Portsmouth Point with Gosport in the distance.   1791
Thomas Rowlandson   IWCMS.2002.170

This view from the bottom of *Broad Street* owes something to artist's licence, as *Gosport* should lie in the direction the man in the centre of the picture is pointing. *Portsmouth Point*, an area no more than a quarter of a mile in any direction, was one of *Portsmouth's* busiest landings.

One ship at anchor appears to be flying a paying-off pennant so there would soon be sailors ashore with money in their pockets – but not for long. In 1784 the small area boasted 53 drinking houses, as well as cook shops, slop (clothes) sellers and tailors, moneylenders and pawnbrokers, trinket sellers and everything else the Jack ashore could need. The building on the left of *Rowlandson's* picture was, for most of the 19th century, *The Union* tavern. It still stands, somewhat altered, as *The Spice Island Inn* and *Portsmouth Point* is now considered a very desirable area.
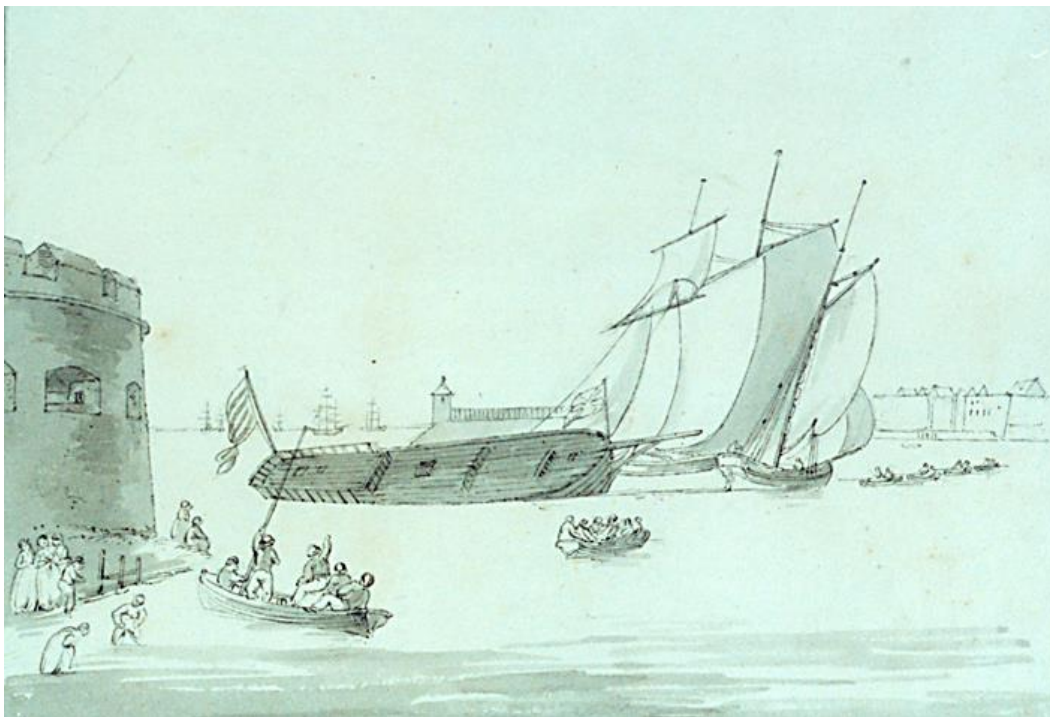
Portsmouth Harbour, with the Haslar Hospital in the distance.   1791
Thomas Rowlandson   IWCMS.2002.171

This view shows the landing slip of *Portsmouth Point* (to the left) one of *Portsmouth's* busiest landing points. It was also an ideal place for sequestering roistering sailors, brought by liberty boat from ships lying at *Spithead* (visible in the far distance, left of centre), as it was separated from the town by the guarded *King's Gate* and by a moat across *Broad Street*.

In the distance to the right, neighbouring the town of *Gosport* is the *Haslar Naval Hospital*. The Navy's first dedicated hospital for sick and wounded seamen; it was begun in 1746 and received its first patients in 1753. When built it was the largest brick built building in *Europe* and the Hospital was capable of housing up to 1,800 patients.

Portsmouth Harbour, a wreck towing in.   Circa. 1790s
Thomas Rowlandson   IWCMS.2002.163

Portsmouth.
Thomas Rowlandson