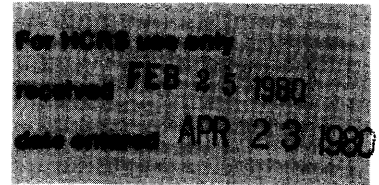


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Frank L. Dingley House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 291 Court Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Auburn \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maine code 23 county Androscoggin code 001

**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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 checked="" 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 Karlene Nelson

street & number 291 Court Street

city, town Auburn, \_\_\_ 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, \_\_\_ vicinity of state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

---

## 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**

The Frank L. Dingley House of Auburn, built in 1867, is a very impressive and well-preserved example of the Second Empire Style in a residential context. The 3-story house is of brick construction with a facade tower, Mansard form slated roof, two internal brick chimneys, and granite foundation.

The facade, which faces south-east, is dominated by an inset tower, square in plan. Fenestration here as elsewhere is varied, with a pair of 2/2 arched windows within a brick arch in the first story, single 1/1 below low arch in the second, arched 1/1 in the third, and circular windows at roof level. Ornate iron cresting tops the tower roof. In the house proper fenestration is 2/2, except for the half-story which contains arched dormers, and in a projecting first-story bay which contains 1/1 arched windows facing south-east.

One of the house's most distinctive features is a five-bay-long one-story porch which runs along the north-east side. This features a denticulated cornice supported by wooden posts. Viewed from the north-east, the two bays to the left are open, while the other three are closed, containing large 4/4 arched windows. Below the level of the porch floor are five 3-light casement within low brick arches.

A two-story ell with detail equivalent to that of the house extends from the rear of the house.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Journalism
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates                      1867                      Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This fine example of a high style Second Empire house in villa form was the home from its construction in 1867 until his death in 1918 of Frank L. Dingley, distinguished editor for 57 years of the Lewiston Evening Journal, Maine's second largest daily newspaper. Upon graduation from Bowdoin College in 1861, Dingley joined his brother Nelson, later to become a distinguished statesman, in founding the Journal as a daily (it had been a weekly publication since its founding in 1847). From small beginnings it grew rapidly under Frank Dingley's editorship into a highly respected newspaper. The Civil War accelerated newspaper production and Dingley was one of the first to make full use of the telegraph as a news gathering instrument. In the great era of personal journalism represented by giants like Horace Greeley, James Gordon Bennett and William Cullen Bryant, Dingley established his own reputation for fecundity of expression, zeal for righteousness, irrepressible uproarious humor and rapier-like wit, all coupled with boundless energy. As years passed he became the oldest-in-service of the major working newspaper editors in the United States. Under his guidance the Journal was constantly modernized and was the first newspaper in Maine to employ cylinder presses and construct a half-tone plant. In 1898 he "refounded" the Lewiston Journal with the construction of a large new building, installation of huge 28 page presses and linotype machines. His outside interests were many and included extensive foreign travel, yachting, and the development of a unique summer resort at Squirrel Island. He became deeply involved in speculative construction and built many houses in various parts of Lewiston and Auburn. A personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt, he was a strong supporter of the Progressive Party. He was an ardent patron of the arts and established a personal picture gallery of some importance. Always interested in science and invention, he was one of the first believers in and supporters of F. E. Stanley, developer of the famous steam automobile and dry photographic plate. The Dingley House, beyond its architectural merit, remains as a monument to a man of many parts and certainly Maine's most noted 19<sup>th</sup> century journalist.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Staples, Arthur Gray, Memorial to Frank Lambert Dingley. Lewiston, 1933.  
 Reprinted from Lewiston Evening Journal, September 23, 1918.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Quadrangle name Lewiston

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	9	4	0	1	3	2	10	4	18	8	13	3	10	10
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

Assessors Map 11-1, Parcel 114

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1980

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Earle S. Feltkowitz*

title S.H.P.O.

date 9/15/80

For HCRS use only

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

*for Bruce Van Duzend*

date 4/23/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

date 4/21/80

Chief of Registration