United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Augusta,

1. Name

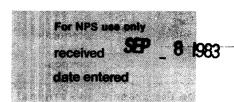
historic Franklin County Courthouse

and/or common

city, town

Location 2.

street & num	ber Main and Anso	n Streets	•	1	N/A not for publication
city, town	Farmington,		vicinity of	congressional district	
state	Maine	code 23	county	Franklin	code 007
3. Cla	assification				
Category district _Xbuilding structure site object		u w Acce y	ccupied noccupied rork in progress ssible es: restricted es: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment X government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Ow	ner of Prop	erty			
name	Franklin c/o Count	-	ioners		
street & num		-			
city, town	Farmingto	n,	vicinity of	state	Maine 04938
5. Lo	cation of Le	gal D	escripti	o n	
courthouse, r street & numi		Franklin (County Regist	ry of Deeds	
city, town		Farmingto	n,	state	Maine
6. Re	presentatio			Surveys	
F	ranklin County Hist esources Inventory			perty been determined of	eligible? <u> </u>
date 19	980			federalX_ st	ate county loca
depository fo	r survey records Maine	Historic	Preservation	Commission	



state Maine

7. Description

Condition		Che
X_ excellent	deteriorated ruins	
good	ruins	_X
fair	unexposed	

Check one unaltered A altered

Check one X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Franklin County Courthouse is a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story brick building with centrally-placed cupola. Stylistically, it combines the shape and bearing of a High Victorian Italianate building with Queen Anne surface treatment and some floor plan irregularities. Like most county buildings of the period, its basic plan is rectangular with the entrances on the short ends. The main entrance is surrounded by an arched brick cupola. Unusual, however, is its element of assymptry. The northwest (long) side of the building is a regular five-bayed wall with a shallow central pavillion. Combined with the flat 3-bayed sections of the short ends, likewise having shallow pavillions, the building appears to be a rectangle. The southeast wall, however, sprouts a 1X2 bayed wing to the right of its pavillion, an integral part of the building rather than an addition or ancillary section.

The windows of the first story are segmental and those of the taller second story are round-headed. The first story is quoined and the second-story bays are separated by thin pilasters. Dentils extend along the cornice of the slated, hipped roof. In the pavillions, above triple window banks on the long sides and double windows on the ends, are mosaic terra-cotta panels.

The cupola contains a ventilator and a clock, and is capped by a sheet-metal dome, from which sprouts a weather-vane.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric 1400–1499	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture x_ architecture art commerce communications		Iandscape architectur Iaw Iterature	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

Specific dates built, 1885, annex 1917 Builder/Architect George M. Coombs

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

High

This handsome and impressive /Victorian Italianate-Queen Anne block represents the work of one of Maine's foremost architects, George M. Coombs of Lewiston, at the height of his powers. It reflects sophistication in design yet avoids Victorian pretension and complexity. It is clearly Coombs' finest work in Frnaklin County.

George M. Coombs (1852-1909) was born in Brunswick, Maine and came to Lewiston in 1871 to enter the office of William H. Stevens, architect and civil engineer, as an apprentice. Soon becoming a member of the firm, now Stevens and Coombs, he succeeded as senior partner upon the death of Stevens. He later formed the firm of Coombs, Gibbs and Wilkinson, having taken in two former students as partners.

The prolific Coombs is represented on the National Register by a number of outstanding buildings which he designed including the Holman Day, Cushman and William P. Frye Houses, the Kora Shrine Temple, the Dominican Block, the Roak Block, The Lewiston Public Library, and the Oak Street School. Although now gone, he is remembered as the architect of the original Poland Spring House.

Interestingly, the courthouse annex, built in 1917 was designed by his son, Harry S. Coombs.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Lewiston Evening Journal", March 26, 1909. "Industrial Journal", Bangor, 1899. "Lewiston Journal Magazine Section", November 6, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name			Quadrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>
UMT References			
A 1 9 4 0 8 6 7 0 4 1 Zone Easting Nor	9 4 16 8 18 10	B L L L Zone E	Easting Northing
c			
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Verbal boundary description a	ind justification		
Assessor's Map	0 U15, Lots 82	& 83	
List all states and counties fo		apping state or cou	nty boundaries
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11 Form Drong	arad Dy		
11. Form Prepa	areu by		
name/title Frank A. Beard, H	Historian/Grego	ory K. Clancey, P	Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic I	Preservation Co	ommission date	• July, 1983
street & number 55 Capitol S	Street	tele	phone 207/289-2132
city or town Augusta,		state	• Maine 04333
12. State Histo	oric Pres	ervation O	Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this	nroperty within the	stato je:	······································
		local	
national As the designated State Historic P	reservation Officer f		c Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-
	rty for inclusion in th	he National Register ar	nd certify that it has been evaluated
State Historic Preservation Officer	signature	a Sother	Terrort
title 5. H.P.O			date 9/6/83
	-	•	une i j f
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this prop	erty is included in t	on National Register	
1 -11 A		Intered in the	interes
Allorest			date /0/ 0/83
Keeper of the National Register		istional Register	uale 17700
Userse		SCROUTS ROCIONS	uale 7700
Attest: Chief of Registration		CLUDEL BOGSTOR	date