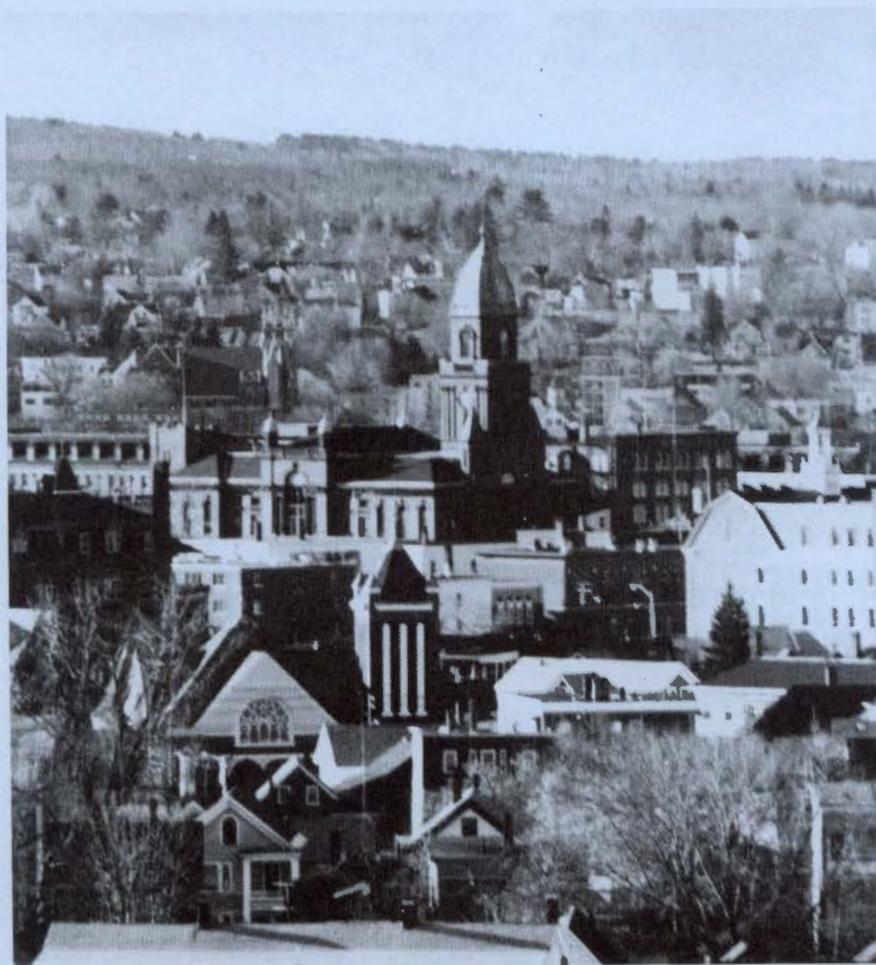


HISTORIC LEWISTON



Its Architectural Heritage

PREFACE

This is the fifth in a series of pamphlets prepared by the Lewiston Historical Commission, which is deeply indebted to Ruth Libbey O'Halloran. She was a long time resident of Lewiston, although now living in Portland. Over a long period she gathered the information with which to write the text of the pamphlet.

Gridley Barrows, a Commission member, once more used his talent to supply the required illustrations and plan the layout of the pamphlet.

