

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and level of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

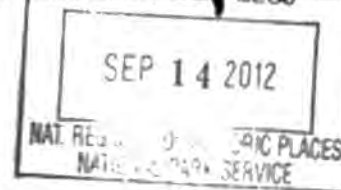
1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lamb Block

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)



2. Location

Street & number: 10 Depot Street

City or town: Livermore Falls

State: Maine

County: Androscoggin

Not For Publication: n/a

Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national

_____ statewide

☒ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_____ A

_____ B

☒ C

_____ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: _____

Date

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

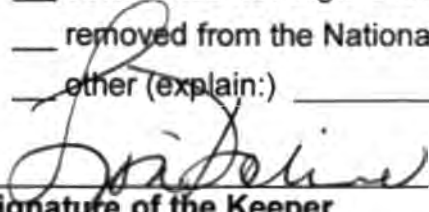
ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

4. 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

10/31/12
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE /TRADE/business

COMMERCE /TRADE/ department store

COMMERCE /TRADE / specialty store

SOCIAL / meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE / TRADE / business

VACANT / Not in use

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Commercial Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Granite rubble stone foundation to grade with brick above, brick walls, terra cotta and cast iron details, rubber membrane (synthetic) roof.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lamb Block in downtown Livermore Falls, Maine, is a three-story commercial block with its front façade facing south onto Depot Street. Designed by George M. Coombs, and built in 1895, the Lamb Block was the first commercial blocks in Livermore Falls of masonry construction. The storefront façade provided access to two retail spaces on the first floor and a central entrance to the upper floors. Shallow bay windows on the second floor are set within the depth of the brick walls, an unusual feature in the design. Decorative brickwork and terra cotta ornamentation sit directly below a bracketed wood cornice on the front façade. The Lamb Block is in good condition with high retention of its historic fabric and integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Narrative Description

The Lamb Block

The Lamb Block is a three story brick building with a three bay façade facing onto Depot Street. The freestanding rectangular block sits on a rubble stone foundation to grade with brick above. The first story has a storefront with recessed entrances on either side of a central entry to the upper stories. This recessed upper story entry has original wood paneled walls and ceiling and is framed by square cast iron columns. The storefronts also include low bulkheads below large display windows. A modern shingled canopy runs across the width of the building at the tops of the storefront windows, obscuring the transom area. Within each of the outside bays on the second story, there is a shallow angled bay window contained within the thickness of the wall, an unusual original feature. The center bay contains two double-hung windows separated by a narrow brick pier. On the third story, each of the three bays contains a pair of windows like those at the center of the second story, except the two pair in the outer bays each has a wider pier between the windows. All of the upper story windows described have granite sills and brick headers. A single-course projecting belt course runs across the tops of the third story window headers, defining a full attic story above which contains a pair of short, rectangular fixed-sash windows within each bay. Each pair of windows is contained within a projecting brick frame. A wood lattice creates diamond shaped "panes" behind each window sash. These windows light a short (approximately 6' tall) unfinished attic space below the nearly flat roof covered in rubber membrane. A band of decorative brickwork runs above the attic story windows, below a band of terra cotta ornament, and a bracketed wood cornice which terminates the façade.

The west side elevation is five bays wide and has a single double-hung window in each bay on the second and third stories. There is no fenestration on the first story or in the attic. A door opening near the rear has been infilled with brick. Flashing remains from a one story building that once abutted the Lamb Block but has since been removed. This extends back from the street to the third bay.

The east elevation is very similar to the west except that most of the first floor is obscured by an adjacent one-story building. In addition, one second story window in the Lamb Block has been infilled with brick to accommodate a section of gabled roof near the front of the neighboring building. Behind the neighboring building (at the rear end of the Lamb Block) there are plywood-filled window and door openings. The window opening is not original and lacks the brick header present on all other windows. The northeast corner of the east elevation currently includes all electrical units.

The north (rear) elevation has two wide modern aluminum framed storefront windows and doors that once opened into a modern one story connector to a neighboring shopping center (both demolished in 2011). A line of flashing at the height of the second story window sills extends across the elevation, marking the height of the connector roof. The brick of the first story was painted when the connector was in place. The two upper stories each have four

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

bays of double-hung windows with granite sills and lintels. Three of the windows on the second story have been infilled with wood, and the fourth with brick.

The nearly flat roof slopes gently from front to rear and is enclosed by a brick parapet on the sides. A chimney rises from the roof near the north east corner and another rises from approximately 1/3 of the way back from the façade on the west elevation. Other chimney flues have been dismantled to be flush with the parapet.

The first story floor plan has retail spaces to either side of the central entrance. The retail spaces are divided into two rooms, front and back, with the back rooms connected to each other by a single door. On the east side, a pressed metal ceiling and cornice remain above a modern drop acoustical ceiling. Bathrooms are located at the center of the building and accessed by a door in the east retail space. The west retail space includes a recent partition wall at approximately half the depth of the building, separating it from its original rear space. Another bathroom is sectioned off within this retail space.

The central door on the front façade provides access to the stair leading to the second story. At the head of the wide stairs, there is a spacious hall surrounding three sides of the stairwell. Two columns stand at the top of the stairs. A set of double doors opens into this hall, almost opposite the head of the stairs, leading to the staircase to the third floor. The central hall wraps around the staircase. On either side of the double doors leading to the third floor, doors provide access to the large room in the rear of the building. The front of the building is divided into six rooms. Two rooms on the west side are accessible from the main corridor and are connected to each other by a single door. A room centered on the south end connects the east and west rooms. Two of the three rooms on the east side are connected directly to the main corridor, while a third is accessible only through a doorway from another room. On the second story, much of the plaster and lath have been removed, exposing the stud framing beneath, with the exception of the main corridor surrounding the staircase. Wall framing, door frames, doors, baseboards, and other elements remain in place. The second floor was used for professional offices and had a large room at the rear where tin work was done in the 19th century.

The third story is divided into four apartments (likely between 1917 and 1927) and largely retains the floor plan from this period. A central corridor on the west side of the stair provides access to rooms on the west and south sides, while two doors to the right of the head of the stair access rooms in the northeast portion of the building. The asymmetrical design includes several small spaces and built-in closets. Before the third floor was divided into apartments, it included a large open space for the fraternal hall. Several original doors and some areas of baseboard trim remain from the original third floor use. Cast iron ceiling grills are present near the front of the Lamb Block's third floor. Though partially covered by later sub-dividing walls, the grills are still maintained in their original location. A chair rail extends around the exterior walls of the third floor and is integrated under the window sills as window aprons. This original feature is still intact through the third floor.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

The exterior is largely intact as built with typical alterations to the storefronts and recent replacement windows. The storefronts are recent (2009) alterations that are in keeping with the original character of period storefront design. The original wood paneled central entryway to the upper stories remains, as do the cast iron square columns to either side. The first and second story floor plans appear to be almost entirely intact from the time of construction. The third story plan was altered between 1917 and 1927 when it was changed from use as a fraternal hall to tenement units, though several doors appear to remain in their original locations. Other doors and trim elements were reused in new locations.

Interior details, such as original doors (including hardware); moldings and window surrounds; original bead board wainscot and hand rail on the stair to the upper floors; columns at the landing above the stair; and a chair rail extending around the exterior walls, and integrated into the window sills of the third floor, are still present. Much of the original plaster is also still present in the main corridors.

Integrity

The Lamb Block retains a relatively high degree of integrity for a downtown commercial building that has seen many tenants and uses over more than 120 years. The exterior is largely intact as built, with typical alterations to the storefronts and recent replacement windows. The original wood paneled central entryway to the upper stories remains, as do the square cast iron columns to either side. The first and second story floor plans appear to be almost entirely intact from the time of construction. The third story plan was altered when it was changed from use as a fraternal hall to tenement units, although several doors appear to remain in their original locations, other doors and trim elements were reused in new locations.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1895

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Coombs, George M., (1851 - 1909).

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Lamb Block in Livermore Falls, Androscoggin County, Maine is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criteria C. The three-story brick structure located on the north side of Depot Street was designed by George M. Coombs and built for John F. Lamb in 1895 to house the hardware business Lamb owned with his son-in-law, A.W. Stuart. It is a classic example of a late 19th century downtown commercial structure with first floor storefronts, second floor professional offices, and a large, third floor meeting hall. The use of brick, cast iron, and terra cotta for exterior materials is also characteristic of commercial architecture of this period. It was the first substantial brick commercial building in Livermore Falls, and is the first of several important buildings Coombs designed in the town in the late 1890s. The area of significance is architecture, and it is as a property which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The period of significance reflects the date of construction, 1895.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion C: Architecture

The Lamb Block was the first masonry commercial block in Livermore Falls and it served as the prototype for several other significant commercial buildings in the town. Utilizing a common form, proportions, structure, plan, style, and materials for this type of building in the 1890s, architect George M. Coombs brought the late 19th century commercial block to Livermore Falls.

A common building style, which is clearly the basis for the Lamb Block, is the double-front building. With this plan, two retail spaces were available in the building with upper floors available for other uses. Herbert Gottfried, who wrote *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors 1870 – 1960*, describes this type with the following: "Because of the size of the façade, the front had a three-part organization: show windows, commercial entry, and residential entry at the street level; upper-floor windows in rows, groups, bands, or as single units with cladding panels in between; and a cornice line that included the parapet, its coping, and other decorative elements. The more popular materials for this building were typically brick and terra cotta."¹ The Lamb Block includes all of these elements while providing separate entrances to each of the two retail areas on the first floor. This plan typically included brick piers at the corners and a flat roof with parapet, both present on the Lamb Block.

The two main streets in the village, Depot Street and Main Street, make up the commercial center of Livermore Falls, while the rest of the town remains primarily rural. Prior to 1895, the

¹Ibid. 243-245.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

buildings on these streets were of wood construction. Historic postcard views show Greek Revival commercial buildings intermixed with residential buildings of the same style suggesting a lack of major development between the mid- to late-19th century. By 1878, manufacturing was increasing in the town, the population was growing, and the town center became a more prominent feature of the town.

The shift toward a larger commercial center prompted a change in Livermore Falls architecture. Businessmen of the community recognized this change and encouraged growth and development by expanding retail space and developing the architecture of the commercial center. For example, in order to increase the commercial space on Depot Street, John F. Lamb, business owner and prominent member of the community, demolished the carriage house and a portion of the ell at his house on the corner of Depot and Main Streets to make way for the Lamb Block. This act also allowed for two adjacent one-story structures to the west of the Lamb Block, built after the Lamb Block was completed, one of which became the post office.

Urban populations were growing quickly at the end of the 19th century, and architecture changed to reflect the needs of this new population. As summarized by author Carole Rifkind, "Downtown streets, almost exclusively commercial, tended to become specialized according to administrative, retail, wholesale, industrial, or recreational use."² The fast-paced growth of the urbanized centers may not have been as dramatically visible in small, primarily rural villages such as Livermore Falls, but they had an effect nonetheless. New building types and reinterpretations of old types were both fashionable and practical. "The freestanding narrow and deep retail store is an Americanism that dots rural hamlets across the country."³ In masonry commercial blocks, these retail spaces were situated on the first floor with upper floors designated for other uses, as is the case of the Lamb Block.

Historically, the first floor was used for retail. According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, in 1897 the first floor housed a hardware store and a clothing store. A report in the September 15, 1898 edition of *The Advertiser* newspaper on the fire of 1898 notes that in the first floor of the Lamb Block was occupied by, "W.A. Stuart & Company, hardware [a business begun by Lamb but owned by his son-in-law, Stuart, by that date], and the Livermore Falls Clothing Company. On the second floor, J.H. Maxwell's law office, office of Deputy Sheriff, A.F. Dwelley [John A. Lamb was sheriff of Androscoggin County at this time], store room and tin shop of W.A. Stuart & Company, and Mrs. Roux, dressmaking." By 1903, the hardware store had been replaced by a grocery. In 1917 the first floor was used as a pool hall and a confectionary. The pool hall side was replaced by a bakery by 1927. The second floor was originally used primarily as office space, as indicated on the 1897 and 1903 Sanborn maps. The town paper, *The Livermore Falls Express and Advertiser*, was housed on the second floor of the Lamb Block at one point. The third floor of the Lamb Block was used as a fraternal hall through at least 1917. In 1898, it was occupied by the Port Royal Lodge of the Knights of Pythias organization. The third floor housed a "Union Hall" on the 1917 Sanborn map but not on earlier maps, which were just labeled "Hall" for the third floor. Volume 53 of the *International Molders' and Foundry Workers' Journal* (January 1917), notes that local 113,

² Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture*, (New York, NY: Penguin Books USA, Inc., 1980). 193.

³ Ibid. 195.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Livermore Falls, ME., "Meets first Thursday of the month at Union Hall, Depot St." The 1927 Sanborn map does not identify the upper story uses for 10 Depot Street but continues to identify the third story of the neighboring building as the "I.O.O.F. Hall", suggesting that there was no longer a place of public assembly on the third story of the Lamb Block. Based on this change and the physical evidence remaining on the third floor of the building, it appears the conversion to apartments occurred between 1917 and 1927. In 1979, the Odd Fellows sold their neighboring building (which was demolished for a parking lot) and moved into the second story of the Lamb Block, returning use by a fraternal organization to the building for a time.

Architectural elements

The Lamb Block includes typical materials for a late 19th century commercial block, and as the first brick commercial block in Livermore Falls, represents the beginning of a change in the architecture of the small town. Though Livermore Falls wasn't a dense urban area, sudden growth brought the prevailing styles and materials to the small town, which had not been previously used in the area. The most prominent change was that from wood construction to masonry. In the rapidly growing urban centers, masonry construction was used largely for fire safety.⁴

Cast iron façade elements were common in the late 19th century and peaked in the 1870s, after which zinc, galvanized iron, and pressed tin came into use.⁵ The cast iron storefront details of the Lamb Block utilized this new material for the first time in Livermore Falls. Cast in panels, moldings, and columns, these decorative elements were used to liven up and accentuate the surfaces of buildings.⁶ Terra cotta ornamentation below the wood bracket cornice are an example of the variety of materials used in these commercial blocks. Though used sparingly on the Lamb Block, the terra cotta detailing below the cornice was unseen previously in Livermore Falls, but appeared on several subsequent commercial blocks there. The bay windows on the second floor have been set within the depth of the wall which has been deepened on the interior to accommodate them, giving the sense from the inside that the windows extend out more than they do. This unusual feature is one that architect George M. Coombs used in various buildings around the state. Examples of this detail can be seen in buildings in cities such as Lewiston, Augusta, and Houlton built at approximately the same time.

