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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Segment of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each tiem What have appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, each "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

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 Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument other names/site numberOur Lady of Victories
2. Location
street & number Southwest Corner of Junction of Congress Street and Federal Street NAnot for publication city or town Portland, NAvicinity state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04101
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this I 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 Nocally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title
comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby dertify that this property is: Interest of the National Register. Inter

<u>Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument</u> Name of Property

Cumberland, 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 sites		
		structures		
		1 objects		
		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				
		0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
Recreation and Culture/N	Monument	Recreation and Culture/Monument		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
N/A		foundation Stone/Granite		
		walls <u>N/A</u>		
		roof N/A		
		other Bronze Sculpture Atop Granite Base		

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT CUMBERLAND, MAINE Section number __7_ Page __2_

The Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument is comprised of a granite pedestal measuring about thirty feet in height, on top of which is a bronze statue measuring fifteen feet in height. The monument was originally enframed by an esplanade with an oval border, 236 feet in circumference, that was capped by a low iron fence. The fence was removed during the 1950s, whereas the esplanade was taken out in 1972 when a brick paved pedestrian mall was built around the monument.

The monument rests on a broad granite platform, at the center of which is the pedestal. The pedestal, which tapers inward, is composed of a square base, a dado whose upper third is ornamented with a Doric entablature, a cornice, and a three-tiered pyramidal cap to which is mounted the bronze figure. Two sides of the pedestal have life-size trios of bronze figures depicting soldiers and sailors, respectively, standing in front of battle flags. On one of the remaining faces of the pedestal is the inscription:

PORTLAND

TO HER SONS WHO DIED FOR THE UNION

On the other side a bronze plaque bears the inscription:

More than four thousand men were enrolled from Portland in the Army and Navy for the War of the Rebellion. More than 300 were killed in battle, or died in service. Honor and grateful remembrance to the dead. Equal honor to those who, daring to die survived.

The bronze sculpture was described in the February 20, 1892, edition of *Harper's Weekly* as an "heroic figure, fifteen feet high, representing the American republic." The female figure is draped in flowing robes over chain mail armor, and she holds a furled flag in one hand and a shield and mace in the other.

Cumberland, Maine County and State

8. Statement of	f Significance	
Applicable Natio (Mark "x" in one or mo for National Register	nal Register Criteria re boxes for the criteria qualifying the property isting.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
□ A Property is associated with events that have made		Architecture
	nt contribution to the broad patterns of	Art
□ B Property i significant	s associated with the lives of persons in our past.	
of a type, represents high artist distinguish	embodies the distinctive characteristics period, or method of construction or some struction of some struction of a master, or possesses ic values, or represents a significant and nable entity whose components lack distinction.	
 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. 		Period of Significance
		1889-1891
Criteria Consider (Mark "x" in all the box	rations es that apply.)	
Property is:		Significant Dates
	a religious institution or used for	1889
religious p	purposes.	1891
☐ B removed f	rom its original location.	
☐ C a birthplac	e or a grave.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
□ D a cemetery.		N/A
		Cultural Affiliation
□ E a reconstru	ucted building, object, or structure.	N/A
□ _k F a commen	norative property.	
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.		Architect/Builder
		Simmons, Franklin, Sculptor
Narrative Statem	ent of Significance ce of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	Hunt, Richard Morris, Architect
9. Major Bibliog	graphical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, article	s, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	or more continuation sheets.)
□ prelimina	entation on file (NPS): ary determination of individual listing (36) has been requested bly listed in the National Register bly determined eligible by the National Register ted a National Historic Landmark bly Historic American Buildings Survey bly Historic American Engineering	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:

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

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT CUMBE Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>2</u>

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Erected in 1889-91, the Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument is an impressive Civil War memorial comprised of a tall granite base on which is mounted a monumental allegorical figure of Victory. The bronze statue was created by Maine born sculptor Franklin Simmons, whereas the base was designed by the prominent New York architect Richard Morris Hunt (it is his only known Maine commission). Local architect Francis H. Fassett was engaged to design the original site which was, until the 1950s, ringed by a low fence also designed by Hunt. The monument is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its significance in art and architecture. Criteria Consideration F also applies by virtue of the monument's commemorative nature.