CONTENTS

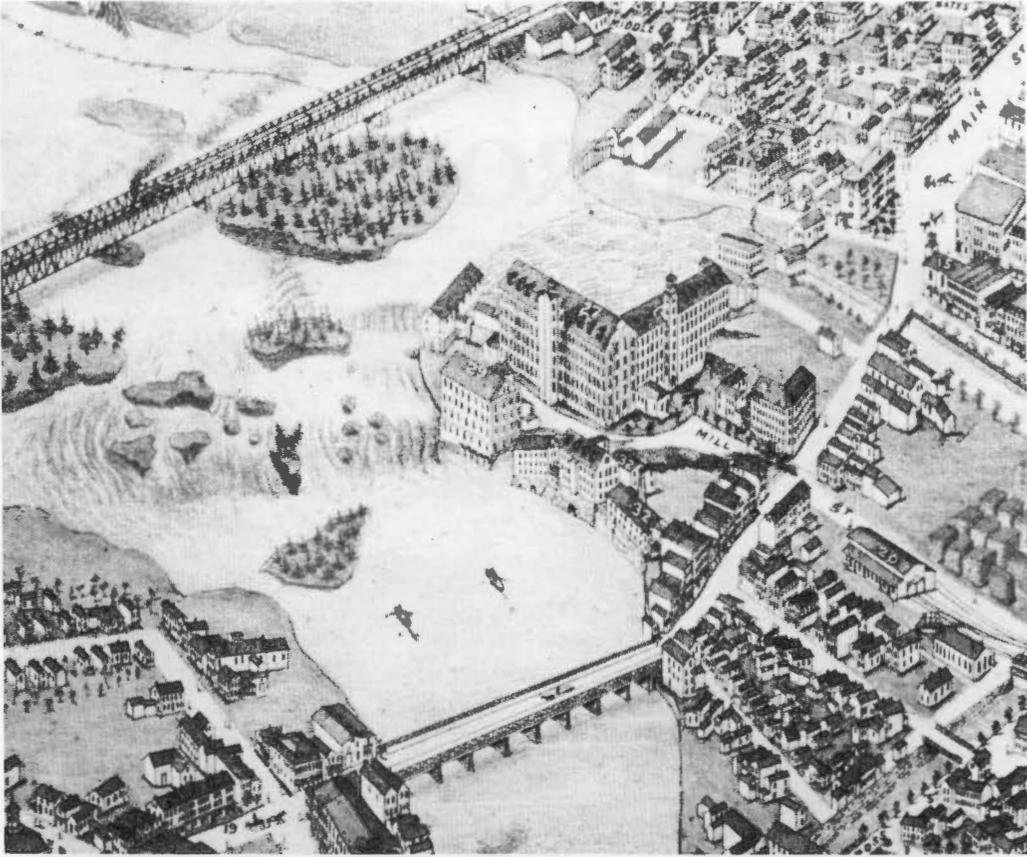
Chapter	Page
1. Industrial Buildings	2
2. Churches	16
3. Schools	36
4. Public Buildings	42
5. Commercial Buildings	54
6. Bates College Campus	70
7. Homes	82



The River



The Falls



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CITY OF
LEWISTON

1875

INTRODUCTION

Lewiston is a Pleasant Place... so runs the title of Marsden Hartley's nostalgic poem about his Lewiston boyhood in the 1890's. Images of the city's past leap vividly to life as he describes Haymarket Square, Franklin Pasture, Davids Mountain, the mills, and most hauntingly of all the river...

the Androscoggin

*forever flowing solemnly through my brain
coursing in and out of flesh and bone,
as it still does, sacredly.*

Lewiston, founded here because of the river with its great falls, is much changed from the compact mill town so lovingly described by our foremost poet and painter. If Hartley could return to walk our streets today, he would still find this a pleasant place; but how many of the familiar landmarks of his youth would he recognize? Twentieth century growth has erased much of that earlier Lewiston, but happily the original orderly plan is still much in evidence. It is especially visible in the vast brick mills beside the river and in the canals built by the enlightened planners who laid out the central park and the residential streets that radiate from its leafy borders. These designers deserve a book to themselves; but in limiting ourselves to an account of the architectural legacy they have left us, we have space only to say a word about the men in order to do justice to the buildings. The photographs of the structures they erected will, hopefully, serve as a fitting testimony to the stature of the building.

