A selective timeline of Portland

| 1786 | The citizens of Falmouth Neck vote to create a separate town of Portland |
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| 1790 | Population 2,240 people |
| 1820 | Maine becomes a state with Portland as its capital city; population 8521 people |
| 1831 | The Portland Fire Department is chartered by the state |
| 1832 | the state capital moves to Augusta. The City of Portland is chartered by the state; city departments include fire department, city constable, city solicitor (attorney), street commissioner, and city marshal/health officer |
| 1847 | Earliest documented sewers in Portland are on Atlantic and St. Lawrence Streets. Waste water drains into harbor and back cove. |
| 1859 | Portland purchases its first steam-powered fire engine "Machingonne 1" |
| 1866 | Portland's great fire of 1866 with a loss of 1,800 buildings; Portland Water Company chartered |
| 1869 | Public water begins to flow in Portland; Bramhall Reservoir built |
| 1874 | Sewer line installed on Brown Street |
| 1884 | Intercepting sewer proposed with holding reservoir on Pomeroy Point. |
| 1888 | Munjoy Hill Reservoir constructed |

| 1908 | Portland Water District formed with the purchase of the Portland Water Company and the Standish Water and Construction Company |
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| 1960 | Landmark buildings demolished as part of Urban Renewal program |
| 1961 | Beginning of the preservation movement in Portland |
| 1979 | Portland wastewater treatment plant constructed |
| 2012 | Population is 66,214. |