



DEFENSE FROM 6B

Seaman, whose blasts shattered windows as far away as Portsmouth was put on caretaker status. Battery M.H. Barry was one of the few large gun positions surrounding Portsmouth to remain active for the rest of the war, until it was deactivated in 1946, the same year the local section of scenic Route 1A was reopened to the public.

With the incredible power of nuclear weapons, it was clear coastal defenses such as Fort Dearborn were as obsolete as armored knights on a modern battlefield. Fort Dearborn would be deactivated in 1948, and all the guns were removed. The Seavey Creek side returned to the hands of private owners, while the seaward side occupied by the park became the Rye Air Station, which was used as a radar site for the Pease Air Force Base in Newington (today the Pease International Tradeport). The former fort was used by the National Guard and Civil Defense during the 1950's.

The land on which the park sits was transferred to New Hampshire in 1961, and the park was opened in 1962. Since then, it has slowly become a one of the must-see spots of the Seacoast, provid-

ing education and recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors to the Seacoast. The southern main gate provides access to the Seacoast Science Center, as well as a picnic area, a playground and restroom facilities. The northern gate (which is sometimes closed) provides access to a small boat launch on Seavey's Creek and a path which will take you to a splendid sheltered sandy beach on

the shores of Little Harbor. However, there are no permanent restroom facilities at this end of the park.

Admission to the park is \$3.00 per person, and an additional \$1.00 per person for the Seacoast Science Center. As the southernmost of the former forts to protect Portsmouth Harbor, it is also the easiest to get to from Hampton Beach by driving North on Scenic Route 1A.



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