Chapter 1

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS



*The Falls - Libbey & Cowan Mills
Today*



*Perham Plan for Canals & Mills
1837-1850*

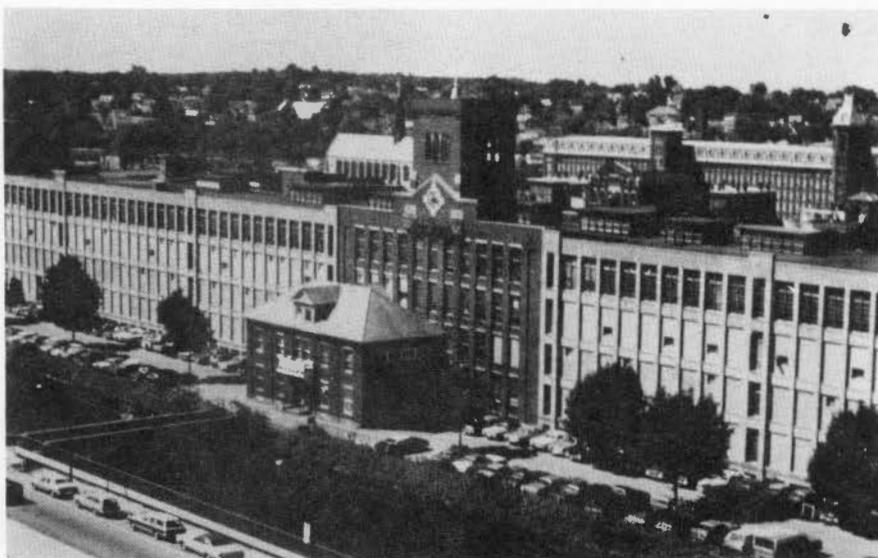
Though conspicuously lacking in gondolas, Lewiston can no more be imagined without its canals than can Venice. The plan for this formidable engineering project dates to 1837, when the Company hired a Boston civil engineer, B.F. Perham, to draw up a design. Perham's plan for directing the River into straight waterways along the proposed mill sites was both brilliant and ambitious; and despite limited local capital, construction commenced in 1850. A year later the first section was completed up to the site of what is now the Bates Mill. The channel measured sixty-two feet wide and fourteen feet deep. The locks and gate at the canal head were made of solid granite laid in cement, and the immigrant workers were forced to hew their way through solid rock. Not only was the labor brutal, but the cost was exorbitant.

As a result the Little company found itself in financial trouble and the entire project might have been abandoned, but for the arrival of Benjamin Bates. Using his own fortune as well as loans from his Boston associates, Bates organized the Franklin Company, a concern which assumed the debts of the older organization and continued to develop the canals and dams, under a much less cumbersome name.

After the completion of the upper canal, a parallel lower canal was excavated along Oxford Street. Three cross canals were added to draw water from the upper mills to those which were later built closer to the River. A separate, but related organization, the Union Water Power Company, was founded in 1878 to operate the canals and control the water which supplied them.

The canal water no longer turns wheels inside the mills, but the electric power which they generate is vital to modern-day operations. The falls may have drawn the first settlers here, but without the canal system Lewiston's great industrial development could not have taken place. We, who are the heirs to this system, might do well to spare a moment to look more closely at the precision and solidity with which our canals are built.

The timely arrival of Benjamin Bates nearly coincided with the 1849 arrival of the railway, an artery which connected the growing city with potential outside markets. A frequent visitor by rail, Bates managed his considerable concerns from his Boston office; but this nonresident's name became more prominent in the city's economic and cultural history than any other. His connection with the College will be treated when we describe the campus buildings; but the Bates Manufacturing Company; incorporated in 1852, is the other major local monument to his name. The two main buildings of the Bates Mills, originally separate but now connected, stand beside the canal, brick-built, with an Italianate tower in the center.



The Bates Mill

Other local Italianate structures share the same characteristics—straight roof lines, square or octagonal towers, ornamental trim under the wide eaves. Practical as well as picturesque, this form of architecture was welcomed in the United States because it was considered democratic in appearance.

The design of the Bates Mills was the work of Albert Kelsey, the Franklin Company's immensely versatile agent. He is often called the "builder of Lewiston" because he was responsible not only for many of the mills, but for the design of the City Park, for the erection of the now-demolished Dewitt Hotel, and for aid in the design of churches, residential streets, and canals. In Kelsey's time the Bates Mills made a fortune on Civil War tenting and other cotton goods, thanks to the stockpiling of cotton fiber. Through the years Bates has produced a variety of products, including parachute and camouflage cloth during World War II. Their bedspreads, of course, still command international notice.

South of the Bates Mills on the main canal are the Hill Mills, named for Thomas Hill, one of the four original incorporators of the Hill Company. Hill Mill No.1, a six story building, started operations in 1854. Like the Bates Mill, it boasts an Italianate tower. Its intricate and handsome brick work was repeated in the second Hill Mill in 1864. The Hill Mills produced



The Hill Mills - 1854-1864



Lewiston Machine Co. – West Bates Street

cotton goods. In later years they were joined into one building; and although they no longer house textile operations, they have been occupied by a variety of small businesses.