[The following narrative is excerpted from a forthcoming booklet about the history of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument that was written by William B. Jordan]

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) came to Portland in the summer of 1867 with the founding of Bosworth Post No. 2. It was named for Sergeant-Major Frederic W. Bosworth, of the 17th Regiment Maine Infantry, who had been mortally wounded at Wapping Heights, Virginia on July 23, 1863. In a remarkably short period of time, this post became the largest and most prestigious in the state.

With a steady growth in membership, the Bosworth Post soon began to consider the possibility of constructing a memorial honoring the men from Portland who lost their lives preserving the Union. Inasmuch as the veterans could not raise the necessary funds entirely by themselves, they consulted many community leaders and prominent citizens.

The first public meeting was held in the Army and Navy Union Hall, Market Square, on January 6, 1873. Encouraged by the large attendance, the participants chose to create the Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association. This would serve to launch a vigorous campaign to construct a suitable memorial. It was also decided to ask Congress to "grant a sufficient quantity of condemned ordinance to erect a soldiers monument." The fate of this request is unknown. Adjournment followed a decision to meet again with an enlarged participation.

. Up to this point little had been done to decide what form the memorial structure would take. There was some support to construct a Memorial Hall to house relics of the war and records preserving the names of Portland men who served. Public support of this project was most assuredly lacking....and the plan never advanced beyond the suggestion stage at this time.

Public support was present in abundance, but monetary contributions were very disappointing. A major factor was the enormous amount of money that was being spent to rebuild the heart of the city after the horrendous fire of July 4, 1866. Keeping the undertaking alive proved to be exceedingly difficult. This was especially true after Brigadier General and U.S. Circuit Court Judge George F. Shepley died of cholera on July 20, 1878, at the age of fifty-nine. His tireless efforts would be sorely missed.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT CUMBERLAND, MAINE Section number 8 Page 3

The campaign languished until December 30, 1882, when a call was issued for a general meeting. On January 8, 1883, the meeting was held in the Reception Hall at the City Building. After revealing that the treasury currently contained \$220.19, a new slate of officers was nominated followed by an adjournment to February 28th. At that meeting a charter from the State Legislature was delivered incorporating the Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association, a slate of officers elected, and plans for a full canvas of the city on Memorial Day presented. The presidency went to General John Marshall Brown, and a wiser choice could not have been made. By June 18th the sum of \$5,219.05 had been raised.

At an Executive Committee meeting on February 19,1884, a series of subcommittees were created. One subcommittee organized a huge six day fair to be held in City Hall on June 2nd through 9th under the leadership of the G.A.R. ladies organizations. In addition, a special canvas of the wealthier citizens was launched. Lastly it was voted that certificates be engraved and printed for presentation to every contributor. At this point there were 2,532 subscribers. On July 2nd the treasurer reported that \$10,146.92 had been received. With \$15,265.97 now in hand, the time had arrived to solicit designs for a suitable monument. The Executive Committee appointed a Committee on Design to consist of artist Harrison B. Brown, architect Francis H. Fassett, businessman Philip H. Brown, and General Francis Fessenden.

However, before design solicitation would begin, it was necessary to raise additional funds. This proved to be a monumental undertaking. The G.A. R. ladies were equal to the task with a variety of fairs and a bewildering array of social events. The treasurer of the Monument Association reported that ever so slowly an increase in funds was taking place. Especially poignant were the small sums received from veterans, some far distant, in memory of local comrades who perished. Although contributions were arriving from a wide variety of donors, the process consumed an enormous amount of time and effort. It is interesting to note that at no time were funds requested from the city government.