The storefronts of the Lamb Block were also a new feature in Livermore Falls. Plate glass, manufactured in large sheets, was able to be held in tension and utilized for storefronts, providing larger display space.⁷ The transom windows above the storefronts were used to help get daylight into the deep interior spaces on the first floor. On the interior, the first floor still retains the original pressed tin ceiling, another reflection of current trends being utilized.

Fires and the architecture that followed

⁴ Rifkind, 194.

⁵ Ibid. 194.

⁶ Ibid. 194.

⁷ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors 1870 - 1960*, (New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2009). 233.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

In 1898, shortly after construction of the Lamb Block, a fire swept through downtown Livermore Falls, wiping out much of the village including the south side of Depot Street. The Lamb Block was saved, in part, by covering the windows with zinc strips from the tin shop on the second floor; and the front of the building with carpeting and blankets.⁸ Another fire occurred in 1899 and destroyed many buildings that had survived the fire the previous year. Once again, the Lamb Block was spared. The reconstruction of Livermore Falls updated the commercial center following the model established by the Lamb Block several years previously and transformed the town, capitalizing on the opportunity to rebuild.

Within a few years, many of the buildings that burned were replaced with more substantial structures similar in character to the Lamb Block, including the Nason Block, which sits diagonally across from it. After the fire of 1899, John F. Lamb built a one-story brick block with four storefronts on the site of his former home at the corner of Depot and Main Streets, on the same lot with the Lamb Block. These four retail spaces can be seen on the 1903 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. After the neighboring Rockomeka Hotel was taken down in 1899-1900, a second section of this block was built, which first appear on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, providing a total of eight storefronts along Depot and Main Streets. Both the three-story brick building at 10 Depot Street and this one-story structure on the corner of Depot and Main Streets were historically referred to as the Lamb Block, although they were not physically connected. It is likely the current, much altered one story building at the corner of Depot and Main streets is the building built by Lamb. If it is, it was altered beyond recognition in the later 20th century.

The *Lewiston Journal* reported in 1899: "As one passes through Livermore Falls, he is impressed by the fine, new blocks going up to replace the old ones that were destroyed by fire. Noticeable is the large five-story building on Main Street, called the Sharaf Block, which will contain the Bank, Post Office, Opera House, Court Room, and large stores."⁹ In addition to this report, the *Town Register* stated in 1903: "These two fires were very disastrous to the place – yet the village has apparently recovered from the loss and, with the new blocks she has built, looks far better than of old."¹⁰ The masonry buildings built after these fires are relatively intact today, including the Sharaf Block that was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1910.

George M. Coombs (November 27, 1851 – March 25, 1909)

George M. Coombs was one of the most prominent 19th century architects in Maine, having established himself as a talented professional in Lewiston by the 1870s. The Lamb Block is in line with other commercial work he completed in the late 19th century in small towns in Maine and New Hampshire. Coombs' designs of this type could be found in Houlton, Norway, Rumford Falls, as well as larger cities such as Lewiston and Auburn.

⁸ Reginald H. Sturtevant, *A History of Livermore*, (Lewiston, ME: Twin City Printery, 1970). 156.

⁹ As referenced in- Sturtevant, 157.

¹⁰ Ibid, 157.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Coombs grew up on a farm near Brunswick, Maine. He began his career while living in Lewiston working for Charles F. Douglas. It is possible he may have been a carpenter for a few years, but no other information about his training is known. Douglas was the leading architect in Western Maine, and Coombs gained much experience working under him. By 1873, Coombs set out to form an architectural firm, based in Lewiston, with Charles H. Kimball of Portland which lasted one year. In 1875, Coombs partnered with William H. Stevens in the firm Stevens & Coombs. Competition was minimal, and the firm did well until the death of Stevens in 1880. It was at this time that George Coombs established his own firm. During this time, new materials and styles were emerging and Coombs designed new commercial blocks in brick with architectural details that reflected the changes in current fashions.

The changes in architecture in the late 19th century were spread widely through pattern books and professional periodicals. George M. Coombs was aware of these periodicals and engaged in the most recent developments. He published his designs in the *American Architect and Building News*, the largest and most prestigious of the new journals. Threat of fire, and new fireproof construction techniques were utilized in Coombs' work. During the late 19th century, he began designing large blocks with retail space on the first floor and offices or halls above. Stylistically, the buildings were beginning to show an awareness of current trends and fashions.

The original design drawings for the Lamb Block in Livermore Falls are located in the George M. Coombs collection at Maine Historical Society in Portland. The drawings show that in May of 1895 Coombs designed a two story commercial block for the A.W. Stuart & Co. (See Figure 1) hardware store (owned by John F. Lamb and his son-in-law, A.W. Stuart). Drawings from that date include: elevations of all four sides of the building; plans for the basement, first floor, and second floor; framing plans for first floor, second floor, second floor ceiling, and roof; detail drawings for stone window sills, iron columns, and steel lintels. (Figures 1; 3-5; 7-13)

In August of 1895 a new front elevation shows a three story building (as it exists today). Also dated August 1895 is a design for two roof trusses, one 5' tall and the other 5'8" tall. (Figures 2 and 6) A September 1895 drawing details the doors and their moldings. (Figure 14)

The drawings appear to document that the building was originally intended to be a two story commercial block and that a third story was added before it was completed, probably during construction. This story was built to accommodate the Knights of Pythias Fraternal Hall. This would explain the need for the large trusses to span the open hall on the third floor and the interesting "attic story" visible on the façade (which accommodates the trusses). The absence of a third story plan or of side and rear elevations of the three story version of the building also suggest a change made during construction, with no time for any more than the most essential drawings. It seems likely the third floor was simply divided into two or three large spaces for its use as a fraternal hall.

In 1896, Coombs began the firm of Coombs, Gibbs & Wilkinson with Eugene J. Gibbs and Harry C. Wilkinson. With his designs for the Lamb Block created in 1895, Coombs saw the Lamb Block constructed before the formation of this firm. In the 1897 Sharaf Block, Coombs' firm clearly uses the same design vocabulary as the Lamb Block. The fires in Livermore Falls

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

in 1898 and 1899 provided the opportunity to replace the buildings in masonry and Coombs' firm was hired to design several new commercial buildings including Ham Block, A.W. Stuart Block, and the Whitman Block. His firm also redesigned the Sharaf Building after it burned in 1910, after his death. While the Lamb Block embodied the double front building, other Coombs structures in Livermore Falls focused more on the commercial first floor. The Whitman Block and Ham Block were designed primarily for the commercial purpose they accommodated. The Sharaf building was designed to accommodate the Post Office, retail spaces, professional offices, meeting halls, court rooms, and opera house. Utilizing a similar pattern seen in the Lamb Block, but on a larger scale and including more community-oriented purposes, the Sharaf building advanced this model. This shift in design may be attributed to Coombs' partners, specifically Harry Wilkinson, who contributed to the Italian Renaissance style commercial blocks by the firm. The Sharaf, Ham, and Whitman Blocks in Livermore Falls include this Renaissance-inspired design.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)

Development of Livermore Falls

The area that now includes Livermore and Livermore Falls was settled in the 1770s and first called Port Royal. The town of Livermore was incorporated in 1795 with land spanning both sides of the Androscoggin River in both Kennebec and Oxford counties. East Livermore was incorporated in 1844 and was included in the new county of Androscoggin. The small town eventually became known as Livermore Falls Village. In the early 19th century, most of the land was farmland until lumber and logging began to take hold as an industry. By the late 1800s, the lumber industry expanded the village with the construction of mills.¹¹ The larger mills were made possible by the arrival of the railroad, which made it possible to transport mill output in bulk. This had not been possible earlier because the Androscoggin River was not navigable above the falls in Brunswick, Maine.

