

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Kennebec
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 14 1973

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Cumston Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Monmouth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
1st

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Kennebec CODE: 011

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Library</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Monmouth

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Monmouth

STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kennebec County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Augusta

STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

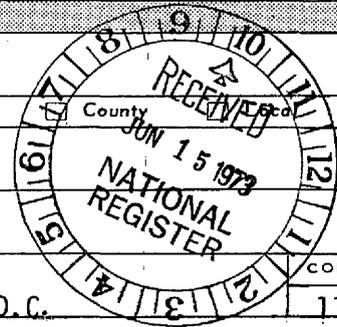
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 11



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PH 4  
5-19  
N 4805050  
E 417400

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Kennebec
ENTRY NUMBER	14
DATE	1973

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

*made by an individual as a result of that person*

Cumston Hall is an unusual multi-purpose community building. Built 1899-1900, the large Romanesque building stands on the east side of Main Street in the center of Monmouth, Maine. Cumston Hall was given to the Town of Monmouth by Dr. Charles M. Cumston. Harry Hayman Cochrane designed the hall, supervised the construction and decorated the interior.

Cumston Hall is a wood and frame building, two-and-a-half stories high. The foundation is granite. The main part of the building is approximately rectangular, about 55 feet wide and 45 feet deep. It has an asphalt shingle hip roof. A public library and public meeting room occupy the first floor; the theater at Monmouth gives summer productions in the theater on the second floor. A 15-foot square stair tower projects from the main building on the south. The tower is about 70 feet tall; it has a wooden shingle pyramidal roof. To the north of the main building is a one-and-a-half story hexagonal structure about 20 feet in diameter, connected to the main building by a 20 foot long carriage shelter. The hexagonal roof and the gable roof of the carriage shelter are shingled in asphalt. The hexagonal structure houses the Monmouth Town Office.

Two small, freestanding box offices have been added to either side of the main entrance to Cumston Hall. Two small, one-and-a-half story additions have been made to the hall, one behind the hexagonal structure and one behind the tower. These recent minor changes have been in keeping with the original architecture.

The exterior detail of Cumston Hall is flamboyant. Stringcourses of applied wooden patterns decorate the facade and the tower. A carved wooden fan occurs in the gable of the center bay and over windows on two faces of the tower. The wall surfaces are mainly clapboarded, but textural variation is given to some areas which are finished with overlapping scallops and applied lattice work. Shingled turrets adorn the upper four corners of the tower and the left front corner of the main building. The ridges of the main hip roof and the carriage shelter roof are crowned by wooden filigree. The wall surfaces and all the trim are painted.

The facade of the main building is the visual center of interest. The wider center bay of the five bay facade projects, breaking the roof line with an elongated second story and piercing the hip roof with a gable roof, repeated on the rear facade. The wall plane of the first floor is recessed providing a deep porch across the entire facade. Pairs of free-standing columns on shingled pedestals separate the bays. The columns are linked by applied wooden arches. The tall arched windows of the second floor contain stained and leaded glass. The roof overhangs a wide bracketted wooden cornice.

The lower and middle level windows of the stair tower have stained and leaded glass, as do the southern side windows and center rear windows of the main building. The surfaces of the two tall brick chimneys of the

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(See Continuation Sheet)

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(Continuation Sheet)

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	AUG 14	1973

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

2

main building are broken by recessed panels and projecting bands.

Fire doors and escapes have been added at the rear of the hall. These and the two additions have been the only changes made to the exterior of Cumston Hall.

The original interiors of Cumston Hall are intact. They feature heavy molded wood trim, paneled wood wainscot, molded plaster and carved and molded wood cornices. The trim is stained in the public meeting room and painted in the library, halls and stair tower. Of special note is the domed and vaulted theater. The ceiling is elaborately stuccoed and frescoed. Panels above the stage contain scenes of dancing classically garbed women and cherubin. The balcony rail, the proscenium arch, the boxes flanking the stage and the cornice are all stuccoed; the stucco is of varying floral and formal motifs.



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1899-1900**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architect of Cumston Hall, Harry Hayman Cochrane, (1860-1946) was born in Augusta. He attended Monmouth Academy, the New York Art School and the Chicago Art Institute. After working in Boston and New York, he returned to Monmouth in 1887. Cochrane, a photographer, portrait painter, composer, musician and writer, was primarily a mural painter. Among his best known works are the murals of the Lewiston Shriners' Kora Temple, the Methodist Church in Monmouth and Hebron Academy. Cochrane's murals decorate churches and buildings throughout New England. He received no formal training as an architect, but gained experience from the renovation of many of the churches he decorated. Mr. Cochrane wrote The History of Monmouth and Wales, he served in the 79th Maine Legislature and he designed the State of Maine Centennial coin in 1920.

Cumston Hall is an outstanding wooden Romanesque building. The odd combination of volumes, the asymmetrical facade and the elaborate detailing present an extremely lively and interesting exterior, but one which is disciplined by the size and the arrangement of the volumes. The theater is a handsome space, intimate and yet grand. The concept of a multi-purpose community building was unusual in 1900 when Cumston Hall was built. The importance of the hall was made clearly visible in its architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cumston Hall Souvenir, pamphlet, c. 1900.

Maine Sunday Telegram. August 9, 1970.

Taylor, Eugene G. "Harry Cochrane of Monmouth was Man of Many Talents".  
Lewiston Journal Magazine Section, April 15, 1967, p. 4-A.

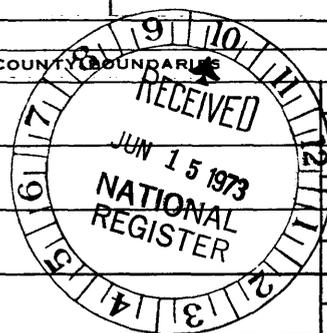
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44	14	27
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	70	02	05
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 Acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission**      DATE: **April, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**31 Western Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta**      STATE: **Maine**      CODE: **23**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name James H. Mundy

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 11, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Roderick Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST:  
W. J. [Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date 7 30 73