The Lewiston Machine Company differs from the other brick industrial buildings mentioned so far in not starting life as a textile mill. Located on West Bates Street, it was erected in 1852 to provide for the machinery needs of the growing textile community. Though changed and enlarged over the years, the style remains basically Greek Revival.

When the Hill Machine Shop building was absorbed into the Lincoln Mill, its tools and machinery were moved to the Lewiston Machine Company. During its most active period, when cotton machinery and iron and brass castings were made there, the Mill employed two hundred men. Its chief claim to fame comes from the fact that the Stanley Brothers, long-time residents of Lewiston, used this building for some years to manufacture dry plates, as well as the prototype of their renowned Stanley steamer. The building was used as a textile mill for several years by the Avon Corporation and is now used by the Hall and Knight Hardware.



The Bleachery - 1876

By 1860 with war orders pouring in, Lewiston's mills were producing such a huge volume of woven goods that the need for a plant to bleach and dye these products became pressing. Once again the Franklin Company, with its abundant capital resources, undertook the building and equipping of a bleachery, which it leased to N.W. Farwell until 1870. Two years later the Bleachery and Dye Works were incorporated by Bates, Nichols, and Wood. Irish laborers, their employment on the railways, mills, and canals now completed, turned to industrial employment, especially at the Bleachery. The Bleachery is made up of a collection of flat-roofed functional components with a delightful example of Victorian sign painting running along its Willow Street wall. This plant was phased out in 1970 by the Pepperell Company, which purchased it in 1925. Its ample space is now utilized by various small business concerns.

Directly across the street from the Bleachery, the mammoth Androscoggin Mills were started and finished in 1860 under the direction of Kelsey. The company had originally been incorporated in 1854 by Bates, Ward, and Kelsey as the Arkwright Company; but no actual construction was undertaken for another six years, when Kelsey superintended the plan by Amos Lockwood. Its stately mansard roof and well-kept grounds caused a visiting English mill owner to mistake the building for a public museum. This is the first example in Lewiston of a mill in the Second Empire style, a variation of the Renaissance look, a style which reveals its French origins most noticeably in its use of the mansard roof. Seventeenth-century architect Francois Mansart designed his elegant roof to give an extra story to a building, without wasting roof space. This became the dominant style of much of Lewiston's architecture during the second half of the 19th century.



