

P40354341

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | APR 18 1976 |
| DATE ENTERED     | OCT 8 1975  |

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

~~XX~~ Oak Street School

AND/OR COMMON

Dingley School

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Oak Street

CITY, TOWN

Lewiston

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF

CODE

23

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Hon. William Cohen

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE

001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- 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 Oak Street School was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, which is characterized by rounded arches. The building is constructed of brick with a stone foundation. Stone is also used for the trim of the arches and lintels. This creates a sense of massiveness and weight. Large and simple forms are typical of the style and are handsomely worked into the design fo the Lewiston School.

2. The schoolhouse takes the form of a simple rectangle. It rises two stories from the basement to the brick cornice, topped by a high hipped roof. A small octagonal cupula is perched on the roof peak.

The facade, extending the length of the structure, faces south. A two and a half story gabled projection is centered on the facade. Growing out of the projection on the left side is a round stair tower. This stands three and a half stories in height, capped by a squat conical roof. Arched and rectangular windows pierce the tower walls at various places. An interesting band of red and white checkered brick and stone runs around the tower just below the railed look-out.

Stone steps rise to the level of the watertable in front of a syrian arch. The wide, welcoming arch shelters the main entrance. To the right of the archway is a small nine over one window. Above is a group of four elongated arched windows massed together in a Richardsonian manner. In the gable is a smaller three-window version of this design. Stone trimming and string courses accent the placement and shapes of the windows. The checkerboard treatment is used under the second floor window.

Flanking the central projection are two identical sections of the main wall. The inner bays contain two double-hung windows side-by-side with smaller windows attached above. A single window is centered overhead on the second floor. Large blank areas of brick surround the six, four over four windows in the outer bays. Three windows are on each floor separated by the checkerboard design. Again, stone trim is used to emphasize the windows. A stringcourse runs around the entire building at the watertable. Beneath this are four-paned basement windows. These line up beneath the corresponding first story windows.

The east and west walls of the building are identical to one another. The window placement on both walls is shifted toward the south end. An archway leading to the side door is placed between two sets of six windows similar to those previously described on the facade. Above the archway are two side-by-side double hung windows with smaller windows overhead. Interrupting the cornice is a large roof dormer bearing a modified Palladian window. Stone trim accents the side walls. Basement windows again are in line with the windows above.

The north wall of the school bears two end projections. These contain the same six window ensemble with corresponding basement windows that is found on the facade. The area between the projections is symmetrically arranged. The (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 checked="" 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              |   |  |

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SPECIFIC DATES                      1890                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      George M. Coombs

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oak Street School of 1890 is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style. George M. Coombs, the architect, used Richardsonian motifs to construct a well-proportioned and interesting building. Coombs was then the most prominent architect in Central Maine, and his design for the school received recognition throughout the United States in the January 25, 1890 edition of American Architect and Building News.

Coombs was a native of Maine, born in Brunswick in 1852. He moved to Lewiston in 1872, where he entered the office of William Stevens, an architect and civil engineer. There he studies both design and construction techniques. He stayed with Stevens until the older man's death in 1880. From then on he practiced architecture on his own.

He was an active participant in the public affairs of Lewiston and was elected to the Common Council and the Board of Aldermen. A very social man as well, he was a member of the Masonic order, the local lodge of Elks and the Kora Temple of the Shrine whose building he designed. He had a summer cottage in the community he founded called the Isle of Springs House.

He was a contemporary of John Calvin Stevens. While the latter received most of Southern Maine's important work, Coombs obtained major commissions from the Central and Northern parts of the State. Included in his works are the Maine Insane Hospital in Augusta, the State School for Boys in South Portland, the State Normal School in Farmington, the original Poland Spring House and the "Great Department Store" in Lewiston. He also did numerous boys' schools and other buildings throughout Central Maine.

Two associates of Coombs, Eugene J. Gibbs and Harry C. Wilkinson, became full partners in 1896. Coombs passed his share of the business to his son Harry at his own death in 1909.

The Oak Street School was later changed to honor the Maine legislator Nelson Dingley Jr., a constant advocate of public education. As a Congressman, he was the originator of the famous Dingley Tariff Act of 1897.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News, Jan. 25, 1890

Lewiston Evening Journal, March 26, 1909

Maine: A History, Centennial Edition, Bogographical, 1919

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, 1969

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

|      |   |   |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 9 | 4 | 0 | 2       | 6 | 5 | 0 | 4        | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian  
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 Earle G. 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 |                     |
| <i>[Signature]</i>   | DATE <u>10/8/76</u> |
| DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION                | DATE <u>9/29/76</u> |
| ATTEST:  |                     |
| <i>[Signature]</i>   |                     |
| KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  |                     |

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

outer ends each contain a small nine over one pane window on both floors. Next to these are tall four over four arched windows placed half-way between the floors to light the interior stairwells. Between these windows are eight single windows on the second floor. Six third floor windows line up over the inner six windows of the second floor. A square brick bulkhead gives access to the basement.

The front door is set in a frame and glasswall. The glass occupies the top half of the wall and is divided into small square window panes. This harmonizes beautifully with the brick and stone checkering on the exterior walls.

The interior of the school is divided into large classrooms. These have been adapted for the use of the Lewiston School department as administration offices. Most of the original woodwork remains in excellent condition.