The question of where to place the monument was soon broached. Almost immediately it grew into a heated debate. The most prominent spot was Market Square, site of the old Town Hall built in 1825. At a special meeting to consider the subject on December 7, 1885, it was reported that this location "is in the heart of the city, at the junction of the principal thoroughfares and will be seen by everyone visiting us and by the larger portion of our townspeople daily." The report was accepted, and it was ordered that the Executive Committee proceed to explore the question of location with city officials.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT CUMBERLAND, MAINE Section number 8 Page 4

At this juncture, the Monument Association Executive Committee appealed to the city government to proceed with the demolition of the old Town Hall and officially grant them permission to erect the monument in its place. The municipal authorities tabled the appeal and referred the question to the State Legislature. On February 9, 1887, the Legislature passed an act stipulating that if a majority of the voters at the municipal election on March 14, 1887, chose Market Square, the Town Hall could be torn down.

The debate continued to rage with considerable warmth. Ten days before the municipal election the *Portland Daily Press* published a lengthy article in opposition to the Market Square site. The paper included the names of 406 site opponents. The article also dwelt at length on the city's financial condition. To remove the property, with the city renting the ground floor to an agricultural supply firm, was an unwarranted sacrifice of income. The newspaper pointed out that schools, streets, sewers, and drains were in poor condition. The tax rate of \$21 per thousand was considered exorbitant. This remonstrance did not carry the day. The result of voting on March 14th vindicated the choice of the Monument Association, with 4,181 in favor and 1,945 against. The City Government, empowered by the State Legislature, moved immediately to obtain a clear title to the land, invoking eminent domain.

As the site controversy began to subside, the Executive Committee of the Monument Association turned its attention to selecting a proper memorial. In February, 1887, the Committee on Design had widely circulated a large number of printed announcements that plans, designs, or models would be accepted forthwith.

According to the records of the Monument Association, the Committee on Design had chosen Maine native Franklin Simmons, but no agreement had been committed to paper. His reputation was already well established. He had sculpted a marble statue of General Hiram G. Berry to ornament his grave site in Acorn Cemetery in Rockland. Berry was the highest ranking officer from Maine to be killed in the war. Simmons had also produced the bronze infantryman that stands in the center of Lewiston's City Park. In addition, he executed the spectacular Naval Monument that is located just south of the Capitol in Washington.

The initial design suggested by Simmons was a thirty foot column surmounted by a rather grand figure symbolizing the nation. Symbols of the Army and Navy would ornament the base. This columnar motif was very popular nationally. Simmons had employed the design in a Civil War Monument for Chelsea, Massachusetts. Examples by other sculptors may be seen in such Maine communities as Augusta, Ellsworth, Madison, Pittsfield, and Warren.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT CUMBERLAND, MAINE Section number 8 Page 5

Local architects John Calvin Stevens and Francis H. Fassett also submitted designs. Perhaps the most grandiose was a remarkable tower plan put forward by New York architect Henry O. Avery. It was an octagonal tower with an external winding staircase based on a medieval French chateau. One hundred feet in height it would give visitors access to breathtaking views. It would also serve as a magnificent pigeon roost. Avery had already unsuccessfully submitted it as a memorial for Grant's tomb and as a Civil War monument for New Haven. Various stone carvers, cemetery monument works, as well as the Gorham Company of Providence expressed interest.

Future Mayor James P. Baxter came forward with a plan for a rather spectacular remodeling of the old City Hall into an ornate pantheon. It would serve as a shrine to Portland's war heros, a repository for appropriate records, and as a center for G.A.R. activities. He decried the "massive memorial tombstones" that were so common. When his suggestion attracted little or no support, he declined to participate further in the deliberations of the Monument Association.

Finally, wearied and uninspired by existing submissions, the Design Committee on June 14th decided that "the entire matter be placed in the hands of one man...a sculptor of national reputation, a citizen of Maine and one who would take pride designing a monument to be erected in this city." That man was Franklin Simmons who had been waiting patiently since 1875 when the Design Committee had reacted favorably to his selection. A lack of adequate funding had precluded the issuance of a contract at that time.

