the annual reunions. It now functions as an office and study. The remainder of the first floor, which measures 53 by 80 feet is a large open space filled with chairs, tables, a piano, and bookshelves in various groupings. Wooden benches, with hinged seats line the walls under the windows. The floors are of hardwood, and exposed joists run across the ceiling. With the exception of the reception area and the Veterans' room, which are finished with stained vertical boarding, the walls of the first floor for the most part feature the exposed studs of the platform framing. However, the tower room has shellacked bead board on the walls and 13' high ceilings Two-leaf four panel doors close off this intimate space from the rest of the hall. Positioned against the center of the east wall is a free-standing, large brick chimney and fireplace. The brick work is slightly ornamental, and features horizontal bands of headers, and vertical stretchers used to define decorative panels. The fireplace opening is semi-circular in shape with a granite keystone. Mounted on the chimney breast, just below where the brickwork tapers to form the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL
Section number 7 Page 4

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

chimney stack, is a wooden plaque in the shape of a heart. This is an emblem adopted by the Eighth Maine Regiment.

In the southeast corner of the room is a staircase leading to the basement. The dining facilities are located in the southern part of the basement of the Regiment building. The northern portion is separated from the dining room by a board wall. For the most part, this section is an unfinished cellar used for storage, however a bank of refrigerators line the northern side of the partition wall. In the dining room are fifteen sets of tables and chairs. Around the perimeter of the room are counters upon which are positioned fifteen sets of painted bead-board cupboards and fifteen two-burner gas stoves. To the east of the staircase (under the porch) is a long room with wash sinks, free-standing pantry cupboards and a washer and dryer. The wash room and dining room have exposed stud framed walls, painted marine gray, and all the cupboards and shelves are painted yellow. The floor is painted cement, and a maze of support posts dot the dining room between the tables. At the southern end of the dining room a short hallway connects to three lodging rooms and a lounge in the addition. Each of these rooms has sheetrock walls, new windows, and patterned linoleum rugs over painted wide pine flooring.

At the top of the main staircase is a foyer open to the rafters. Originally the garret space over the second floor held a water tank supplied by a windmill. In 1901 the second floor was finished to provide sleeping accommodations for the families of the veterans, the water tank was removed, and pipes were run to communal bathrooms on the first and second floors. A long corridor runs the length of the second floor connecting the two gable-end balconies. Ten bedrooms open off the corridor and the tower room is accessed through a narrow hallway between the fourth and fifth bedrooms on the east. Most of the rooms have plaster walls and either plaster or acoustic tile ceilings, painted wood floors, shelves,coat hooks, and a single window, and they are furnished with antique bedsteads, chairs, and dressers. Each of the bedroom doors is topped with a transom window. The floors in the bedrooms, and also directly outside each door, are covered with painted linoleum 'rugs', and while many are worn, their patterns are still widely visible. In contrast to the rest of the bedrooms, the rooms in the tower are finished with varnished bead board.

The windows in the balcony doors are still hung with 'blackout paper' shades from World War

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial building is a substantial and finely detailed Shingle Style structure erected in 1891 by the Civil War veterans of the 8th Maine Regiment. Designed by the architectural firm of Fassett and Tompson, the shore-side building is located on the south side of Peaks Island, an island in Casco Bay that is a part of the City of Portland, Maine. Originally constructed to serve as the location of annual reunions, the building presently functions as a memorial structure, museum, and lodging facility. It is owned by the Eighth Maine Regiment Association, the members of which are descendants of the Civil War veterans who served in one of the eleven companies of the Regiment. The Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its association with the military history of the 8th Maine Regiment, and as a entertainment and recreation facility used for specialized reunions from the end of the nineteenth century until the present. The building is also nominated under Criterion C as a good example of coastal resort architecture by a locally important architectural firm. By virtue of the building's commemorative value, Criterion Consideration F also applies.

The 8th Maine Regiment was one of the first ten Infantry Regiments that were organized and equipped by the State of Maine. The volunteer members of this company were drawn from throughout the state and organized into eleven companies. Initially called to serve a three-year service the Regiment mustered in on September 7, 1861, and was finally discharged on January 18, 1866. According to the Regiment records kept by the Maine State Archives, the company had 1586 members enrolled, of which 134 were killed or died of wounds, 247 died of disease, 35 died in Confederate Prisons and 355 were wounded and survived. During the four-and-a-half years that the Regiment served they entered into eleven engagements, including several as part of the Petersburg Campaign and the Appomattox Campaign, before being present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. At the head of the Regiment were Col. William M. McArthur of Limington, Maine and Lt. Col. Edward A True of Hope, Maine.

