

PH0663174

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 15 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

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

The Engine House

AND/OR COMMON

Auburn Central Fire Station

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Court & Spring Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF

CODE

23

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE

001

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

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: None

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Nancy Lee

STREET & NUMBER

Maple Hill

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

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

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 Engine House in Auburn, built in 1879, is a two-story rectangular brick building with granite foundation and trim, a hipped roof (covered with asphalt shingles) and a bell tower.

The bell tower is square in plan with a pyramidal roof and detailing in the Stick style. There is a 2/2 window in each of its four sides.

A single internal brick chimney is present, rising above the hip roof. The cornice is bracketed in wood.

The principal facade faces north and is 4 bays wide. The first story contains 4 garage doors, evidently a feature far post-dating 1879. A granite panel between the first and second bays from the left contains the raised words "ENGINE HOUSE". The second story is unaltered and features a one, two, or three-part window in each bay. The bays are delineated by brick panels. The windows are 4/4 with granite lintels and sills. Above the lintels are decorative brick arches.

The west end of the building, although much shorter than the north and south walls, is also 4 bays wide, these bays divided into brick panels. These panels contain four 4/4 windows in the second story and, left to right, a 4/4 window, a single doorway, 4/4 window, and 4/4 arched window in the first story. The east elevation abuts another building. The south side is equivalent to the principal facade, except that there are no first-story garage doors.

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) Public Safety
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In July of 1849, the Lewiston Falls Village Corporation was chartered by legislature for the fire protection of the area citizens. Lewiston Falls comprised a small area of the present town of Lewiston, (built up section near North Bridge), then a part of Lincoln County. Auburn was north of Court Street and Danville was the area to the south. The three towns converged at the mid-point in the Falls and the original Firestation was located where the Mid-Maine Mutual Bank stands today. This location was the sight of the first Engine House housing Excelsior #2. The Village Corporation, under its charter, collected taxes from the property owners within the village corporation to operate and maintain Androscoggin and Excelsior #2 hand engines. This corporation was dissolved in 1856 and separate village corporations were formed.

The fire protection was then provided by the Auburn Village Corporation. In addition this corporation built reservoirs under the streets to collect the necessary water for the engines. On August 31, 1859, this corporation purchased a site at "the corner of Picard St. and the Road to Minot" (presently known as Spring Street and Court Street). They paid the Franklin Company \$300.00 and it is assumed they moved the Engine House up the hill to this new location, the present site. There is no record of why they moved it but it may be assumed that a hand drawn engine could better respond from the physical vantage point of a hilltop. On March 18, 1867 the town of Auburn purchased the Village Corp.

On September 15, 1870 the city of Auburn voted to buy an Amoskeag Steam Engine to be drawn by horses. This required a new building to be constructed on the Engine House lot. The original firehouse was demolished and records for November 12, 1870 show that the town appropriated \$6500.00 to build the Engine House to accommodate:

- Amoskeag Steam Engine-
- known as Auburn Co #1
- Hunneman Hand Engine
- known as Excelsior Co #2
- Two Hose reels

The horses, while stabled here, were the property of the Street Department and they responded to the fire alarm abandoning whatever town job they were engaged in. A Street Department employee designated was responsible for bringing the Steam Engine to the location of the fire, but did not engage in extinguishing the blaze.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elder, J.G., History of Lewiston. Lewiston 1892
 Records of Lewiston Falls Corporation
 Municipal Reports, City of Auburn; 1884, 1891, 1895, 1903
 Auburn Historical Committee, Auburn-100 Years a City. Auburn, 1968

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 401730 4883175
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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, 1978
 STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street TELEPHONE (207)-289-2133
 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 Earle S. Fretwell
 TITLE S.H.P.O. DATE 2/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: Walter Cole DATE 5-22-78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 5-15-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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This Engine House was destroyed by fire on December 7, 1878 probably by boys smoking hayseed in the stable section of the building. The record states the fire was discovered at 4 P.M. and the Engine House and 3 buildings on Spring and Court Streets were destroyed. Eleven months later and at a cost of \$8,410.93, the new brick Engine House was opened. It was patterned after the frame structure and is the present building. The equipment owned by the City of Auburn and maintained at the Engine House was stated to be

Hose Wagon & Horse
Hose reel & 2 horses
One Steamer and 2 horses
One Hook and Ladder truck

In 1891, the first full time fireman was appointed. His name is recorded in the City Auditor's report as William Bailey. In January of 1895, designated drivers of horses for the highway department were required to sleep in the Engine House and be paid an additional \$10.00 per month. Firemen were on call and paid only if there was a fire. Some of the call men did report at 8p.m. to the Engine House and they were called Sleepers, remaining there till 5 a.m. From 1890 to 1920 an 8 p.m. test signal sounded in both cities. When the bells rang in the Engine House, lights came on, horses stepped to the ready and the ~~w~~ing harnesses were fastened. People came each evening to observe the 8p.m. test.

In June of 1903 a Combination Hose and Chemical Wagon was purchased by the city of Auburn from the Combination Ladder Co. of Providence, R.I. for \$1917.00. The water in the tank contained bicarbonate of soda and sulphuric acid from a separate container was added to the main tank to create gas pressure to dispense the water. At this time, a second full time fireman was added along with a full time pair of horses. The Municipal Report of 1904 indicates that the firestation boasted:

One chemical wagon with 2 men &
2 horses full time.
Two hose wagons.
One Ladder truck.
One steam engine .

The report also noted that the call men petitioned the city council for a pay increase from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per year. It was not granted.

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The horse-drawn rig of 1903 was replaced by a motorized unit in 1914. The second motorized hose & chemical wagon was introduced in 1917, eliminating a horse-drawn hose unit. In 1923, two motorized pumping engines replaced the steam engine of 1870. The ladder truck became a motorized unit in 1927 and ended the use of horses.

The Engine House continued to be used as a fire station until 1971 since which date it has been used as a storage facility by the city until its recent purchase by a private owner. The building represents a special part of Auburn history and is well documented by photographs and records.

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The Auburn Engine House is architecturally significant as being one of a very small number of such structures which still survive in Maine. It is also noteworthy because of its bell tower executed in the Stick Style, a style rare in Maine and highly unusual for a municipal building.