

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 12 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

** Edward Little House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

217 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

VICINITY OF

2nd Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO other

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Home for

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Elderly

NAME

Mario J. DeAngelis

STREET & NUMBER

217 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

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

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward Little House is situated in downtown Auburn near the corner of Main and Vine Streets and faces east. When the house was erected in 1827, it overlooked the Androscoggin River; but more recent buildings block that view. The industrial community which Little sought to create has now dwarfed his home, the city's only remaining example of the Federal Style.

The Little House is two and a half stories high, forty feet wide and twenty feet deep. It is of frame construction and stands on a granite foundation. Originally sheathed in clapboards, the house is currently covered with asphalt shingles. Its gable roof is also done in asphalt shingles.

Over the central door is an elliptical fanlight, and at each side is a side light. From directly above the doorway projects the triangular pedimented roof of the original portico. Its two supporting columns have been replaced by square iron trellises. Two windows appear on each side of the doorway, and there are five windows across the second story facade. These windows are evenly spaced across the long facade. The current large paned windows once had a six-over-six treatment also occurred in the windows on the east and west or side walls.

Attached to the left of the main house is a two and a half story gable roofed ell, about sixty feet in length. This ell appears to have been built in two sections, each about thirty feet long. Some of the windows retain their original multi-paned arrangement, while most have been replaced by larger paned windows.

While the exterior of the Edward Little House has experienced some alteration, the interior is substantially intact and in a good state of preservation. The interior plan reflects the Federal Style symmetry of the period. The first and second stories each have a central hallway with a room on either side. The focal point of this hallway is a handsome curving staircase. On the first floor, a large dining room is located at the left of the hall, while a double parlor is found on the right. The second floor hallway is flanked on either side by a large bedroom.

The hallway area and all four rooms of the main house contain Federal Style wainscotting, window trim, doorway enframements, and doors. Each room has a working fireplace with a period mantelpiece. In the double parlor, an elaborate arched molding is located over the window on either side of the fireplace.

Despite its present exterior appearance, the Edward Little House has retained its early lines and many of its original features. With the proper commitment and funding, it has the potential to return to the Federal Period dignity which it enjoyed as the residence of Auburn's leading citizen.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1827

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house derives primary significance from its builder, Edward Little, one of the commanding figures in the development of the cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the surrounding area. Born in Newbury, Massachusetts, March 12, 1773, he came to Auburn (then part of the Town of Minot) in 1826, built this house, and there spent the last twenty-three years of his life.

Edward Little, was the son of Josiah Little, a wealthy merchant and land owner of Newbury who was the last clerk of the Pejepscot Company, which, since 1714, had held title to a vast tract of land in the lower Androscoggin River Valley running northward from Brunswick and Topsham. Josiah Little passed on to his son extensive holdings inherited from his father, Col. Moses Little, a distinguished Revolutionary soldier. These lands included, much of what eventually became the cities of Lewiston and Auburn as well as the towns of Greene, Leeds, Bland, Minot and Mechanic Falls.

Educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and Dartmouth College, where he took his degree in 1797, Edward Little studied law with Chief Justice Parsons of Newburyport and practised this profession for several years. He also served as County Attorney for Essex County, and representative to the Massachusetts Legislature for a number of sessions.

After the destruction of most of his property in Newburyport by a disastrous fire in 1811, Edward Little moved to Portland, Maine, where, for a time, he was engaged in the book trade. The responsibilities connected with his real estate ownership caused him to move in 1826 to Auburn where, in the following year, he built the house on Main Street.

For the remainder of his life Edward Little was profoundly influential in directing the character and growth of the new town. He gave the land for the first church, paid one-half the cost of the building and for some time provided for the ministry largely at his own expense. He established and endowed Lewiston Falls Academy which gained a high reputation in the state and, when later it became a public high school, it was named for him and his life sized statue was placed before the entrance.

He was the original owner of the water power which later gave rise to the busy manufacturing city of Lewiston and which he sold at low price to secure the introduction of outside capital for industrial development. He aided new industry to the extent of his power and held out inducements to attract the highest quality

(See continuation sheets)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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workers.

As much to Edward Little as to any other individual can be accorded the title of "father" to what is now one of Maine's most important urban centers.