

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM:19 A 43820/4907130 B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Common name: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Historic name: Williams Block
- 3. Street or rural address: 183-187 Water Street  
City Augusta Zip 04330 County Kennebec
- 4. Parcel number: Map 34 Lots 26, 27, 28
- 5. Present Owner: See below Address: See below  
City Augusta Zip Maine 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:

Constructed of brick and three stories high, these Italianate style structures were built as a block of three stores. The entire principal facade is unified by brick pilasters supporting a bracketed cornice and round arched windows with decorative metal caps. The windows are double hung sash, except for the large plate glass window above 187. Water Street. Only the third story windows in this block retain the original small pane lights. Similarly, only the original first floor cast iron pieces and cornice survive at the shop-front level, although 185 Water Street has turn of the century transom lights.

Attach Photo(s) Here

See photo No. 1

- 8. Construction date:  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1862
- 9. Architect Francis H. Fasset  
Portland
- 10. Builder \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_  
or approx. acreage 1/4 acre
- 12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
12/85

183: Bruce & Carolyn Meyer, 183 Water St. Augusta, ME 04330  
 185: John C. Kelley, 185 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04330  
 187: Edward C. Gall, 111 Genneston Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good ~~XXX~~ Fair \_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_
14. Alterations: Shopfronts altered with a variety of modern materials, Window caps lost for 183 Water Street.
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_ Densely built-up X  
Residential \_\_\_ Industrial \_\_\_ Commercial X Other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Threats to site: None known X Private development \_\_\_ Zoning \_\_\_ Vandalism \_\_\_  
Public Works project \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? \_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_
18. Related features: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SIGNIFICANCE

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

This building is locally significant as the last remaining commercial structure south of Bridge Street which escaped the terrible 1865 fire. Designed by Maine's leading architect, Francis Fassett, this block was built by Ruel Williams, one of the most important citizens Augusta produced in the nineteenth century. Williams built this block the year he died, after having served the State of Maine and the City of Augusta in a variety of capacities, public and private. Fassett, who designed the Congregational Church in Augusta (NR), was also the architect of several other blocks in Augusta, all of which have been destroyed.

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

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

Maine Farmer(Augusta) Qpril 24, 1862; Nov. 6, 1882.  
The History of Augusta, Maine, Augusta, 1870, pp. 513-515

22. Date form prepared \_\_\_\_\_  
By (name) R. Reed  
Organization MHPC  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

↑ NORTH