

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 19 1986
MAY 5 1986
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC United States Post Office

AND/OR COMMON Lewiston Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 49 Ash Street

CITY, TOWN Lewiston N/A VICINITY OF Second Congressional District
STATE, Maine 04240 CODE 4350 COUNTY ANDROSCOGGIN CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | N/A IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) New England Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER 1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN Lexington N/A VICINITY OF Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds, Androscoggin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 2 Turner Street, P. O. Box 70

CITY, TOWN Auburn STATE Maine 04210

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lewiston Post Office is located in the commercial/business center of this medium sized city, one block east of the main commercial thoroughfare, Route 196 - Lisbon Street, which runs parallel to the old industrial mills along the Androscoggin River. The river separates Lewiston from Auburn, the country seat. In addition to its industries, Lewiston is home to the Bates College campus, approximately 3/4 mile northeast of the Post Office.

The immediate neighborhood contains a diverse grouping of buildings of varying age, scale, materials, height, architecture and use. These include small scale wood residences and clubs (Elks, Knights of Columbus); large scale masonry structures (a four-story brick telephone company and a six-story bank building); historic buildings (a granite public library); contemporary buildings (a one-story granite courthouse); as well as a variety of commercial and office buildings.

The block to the rear of the Post Office features a large City Park Area. The Post Office itself faces a large municipal parking lot occupying a number of blocks and appears to be the result of an urban renewal project.

The Post Office building is basically rectangular in plan and consists of a two-story front portion surrounded by one-story wings at each side and to the rear. The first floor features the public lobby along the front main portion of the building. The workroom behind extends around the right end of the lobby. The Postmaster's offices occupy the left end of the lobby, with the original mailing platform off of the workroom behind, facing Middle Street. The newer, narrow mail platform extends from the back of the workroom to the adjacent building, with its loading area also facing Middle Street and a blank brick wall facing a private parking area on Park Street. An open stair from the lobby leads up to a second-story double loaded corridor above the lobby and part of the workroom. The basement level houses the boiler room, storage and supply rooms and the carrier's swing room and toilets.

The structure is steel frame with concrete slab floors and masonry walls. The basic exterior materials are red brick laid in a common bond with stone trim and wood double hung windows. The main two-story facade on Ash Street has broad stone steps leading up to the three central arched entrance openings to the lobby. A metal light standard supports a round globe on each side wall of these steps. The facade is divided into nine bays by brick pilaster columns rising from the stone base of the building to carved stone capitals which support a stone architrave, stone cornice and brick parapet wall running around the flat second story roof. The parapet is formed of brick above the pilasters with nine balustrade sections of turned stone balusters above each bay, and all topped with a stone coping. At the second story, 6/6 double hung windows are centered in the brick wall of each bay directly below the stone architrave. A stone sill runs past each window to the brick pilasters on each side. The three bays on each side of the three center entrances at the first level consist of brick arched openings, each containing a fan light over a pair of 4/4 double hung windows with stone spring blocks and a stone sill.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" 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 | Designed: 1933 | 1934-1935 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | James A. Wetmore, Acting Sup. Arch. U.S. Treasury Department |
| STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE | Coath & Goss, Contractor, Chicago, I | | | |
| | Addition: 1975 | | Eaton W. Trabell & Assoc. Bangor, ME | |

The Lewiston Post Office represents an excellent example of a Colonial Revival design with strong classical elements and is typical of the style used for the vast majority of post office buildings designed both by private architects and within the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department during the 1930's. This style was meant to be symbolic of both America's past and her future progress, and increasingly became the Architectural symbol of the Federal Government. While design policy continued to be governed by economic considerations through standardization of plans and details, there was a renewed effort during the early years of the depression to create buildings symbolic of government strength and ideals, to expose the local population to great works of architecture, and to represent the government's efforts to restore economic health to the local area. Despite the requirements of basic practical standards, wide latitude was left for architectural innovation and ingenuity in the treatment of the exterior facade and public lobby, accounting for the similarities as well as the uniqueness of each Post Office.

Under the Federal Employment Stabilization Act of 1931, two hundred sixty-seven (267) staff members were added to the Supervising Architect's office, increasing the work force to almost eight hundred (800). The Lewiston Post Office would appear to have benefited from the attention given to its rich architectural detail and ornamentation. The building stands as a strong architectural statement in a surrounding of unorganized urban architectural elements and continues to evoke the Federal Presence and an important period of history for the local population.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, July, 1982

Craig, Lois, ed. The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press 1979

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .50

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 40,20,6,5 48,8,21,1,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East to West 200'± along Ash Street
 North to South 100'± along Park Street
 West to East 100'± along rear lot line
 North to South 50'± along side lot line
 West to East 50'± along rear lot line
 South to North 150'± along Middle Street

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

Sylvan Limon, Architect

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

August 28, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

44 Adams Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 848-1545

CITY OR TOWN

Braintree

STATE

Massachusetts 02184

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Earle G. Shepleworth, Jr.
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

James T. Coe

TITLE

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

03/13/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D. Shovel
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-2-86

ATTEST:

Beth S. Savage
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-29-86

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LEWISTON MAIN POST OFFICE

Item number 7

Page 2

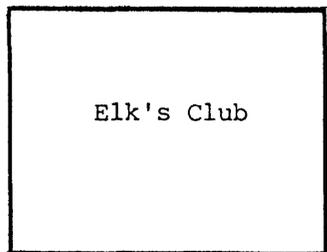
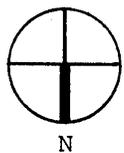
The three central entrance arches are framed in stone with a sculptured broken pediment above each door featuring a marble field behind.

All arched openings are trimmed with a stone keystone block extending vertically to support a sculptured stone fret band running between pilasters.

The flanking one story wings almost read as additions and are simpler in treatment, consisting of a stone base and one brick arch opening with stone spring blocks and keystone, containing a brick panel with a 6/6 double hung window with stone sill and brick soldier course lintel. A narrow stone cornice topped by a brick parapet wall with a stone coping conceals the flat roof behind. Turning the corners to the side streets, Middle and Park, the same treatment continues with three arched openings on each elevation. On Park Street, the building then sets back to the workroom wall elevation with the same pattern continuing. The Middle Street elevation steps back to the mailing platform. The 1975 addition of a mailing platform at the rear of the workroom is well placed so as not to affect the basic building appearance.

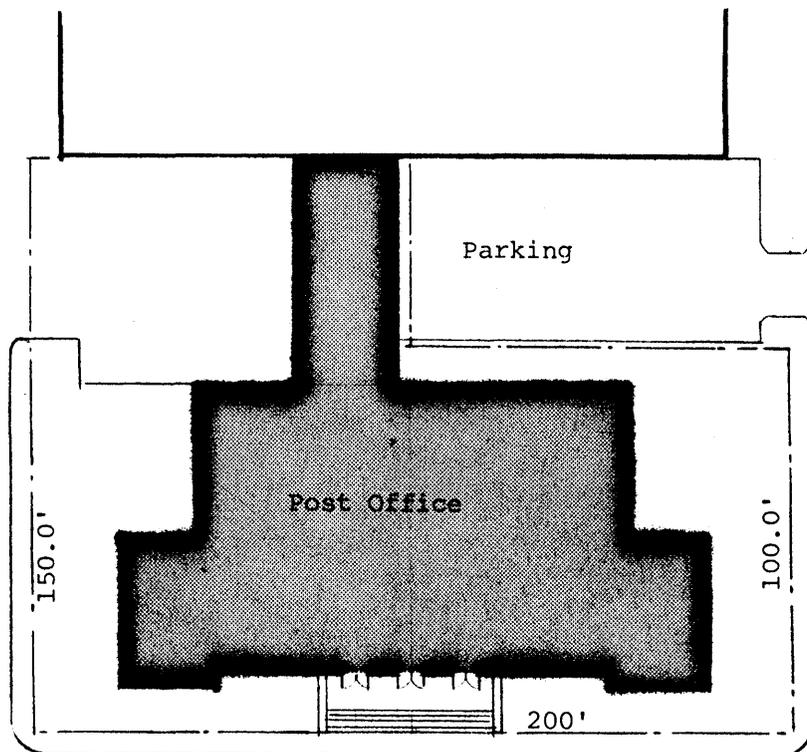
The public lobby represents an ambitious design effort and appears to be substantially in its original state except for the replacement of the original lighting with modern fluorescent panels, and the extension of the right end to form a box lobby (in place of original service windows). The basic elements consist of a checkered pattern terrazzo floor with marble borders, glazed wood panelled vestibule, marble wainscot, marble door casings and pediment, marble free standing columns and engaged columns of the Corinthian Order, plaster walls with glazed wood windows in the arched openings over the service windows and original bronze boxes. The ceiling is formed of decorative moulded plaster panels. The design of the lobby reflects the nine bays of the exterior facade.