The Androscoggin Mill - 1860



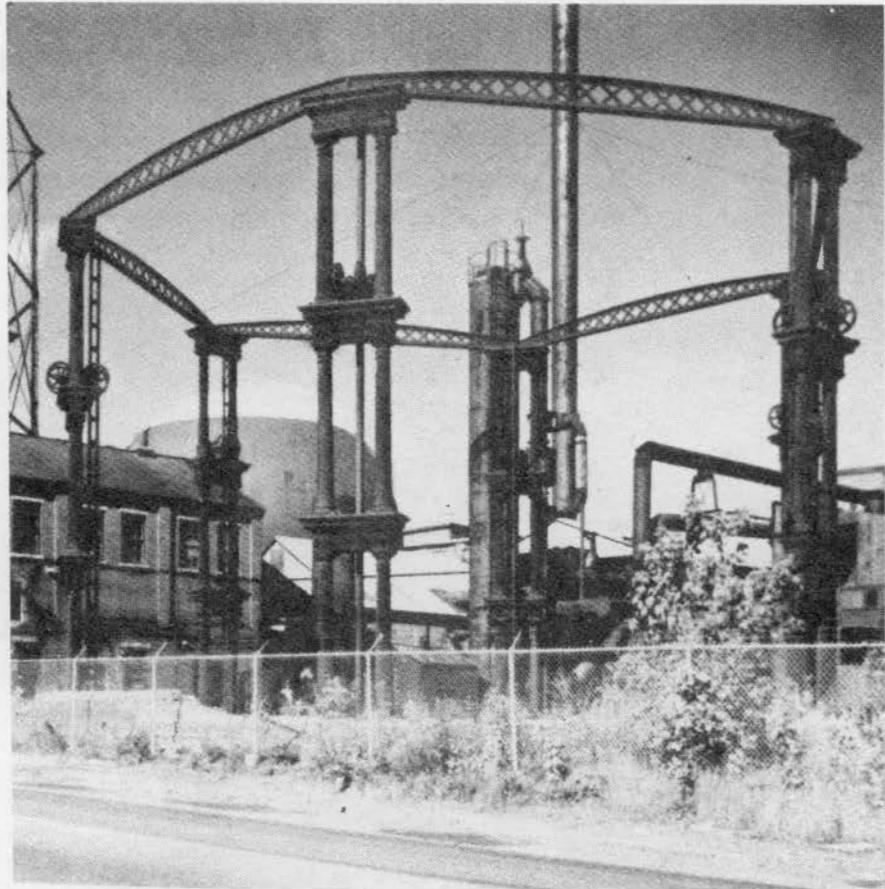
The Continental Mill - The Porter Mill

The nearly forgotten Porter Mill, built in 1866, formed the nucleus for the more elaborate and impressive structure known as the Continental Mill. The extensive addition to the south end of the Porter in 1872 gave it an immense capacity. Along the Cross Canal the structure grew from 275 to 554 feet, with a superb polygonal corner tower crowned by a richly detailed mansard roof. The section between the towers has a flat roof, but the other wings have mansard roofs with nicely-spaced windows. Architectural historian Richard Candee calls the Mill, "the high point of Victorian industrial architecture during the third decade of factory construction in Lewiston."

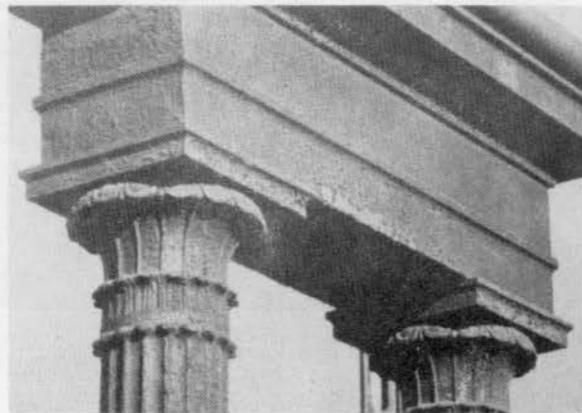
No listing of Lewiston's industrial architecture would be complete without a mention of the 1853 Gas Works on Lincoln Street located between the Avon and Lewiston Woolen Mills. Until 1974 this sphere was encased by a circular brick building, decorated with high arches and supported on fluted iron columns. Four of these surprising columns were rescued when the outer shell was demolished. They lend a classical air to Lewiston's Gateway Park.



