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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Blossom House other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Main Street city, town Monmouth state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04259

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 3/1/89 State or Federal agency and bureau: Maine Historic Preservation Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/Culture/Museum**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboardroof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Blossom House in Monmouth, Maine, is a one-story five-bay frame dwelling sheathed in weatherboards. It rests on a granite foundation. Facing east, the primary facade's fenestration is characterized by a central six panel doorway with a five pane transom. On either side of the doorway are paired nine-over-six double-hung sash windows. A boxed cornice carries across the facade, and the house has one centrally-located interior chimney.

On the north gable end, there are two first story nine-over-six double-hung sash windows and two six-over-six windows in the attic. The south gable end, although now abutted to another taller building, originally had a low one-story wing.

At the southwest end of the rear elevation there is one doorway flanked by two nine-over six windows, one being flush against the doorway and the other being a few feet away.

The rooms inside the Blossom House are located around the massive central chimney. Vertical board sheathing covers the walls in the small entrance hall which has doors opening into the parlor and kitchen. The north parlor has its original fireplace, mantle as well as three-part window and door surrounds. The small west room behind the parlor has no windows and may have served as a keeping room. The large west bedroom has another Federal style mantelpiece and opens into the south room which has the cooking hearth, pantry, and enclosed staircase to the attic at the southeast corner. The attic is unfinished.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
c. 1808  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
c. 1808  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ansel Blossom House is a mid-Federal period cape with a large central chimney. Originally a farmhouse with a wing, the house is now the oldest known surviving building in Monmouth, Maine. The wing was replaced in the late nineteenth century by a two-story addition, but the majority of the interior and exterior architectural features of the original block of the house remain unaltered. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion C for its local architectural significance.

The house is believed to have been built about 1808 by Ansel Blossom (1778-\_\_\_\_), the son of Captain James Blossom and Asenath Blossom. Little is known about Ansel Blossom, except that he was one of the petitioners to the Massachusetts General Court in 1801 requesting the establishment of a Free Grammar School in Monmouth. Sometime after the construction of his house Blossom is reported to have moved west, and his former dwelling later became known as Brown's Hotel. By 1894 the two-story wing had been added. More recently, the original section has become the property of the Monmouth Historical Society and is used as its principal museum space.

A noteworthy local example of an early Federal style cape form, the Blossom House is the most intact building in Monmouth from this period. Surrounded by Monmouth's later nineteenth century buildings, the house is the only remaining example of an early nineteenth century building form. Intact are the mantels, three-part window surrounds, and timber framing. On the exterior, its low post profile, featuring windows which are flush with the cornice, makes it an important reminder of the modest dwellings that were common in early nineteenth century Maine.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Cochrane, Harry H. History of Monmouth and Wales, Vol. I, II.  
East Winthrop, ME: Bannen Co., 1894.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 

1	9	4	1	7	2	2	5	4	8	9	8	6	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Blossom House occupies the Town of Monmouth tax map 15, Lot 60.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is drawn to include only the Blossom House and the lot with which it is historically associated. The abutting two-story wing, although built onto the Blossom House when it was a hotel, is now separately owned and no longer associated with the original block. It therefore is excluded from this nomination.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Tom Jester/Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January 1989

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city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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The architectural significance of the Blossom House was recognized during the nineteenth century by Harry H. Cochrane, a local historian and architect/artist whose extant works include the magnificent Cumston Hall (N.R. 8/14/73) in Monmouth. In his 1894 history of Monmouth, Cochrane published the observation, apparently made by his grandfather, that the Blossom House was:

...one of the old landmarks that time has spared us, and, crude in architecture as it is, may its warped frame stand long against merciless calls of village improvement advocates.

In a footnote, Cochrane noted the construction of the ell, but added his approval of its preservation by stating that "...thanks to fate and good judgement, the old frame, though now playing the inferior role of an ell, is unchanged".