

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 15 1979  
DATE ENTERED 15

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 OR COMMON NAME  
Dominican Block  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
141-145 Lincoln Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Lewiston  
STATE  
Maine  
VICINITY OF  
Second  
COUNTY  
Androscoggin  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second  
CODE  
23  
CODE  
001

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Social

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Pine Tree Warriors, Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER  
P. O. Box 842  
CITY, TOWN  
Lewiston,  
STATE  
Maine 04240

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Lewiston,  
STATE  
Maine

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Lewiston Historic Resources Survey  
DATE  
1977  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Lewiston Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN  
City Hall; Lewiston,  
STATE  
Maine

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dominican Block of Lewiston, Maine, designed by George Coombs and built in 1882 is an impressive and rare example of the Queen Anne style in a commercial context.

The block is 4½ stories tall and is of brick construction with granite trim and a gable roof.

The gable-end facade faces west and is six bays wide. The first floor covered by a granite string-course, and three (originally four) shop windows. The second and third floors each contains six pairs of 1/1 windows in groups of three, each group covered by a common granite lintel. The fourth floor contains six 2/2/2 windows, each with its own lintel. The half-story features the block's principal decorative detail, with an ornate pediment covering three bays, of which the central one is a pair of 2/2 windows beneath a blind arch of ornamental brick; the other two bays are arched 2/2 windows flanked by brick pilasters.

The south side of the block is six bays long, each bay containing windows identical to those on the facade, here occupying recessed panels.

# 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 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

1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George M. Coombs

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dominican Block on the corner of Chestnut and Lincoln Streets was the center around which swirled much of Lewiston's Franco-American life. The Reverend Louis Alexandre Mothon, first Dominican priest of Saint Peter's, was deeply aware of the French community's need for a school where children could obtain religion as well as secular instruction, in French as well as in English. The Dominican Block was the result. It opened its doors to 650 students on January 8, 1883. Eight Sisters of Charity, or Gray Nuns, had charge of instruction until the Ladies of Sion arrived in 1892 to assume this task. From the very start, however the Dominican Building was more than a school. It served as a place of worship and as a social center as well. Long-time residents of the Little Canada and Lincoln Street areas still recall attending Mass there. The building was also important as a place where the Franco-American community could enjoy its plays and operas.

The English language newspaper referred to the Dominican Building as the social and political nerve center of the French Catholic population, an unofficial city hall.

The Dominicans spared no expense when they planned the building. They hired George M. Coombs, one of Lewiston's best architects, to design it. The Dominican Building is an imposing five-story brick and granite structure in the architectural style called Queen Anne. It was a highly popular type of building; a similar structure stands on Chestnut Street, and Coombs designed a smaller version of the Dominican Building in the town of Farmington.

Today the building no longer serves its original function. Years ago the Dominicans sold the building to private owners who removed the religious symbols and converted the structure to commercial and social purposes.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewiston Historical Commission, Historic Lewiston: Franco-American Origins.  
Auburn, 1974.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

QUADRANGLE NAME Lewiston

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 | 40,23,8,0 | 4,8,8,2,6,7,0

B    |    |   

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

E    |    |   

F    |    |   

G    |    |   

H    |    |   

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Assessor's Map 18D, Lot 14

## 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

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

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

October, 1979

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Carle S. Feltworth*

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

11/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

1/15/80

DATE

1/14/80