In 1852 Livermore Falls welcomed the first train on the Androscoggin Railroad and an existing lane was extended to reach the new railroad depot and was named Depot Street. Subsequently, the town prospered and expanded with new mills and commercial development in the downtown area. Population grew by 25% over the next eight years and new businesses opened and expanded in the downtown, occupying new wood-framed commercial buildings.

The introduction of the railroad brought prosperity to the small village. The influx of population led to the construction of new commercial and public buildings. This is the time that what eventually became the Roccomeka Hotel was constructed from a former house on Main Street, retail shops moved to the west side of Main Street and new businesses came to Depot Street. As this center of town grew and expanded, the Third Baptist Church of Livermore even relocated to Church Street, closer to the area of increasing population.¹²

¹¹ Livermore Falls, Maine, "Town History, A Brief History of the Town of Livermore Falls." Accessed April 11, 2012.
<http://livermorefallsmaine.org/history.html>.

¹² Sturtevant, 97.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

According to the *Maine Register* of 1878, manufacturing was a prominent industry in Livermore Falls. The industry included leatherboard, clothing, clocks, furniture, harnesses, shoes, plows, shingles, lumber and boxes, carriages, and pill boxes. In addition tailors, a tinsmith, and a saw mill were in operation in the village.¹³

Between 1895 and 1899, Livermore Falls was transformed from a small village to a town ready to enter the 20th century. "The destruction by flood of the old, wooden, covered bridge and its replacement by a modern steel suspension bridge; the two conflagrations which, together, swept away all of the business section as it existed before, to be succeeded by larger, substantial masonry structures; the establishment of a bank; the introduction of electric light and power; the building of a municipal water supply system; all took place in that five year period."¹⁴ The change came fast, but important members of the community, such as John F. Lamb, helped guide the progress and ensure the success of progress in Livermore Falls.

John F. Lamb

John F. Lamb was an important figure in the history of Livermore Falls and of Androscoggin County. He was born in Clinton, Maine in 1843, where his father, James, was a farmer. In 1880, Lamb moved to Livermore Falls where he established a hardware, plumbing, and heating business. *The Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual for the Year 1883-84* lists him as a merchant of stoves, hardware, paints, hides, sheepskins, and oils and an 1887 publication lists him as a merchant of stoves, tin, hardware, and crockery. The 1883-84 Year-Book also lists Lamb as a Deputy Sheriff for Androscoggin County. During this time, Lamb lived in a two-story home at the corner of Depot and Main Streets and was very active in the community. In Sprague's *Journal of Maine's History*, Lamb is described as "a man of intelligence and progressive instincts as a citizen." Lamb was also a charter member and officer of the Livermore Falls Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 83, also organized in 1881. Both the Odd Fellows and the GAR had their meeting halls in a neighboring building east of the Lamb Block.

In 1885, Lamb's son-in-law, William A. Stuart, became involved in Lamb's hardware business and took it over under the name of W.A. Stuart Company after Lamb was elected Androscoggin County Sheriff. This company is cited as one of the three major players in the town's development at the turn of the century in Sturtevant's history. Lamb owned the three-story brick block at 10 Depot Street where Mr. Stuart had his hardware business.

"The Sign of John F. Lamb" by Amasa Alden, 1887¹⁵

'Tis just beyond the store of Ham,
Is seen the sign of John F. Lamb,
Dressed out like queen in velvet gown,

¹³ Ibid. 121.

¹⁴ Ibid. 160.

¹⁵ Alden, Amasa, *Poems*, (Record Job Printing Office, 1887). 62.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

The pride and beauty of the town.

One need not search that sign to greet,
'Tis seen the length of Depot Street,
From Androscoggin's western shore,
'Tis seen for half a mile or more.

It covers up no secret tale,
It shows just what Lamb keeps for sale,
No cider, rum, or wine, or beer,
Nor yet Jamaica ginger here.

When strangers come into the place,
This sign will stare them in the face,
No matter whether far of nigh,
This sign will show them where to buy.

'Tis by this sign the tools are found,
Of every name to till the ground,
Scythes, rakes and pitch-forks, shovels and
 hoes,
Plows, harrow teeth, and iron crows.

Oil, paints and varnish, or the best,
All warrented to stand the test,
And articles I cannot name,
That sign will show you all the same.

It say to everyone on earth,
'Tis here you get your money's worth,
No double prices here are meant,
To gull the people of a cent.

Now everyone who wants to buy,
Just call, the goods and prices try,
All fare alike, one as another,
John Lamb will use you like a brother.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Coombs Brothers (Lewiston, Maine) Architectural Drawings. 1874-1958, Collection 239. Maine Historical Society Special Collections. Portland, Maine.

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Eddy, Mary Baker, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, . *The Christian Science Journal*. Vol. 17., April (1899). P. IX.

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Merrill, Georgia Drew. *History of Androscoggin County, Maine*. Boston, MA: W. A. Fergusson & Co., 1891.

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LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York, NY: Penguin Books USA, Inc., 1980.

Sanborn Maps: 1885, 1892, 1897, 1903, 1908, 1917, 1927, 1940, 1962.

Sturtevant, Reginald H. *A History of Livermore*. Lewiston, ME: Twin City Printery, 1970.

Sun Journal (Lewiston):

Briggs, Cora. "Members remember Old Buildings." March 12, 2003.

"Livermore Falls library much older than building." October 20, 1994.

Briggs, Cora. "Rebekahs plant tree at gazebo site." June 12, 1990.

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 #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☒ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 405414 | Northing: 4924818 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the Lamb Block at 10 Depot Street in Livermore Falls, Maine follows the building's footprint beginning with the side facing Depot Street aligned to the sidewalk. The boundary continues around each side of the building. The boundary does not include the one story building abutting the Lamb Block on the east side.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary above was selected to include the Lamb Block building. The remainder of the property is not included as it retains no historical significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Matthew Corbett
organization: Sutherland Conservation & Consulting
street & number: 295 Water Street, Suite 209
city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04330
e-mail: mattcorbett@sutherlandcc.net
telephone: (207) 242-4727
date: April 2012

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Lamb Block

City or Vicinity: Livermore Falls

County: Androscoggin

State: Maine

Photographer: Sutherland Conservation & Consulting

Date Photographed: 5 April 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0001.TIF
Lamb Block, looking northwest at south façade and east elevation with non-contributing one-story connector building. |
| 2 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0002.TIF
Lamb Block, looking north at south façade. |
| 3 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0003.TIF
Lamb Block, looking southwest at north (rear) and east elevations. |
| 4 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0004.TIF
Detail view looking north at attic windows and detailed cornice on front façade. |
| 5 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0005.TIF
Detail view looking north at bay window on second story front façade. |
| 6 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0006.TIF
Looking north at interior second floor corridor in Lamb Block. |
| 7 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0007.TIF |

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Looking north at stair to third floor in Lamb Block.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 8 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0008.TIF
Detail of original interior door with continuous chair rail on third floor of Lamb Block. |
| 9 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0009.TIF
Detail of original hardware on third floor of Lamb Block. |
| 10 of 10 | MAINE_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_LAMB BLOCK_0010.TIF
Detail of cast iron ventilation grill on third floor of Lamb Block. |