The decorative ornamental stonework, moulded plaster, etc. was the work of R.A. Mathew, Sculptor, Washington, D. C.



Elk's Club

Middle Street



Parking

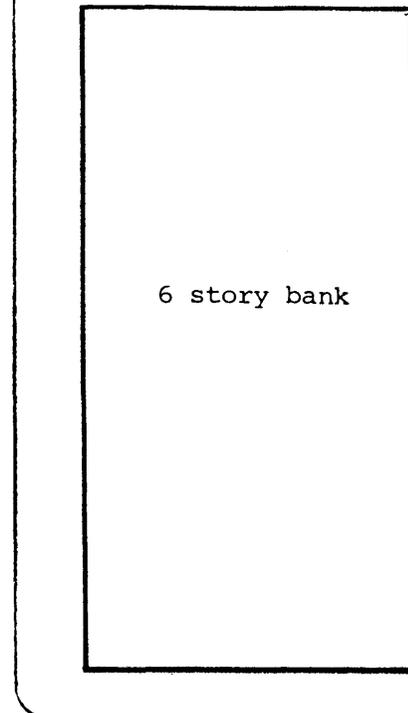
Post Office

150.0'

100.0'

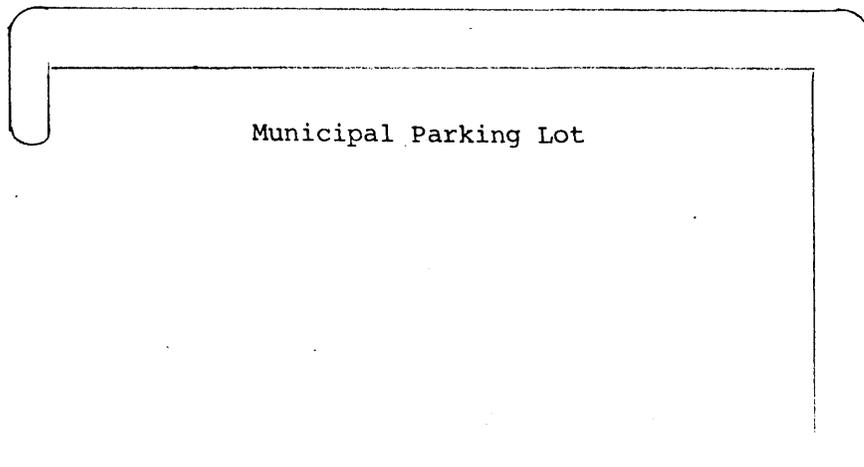
200'