In 1874 the 8th Regimental Association was formed and the group, which was open to all the veterans of the Regiment, started to hold annual reunions. The reunions, known as encampments, featured commemorative speeches, elaborate dinners, and communal accommodations meant to replicate, to a lesser extent, the collegiality the veterans experienced during their period of service, as well as to honor the memory of the men who had served and lost their lives. For the first sixteen years the encampments were held at varying locales throughout the state. However, in 1891 the association, with the generous help of Col. McArthur, erected the memorial building on Peaks Island.

While the cost of the building and the amount of McArthur's contribution varies according to the source, the story behind the generous bequest, as related in <u>Peaks Island: An Affectionate History</u>, is

NPS FORM 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL Section number 8 Page 3

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

ironic and amusing.2

On 12 April 1861, Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, was shelled by Confederate forces. The general who gave the command to fire was General Beauregard. Beauregard was a Creole, of flamboyant disposition, eager to appear on center stage. He achieved this wish by firing the opening shot of the Civil War. After the war, Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard played a small part in the building of the Eighth Maine Regimental Memorial Hall. Beauregard was conducting a lottery in Louisiana, twenty years after the war was over. Much needed money was raised, a small portion of which was won by William M. McArthur, of Limington, Maine. McArthur had served in the war as Colonel of the Eighth Maine Regiment, and had been asked to spearhead the building of a memorial hall in the style of the Fifth Maine. McArthur won about \$70,000, all told, in the lottery, from which he spent \$12,000 on the Memorial Hall. He then gave the hall to the Memorial Hall Association. Thus the Confederate General who started the Civil War contributed, albeit unwittingly and indirectly, to the building of one of Peaks Island's best known landmarks. (Moulton, p. 74-75).

McArthur had mustered into the 8th Maine in 1861 as a captain, eventually earning the ranks of Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel. He was severely wounded in the Petersburg, Virginia campaign in 1864, but continued with the Regiment, eventually being breveted Brigadier General in 1865 for "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Drury's Bluff, May 16, 1864, and in the action of Williamsburg road, Oct. 27, 1864." (Woodford, before page 403.) Prior to the war he had studied law at Bowdon College and was admitted to the Maine Bar in 1860, however he never practiced, preferring after the War, to farm in Limington. He did, however, serve briefly in the Maine House of Representatives in 1867 and the Maine Senate in 1869. By all accounts, however, his role as the commander of the 8th Maine Regiment was one in which he took justifiable pride and for which he has, to this day, received admiration from the members of the Regiment and their decedents. McArthur's family home, the Libby-MacArthur House, was listed in the National Register in 1988 (NR 88000397) for its architectural significance.

The site that McArthur and the members of the Association chose as the location of their memorial building was located on the south shore of Peak's Island, a small island neighborhood of Portland, with both a year round and summer population. Three years earlier another group of Civil War veterans from Maine had established a similar, albeit smaller, Memorial Hall on a portion of

²The Lewiston Saturday Journal reported the total coast of the building as \$8000, with \$1500 more spent on furniture and 'adornments' by the Association. The *Portland Transcript*,(August 19, 1891) noting the first reunion held in the new building stated "This handsome memorial hall cost \$12,000, of which Col. McArthur, of Limington, contributed \$6500". More recent articles have suggested that the building was commissioned entirely at McArthur's expense (*Maine Sunday Telegram*, 1983, and *Evening Express*,, 1977), and have also offered unproved assertion that the building was pre-assembled in Damariscotta, Maine and floated down the coast and unloaded at Hadlock's Cove, next to the building site.

NPS FORM 10-900-a OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL
Section number 8 Page 4

CUMBERLAND COUNTY. MAINE

former farm land overlooking Casco Bay. Known as the Fifth Maine Memorial, and listed in the National Register in 1979 (NR 78000169), this rambling shingle-style building, also designed by Fassett and Tompson, undoubtably set the tone for the structure commissioned by McArthur and his former troops. The lot that the Eighth Maine purchased was located just a few hundred feet down the coast from the Fifth Maine Hall, and Fassett and Tompson were again chosen to design the structure.

