

CME NO. 1024-0015
EXP. 12/31/04

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received NOV 29 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Androscoggin County Court House and Jail
and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2 Turner Street N/A not for publication
city, town Auburn, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Androscoggin County
street & number 2 Turner Street
city, town Auburn, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04210

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 Maine Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1976 federal state county local
depository for survey records Maine Historic preservation Commission
city, town Augusta, state Maine

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Designed in a Renaissance Revival style, the Androscoggin County Courthouse and Jail is a large two-story structure built in a modified H-shaped plan. The main section consists of the courthouse itself, which forms the south half of the "H". It is rectangular with the main entrance on the narrow east end. A steeply pitched hipped roof and octagonal clock tower distinguishes the courthouse from the rest of the complex. Extending perpendicularly from the north side is a two-story wing with a flat roof. This in turn is joined to the jail, a smaller hipped roofed structure whose entrance is also on the narrow east facade.

The entire complex is constructed of brick and rests on a high stone basement of ashlar blocks. The windows are round arched six-over-six or nine-over-nine double-hung sash recessed between brick pilasters linked by a corbelled cornice. In the center section linking the courthouse with the jail the first story pilasters form a blind arcade. Other distinguishing features of the building include the round arched portico over the main entrance and the decorative wood balcony on the south facade of the courthouse.

A two-story wing added to the west end of the courthouse, circa 1915-1920, repeats the Renaissance styling of the original building. This section includes a staircase crowned with a highly distinctive ornament designed in a Palladian motif. On the north end of the jail is a more recent one-story brick addition. These new cell blocks are non-contributing.

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

Specific dates 1857 **Builder/Architect** Albert Currier/Gridley J. F. Bryant

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This impressive landmark on Auburn's main street is a finely detailed Renaissance Revival structure which has the added distinction of having been designed by Gridley J. F. Bryant, a distinguished Boston architect who designed a number of Maine's important buildings. The erection of this structure also marks the culmination of the long struggle to establish Androscoggin County as a new county made up of towns from four adjoining counties.

Bryant, who was a major New England designer in the mid-19th century, specialized in public and insitutional buildings. Born in Boston, he first worked in the office of the well-known architect, Alexander Parris, and established his own practice in 1837. As one of the most prolific architects in the region, Bryant produced plans for major buildings as far away as San Francisco, where he designed the United States Custom House. Another major work of his was the Boston City Hall of 1860-62. Major buildings which he designed in Maine include the United States Custom House in Eastport (N.R.), the Kennebec County Jail in Augusta, the Knox County Courthouse in Rockland (N.R.), and Hathorn Hall (N.R.) at Bates College in Lewiston.

The controversy over the establishment of Androscoggin County was a stormy one and even more contentious was the question of the location of its shire town. When Auburn was finally selected in 1854, plans to erect the court house were hastened so that when it was completed in 1857 it stood as a symbol of the final settlement of the dispute.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Philoon, James E., Androscoggin County Birth. Article in "Le Messenger". July 18, 1970.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Lewiston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	9	4	0	1	7	7	1	0	4	1	8	8	1	3	2	1	4	1	0
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 8, Section 1, Parcel 52

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine

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 *Emilie S. Feltz*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/18/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Melrose Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Melrose Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/29/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date