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

Figures

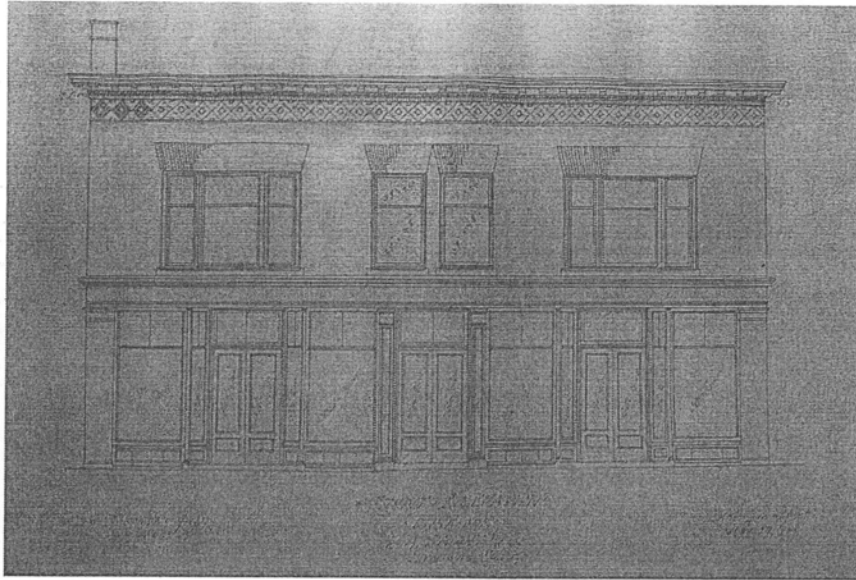


Figure 1: Two-story version of Lamb Block, drawing dated May, 1895.

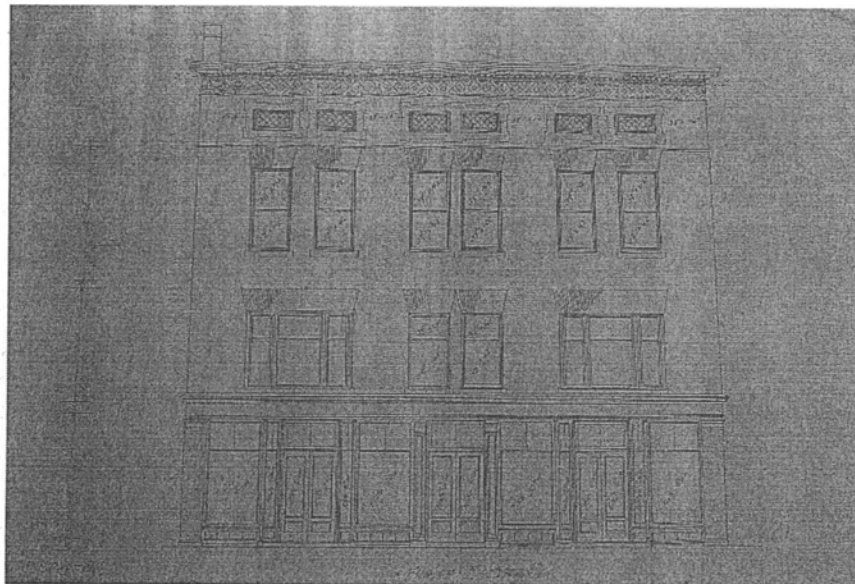


Figure 2: Three-story version of Lamb Block, drawing dated August, 1895.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

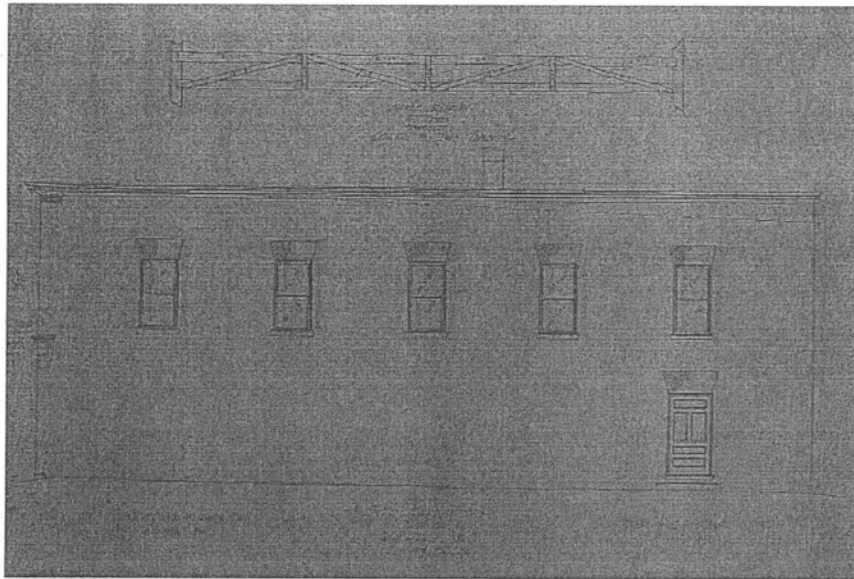


Figure 3: East side elevation, two-story version of Lamb Block, drawing dated May 1895.

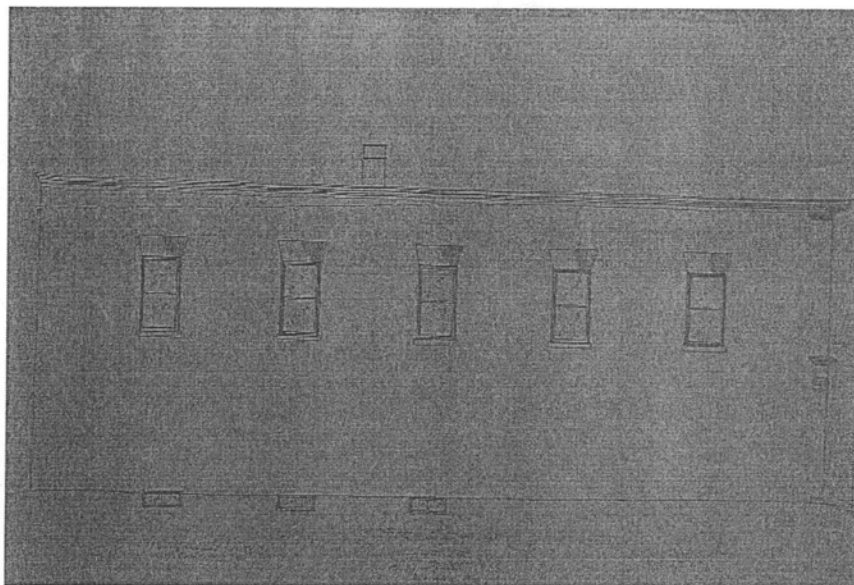


Figure 4: West side elevation, two-story version of Lamb Block, drawing date May 1895.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

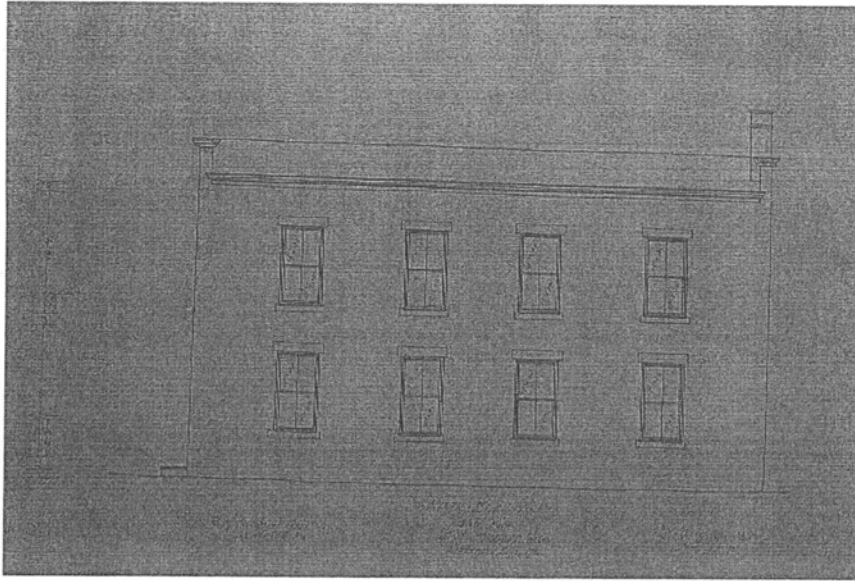


Figure 5: West elevation, two-story version of Lamb Block, drawing dated May 1895.