With a career that spanned more than five decades and resulted in hundreds of commissions, the cumulative effect of Frances H. Fassett's legacy in Portland has yet to be thoroughly evaluated. However, there is no doubt that his talents and contributions were widely acknowledged during his lifetime. The following biography of Fassett was prepared by Richard Herndon just a few years after the Eighth Maine Memorial Regiment building was completed:

His early education was acquired in the common schools of his native city. He left school, however, at the age of fourteen, and for the next four years was a clerk in the store of a general trader in Bath. He then was apprenticed to the carpenter's trade, and subsequently studied architecture in the offices of architects in Boston and New York. In 1850 he began the practice of his profession in Bath; his operations gradually extending up the Kennebec River to Augusta, where, after the great fire of 1862, he practically rebuilt the city. In 1864 he removed to Portland, where he has continued in the active business of his profession to the present time. During his career Mr. Fassett has designed many of the public and business buildings and dwellings erected in Maine and neighboring states. Among the more noteworthy monuments to his taste and skill throughout the state are the Maine General Hospital, the new Congress Square Hotel, the Baxter Building (the largest business block in Maine), the Portland Public Library, the Payson Memorial Church, also the Jackson, McLellan, Butler and High school buildings, all in Portland; several of the buildings of the Maine Insane Asylum, Augusta; the Hancock County Court House, Ellsworth; and St. Mary's School in Biddeford. He also rebuilt the City Building of Portland after the great fire of 1866, and is engaged in building the new Church of the Sacred Heart in that city. (Herndon, p. 342).

After the fire of 1866 Fassett was greatly responsible for the rebuilding of Portland's public landscape, and he earned the moniker "Maine's undisputed architect for all seasons." (Shettleworth, p. 186.) However, his post-fire body of work concentrated on a 'personal version of High Victorian Gothic architecture'. Not until after Fassett entered into a partnership with John Calvin Stevens in 1880 did his designs come to incorporate Queen Anne and Shingle Style elements, a trend that continued to be developed in conjunction with later partners. The fusion of the Gothic and Shingle Styles are evident in the Peaks Island building, with its two stage, cantilevered tower (which is more bastion than sacred in its detailing) rising from the broad roof of the covered porch that surrounds essentially a Shingle Style structure.

At the time the Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial was being designed, Fassett was working in

NPS FORM 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

partnership with another Portland architect of note. Frederick Tompson was a Portland native born on August 10, 1857. He graduated from Portland High school in 1876 and immediately became a student in architecture in the office of F.H. Fassett, where he trained from 1876 to 1886 before entering into the partnership with Fassett that continued until 1891, at which time Frederick Tompson established an independent practice. Tompson is responsible for the design of numerous public buildings in Portland, including the Y.M.C.A, State of Maine Armory (20 Milk Street - 1895), the Exposition Building, Deering High School, Wilde Memorial Chapel, the Congress Square Hotel annex, the Masonic Temple (415 Congress Street - 1911), Pythian Temple (341 Cumberland Avenue – 1910), and Union Mutual Life Insurance Company (120 Exchange Street). He also designed the fine residences of Henry P. Cox, Adam P. Leighton and George F. West, as well as notable structures for clients in other Maine cities and towns.

In addition to choosing the best local architects, the members of the Association were following the latest trends in recreation and entertainment when they chose to situate their Memorial Building on Peaks Island. Located three miles from Portland Harbor, at the end of the nineteenth century this small island was served by multiple steamship companies and had become the local day-trippers' resort of choice. Kim McIsaac, the curator and director of the Fifth Maine Association, has neatly summarized the context for McArthur's choice:

By the 1890's Peaks began to benefit by the enormous changes occurring in American society. The growing urban population (both native and immigrant) had more time and money to spend on recreation. Peaks residents met their needs by providing all types of accommodations, entertainments, and other facilities. 16 hotels and inns, and hundreds of cottages were built; 3 summer theatres and an amusement park were established; dozens of shops and restaurants lined the streets of Forest City; and a dance hall was established at Trefethen. Twelve steamboat lines brought thousands of visitors to Peaks daily during the short summer season. The press labeled Peaks Island the "Coney Island of Maine." (McIsaac, 2005).

