

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM:19 A 402690/488740 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Bergin Block
3. Street or rural address: 330 Lisbon Street
City Lewiston Zip 04240 County Androscoggin
4. Parcel number: Map 18D Lot 330
5. Present Owner: Julius Wise Address: 330 Lisbon Street
City Lewiston Zip 04240 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: Commercial

DESCRIPTION

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

Standing four stories high at the corner of Lisbon and Spruce Streets, the Bergin Block is constructed of brick with stone and metal trim. The two principal elevations (west and south) have yellow brick facing and square headed windows with one over one double hung sash. The flat arched lintels, pilasters and metal cornice supported on brackets are neo-classical features. The cornice has a large round arched pediment with scroll-shaped cresting. The name and date of the building is in relief in the pediment. The first story is, like the upper stories, unaltered. A shopfront with cast iron pilasters and wooden and glass display windows and a doorway to the upper floors extends around the elevations. The interior of the store contains original metal ceiling, tile floor and hardware.

Attach Photo(s) Here

8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1912
9. Architect unknown
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage $\frac{1}{4}$ acre
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
4/85

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good X Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: _____
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up X
 Residential ___ Industrial X 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 architecturally important for its remarkably unaltered character and distinctive design, once typical of many structures on Lisbon Street. Historically it is important as the site of the Bergin Tavern, one of the most famous taverns in Maine in its day.

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

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

Interview with owner, August, 1984

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

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

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

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Building Name(s): Historic Bergin Block
- 2. Principal Street Address: 330 Lisbon Street
- 3. Other Street Address: Spruce Street
- 4. Present Owner's Name: _____ 5. Ownership: public ___ private X
- 6. Owner's Address: _____
- 7. Original Owner: multiple
- 8. Use: original commercial/ residence 9. Accessibility to public:
 present same exterior visible from public road X
 interior accessible: (explain) yes, public access to streetlevel store.

Surveyor's Name: Leslie Chatterton Date: August 1984
 Address: Cornell University, Ithica NY 14350 Telephone: _____
 Position: volunteer ___ professional consultant ___ intern XX
 other, (explain) _____

DESCRIPTION

- 10. Number of Stories 4 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

DESCRIPTION

14. Building Roof: asphalt shingle___ wood shingle___ slate___ concrete___
Material: composition x metal___ tile___ other___
Walls: wood___ stone___ cast iron___ brick x stucco___
other orange brick cladding
Foundation: brick

15. Present excellent___ good x fair___ poor___ deteriorated___
Condition: explain fair or poor condition metal cornice is corroding

16. Integrity: original site: yes x no___ if moved, when___
list major alterations, dates and designers (if known):
No evidence of major alteration.

17. Threats to none x zoning___ roads___ developers___ deterioration___
Building: other___

18. Related none
barn___ carriage house___ garage___ privy___ shed___ shop___
Outbuildings: landscape features___
other___

19. Surroundings: can check more than one, open land___ woodland___ industrial x
densely built-up x commercial x scattered buildings___
residential___ other___

20. Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings:

The large size and elaborate cornice piece of this building are well suited to the corner location at the intersection of Spruce and Lisbon Streets. Further south, a modern bakery facility is followed by a streetscape of diverse buildings reflecting the mixed use character of the area. This is the last strong element of relatively continuous buildings depicting the commercial character on the east side of Lisbon Street.

DESCRIPTION

21. Other Notable Features of Building and Site, include Interior Features if known:

Classical style features of this sizeable, flat-roofed, light orange, brick clad block include a deep metal cornice with projecting arched pediment supported on oversized metal consoles enriched with relief acanthus foliage. Relief lettering on the tympanum depicts the name "Bergin Block, 1913." Surmounting and surrounding the pediment, the roofline is embellished with large molded rinceaus. Strip pilasters with granite bases and corbeled capitals, rise from above display windows to a brick corbel table over the fourth story windows. The regular fenestration pattern includes rectangular window openings with rock-faced granite sills and reticulated brick, flared lintels. Spandrel panels between floor levels are embellished with patterned brickwork.

The east iron storefront retains many original details including:

- o Square columns with paneled shafts supporting a substantial lintel with projecting cornice that separates the storefront from the upper stories.

-CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE-

SIGNIFICANCE

22. Date of Initial Construction: 1913

23. Architect: unknown Address: _____

24. Builder: unknown Address: _____

25. Historical and Architectural Importance:

This structure contributes to the architectural depiction of Lisbon Street's evolving commercial and residential character. Its facade exhibits a notable similarity to the nearby LaPlante building, (319 Lisbon Street). Common features include the light orange cladding brick, panels of patterned brickwork between floor levels, and the large, ornate metal cornice. These elements suggest the possibility of a common builder, contractor or architect.

The building originally accommodated the Bergin's tavern, reputed to be the finest north of Boston. It is attributed with the distinction of being the first tavern in Maine with the capability of pumping beer up to the streetlevel bar from barrels located in the cellar.

26. Sources:

Tax assessment records, Assessor's Office, City Bldg., Lewiston.

Deed research, Registry Department, Androscoggin County Bldg., Auburn.

Interview with present owner, Julius Wise, August 1984.

21. Notable Features.....cont'd

- o original storefront windows with wood sash and division bars, wood panels below and toplights above;
- o brick strip pilasters at the south facade streetlevel with prominent corbeled capitals supporting the lintel;
- o a recessed entry, elevated on a granite base, featuring a wood paneled ceiling and mosaic tile floor and original door with brass hardware.

The interior retains an original metal ceiling, with relief embellishment and mosaic-tiled floor.