

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM:19A 438230/4906960 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Doughty Block
3. Street or rural address: 265 Water Street
City Augusta Zip 04330 County Kennebec
4. Parcel number: Map 34, Lot 42
5. Present Owner: John D. Chapman & Ernest Edgerley Address: 1 Front Street
City Bath Zip 04530 Ownership is: Public _____ Private XX
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: Commercial

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Italianate
- 7b. Briefly describe the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Standing six stories high, this brick building is only three bays wide on its principal elevation. The upper stories have round arched windows with one over one double hung sash and the flat roof is ornamented with an over-hanging cornice supported on brackets. The original first floor store-front was modernized with brick and plate glass in 1970. Stone trim is used for the alternating voussoirs and sill courses.

Attach Photo(s) Here

See Photo No. 4

8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1890
9. Architect Charles Fletcher
Augusta
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage 1/8 acre
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
12/85

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: First story remodeled with brick and plate glass, 1970
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up
 Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known Private development ___ Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
 Public Works project ___ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The Doughty Block is architecturally significant as the only example of high-rise commercial design in Augusta. This significance is enhanced in that its 1890 construction date makes it a relatively early example for Maine. The building's architectural styling, however, is somewhat old-fashioned for its day. While the round arched windows and over-hanging cornice suggest Renaissance styling which was just coming into fashion, the detailing is more Italianate in character, which then was very much out-of-date. Moreover, the architect used sill courses, which creates a horizontal effect in opposition to the vertical thrust typical of modern sky-scrapers. Its somewhat odd architectural character contributes to the building's significance as a local landmark.

The architect, Charles Fletcher, was a local builder who was active in Augusta from the 1870's to the 1920's. He erected this building for Charles Doughty in 1890 when it dwarfed the other blocks on the street.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture Arts & Leisure ___
 Economic/Industrial ___ Exploration/Settlement ___
 Government ___ Military ___
 Religion ___ Social/Education ___
 Other (describe) _____

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

Kennebec Journal, June 6, 1890

22. Date form prepared January, 1986
 By (name) Roger Reed
 Organization MHPC
 Address: _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):