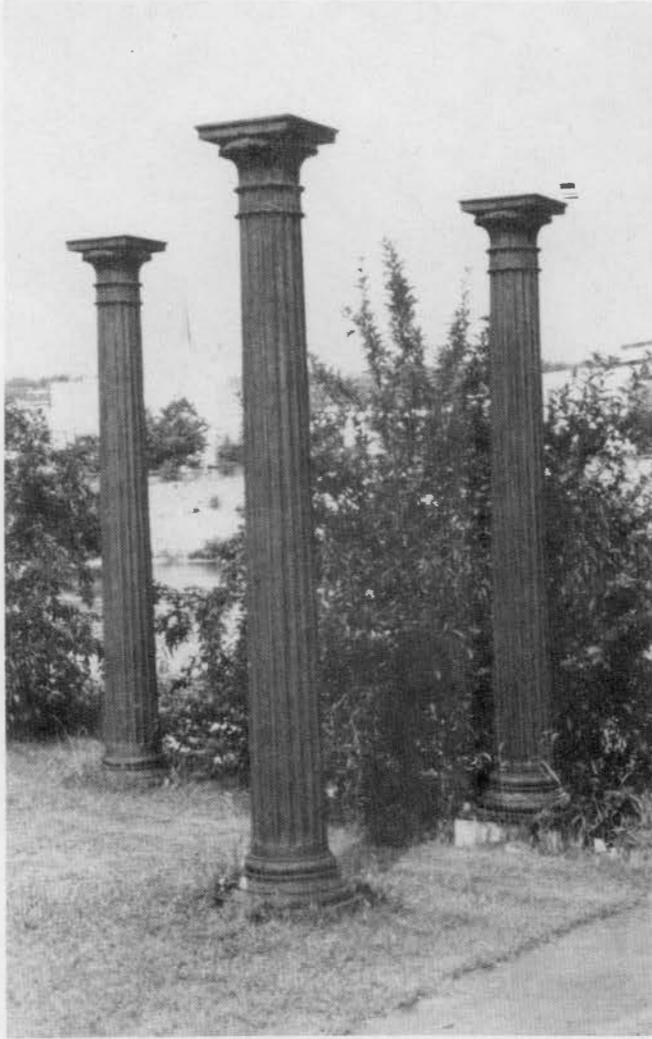
The Gas Works



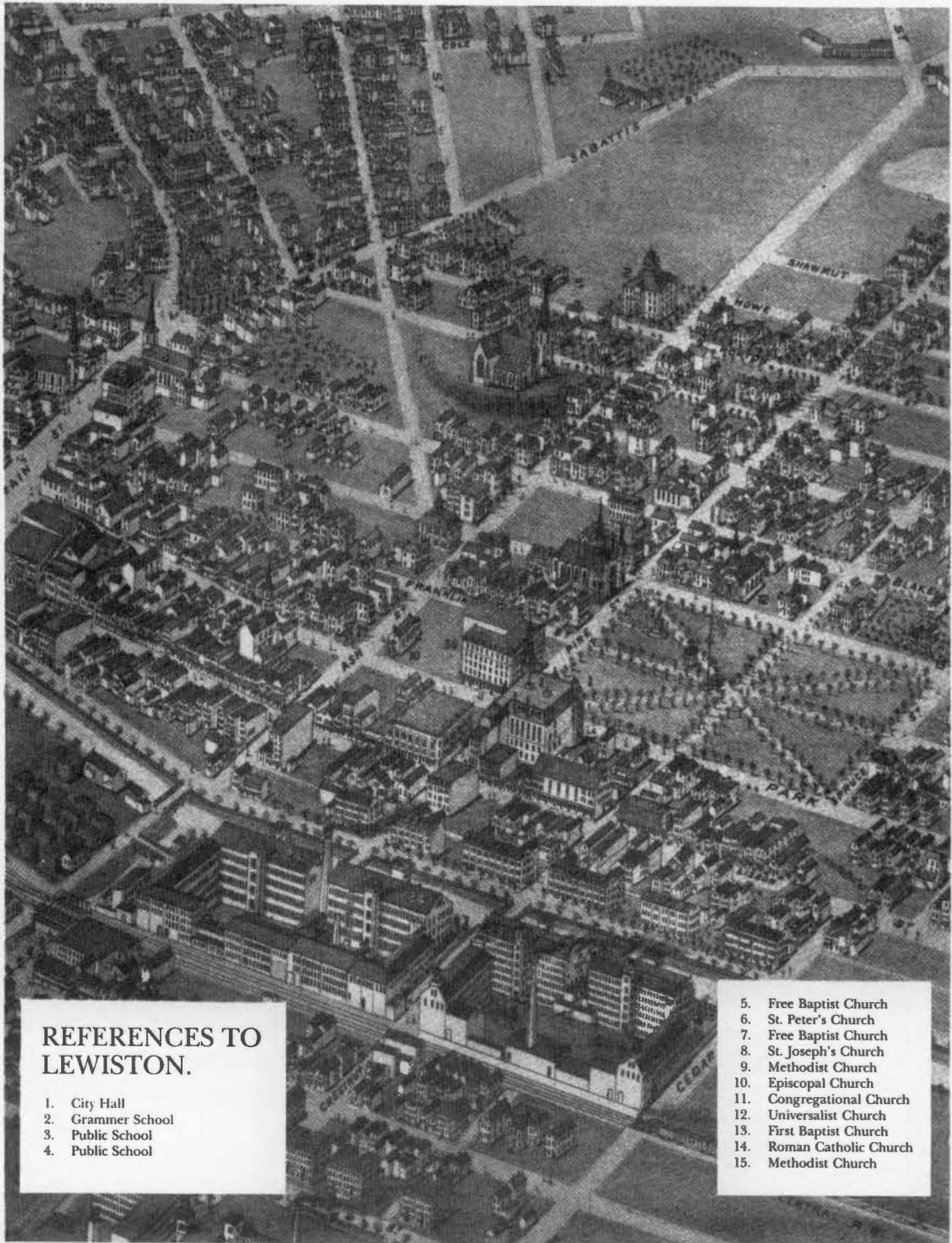
The Cast Iron Structure



A detail of columns



*The columns last seen
in the Gateway Park*



**REFERENCES TO
LEWISTON.**

- 1. City Hall
- 2. Grammer School
- 3. Public School
- 4. Public School

- 5. Free Baptist Church
- 6. St. Peter's Church
- 7. Free Baptist Church
- 8. St. Joseph's Church
- 9. Methodist Church
- 10. Episcopal Church
- 11. Congregational Church
- 12. Universalist Church
- 13. First Baptist Church
- 14. Roman Catholic Church
- 15. Methodist Church

Chapter 2

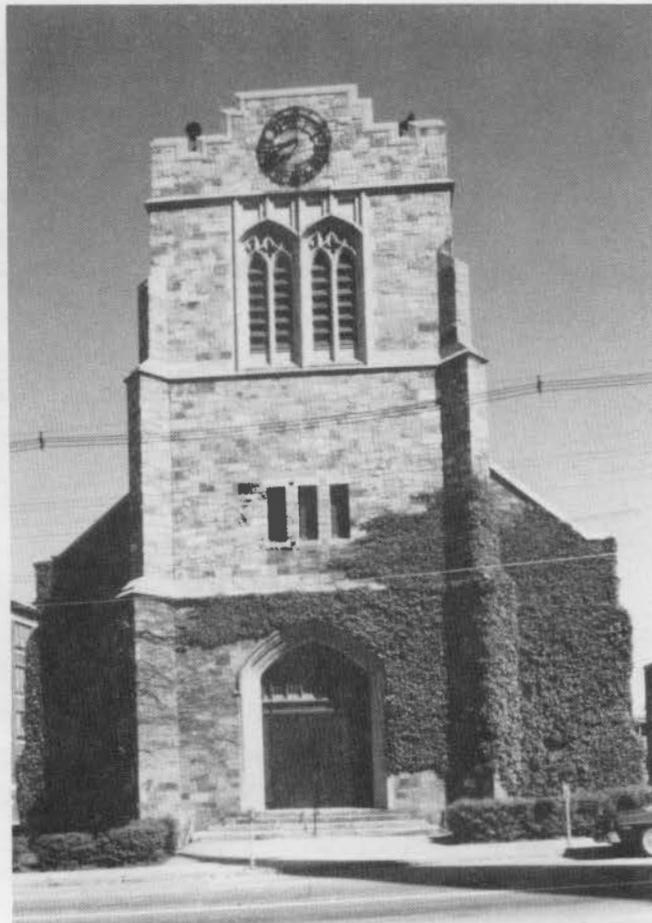
CHURCHES

The first efforts of Lewiston's early settlers went to the clearing of land for their farms and the building of mills to grind their grain; but once their livelihood was assured, they made provision for the religious and educational needs of the little community. As far back as 1783 a traveling Baptist preacher came to the plantation, holding occasional services in farm cabins. Later a school house was built on Rose Hill, and services were held there until the 'Old South Church' was built in 1818 on the same site. Sadly, the remains of this church, which had been moved to lower Main Street, were lost when that area was cleared to make space for the Gateway Park.

The First Baptists were the most numerous and well-organized of Lewiston's earliest religious groups. After moving from one inadequate accommodation to another, they completed their first permanent church in 1853 at the south corner of Lisbon and Main Streets. Later they expanded into their large brick First Baptist Church at Bates and Spruce Streets. They occupied this until 1917 when a merger of all the Baptist groups led to the sale of this property to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish for use as a school site.

Meantime, in 1856, the Free Baptists had built a Gothic style brick church at the corner of Main and Bates Streets; and this became known as the United Baptist Church where all local Baptists worshipped until 1921. Again the building was outgrown; and in 1922 an English Gothic stone church designed by Miller and Malo was completed, standing on the same site.

