

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

Lewiston Historical Commission - Dingley Building  
36 Oak Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Building Name(s): Odd Fellows Block Historic Odd Fellows Block
- 2. Principal Street Address: 182-190 Lisbon Street
- 3. Other Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Present Owner's Name: Jerome & Allyne Ross 5. Ownership: public private x
- 6. Owner's Address: 93 Hillcrest Ave., Auburn, Maine
- 7. Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Use: original Commercial/Social Hall 9. Accessibility to public:  
 present Commercial/Offices exterior visible from public road x  
vacant 3rd story interior accessible: (explain) Yes, access to street level store fronts and limited access to offices at upper stories.

Surveyor's Name: Leslie Chatterton Date: August 1984  
 Address: Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14350 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position: volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ professional consultant \_\_\_\_\_ intern x  
 other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION

- 10. Number of Stories 3 Bays 4 Attic ? Basement x
- 11. Structural wood frame, interlocking joints: \_\_\_\_\_ wood frame, light members: \_\_\_\_\_  
 System: masonry load bearing: x metal, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Photo \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Map \_\_\_\_\_

Average - 1/4

JUL 18 1985

DESCRIPTION

14. Building Roof: asphalt shingle\_\_\_ wood shingle\_\_\_ slate\_\_\_ concrete\_\_\_  
 Material: composition x metal\_\_\_ tile\_\_\_ other\_\_\_  
 Walls: wood x stone\_\_\_ cast iron\_\_\_ brick\_\_\_ stucco\_\_\_  
 other Granite trim and decorative details\_\_\_  
 Foundation: Stone and brick\_\_\_

15. Present excellent\_\_\_ good x fair\_\_\_ poor\_\_\_ deteriorated\_\_\_  
 Condition: explain fair or poor condition\_\_\_

16. Integrity: original site: yes x no\_\_\_ if moved, when\_\_\_

list major alterations, dates and designers (if known): Major alteration is limited to street level store fronts, where a disparate assortment of sheathing materials such as artificial brick, wood sheathing and plastic panels cover original facade materials and obscure the original granite post and lintel store front.

17. Threats to none x zoning\_\_\_ roads\_\_\_ developers\_\_\_ deterioration\_\_\_  
 Building: other\_\_\_

18. Related barn\_\_\_ carriage house\_\_\_ garage\_\_\_ privy\_\_\_ shed\_\_\_ shop\_\_\_  
 Outbuildings: landscape features\_\_\_  
 other\_\_\_

19. Surroundings: can check more than one, open land\_\_\_ woodland\_\_\_ industrial\_\_\_  
 densely built-up x commercial x scattered buildings\_\_\_  
 residential\_\_\_ other\_\_\_

20. Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings: The size, set back, building material and style of this structure are consistent with other large, brick, commercial blocks on Lisbon Street. It is a contributing component of the nineteenth century character of the commercial area and is one of four structures that create a strong visual facade rhythm on this section of Lisbon Street, north of the intersection with Pine.

DESCRIPTION

21. Other Notable Features of Building and Site, include Interior Features if known: Victorian Gothic features of th massive, flat roofed red brick, commercial block include pointed-arch windows, and window surrounds, highlighted with contrasting granite blocks.

The exterior wall is divided into four recessed sections of unequal widths, terminating above the third story in segmental, depressed shoulder arches and a corbel table. Bays are separated by projecting brick-strip pilasters with granite bases and capitals. Inset granite blocks delineate the second and third stories. At the second story, nine pointed-arch windows contain two over one, double-hung, wood sash glazing. Window surrounds are thick bands of alternating granite blocks and brick, with granite impost blocks in between.

The facade is further embellished with inset, granite, diamond shaped ornamentation outlined with projecting brickwork between the second and third stories. An inset granite block with relief lettering depicts name "Odd Fellows Block."

Five large wood consoles positioned above pilasters, with smaller brackets in between, support a projecting wood cornice.

A projecting granite crown above display windows separates store fronts from the upper stories.

The interior of #182 retains many original fixtures including wood display counter and upper shelving enriched with moldings and crown, stamped metal ceiling and a second level gallery, projecting one third the length of the shop, supported on massive embellished wood corbels and featuring a wide dark woodwork surround.

SIGNIFICANCE

22. Date of Initial Construction: 1876

23. Architect: Stevens and Coombs Address: Savings Bank Block, Lewiston  
T.D. Thorne, brickwork

24. Builder: A.W. Smith, carpentry Address: \_\_\_\_\_

25. Historical and Architectural Importance: The Odd Fellows Block retains many facade features dating from original construction, and offers a valuable depiction of the early architectural character of Lisbon Street. The hall of the Odd Fellows Block has accommodated many of Lewiston's social, cultural and service organizations, including: The Women's Christian Temperance Union, the U. C. of G. C. Androscoggin Commandery, and the Knights of Honor. Plans for this structure were prepared by the local architectural firm of Stevens and Coombs. Brother of builder, Captain Jesse Stevens, William Stevens is particularly noted for his designs for mill machinery and his capability as a hydraulic engineer. G. M. Coombs was a partner in Steven's firm from 1874 until Stevens death in 1880. This was the start of Coombs' exceptionally prolific career in Lewiston. (See separate notes on Coombs.)

26. Sources:  
Tax assessment records, Assessor's Office, City Building, Lewiston. *Fogler*  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, on reposit at University of Maine at Orono, *Library,*  
Special Collections.  
\*Lewiston Evening Journal, May 3, 8, 26, 30; June 2, 10, 17; September 16.

JUL 18 1985

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

UTM:19A 402580/4883000 B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. Common name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Historic name: Odd Fellows Block
3. Street or rural address: 182-190 Lisbon Street  
City Lewiston Zip 04240 County Androscoggin
4. Parcel number: Map 23B Lot 182-190
5. Present Owner: Jerome & Allyne Ross, Phyllis Ross-Schleff Address: 93 Hillcrest Ave.  
City Auburn Zip 04210 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: Commercial

**DESCRIPTION**

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

Three story brick commercial structure with stone and wood trim. The upper stories of the principal facade features pilasters with granite caps, pointed arched windows with alternating granite and brick voussoirs, granite sills and name block, wooden cornice supported on brackets. Above the second story windows are stone and brick diamond panels. The storefront has original brick piers and lintels, but the shops above been modernized with a variety of metal, plate glass, wood and false brick elements. The windows consist of two over two double hung sash.

Attach Photo(s) Here

8. Construction date: Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1876
9. Architect Stevens & Coombs,  
Lewiston
10. Builder \_\_\_\_\_
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_  
or approx. acreage 1/4 acre
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
4/85

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good  Fair \_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_
14. Alterations: Shopfront altered with modern materials
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 building is architecturally significant as the most important surviving example of commercial architecture by the partnership of William H. Stevens and George Coombs, which lasted from 1874 until Stevens' death in 1880. Coombs went on to create one of the largest practices in Maine. The Odd Fellows Block is locally outstanding example of polychromatic Victorian commercial architecture. Historically the building is important as the location of several fraternal organizations. In addition to the Odd Fellows, the upper floor hall was used by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the U.O. of G.C. Androscoggin Commander, and the Knights of Honor.

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).  
Lewiston Evening Journal May 3, 8, 26, 30;  
June 2, 10, 17; Sept. 16, 1876.

22. Date form prepared 12/85  
 By (name) Roger Reed  
 Organization MHPC  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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