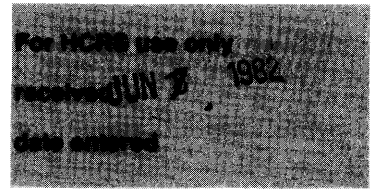


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Maine Insane Hospital (Preferred)

and/or common Augusta Mental Health Institute

**2. Location**

street & number Hospital Street N/A not for publication

city, town Augusta, N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Health Care</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name State of Maine - Bureau of Public Improvements

street & number State House

city, town Augusta, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04333

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Augusta, state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maine Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, state Maine

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Maine Insane Hospital Historic District is an impressive complex of five architecturally significant institutional buildings, all connected to each other by covered passages. Dating from 1840 to 1889, none of the buildings has undergone major exterior alteration. The district overlooks the Kennebec River in an unchanged, park-like setting. As a group these structures represent the 19<sup>th</sup> century approach to custodial care for the mentally ill.

**Buildings and Sites contributing to the character of the district:**

1. Main Building: 1840, Greek Revival, 4½ stories (with wings of 3½ stories), granite, gabled roofs, Doric portico and porte-cochere, designed by John D. Lord. Additions to this structure were made over a span of years in exactly the same style until 1870. (See sketch map.)
2. Coburn Hall: 1875, Italianate, 3½ stories, brick, hipped roof, designed by Francis H. Fassett.
3. Female Pavilion: 1881-83, Italianate, 2½ stories, brick, Mansard roof, facade tower, designed by Fassett & Stevens. Colonial Revival wing added 1923.
4. Male Pavilion: 1883-84, Italianate, 2½ stories, brick, Mansard roof, facade tower, designed by Fassett & Stevens. A modern covered passageway now links the east ends of the buildings #3 and #4.
5. Harlow Pavilion: 1889, Italianate, 3½ stories, brick with granite trim, hipped roof, designed by George M. Coombs. (An identical building on the women's side was erected at this time but later demolished.)

**Nonconforming Intrusions:**

None

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** N/A **Builder/Architect** See Description

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 19th century portion of the Maine Insane Hospital is a distinct unit which represents the institutional approach to the problem of care for the mentally ill during this period. Significantly, in 1913 the facility was renamed the Augusta State Hospital and a number of modern structures of the 1920's and after were scattered about the old complex. The Maine Insane Hospital is also important as one of the earliest examples, besides Massachusetts, of an effort to deal with the problem of mental illness on a state level. Architecturally, these buildings represent the work of three of Maine's most noted architects: Francis H. Fassett, George M. Coombs, and John Calvin Stevens in addition to John B. Lord, a well-known local architect.

In a message to the legislature in 1830, Governor Jonathan Hunton urged the appropriation of funds to construct an insane hospital for Maine. This most progressive idea was acted upon in 1834 when the state legislature appropriated \$20,000.00 for the purpose if it could be matched by \$20,000.00 from private sources. This was accomplished and land was purchased in 1835 at \$3,000.00. John Lord was appointed architect and, following the general plan of the Worcester Insane Asylum in Massachusetts, designed the original part of the hospital which was completed in 1840. This building, including the 4½ story center section and two straight wings was 260 feet in length. The north wing accommodated female inmates with males in the south wing.

Four additional wings (see map), two on each side, were later added between 1848 and 1870 all in the same identical style.

From that point on additional facilities were added as space was required and as approaches to patient care became more enlightened. These included an enlarged chapel and recreational facilities in Coburn Hall as well as separate quarters for the violent and the criminally insane to segregate them from other patients.

With the erection of the Harlow Building and its mate (now gone) in 1889, the early (19th century) phase of the history of the Maine Insane Hospital came to a close. Subsequent developments and construction were diffuse and belong to another era.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Johnson, George Whittaker; History of the Maine Insane Hospital. M. A. Thesis, University of Maine at Orono.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9  
 Quadrangle name Augusta

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 1 9	4 3 8 5 1 0	4 9 0 5 5 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 1 9	4 3 8 6 6 0	4 9 0 5 3 5 0
E			
G			

B	1 1 9	4 3 8 7 0 0	4 9 0 5 5 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 1 9	4 3 8 4 7 0	4 9 0 5 4 0 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian  
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1982  
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133  
 city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earl S. Feltman* date 6/2/82  
 title S.H.P.O.

