

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM:19 A 402470/4883210 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Lyceum Hall
3. Street or rural address: 49 Lisbon Street
City Lewiston Zip 04240 County Androscoggin
4. Parcel number: Map 23 B Lot 49
5. Present Owner: Norstar Bank of Maine, Trustees Address: P.O. Box 701
City Lewiston Zip 04240 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: Commercial

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Mansard
- 7b. Briefly describe the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Four story commercial structure with a mansard roof. Constructed of brick, the building is five bays wide with granite and wood trim. The shop front consists of granite and brick piers flanking wood and plate glass display windows which are modern replacements. The second story has segmental arched window openings with aluminum sash, while the third and fourth story sash are round arched two over two lights. The second and third story facade is delineated by brick paneling and stone blocks and sills highlighting the windows. In the center of this elevation is a granite tablet with the words, "Lyceum Hall." Above the third story is a wooden cornice with brackets and the mansard roof with dormers and slate shingles, followed by a smaller cornice with dentils.

Attach Photo(s) Here

8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1872
9. Architect Charles F. Douglas
Lewiston
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage $\frac{1}{4}$ acre
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
4/85

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: First story display windows replaced, second story windows replaced
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land _____ Scattered buildings _____ Densely built-up
 Residential _____ Industrial _____ Commercial Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known Private development _____ Zoning _____ Vandalism _____
 Public Works project _____ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Moved? _____ Unknown? _____
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The building is architecturally significant as the work of Charles F. Douglas, one of the leading architects in Maine during the years immediately following the Civil War. The Lyceum Hall is the only surviving unaltered commercial structure by Douglass in Lewiston's central business district. Historically, the building served as the city's only theater for a number of years. Although the hall is no longer extant, the building is important as part of a concentration of meeting halls on Lisbon Street.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture Arts & Leisure _____
 Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
 Government _____ Military _____
 Religion _____ Social/Education
 Other (describe) _____
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
Lewiston Evening Journal: 8/10/1871,
9/29/1871, 10/19/1871, 12/13/1871,
11/2/1871, 11/17/1871, 1/23/1872,
2/14/1872
22. Date form prepared 12/85
 By (name) Roger Reed
 Organization MHPC
 Address: _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

Lewiston Historical Commission - Dingley Building
36 Oak Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Building Name(s): Lyceum Hall Historic Lyceum Hall
- 2. Principal Street Address: 49 Lisbon Street (49-57)
- 3. Other Street Address: _____
- 4. Present Owner's Name: Northeast Bank Trustee 5. Ownership: public ___ private x
- 6. Owner's Address: P. O. Box 3000, Lewiston
- 7. Original Owner: _____
- 8. Use: original Commercial/Public Hall 9. Accessibility to public:
 present Commercial exterior visible from public road x
 interior accessible: (explain) Yes, public access to shops at street level.

Surveyor's Name: L. Chatterton Date: August 1984
 Address: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850 Telephone: _____
 Position: volunteer ___ professional consultant ___ intern x
 other, (explain) _____

DESCRIPTION

- 10. Number of Stories 3 plus mansard Bays x Attic x Basement x
- 11. Structural wood frame, interlocking joints: ___ wood frame, light members: ___
 System: masonry load bearing: x metal, (explain): _____
- 12. Photo _____ 13. Map _____

Average - 1/4

DESCRIPTION

14. Building Roof: asphalt shingle ___ wood shingle ___ slate ^{mansard} concrete ___
Material: composition metal ___ tile ___ other ___
Walls: wood ___ stone ___ cast iron ___ brick stucco ___
other Granite trim ___
Foundation: Brick and stone

15. Present Condition: excellent good ___ fair ___ poor ___ deteriorated ___
explain fair or poor condition _____

16. Integrity: original site: yes no ___ if moved, when _____
list major alterations, dates and designers (if known):

Recent remodeling of the storefronts at street level is cohesive and, though contemporary in design, is sympathetic to the original character of the structure. Alteration includes:

1. Replacement of glazing above display windows with wood panels, embellished with flat, applied stickwork;
2. Replacement of original doors with new wood frame doors, glazed almost full length;
3. Replacement of glazing in tympanums of arched openings at the second story with "bronzed" metal panels.