Park Street

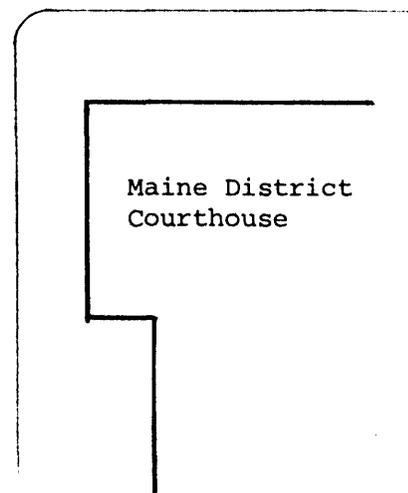


6 story bank

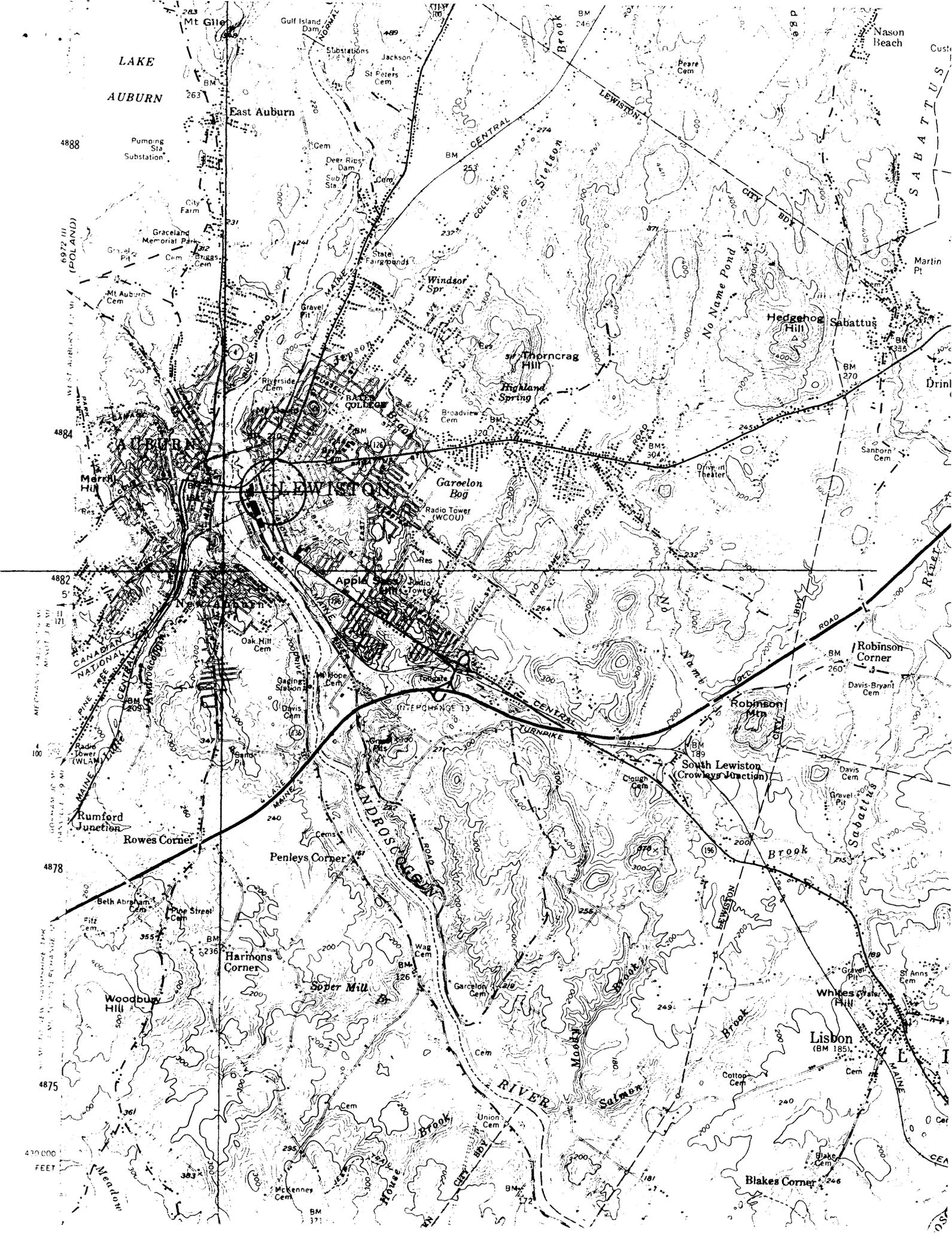
Ash Street



Municipal Parking Lot



Maine District Courthouse



LAKE
AUBURN

East Auburn

Windsor Spr.

Highland Spring

Garcelon Bog

Appleton

Hedgehog Hill

Sabattus

Robinson Corner

South Lewiston
(Crowleys Junction)

Harmons Corner

Lisbon
(BM 185)

Blakes Corner

4888

4884

4882

4878

4875

4875

430,000
FEET