

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 17 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 11 1975

**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

Kora Temple

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11 Sabattus Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lewiston

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Maine

CODE
23

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE

001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Fraternal

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Kora Shrine Association

STREET & NUMBER

11 Sabattus Street

CITY, TOWN

Lewiston

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

2 Turner Street

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kora Temple is a large red brick structure with white terra cotta ornaments which features an unusual and decorative facade. Built as an irregular rectangle, it rises four stories to its cornice above a granite basement.

The three-story facade, facing Sabattus Street in Lewiston, is Moorish in inspiration. It is divided into a central section with two identical flanking projections. The dominant feature of the central section is its ornate doorway. The doorway is rectangular and is topped with a bulbous pointed arch surrounding a semi-circular stained glass window. Its most unusual feature is a sculptured Moorish head set in the point of the arch. Flanking this 1½ story entrance on the first two floors are double windows divided by ornate engaged columns and capped with scalloped pointed arches. The third story features a central panel containing four windows topped with horseshoe arches surrounded by elaborate terra-cotta filigree.

The two flanking projections are identical to one another, three stories in height and comparatively narrow. The first floor features triple windows, similar to those flanking the doorway, divided by engaged columns. They are further enhanced by filigree above. The windows of the upper stories are identical in configuration with the lower, but are joined into a long rectangular panel of windows and filigree.

A continuous cornice runs across the top of the front for a distance around the corners. It is made up of projecting half-vaults interspersed with pointed niches. It supports a row of lacelike ornamentation made of iron and consisting of alternating finials and open, scalloped arches. At either end of the roof, centered above the projecting side members of the facade, are the most arresting features of the building, its domes. They are copper-covered and rise from short octagonal bases. They are bulbous and rather squat, terminating in short spires. The rest of the exterior is undistinguished save for the sides immediately next to the facade which are projected and decorated in an identical manner as the flanking portions of the facade.

The interior is highly ornamented and contains two large rooms, a banquet hall and assembly hall, an ornate grand staircase and several smaller finished rooms and kitchen facilities. The banquet hall is decorated in exotic Eastern motifs with murals by Cochrane. An unusual feature of this sizable room is a music gallery from which diners can be serenaded. This is entered from the main stairs. The assembly hall is enormous, occupying most of the second and third floors of the building. It is quite colorful and features much elaborate carving, especially in the railings of its balcony and bandstand. At one end is a stage whose opening is a large Moorish arch. The lighting fixtures of this hall, including the central bronze chandelier, were designed by Tiffany's of New York and were manufactured to special order in the 1940's.

Much of the interior work was done by Frank Haynes of Dover, N. H., while the building itself was designed by the prominent local architect George M. Coombs. The Kora Temple is a unique and decidedly exotic note in the cityscape of downtown Lewiston.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Fraternal	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1908 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George M. Coombs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1908, the Kora Temple strikes a decidedly unusual note amid the largely undistinguished architecture of central Lewiston. It is one of the largest and certainly the most noticeably prominent home of a fraternal organization in the State.

The Kora Shrine of Lewiston was organized in 1891 and held its first meetings in the facilities of the Masonic Temple on Lisbon Street. Later, a frame structure on the site of the present building was purchased and used until it was razed to make room for the new Temple. The building was the site of a dedication banquet and ball on March 17, 1909, that was attended by some 2,000 people. It was the social event of the year for Lewiston and for much of Maine with several hundred out of town Shriners crowding in for the gala event.

This Moorish style structure was the work of the noted local architect George M. Coombs, (1852-1909), a member of the Kora Shrine, and was one of his last major commissions. The great mural series in the banquet room was executed by Harry H. Cochrane, a somewhat eccentric 19th century Renaissance man: artist, architect, author, historian, poet, playwright, and politician. Cochrane had an unusual interest in the origins and ceremony of fraternal organizations, especially Masonry and the Shrine. He wrote, produced and designed sets for a 3½ hour extravaganza entitled The First Crusade which dramatized certain aspects of the origins of Masonry against a colorful Near-Eastern background. The Kora Temple murals were reproduced and their inspirations and interpretations explained in his book Following the Fez.

The Temple is still owned and maintained by the Kora Shrine of Lewiston which continues to utilize its ornate facilities as a meeting place and headquarters.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Account of Kora Temple Dedication, Lewiston Evening Journal, March 18, 1909

Cochrane, Harry H. Following the Fez, privately printed, 1934

Griffiths, Arthur Morgan, A Study of the Life and Work of Harry Hayman Cochrane, The Artist, 1950, Unpublished B.A. Thesis, Bates College Library, Lewiston

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REF OK with
10-3-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 ac.

UTM REFERENCES

A

19	40 2 7 3 0	4 8 8 3 5 0 0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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 Arthur Gerrier Student Assistant

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE January 1975

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta, STATE Maine

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE James H. Mundy

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE July 15, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>9/11/75</u>
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE SEP 8 1975
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	