Simmons informed the Committee that he had envisioned a substantial monument surmounted by an heroic fifteen foot figure symbolizing the American Republic with two human size groups on a granite base, a trio of soldiers on one side, and three sailors on the other, all cast in bronze. The Victory figure would in all probability be one of the largest in the nation with the exception of Thomas Crawford's statue Freedom that stands atop of the Capitol dome.

A contract quickly formalized the choice of Simmons. Accordingly, the sculptor wasted no time in fulfilling his obligation in the summer of 1888. As work progressed General Brown became a frequent visitor at Simmon's studio in Rome. What he saw must have pleased him as no indication of disagreement or displeasure is known to survive. Brown must have been impressed with the towering allegorical figure soon to be known as "Our Lady of Victories." One wonders if he identified the middle figures in the Army and Navy accessory groups. In the center of the Navy men stands Admiral David G. Farragut, hero of the battles of New Orleans and Mobile Bay. The officer in the Army group is the quite obscure Brigadier General Francis L. Vinton. He was born at Fort Preble, Maine, where his father had been a captain of artillery in the regular army.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 6

Although the general concept of the Monument can be attributed to Franklin Simmons, the base came from the drawing board of the famous New York architect Richard Morris Hunt. How Hunt became involved is not altogether clear. Apparently during the summer of 1888 he consulted Simmons on various occasions. Hunt had previously designed the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. When the Monument Association placed him under contract is unknown, but it must have been early in the summer of 1888.

With Hunt's design in hand, contracts were soon formalized to carry out the stone work. The pedestal would come from the Maine and New Hampshire granite works located in North Jay. The Portland firm of Green and Jordan would be responsible for the foundation.

Work progressed rapidly, and on Memorial Day, 1889 elaborate exercises were held to mark the placing of the center granite block for the pedestal. This massive "corner stone" would cover a recessed compartment that contained an eighteen inch square copper box to be carefully sealed with solder. Into this box went a remarkable array of memorabilia that included documents, photographs, publications, medals, and medallions.

The granite pedestal slowly grew during the summer of 1889. To enclose and ornament the base, plans were drawn by the architect Francis H. Fassett for a granite curbing, oval in form, and 286 feet in circumference. A gentle slope of turf would fill the space between the curbing and the base of the pedestal.

At this point a rather serious problem arose as to placing a large bronze plaque on the back of the pedestal listing the Portland men who had perished. The Monument Association endorsed the idea and began the laborious process of gathering the names of the dead. This quickly became a process more easily envisioned than perfected. On March 25, 1889 the *Eastern Argus* published a list of 406 names that had been submitted. It was soon discovered that the process of verification would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible. The men who served in units of other states, the Regular Army, Navy, and Marines were especially troublesome. When no documentation could be produced, the Executive Committee had no choice but to delete the names.

The muster rolls compiled by the Maine Adjutant General failed to be of help, and many names had to be put aside pending corroboration. The Executive Committee informed the public that the list would be restricted to "those actual residents of Portland at the time of their enlistment who were killed or died of wounds or disease while they were in service." The *Eastern Argus* published on December 2, 1889, a revised list of 248 names. If the debate had been vigorous before, it now became acrimonious.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT CUMBERLAND, MAINE Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>7</u>

Unable to produce a list even faintly acceptable to everyone, the Executive Committee reluctantly placed the plan on hold. Finally, in the spring of 1891, they authorized a bronze plaque with the following inscription: "More than four thousand men were enrolled from Portland in the Army and Navy for the War of the Rebellion. More than 300 were killed in battle, or died in service. Honor and grateful remembrance to the dead. Equal honor to those who, daring to die survived." A contract for casting this huge plaque was awarded to the Ames Manufacturing Company, of Chicopee, Massachusetts in May, 1891. The Executive Committee accepted delivery of the plaque in July.

