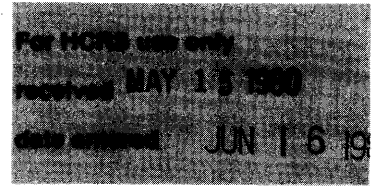


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Charles L. Cushman House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8 Cushman Place _____ not for publication

city, town Auburn _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

state Maine code 23 county Androscoggin code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Priscilla B. Roewer

street & number 8 Cushman Place

city, town Auburn _____ vicinity of _____ state Maine 04210

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Auburn, _____ state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Charles L. Cushman House of Auburn, designed by Lewiston architect George M. Coombs and built in 1889, is an elaborate Queen Anne style mansion of stone.

The house is of field-stone construction with wooden and cut granite trim. Two stone chimneys are present, slightly projecting from the south-east and south-west walls. The roof is of cross-gabled form and there is a circular tower at the east corner. The building contains 2½ stories above a full basement. Fenestration is generally 1/1, typical of the period and style.

The facade faces north-east and features the corner tower to the left. This is of 2 stories with a conical slated roof. The entrance is covered by a one-story porch with large arched bays and a porte-cochere of equivalent detail. An interesting feature is two sets of granite steps leading from the carriage-way: immediately beside a narrow flight of steps is a raised set which allowed convenience for those alighting from carriages. The second story of the facade consists of a wooden gable-end which contains an arched window surrounded by elaborate wooden carvings.

The south-east side of the house contains an arched window in the first story, a rectangular one in the second, and a pair of rectangular ones in the half-story; the wooden half-story contains a balcony in a recess which almost fully exposes the stone chimney. Here as well there are elaborate wooden carvings in a floral motif.

The other two sides of the house carry far simpler detail.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889 Builder/Architect George M. Coombs

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Charles L. Cushman House is significant as an unusual architectural specimen in the Queen Anne style and certainly one of the finest residential designs of George M. Coombs, Auburn's prolific and leading late 19th century architect. The house is also important as a reflection of the affluence derived from shoe manufacturing, the city's most important industry in the period.

Beautifully sited on a bluff overlooking the city, this massive pile of field stone with its ornamented gables, circular corner tower and elaborate porch and porte-cochere, was built in 1889 by Charles L. Cushman, son of Ara Cushman, founder of one of the largest shoe manufacturing complexes in New England. At the time the house was built Charles was vice president and general superintendent of the manufacturing department of the Ara Cushman Company which consisted of three factories with 118,500 square feet of space and over 1,000 employees. All of this had sprung from a small three man operation in nearby Minot begun by his father in 1854.

Beside the great stone house the estate consisted of a large greenhouse, stables and a tennis court on several acres of land. Now, only the house remains on a reduced but still ample plot.

George M. Coombs (1852-1909) was the leading architect in the Lewiston-Auburn area for many years and participated in the design of the majority of the public and industrial buildings of the period in both cities. He also executed a large number of residential commissions for many of the impressive late 19th century houses for which the region is noted. Outstanding among these is certainly the Cushman House which received national attention after selection for publication in the American Architect and Building News of December 21, 1889.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Merrill, Georgia Drew, ed., History of Androscoggin County, Maine. Boston, 1891.

American Architect and Building News, December 20, 1889.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Lewiston **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:62500
 UTM References

A	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>401350</u> Easting	<u>4882410</u> Northing	B	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 12, Section 1, Lot 56

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

state	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, 1980
 street & number 242 State 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 Charles S. Feltner
 title S.H.P.O. date 5/9/80

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

James M. [Signature] date 6/16/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrus date 6/13/80
 Chief of Registration