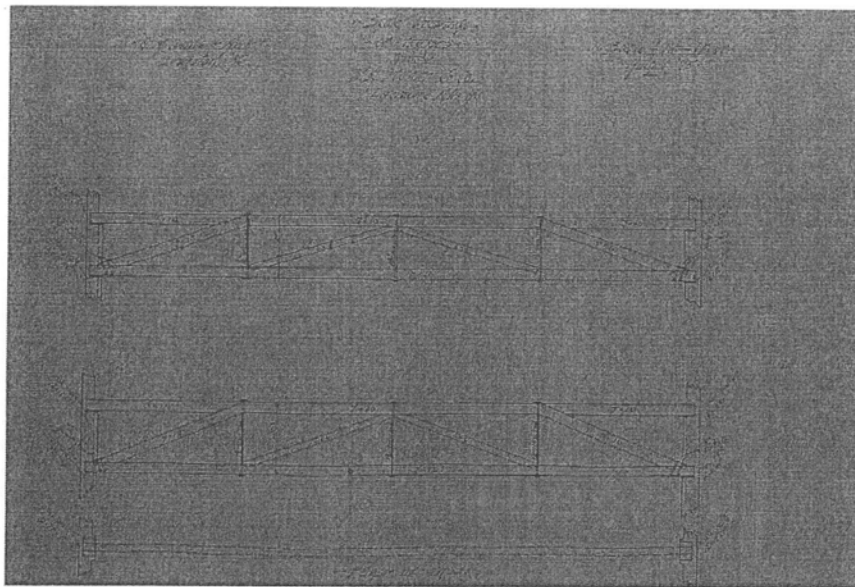


Figure 6: Truss design for Lamb Block, drawing dated August, 1895.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

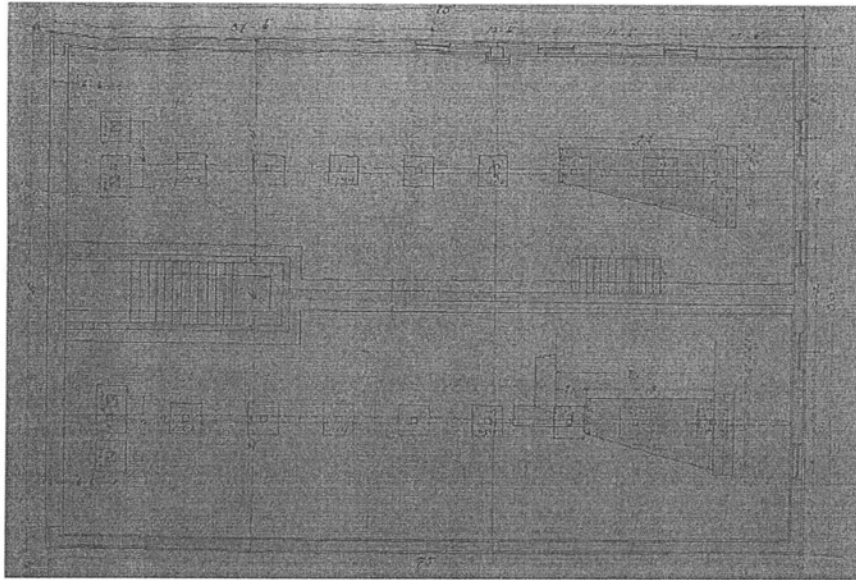


Figure 7: Foundation plan for Lamb Block, drawing dated May 1895.

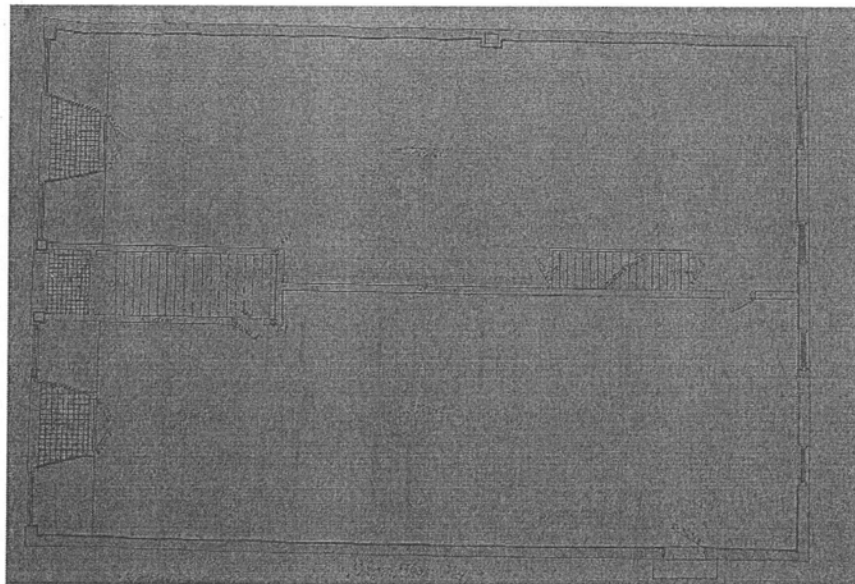


Figure 8: Foundation plan for Lamb Block, drawing dated May 1895.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

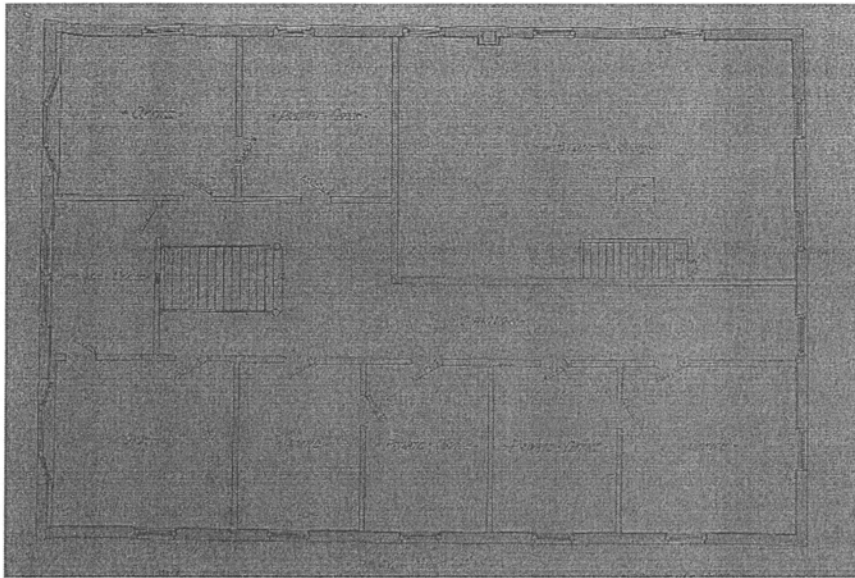


Figure 9: Second story plan for Lamb Block, drawing dated May 1895 (before stairs to third story were added).