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Brown</u>	date <u>7.19.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	date <u>7/19/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

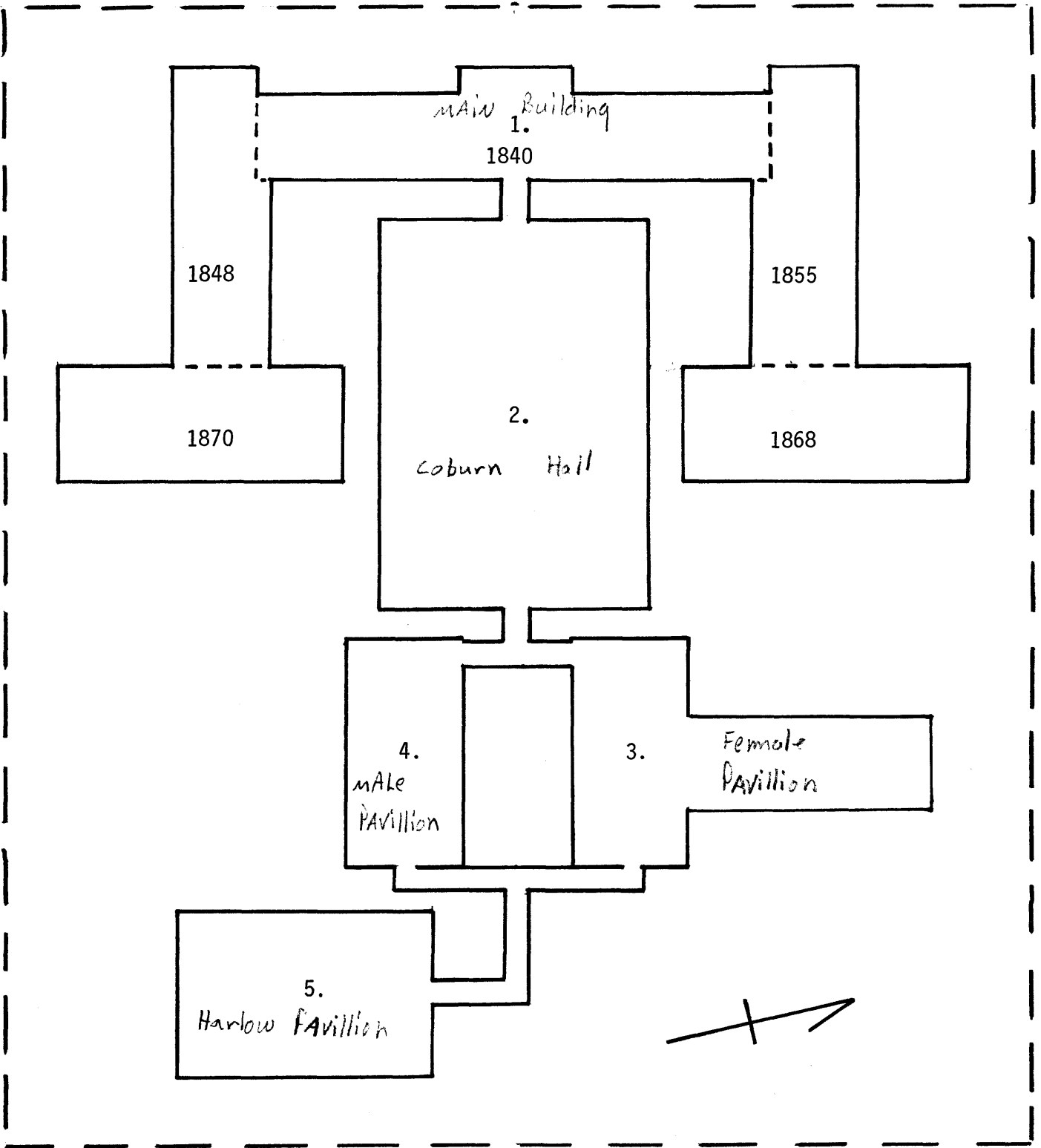
MAINE INSANE HOSPITAL (PREFERRED)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Beginning at a point 10 meters west from the front door of building #1, the district boundary runs northerly 90 meters thence at a 90<sup>0</sup> angle easterly 200 meters, thence at a 90<sup>0</sup> angle southerly 180 meters, thence at a 90<sup>0</sup> angle westerly 200 meters, thence at a 90<sup>0</sup> angle northerly 90 meters to the point of beginning, forming a right quadrangle 180 X 200 meters.

This area encloses all the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings of the old Maine Insane Hospital and excludes all the modern buildings of the Augusta State Hospital with the exception of the 1923 wing attached to building #3.



MAINE INSANE HOSPITAL HISTORIC DISTRICT, Augusta, Maine

District Boundary - - - - -