The annual encampments on Peaks Island provided the veterans of the 8th Maine a chance to visit and renew friendships, memorialize those members who had died, and entertain their family and friends with stories of the years they had spent in service to the country. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century the veterans took pains to recreate several aspects of their military lives: men slept communally in bedrolls on the floor of the hall, kept the fire kindled in the massive fireplace, and in homage to the depravities of the battlefield conditions, kept the dining room tables set for the next meal. The upstairs lodging rooms provided accommodations for the wives and children of the veterans, but even here the communal aesthetic that permeated the encampment experience prevailed: sheets were hung between beds to provide privacy in the shared rooms. While the annual encampment occurred for only a pair of days each year, during the remainder of the summer months the Regiment Hall offered inexpensive holiday lodging for the veterans' families, and the variety of amusements on the Island, as well as the expansive porches and shared fellowship,

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

ensured continued utilization of the facility. Indeed, the early popularity of the building lead to the construction of several additional guestrooms off the dining room by 1909.

The last member of the 8th Maine Regiment to attend the annual encampment, Orrin P. Richardson, did so in 1936. Since that time it has been the children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, and other lineal relations of the original veterans that have gathered annually on Peaks Island. While they no longer camp on the hall floors, the families that comprise the Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial Association are bound by over a century of tradition that still centers around the service provided by their ancestors. Over the years the members of the Association have collected memorabilia and artifacts associated with the veterans, and several of the present members are active Civil War historians. Meals are still cooked on the camp stoves, and the ambiance of the Hall is such to encourage camaraderie via a game of cribbage or fireside chats. Membership in the Association is limited to the descendants of the men who formed the 8th Maine Regiment, however, the Association now allows the general public to rent rooms in the Hall during the summer, when available. Tours of the facility, complete with enthusiastically related exploits of the soldiers, are offered on a regular basis. As such, the building has become a structure in which the public can experience unaltered, early twentieth century accommodations reminiscent of the heyday of Peaks Island's popularity while they connect with the military past of members of Maine's Civil War forces.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL
Section number 9 Page 2

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"8th Maine Reunion" in Lewiston Saturday Journal. August 17, 1901. (Lewiston, Maine). Page 6.

Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine for the Year Ending December 31, 1866. (Augusta: Stevens & Sayward, Printers to the State), 1867.

Dooling, Anna. "8th Maine Descendants keep memories of a regiment alive" in *Maine Sunday Telegram*. August 14, 1983. (Portland, Maine). Pages 17a and 18a.

Herndon, Richard and Philip W. McIntyre and William F. Blanding, eds. <u>Men of Progress:</u> <u>Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Leaders in Business and Professional Life in and of the State of Maine</u>. (Boston: New England Magazine), 1897.

Liljeholm, Lyn. "Historic Tour Set" in *Evening Express*. Saturday, July 30, 1977. (Portland, Maine). Pages 1, 8.

McIsaac, Kim. "Peaks Island History". http://www.fifthmainemuseum.org/peaks_history.html. 24 November 2005.

Moulton, John K. Peaks Island: An Affectionate History. (Yarmouth, Maine), 1993.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Portland, Maine, 1909. Vol. 2 Sheet 44".

Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr. "Turn-of-the-Century Architecture" in <u>Maine Forms of American</u> <u>Architecture</u>. Thompson, Deborah, ed. (Camden, Maine: Downeast Magazine), 1976. Pages 184 - 211.

"Three Reunions" in Daily Eastern Argus. August 15, 1901. (Portland, Maine). Page 6.

Woodford, Clayton, W. <u>History of York County, Maine.</u> (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck), 1880.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL
Section number 10 Page 2

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial property are depicted on the City of Portland tax map number 85, lot number 13001

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above cited boundaries represent the entirety of the 64 acre parcel that was historically, and is presently, associated with the nominated property.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

EIGHTH MAINE REGIMENT MEMORIAL
Section number Page

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 November 2006
North facade; facing south.
Maine Cumberland Co 8th Maine Regiment-1

Photograph 2 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 November 2006
Tower in southeast corner, facing northwest.
Maine Cumberland Co_8th Maine Regiment-2

Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 November 2006
South and west elevations; facing northeast.
Maine Cumberland Co 8th Maine Regiment-3

Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 November 2006
Interior of tower room; facing southeast.
Maine_Cumberland Co_8th Maine Regiment-4

Cd-R: Eighth Maine Regiment Memorial, Cumberland County, Maine.