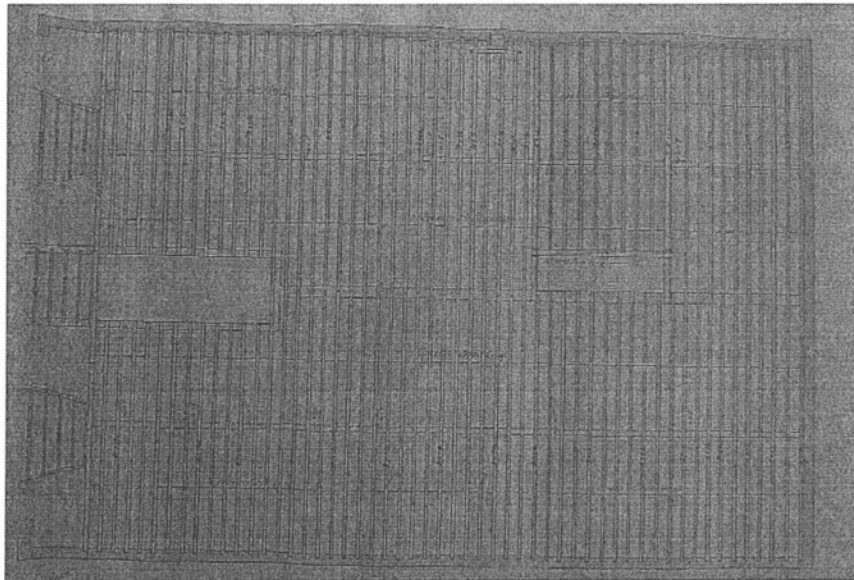


Figure 10: First story framing plan for Lamb Block, drawing dated May, 1895.

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

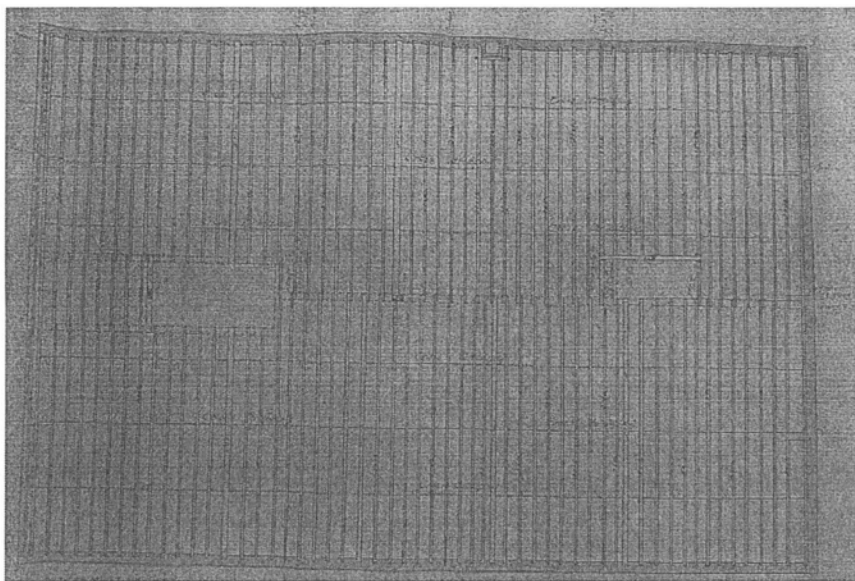


Figure 11: Second story framing plan for Lamb Block, drawing dated May, 1895.

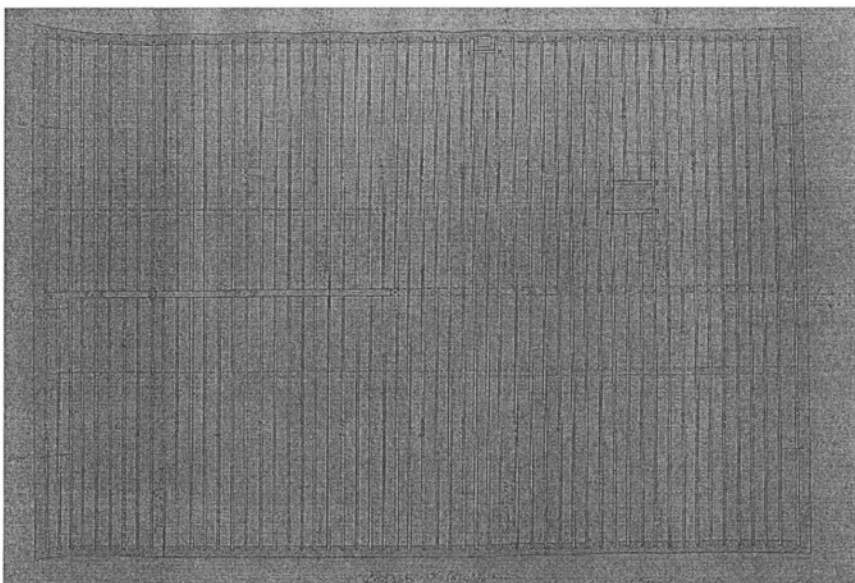


Figure 12: Second story ceiling framing plan for Lamb Block, drawing dated May 1895 (before stair to third story was added).

LAMB BLOCK

Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

County and State

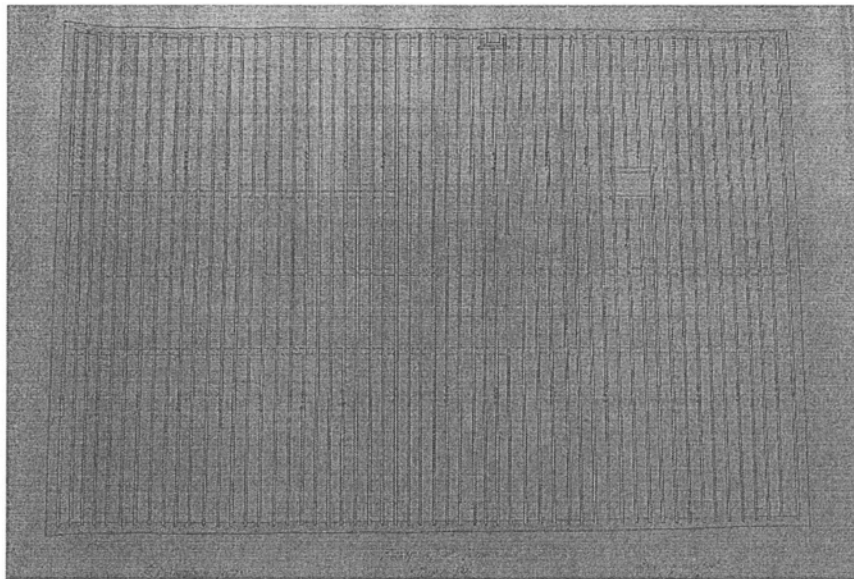


Figure 13: Roof framing plan for Lamb Block, drawing dated May, 1895.

