

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM:19 A 402500/4883240 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Grants Clothing
2. Historic name: Lewiston Trust and Safe Deposit Company
3. Street or rural address: 46 Lisbon Street
City Lewiston Zip 04240 County Androscoggin
4. Parcel number: Map 23B Lot 46
5. Present Owner: Bill Johnson Agency Address: 160 Lisbon Street
City Lewiston Zip 04240 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: commercial

DESCRIPTION

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

This three story brick commercial building has an ashlar granite facade with quoins and a metal cornice. The windows are round arched on the second story and square headed on the third story with woodend double hung sash one over one lights. The third story windows are arranged in a bank divided by pilasters supporting an entablature. The first story was remodeled c. 1940-50 with black and white Carrara glass and a Moderne style marquee.

Attach Photo(s) Here

8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1898
9. Architect Coombs, Gibbs & Wilkinson, Lewiston
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage 1/8 acre
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
4/85

3/12/86

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: First story storefront remodeled c. 1940-50
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 finest surviving substantially unaltered example of commercial design by the important firm of Coombs, Gibbs & Wilkinson. These Lewiston architects had a huge practice in western Maine and Harry Wilkinson was the most creative of George Coombs' many partners. His association with Coombs and Gibbs lasted from 1894-1899. With its distinctive fenestration and granite facing, the building provides a strong visual presence on Lisbon Street.

The Lewiston Trust Company occupied this structure from its construction in 1898 until 1921, when they moved to a larger building. W. Grant bought the former bank for a clothing store in 1926 and remodeled the front. Grant's went out of business in 1985.

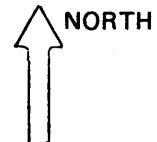
20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture Arts & Leisure _____
Economic/Industrial ___ Exploration/Settlement _____
Government ___ Military _____
Religion ___ Social/Education _____
Other (describe) _____
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

Industrial Journal (Bangor) 7/30/97,
9/24/97, 11/5/97

Interview with Mr. Lebel, owner of Grant's
Clothing, August, 1984

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): GRANT'S CLOTHING Historic Lewiston Trust & Sale Deposit Co.
- 2. Principal Street Address: 46 Lisbon Street (44-46)
- 3. Other Street Address: _____
- 4. Present Owner's Name: _____ 5. Ownersnip: public ___ private X
- 6. Owner's Address: _____
- 7. Original Owner: _____
- 8. Use: original commercial 9. Accessibility to public:
 present commercial exterior visible from public road X
 interior accessible: (explain) yes, public
 access to street-level shop.
- Surveyor's Name: Leslie Chatterton Date: August, 1984
- Address: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14350 Telephone: _____
- Position: volunteer ___ professional consultant ___ intern X
 other, (explain) _____

DESCRIPTION

- 10. Number of Stories 3 Bays 4 Attic ___ Basement X
- 11. Structural wood frame, interlocking joints: ___ wood frame, light members: ___
 System: masonry load bearing: X metal, (explain): _____
- 12. Photo _____ 13. Map _____

Average - 1/8

DESCRIPTION

14. Building Roof: asphalt shingle___ wood shingle___ slate___ concrete___
Material: composition metal___ tile___ other___
Walls: wood___ stone___ cast iron___ brick stucco___
other coursed, ashlar, granite veneer
Foundation: _____

15. Present excellent___ good fair___ poor___ deteriorated___
Condition: explain fair or poor condition _____

16. Integrity: original site: yes no___ if moved, when _____
list major alterations, dates and designers (if known):

This former bank underwent major interior alteration to accommodate retail use when acquired by Grant's Clothing in 1926. In the 1930's, the storefront design was updated. Alteration included:

- o construction of a deeply recessed entrance featuring curved glass display windows wrapping around corners with black carrara glass below and aluminum moldings and trim;
- o installation of a terrazzo entrance floor with inlaid brass joints and a mosaic tiled panel depicting the name "Grant's Clothing";
- o erection of a projecting marquee, that incorporates thin neon tubes also depicting the name "Grant's".

17. Threats to none zoning___ roads___ developers___ deterioration___
Building: other _____

18. Related nonbarn___ carriage house___ garage___ privy___ shed___ shop___
Outbuildings: 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 consistant with other downtown commercial buildings and contributes to the streetscape facade rhythm.

DESCRIPTION

21. Other Notable Features of Building and Site, include Interior Features if known:
The smooth, granite-veneered facade of this small, three story, flat-roofed structure exhibits many elements characteristic of the Classical Revival style. These include:

- o large rock-faced rusticated quoins;
- o round arched window openings with large voussiois at the second story;
- o a band of rectangular windows separated by doric pilasters at the third story, surmounted by a full entablature and denticulated cornice;
- o a denticulated metal roof entablature, supported on modillion brackets projecting above a plain wide frieze band.

The ceiling of the store features a stamped metal ceiling. Additional elements are retained from the original bank interior including:

- o marble composition flooring and marble stairs;
- o men's and women's "waiting rooms" in the basement level;
- o the "President's" office on the second story, with original woodwork, and a fireplace with classically detailed wood mantel.

A large hall occupies one-half of the third floor. Much original woodwork is retained throughout the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE

22. Date of Initial Construction: 1898

23. Architect: Coombs, Gibbs & Wilkinson Address: Lewiston

24. Builder: _____ Address: _____

25. Historical and Architectural Importance:

The integrity of the facade, and authenticity of the opulent 1930's storefront contribute to the depiction of Lisbon Street's evolving commercial character. The building was designed by G.M. Coombs for the Lewiston Trust Co. Coombs was Lewiston's most prolific architect practicing in Lewiston from 1870-1909. During this period his firm included partners Gibbs and Wilkenson, and the three were also working on plans for Peck's Store, completed later that year. (see separate notes on Coombs.)

The Lewiston Trust Co. occupied the building until expanded activity and clientele necessitated construction of a larger facility, completed in 1921, located across the street at 55-63 Lisbon Street. Subsequently, the building was occupied by the Ridley sisters who operated a retail business, selling intimate ladies' apparell.continued on next page

26. Sources:

- Tax assessment records, Assessor's Office, City Building, Lewiston.
- Lewiston of Today, "Maine Magazine, vol. 1, 1907; on deposit at the Lew. Public Library
- Sanborn Maps of Lewiston, on deposit at the Folger Library, Special Collection, University of Maine, Orono.
- Deed research, Registry Office, Androscoggin County Building, Auburn.
- "Industrial Journal," Bangor, 7/30/97, 9/24/97, 11/5/97
- Interview with Mr. Lebel, owner Grant's Clothing, August 1984.

Grant's Clothing.....cont'd

25. Historical and Architectural Importance...cont'd

On his arrival to Lewiston from New Jersey in 1903, W. Grant bought the longstanding clothing business of R.M. Sykes Co. The original store was located at 54 Lisbon Street. Expansion of Kresge's in 1926 compelled Grant to relocate and he acquired the building at 46 Lisbon. This same business occupies the structure today.