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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Franklin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 4 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Octagon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hiram Ramsdell House *use this name*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner High & Perham Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Farmington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd: Hon, William Cohen

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Deborah Mallett Cressall

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Farmington

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Franklin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Farmington

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

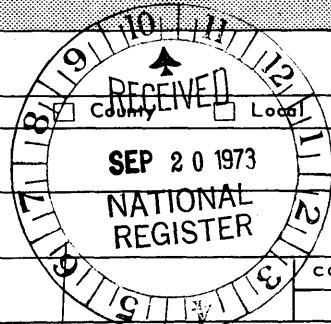
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	
COUNTY:	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	DEC 4 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cyrus Ramsdell House was built in 1858 in the town of Farmington, Maine. This eight-sided structure has a granite foundation, brick walls, and a wooden hipped roof with a wooden octagonal cupola. The front wall contains the doorway and a window above it. The doorway has granite steps, side lights on either side of the door, and a large granite lintel above it. The doorway is treated in a simple Greek Revival manner. An examination of the brickwork above the doorway reveals that an overhang or a portico existed there at one time. Above the doorway is a window with a granite sill and a granite lintel. The cornice is comprised of four unusual brick brackets which increase in length and projection in six stages from bottom to top. These share a common brick course at the top, above which is a wooden molding. The same cornice treatment appears on all right walls of the house. It is also displayed at the top of each of the eight brick pilasters at the corners of the house. In this capacity, the cornice treatment plays the role of a pilaster capital.

The remaining seven walls of the Ramsdell House have varied window treatments. The wall directly to the right of the front possesses two windows on each story, all having granite sills and lintels. The next wall has a wooden bay window on the first story and a single window above with a granite sill and lintel. To the right of the first story bay window is a glass hallway connecting the main house to a one story glassed-in octagonal sun porch. The following wall repeats the arrangement of two windows on each story, while the back wall has a window on each story. The next wall serves as the connecting point for a two story wooden ell. The following wall is composed of a window on each story while the final one has two on each story. The wooden octagonal cupola at the center of the hipped roof displays a simple wooden balustrade. Four tall brick chimneys with decorative brick tops project at intervals around the roof.

The sum of these many parts is the Ramsdell House in Farmington, a substantial and dignified example of the Octagon mode of the mid-nineteenth century.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1858

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

This structure was built in 1858 by Cyrus Ramsdell, a local brick-maker in the town of Farmington. The design of the building was probably inspired by Orson Squire Fowler's famous book, A Home For All or The Octagon Mode of Building, first published in New York in 1848.

In 1868, Cyrus Ramsdell sold the house to his brother Hiram Ramsdell, a local dry and fancy goods dealer. Hiram lived in the house until his death in 1903 and his wife, Sarah, until her death in 1910.

In 1912, the property was acquired by Wilbert G. Mallett, principal of the Farmington Norman School. The property is still in the Mallett family being owned by Deborah Mallett Cressall.

This house is significant architecturally, for it is one of only eight Octagon houses in Maine and is one of the finest in the state. It is significant to the history of Farmington, for it is one of Farmington's best dwelling houses from the mid nineteenth century.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Francis Gould, A History of Farmington, Franklin County, Maine.
 Farmington: Knowlton, McLeory & Co., 1885.

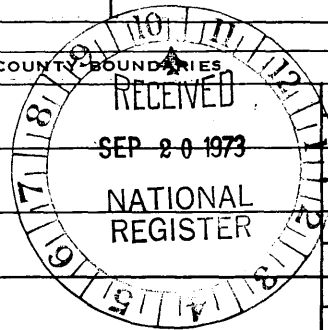
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 40' 17"	70° 09' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard D. Kelly

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE: **July 6, 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 Pres. Officer*
 Date: *September 17, 1973*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

(Acting) Robert M. Utley
 Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: *12/4/73*

ATTEST:
Charles Abington
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: *11-30-73*