

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **MAR 17 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Pilsbury Block

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 200-210 Lisbon Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lewiston N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Androscoggin code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Levin Properties, Incorporated

street & number 298 Lincoln Street

city, town Boston (Allston), N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Auburn, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pilsbury Block is a three-storied, Italianate building sited at an important downtown intersection. The block extends for six bays on Lisbon Street, five on Pine, and rounds the street-corner with a narrow curve one bay wide.

Four of the building's seven or eight original storefronts--groupings of segmental indentations separated by columns--are substantially unchanged. Five spirally-scored wooden columns remain on Lisbon Street, and four with Corinthian capitals stand on Pine. Two storefronts on Lisbon have been altered in the last few decades.

The remainder of the building is entirely of brick, including all details from window moldings to cornice. The bays are separated by thin, slightly raised pilasters, linked near the cornice by shallow segmental arches. The corner bay is narrower than the rest, and its arch more rounded. One pair of segmentally arched windows stands in the second story of each bay and one pair of round arched windows in the third story. The only exceptions are an alteration of one of the middle bays on Lisbon Street, which has a single, broad, segmentally arched window on each floor, and the corner bay, which sports single windows on both floors. Less than half of the windows retain their original 7/4 arrangement of panes.

The walls are topped with three dentiled brick bands and a thin wooden cornice, all of which projects above the body of the building. The building's brick is of varying shades of red.

The main stairwell is located behind an entrance in the second bay on Lisbon Street. The upper portions of the building adjoining the stairwell contain hallways and apartments with period woodwork. The remainder of the interior has been extensively modernized. The building's rear wall faces an alley and is festooned with fire escapes.

The awning support on Lisbon Street which partially obscures the ground floor facade is not attached to the building but is an aberration resulting from downtown renewal efforts by the city.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870/73 **Builder/Architect** Jesse T. Stevens/Fassett & Stevens of Lewiston

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Erected in two stages (1870 and 1873), the Pilsbury Block is among Lewiston's earliest surviving commercial buildings, and a rare example of a transitional Italianate-Romanesque Revival work.

The corner section of the block was completed in 1870 from plans by Captain Jesse T. Stevens. The mason work was handled by the firm of Watson & Foss, and the carpentry by T. B. Norris (including, presumably, the remaining wooden columns between storefronts). The building hosted a number of stores on its ground floor, and either storage or office space above.

In 1873, a three-bayed addition was joined to the Lisbon Street elevation. Drawn by the short-lived Lewiston firm of Fassett & Stevens (Edward Fassett and William H. Stevens, not to be confused with the famous Portland firm of the same name), the addition exactly replicates the design of the original building, so that only with difficulty can today's observer perceive the block as two units. This would have been an easier task for an observer in 1873, for the addition then housed two banks (the People's Savings and Manufacturer's National) and its ground story was faced with granite.

Three-storied blocks with rounded corner bays were common in Maine commercial architecture from the 1830's onward, particularly during the antebellum Italianate period.* As a late example of the type, the Pilsbury Block shows the influence of the fledgling Romanesque Revival in features such as polychromatic brick, overlapping rows of brick dentils, and recessed, arched panels. The failure of the arches to truly connect, however, as well as the use of Italianate window cornices, bespeak hesitancy and/or naivete.

An element of awkwardness was added to the building by later, sometimes bizarre, window alterations. Changes on the Lisbon Street facade in particular, including the widening of cornices, replacement of double with single windows, etc., unfortunately interfere with the facade's rhythm. The majority of windows remain unaltered, but few contain their original glass.

*Similar to the Pilsbury Block are the Thorndike Hotel (1855) and Berry's Block (1856), both in Rockland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jane B. O'Halloran, Information Sheet.
Lewiston Evening Journal. June 6, July 8, 12, 13, November 15, December 8, 9, 1870.
June 16, July 2, 9, 12, October 11, November 24, 1873

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Lewiston

Quadrangle scale 1.24000

UMT References

A

1	9	4	02	5	90	4	8	82	9	80
Zone		Easting			Northing					

B

Zone		Easting			Northing					

C

Zone		Easting			Northing					

D

Zone		Easting			Northing					

E

Zone		Easting			Northing					

F

Zone		Easting			Northing					

G

Zone		Easting			Northing					

H

Zone		Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 18D, Lot 200-210 Lisbon Street

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date January, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eric S. Stettin*

title S.H.P.O. date 3/14/83

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
J. Wilson Byers
Keeper of the National Register
Entered in the National Register date 4/14/83
Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration