

PH0354325

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 12 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 21 1976

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

* * *

Lewiston City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Pine and Park Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lewiston

VICINITY OF

2nd Hon William Cohen

STATE

Maine

CODE
23

COUNTY
Androscoggin

CODE
001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Lewiston

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lewiston

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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 City Building is fashioned in the Baroque Revival Style. The structure rises to a height equivalent to five stories at the cornice level. A low hipped roof covers the rectangular edifice, which measures 165 feet by 84 feet. A massive tower extends the building to twice its height on the facade. The stone of the foundation continues up the sides of the first floor in a rusticated manner. The rest of the building is constructed of brick.

The facade on the north wall is made up of five bays. The inner three bays project from the main wall. Within this projection the wide central bay recesses slightly. The wall is symmetrically designed, with the main features being the granite archway over the door, and the tower. The architrave which marks the top of the rusticated stone is continued over the centrally placed doorway by the stone arch. This rests on pairs of Ionic pilasters of the same material. Three double-hung windows are placed at equal intervals along the first floor to each side of the arch. On the second floor round arched windows are centered in each bay. The inner bays, being thinner than the outer ones, have narrower windows. The brick frames around the windows are decorated with a carved brick keystone and archivolt. A brick architrave delineates the third level. Double-hung windows rest on this architrave. Above the two windows in the outer bays are smaller square windows with circular motifs on the panes. The inner bays have a round window instead of a square one. The center bay is the widest and boasts three double-hung windows separated from the three lining the architrave by recessed panels. A semi-circular fanlight rests on the upper set of windows to interrupt the cornice and begin the tower.

The massive tower rests on a tall rectangular base that is divided by a brick architrave. The top section is embellished with brick pilasters and clocks on all four faces. Atop the cornice runs a brick balustrade. From this rises a smaller square, beveled edge belfry. The belfry has an open arch in all four walls. The tall tower roof with its convex slope ends with an iron weathervane. A small octagonal pinnacled stair tower is located at either side of the tower base.

The east wall of the building faces a park. The wall is broken into five sections by recessing two of the inner bays. Strong horizontals are created by the bands of stone and brick architraves and overhead cornice. The first floor has the same windows set into the rusticated walls as the facade. The last three on the south end have unfortunately been bricked in. In the inner bays these windows become arched doorways and windows. Verticals are formed by the placement of the windows on the whole wall. In the left section, three arched windows on each floor line up over the double-hung windows of the street level. The inner bays have two arched windows on the second floor with a pair of double hung windows and a small square window on the third floor. The center bay has three arched windows on the second floor, the middle window being wider than the outer two. On the third floor a six window combination similar to that of the facade, breaks the cornice and extends into an attic story. It is flanked by two sets of sculptured pilasters. Two small domed towers at each end of the attic story are connected by a balastrade. The right section mirrors the left on the third floor. The second floor however, is different; for it has a single oriel window. (See continuation sheets)

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1892	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	John Calvin Spofford
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This impressive Baroque Revival structure replaced Lewiston's Old City Hall which burned in a fire in January of 1890. The building had only been standing for thirty years and its destruction was a great loss to the city. The architectural firm of Brigham and Spofford from Boston was chosen to design a new City Hall. On October 1, 1890, the cornerstone was laid and almost two years later, on May 19, 1892, the completed building was dedicated. It stands on the site of the previous hall in downtown Lewiston. The cost to the city was \$180,000.

John Calvin Spofford, the architect, was born in 1854 in Webster, Maine. He was a student at Maine's Wesleyan Seminary and later the Maine State College. He held a job as the principal of Smith's Business College in Lewiston from the years 1876 to 1877 and later spent some time in the carpentry and masonry trades before entering the architectural office of Henry Preston in 1879. From 1881 to 1886 he held a position as draftsman for the Boston firm of Sturgis and Brigham. During this time he was in charge of the construction of the Commonwealth Building and the Massachusetts Life Insurance Company Building in Boston.

Spofford entered into many partnerships in the years 1887 to 1908. Among them was the four year partnership with his former employer Brigham. The firm of Brigham and Spofford was responsible for the additions to the Maine State House in Augusta and for the design of the residence of J. Manchester Haynes, also in Augusta. This house was said to be the finest in Kennebec Valley. Unfortunately, it burned in 1893. Spofford designed many public buildings in both Maine and Massachusetts.

He made his home in Everett, Mass, where he was active in town government.

There was much criticism voiced when the Boston firm was named. Many citizens thought George M. Coombs, a Lewiston architect, did not have a fair opportunity for the commission. They also felt the building would cost too much money. The final result, however, was a City Hall of unusual distinction, bespeaking the aspirations of this thriving manufacturing city.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bacon, Edwin M., A.M., The Book of Boston, 1916
- Bacon, Edwin M. and Herndon, Richard, Boston of Today, 1892
- Bacon, Edwin M. and Herndon, Richard, Men of Progress, 1896
- History of Androscoggin County, Maine, edited by Georgia D. Merrill, 1891
- Lewiston Evening Journal, May 20, 1891

(see continuation sheets)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 402675 4882925
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 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

Patricia Brown, Student Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

April 2, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

31 Western Avenue

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

Carle S. Shettleworth, Jr.

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 8, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

10/21/76

DATE

10/18/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

This is decorated with stone swags and a balustrade at the second floor architrave.

The building was designed for a site on a city corner. Thus, the south and west walls are not finished as decoratively because they are hidden from view by other buildings. The south wall has five bays. The two bays on the east end continue the design of the east wall. The rest of the wall contains unadorned arched windows. The rusticated stone extends no farther than the first two bays on the east end.

The west side faces an alley. Like the east side, it is divided into five sections, the inner ones being recessed back into the building. Only the left section bears rusticated stone. Two off-center windows are on the first floor. The second and third floors each bear three arched windows. The rest of the wall is unadorned brick. The window design follows the format of the other walls; i.e. double-hung on the first floor and arched on the upper floors. The center projection has a group of six windows with a fanlight similar to the group on the facade. The fanlight extends into the attic story which matches the one on the opposite side.

The interior of the City Building has been adapted over the years to meet the needs of the City government. Only the front halls of the first two floors have retained their original grandeur.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Beginning with the formation of the Lewiston Water Power Company in 1845, Lewiston, which became a city in 1862, rapidly expanded as an industrial center. A lightly settled rural area fifty years before, the city by 1892 had become a densely populated textile manufacturing complex, the seventh largest in New England. While this startling growth had already led to overcrowded and shabbily built mill workers housing which was long to remain a blight upon the city, there was also great prosperity in some quarters and a strong civic pride in what had so far been achieved.

The Lewiston City Hall, one of the most dramatic and impressive municipal structures in Maine, eloquently bespeaks the vitality and ambition which pervaded the young metropolis at the turn of the century.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Rand, John A., The Peoples: Lewiston-Auburn, Maine 1875-1975, 1975