17. Threats to Building: none zoning ___ roads ___ developers ___ deterioration ___
other _____

18. Related Outbuildings: barn ___ carriage house ___ garage ___ privy ___ shed ___ shop ___
landscape features _____
other _____

19. Surroundings: can check more than one, open land ___ woodland ___ industrial ___
densely built-up commercial scattered buildings ___
residential ___ other _____

20. Interrelationship of Buildings and Surroundings:
The size, set back, building materials and style of this structure are consistent with other nineteenth century commercial blocks on Lisbon Street.

DESCRIPTION:

21. Other Notable Features of Building and Site, include Interior Features if known: This large red brick, granite trimmed, mansarded, Italianate structure is distinguished by a decorative treatment consisting of four slightly projecting strip piers rising from above the store front lintel to the cornice, dividing the recessed facade into two, two bay segments that flank a narrow center bay. Upper corners of each recess are are angled with inset brick.

The two street level store fronts feature wood sash display windows with wood panels below. Exposed, granite, strip-piers flank the street level facade and the central entrance. A projecting granite lintel delineates the first and second stories. A projecting brick beltcourse in flanking the bays delineates the second and third stories. Above third story windows a thick eave board is surmounted by a deep projecting wood cornice supported on large decorative brackets, detailed with incised enrichment. Paired diminutive brackets are spaced between.

Segmental arch window openings at the second story level, and round arch openings at the third story level, are detailed with reticulated brick voussiers, granite keystones and projecting brick strips at the sides of openings, banded with enriched granite blocks. The mansard roof carries five, steeply pitched, dormers. Fish scale patterned slate tile, sheaths dormer roof and wall surfaces, and the mansard roof. Dormers contain segmental arched window openings with curved glazing in two over two, double-hung, wood sashes.

A second, denticulated, wood cornice caps the structure at the top of the mansard.

(over)

SIGNIFICANCE

- 22. Date of Initial Construction: 1872
- 23. Architect: C. F. Douglass Address: _____
- 24. Builder: _____ Address: _____

25. Historical and Architectural Importance:

By 1872, construction of Lyceum Hall was complete. Erected during a flurry of building activity on Lisbon Street, this brick block was distinguished by the incorporation of an entertainment hall on the third floor. The hall held a capacity crowd of 1000 with the stage located at the street end and galleries on the other sides.

Until construction of Music Hall, Lyceum Hall acquired the distinction of being the city's only theater. Subsequently the space also served as a meeting hall for various organizations and societies.

Architect C. F. Douglass came to Lewiston in 1870 from Norridgewock, where he had established an active practice. He maintained an office in the Savings Bank Block, on Lisbon Street until his removal from Lewiston in 1873. During that brief period he completed plans for a surprising number of commercial and residential structures including the Journal Block (demolished), the Continental Mill and the R. C. Boothby house on Frye Street. (See separate notes on C. F. Douglass.) (over)

26. Sources:

Lewiston Evening Journal, 11/17/1871, 12/15/1871, 1/23/1872.

Androsceggin County Atlas; Sanford & Everts, Philadelphia, 1873.

21. DESCRIPTION (continued)

A brick chimney is visible from the street level at the south end of the structure. Decorative brick banding ornaments the stack and the cap is corbeled out. Between second and third stories in center bay horizontally aligned with the beltcourse an inset granite panel with deep relief carving depicts the name "LYCEUM HALL."

25. ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Recent renovation has entailed restoration, preservation and, despite some new construction on the storefronts, this structure eminently contributes to the depiction of early commercial development on Lisbon Street during the 1870's.