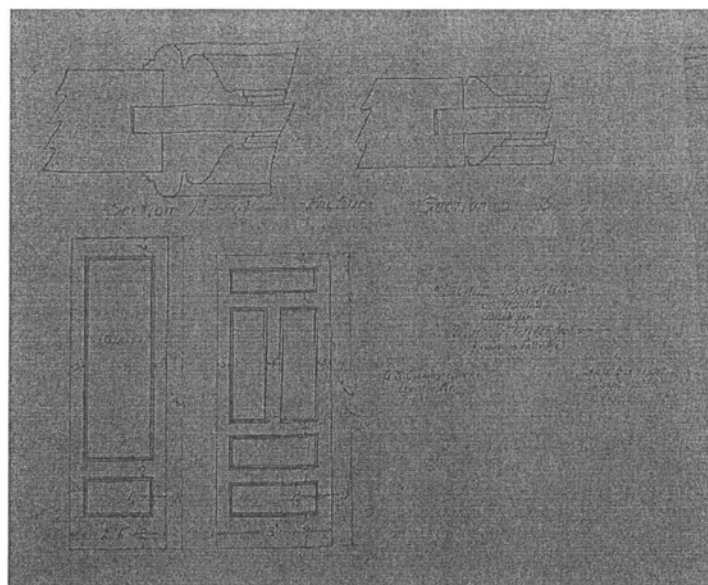


Figure 14: Detail showing original door designs for Lamb Block, drawing dated September, 1895.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Lamb Block
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Androscoggin

DATE RECEIVED: 9/14/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/15/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/30/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/31/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000891

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10/31/12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*nice, simple nomination for a commercial
bldg. sign under architecture. Constructed
1898. Architect Jos. Combs.*

RECOM./CRITERIA C

REVIEWER Lisabelline

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 10/31/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



LAMB BLOCK; ANDROSCOGGIN Co., ME



LAMB BLOCK; ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME



LAMB BLOCK; ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME



LAMB BLOCK ; ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME



LAMB BLOCK; ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME



LAMB BLOCK; ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME



LAMB BLOCK; ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME

F0F10

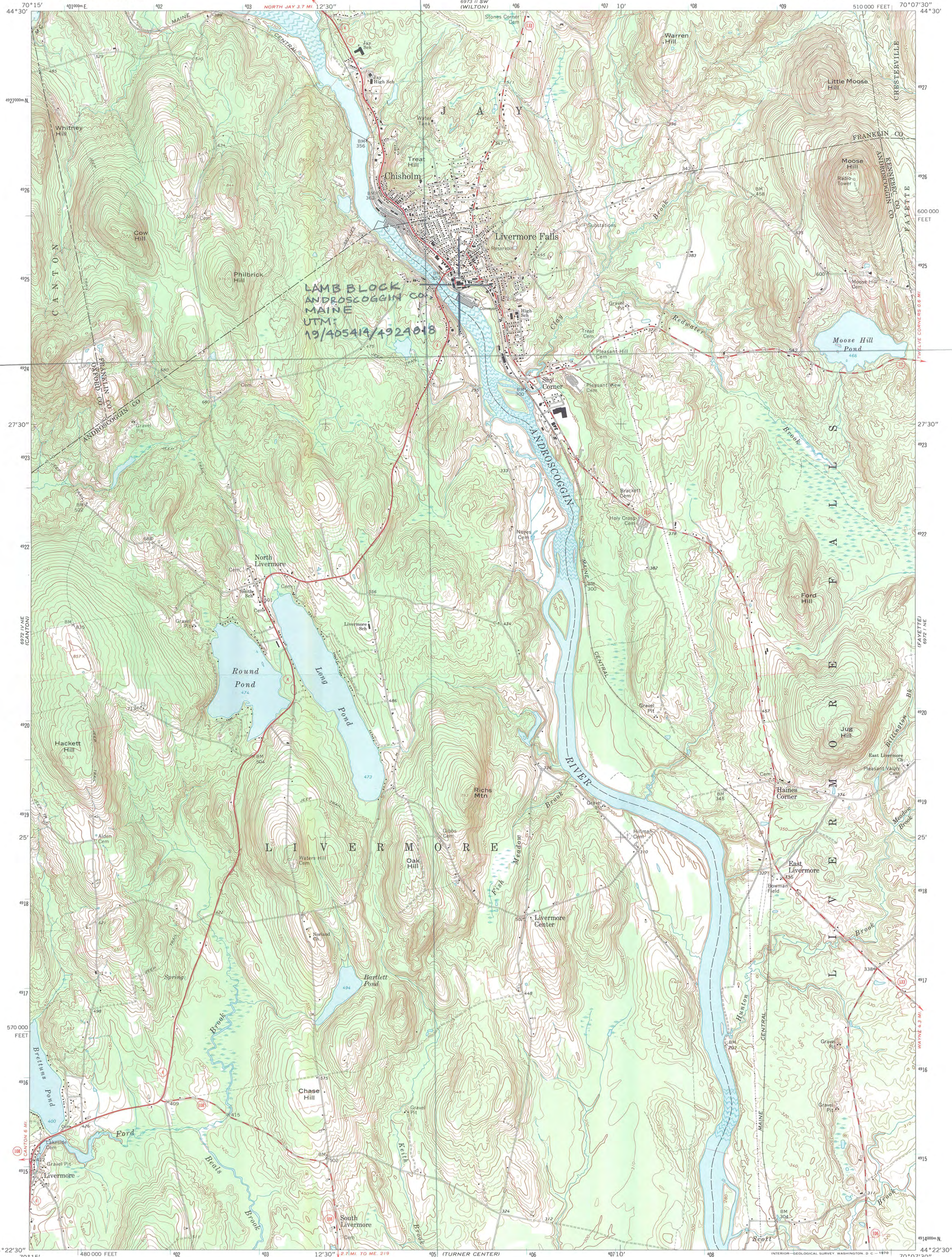


LAMB BLOCK; ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME

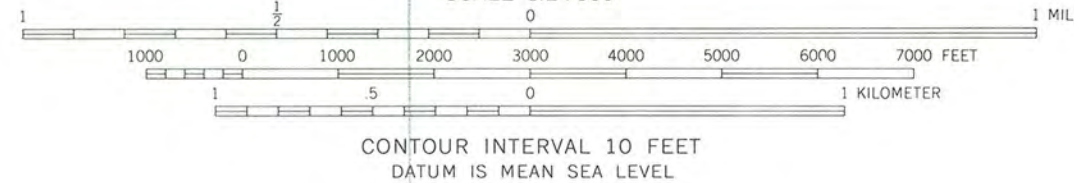
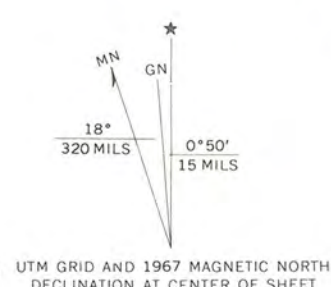
80F10







Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maine coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,
shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

LIVERMORE FALLS, MAINE
NW/4 LIVERMORE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4422.5—W7007.5/7.5

1967

AMS 6972 1 NW-SERIES V811

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20542
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333



EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

7 September 2012

Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,
Washington D.C. 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find four (4) new National Register nominations for individual properties, and one (1) Additional Documentation nomination for an already listed historic district, all in the State of Maine:

Gerald Hotel, Somerset County
Lamb Block, Androscoggin County
Free Baptist Church of Great Pond, Hancock County
Androscoggin Yacht Club, Kennebec County
Wiscasset Historic District Additional Documentation, Lincoln County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 787-2132 x 2.

Sincerely,

Christi A. Mitchell
Architectural Historian

Enc.