Meanwhile, Franklin Simmons had not been idle at his studio in Rome. The laborious casting of the three pieces at the foundry of Alexander Nelli in Rome occurred late in 1890. When they became available for public viewing, compliments flowed rather lavishly. In a letter to Harrison B. Brown, a member of the Design Committee, dated March 2, 1891, Simmons reported that the Italian King Humbert I and his Queen had been among the viewers. As a token of their esteem, they bestowed knighthood on the artist.

On April 20, 1891, Simmons wrote to Brown that the pieces were crated and ready for shipment. Unfortunately, a delay occurred when several steamers found it impossible to load them aboard. Finally, the English Anchor Line Steamer R. M. S. *Scotia* accomplished the task, and the pieces left Naples on April 18th, buried in a cargo of loose sulphur.

Additional transportation problems were encountered when the ship arrived in New York on May 25th. The only firm that would undertake to tranship the pieces was the Norwick and New York Transportation Company. Before they would do so, the Monument Association signed a release absolving the firm of any liability if damage occurred en route. When and how the pieces were brought to Portland is not recorded. The pieces arrived in Portland on June 15th and were set in place five days later.

Once the pieces and the plaque were in place, the matter of installing the granite curbing was completed. The Design Committee contacted the architect Richard M. Hunt and engaged his services to produce a suitable design for a low cast iron fence to surmount the curbing as well as four multiple bronze lamps on cast iron posts. The Portland firm of Mequire and Jones received the contract for fence and lamps.

When Mequire and Jones finished their allotted task, the "Victory Monument" could be declared a reality. It had taken eighteen years and \$35,800 from inception to completion. Dedication ceremonies and a formal transfer of the monument to the city took place on October 25, 1891.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT CUMBERLAND, MAINE Section number 8 Page 8

For years to come the monument would be the focal point of elaborate and moving Memorial Day ceremonies. As the Civil War veterans passed into history, commemorative observances gradually became less meaningful. In recent years, the monument received what can only be described as perfunctory attention. The elements, urban wildfowl, pollution, and vandals had an increasingly destructive impact. A century of exposure took its toll. During the urban renewal frenzy [of the 1950s], the granite curbing that encircled its base along with the cast iron fence and lamps were scrapped.

Fortunately, the community took note of the deterioration in 1997, and a comprehensive restoration was undertaken. The monument has now been restored to its original grandeur, and hopefully its preservation will bring forth a renewed appreciation of its extraordinary place in the history of this community.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLI	DIERS	AND SA	ILORS MONUMENT	CUMBERLAND, MAINE
Section number	9	Page	2	

Hawkes, Pamela W. "Richard Morris Hunt, 1827-1895." A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine, Vol. III, No. 7. Augusta, ME: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1986.

Jordan, William B. Our Lady of Victories: A History of the Portland Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. Portland, ME: Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc., 1998.

"The Portland Monument to Soldiers and Sailors." Harper's Weekly, February 20, 1892.

Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument

Cumberland, Maine

ame of Property		County and State

10. Geographical Data					
Acreage of Property Less Than 1 UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	-				
1	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet				
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)					
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)					
11. Form Prepared By					
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission	1 date January, 1998				
city or town state state zip code zip code 207/287-2132					
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:					
Continuation Sheets					
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro					
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Photographs	rarge acreage or numerous resources.				
Representative black and white photographs of the pro-	onerty				
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	sporty.				
Property Owner					
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)					
name					
street & number	telephone				
city or town	state zip 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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PORTLAND SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>2</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

The Portland Soldiers and Sailors Monument is located at the southwest corner of the junction of Congress Street and Federal Street in downtown Portland. It is not assigned a specific city tax map and lot number. The sloped, rectangular grass esplanade that surrounds it is bordered by granite curbing, thereby defining the edge of the property boundary.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the monument and the remaining grass esplanade that is historically associated with it.