

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 14 1987
date entered JUN 25 1987

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

1. Name

historic Union Hall

and or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Danforth _____ vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Washington code -029

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 type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Fraternal

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Danforth

street & number P.O. Box 17

city, town Danforth _____ vicinity of state Maine 04424

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Machias _____ state Maine 04654

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Union Hall in Danforth is a large two-story three-bay frame building sheathed in clapboards. Covered by a hip roof, the structure features a tall centrally placed clock tower which rises behind a handsome gable roofed porch. It rests on a granite foundation.

The building's symmetrically composed front (north) elevation is dominated by the square tower which projects slightly from the wall. Its first story is sheltered by a broad porch whose roof is supported by six chamfered square posts linked by a narrow lattice. Coupled posts are located at the front corners. Thin sawn brackets support the lattice while heavier brackets are positioned below the broad eaves and denticulated gable returns. A replacement two-leaf paneled door is located behind the porch. There are a pair of square Queen Anne style windows above the porch, one on the second story and a single twelve-over-twelve double hung sash window below the clock face. Narrow corner boards frame the tower up to a wide stringcourse at the base of the clock stage. Its four faces are set within a square frame covered with woodshingles. The clock stage is crowned by a louvered belfry and capped by a pyramidal roof and weathervane. Paneled square posts support the roof.

The tower is flanked, on the first story, by vertically paired eight-over-eight double hung sash windows separated by a narrow paneled spandrel. A molded stringcourse meets the lintel of the upper windows and carries around the building. A recessed two-story wing containing the stairs to the second floor is attached to the west side. Its shed roofed porch shelters a two-leaf door. Above it is a single eight-over-eight window and on the second story one twelve-over-twelve.

An asymmetrical fenestration pattern marks the building's long east side elevation. There are six eight-over-eight windows in the lower half of the first story, five of which are surmounted by an additional eight-over-eight window. Five twelve-over-twelve sash occupy the second story. A pair of hipped roof dormers with small eight-over-eight sash punctuate the tin roof.

On the west elevation the narrow wing occupies a portion of the northwest end. A pair of double hung sash are positioned on the first story of this wing and two small windows are located above. Flanking the wing to the south are two coupled eight-over-eight windows on the first story and the larger sash on the second level. The rear elevation has a single door on each story as well as a metal fire escape.

The interior of the hall, despite the alterations of modern paneling and ceiling tiles, retains its historic character. The front door opens into a vestibule. Two arches with bracketed imposts frame the opposing side staircases that rise to the gallery. Small ticket offices flank the arches, and a two-leaf paneled door framed by a molded surround with corner blocks opens off of the hall. The auditorium contains the gallery with a paneled parapet and balustrade which carries along three sides and a curved stage at its south end. Six eight-sided posts support the balcony and an equal number rise to the roof. The face of the stage is paneled and it is framed by a segmental arch decorated with a rope molding. Doors flank the stage and a wide pressed tin band rises above the sheathed wainscot. The gallery consists of a simple two-level wooden floor.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Fraternal
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1890 **Builder/Architect** Edwin E. Lewis, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Union Hall in Danforth is the most conspicuous landmark in this rural community located near the Washington and Aroostook county border. Rapidly approaching its one-hundred year anniversary, the handsome and relatively intact building continues to house a considerable share of the community's political, social and fraternal events. The structure's significance is further enhanced by the fact that it was designed by Edwin E. Lewis of Gardiner, a prolific late nineteenth and early twentieth century Maine architect whose commissions came from a wide geographic area in Maine and portions of New England.

Although local tradition is at odds as to the exact date that Union Hall was built, a contemporary newspaper account in the Gardiner Home Journal reveals that Lewis did not commence work on the plans until 1890.¹ The hall was constructed under the auspices of the Union Hall Corporation which in 1890 received a deed to the property on which the building stands from the town of Danforth.² Upon completion the building was put into service as a public hall complete with an auditorium.

Danforth in 1890-91 had a total voting population of 269 persons. Located astride a branch of the Maine Central Railroad, it had no fewer than eight general merchants and a number of small scale manufactories.³ Local historians indicate that the upper floor of Union Hall was acquired in 1906 by the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges. The Masons continue to occupy this portion of the building whereas the community utilizes the auditorium for town meetings and annual theatrical productions.

Edwin E. Lewis (1846-1928) was born in Cornish, New Hampshire, however the details about his early years and any professional training he may have received have not as yet been uncovered. According to his obituary Lewis moved to Gardiner in 1875.⁴ During the 1880s and 1890s he designed some 60 buildings including a wide variety of residential, commercial and governmental structures.⁵ Lewis' Commissions were obtained throughout the state including, as in the case of Union Hall, small rural communities, a fact which distinguishes his career somewhat from those of many of his contemporaries. On at least two occasions his clients were in points as distant as Boston and Newport, Rhode Island.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Love, Wilbur J. History of Danforth, Maine. N.D., N.P.
Edwin E. Lewis file, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Danforth, Maine

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

1	9	5	8	8	2	6	0	5	0	5	6	4	5	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

The nominated property is contained within the boundary as drawn on the Town of Danforth Tax Map 27, Lot 52.

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 Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April 14, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

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 *E. S. Fitzwood*

title S.H.P.O. date 5/8/87

For NPS use only

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

Natuck Andrus

date 6/25/87

Keeper of the National Register

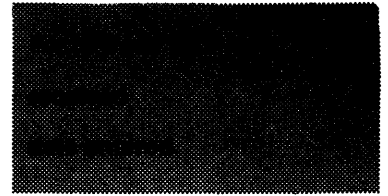
Attest: *Beth L. Savage*

date 6/25/87

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Union Hall

Item number 8

Page 2

ENDNOTES

1. Gardiner Home Journal, May 28, 1890.
2. Wilbur J. Love, History of Danforth, Maine, N.D, N.P.
3. Maine Register or State Year-Book and Legislative Manual (Portland: G.M. Donham, 1891), p. 722.
4. Kennebec Journal (Augusta), December 7, 1928.
5. The known list of Lewis' commissions is on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.