This corner has further historical interest because it was the location of an ungraded country school until 1850. The path which led back through the woods on what was to become Bates Street is said to have been made by the Indians and later used by pupils walking between their riverside homes and the school.



Baptist Church - Main & Bates Streets



93 College Street

There was an active Quaker presence in Lewiston after 1811 when Amos Davis built a small frame structure on Sabattus Street for use as a school and for services of the Society of Friends. Amos and his son David were elders at this early Lewiston meeting house, long vanished from the present Davis Burial Ground. David Davis, incidentally, gave his name to David's Mountain and lived at the corner of Whipple and Main streets.

In 1875 the Society of Friends built a meeting house at 93 College Street, which aptly expressed their taste for quiet simplicity. This small white church was later sold to the Christian Scientists and is now Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church.



Clough Meeting House

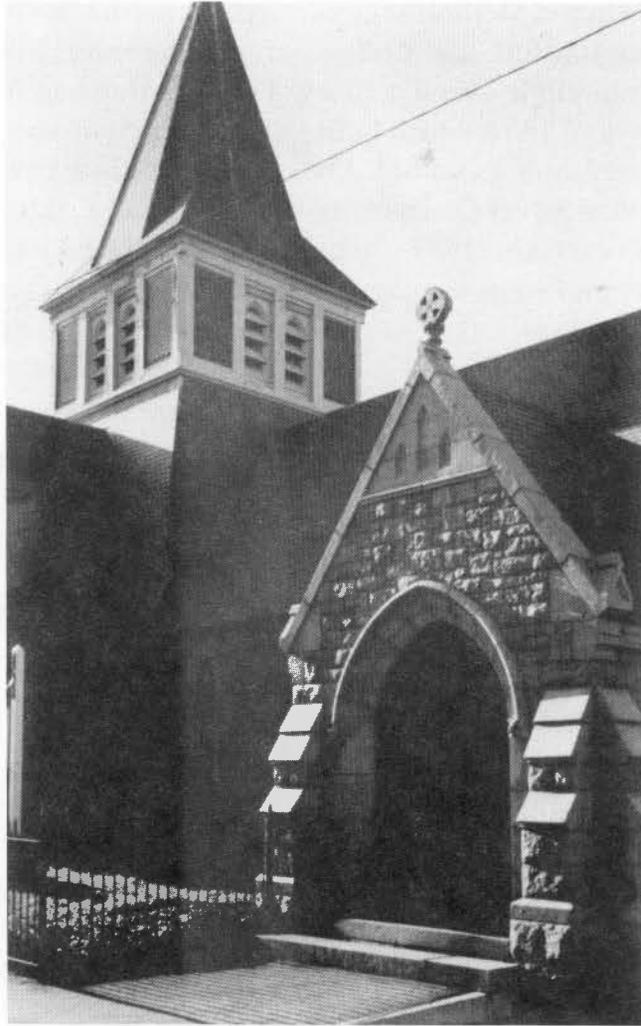
The oldest surviving church structure within Lewiston city limits is the Clough Meeting House on Old Lisbon Road. The Free Baptists erected this unpretentious white frame meeting house, similar to many built throughout New England at that period without steeple or other ornamentation. Theological students from the Cobb Divinity School used to take the train from Lewiston to Crowley's Junction on Sundays to preach to the congregation there. Although it is no longer used as a church, this charming relic of our rural past has historic and architectural significance which makes it worthy of preservation.

Calvary United Methodist Church stands on the "heater-piece" bordered by Sabattus, Bartlett, and College streets, the triangle where the old Read farmhouse stood for over a century. This building had its roots in the Universalist Society of 1832, which built its first church on the site where St. Patrick's Parish later built its school. After moving to their new church, they merged with the Pine Street Congregationalists to form a Federated Church. Another change occurred in 1964 when they became the First United Church of Christ. This arrangement was dissolved after seven years, leading to their donation of the building to the United Methodists who still occupy it.

Architecturally this structure is an example of the Akron style which features a combination of characteristics, in this case Italianate, Gothic, and Classical, in a variety of building materials. Basically built of brick, there is much granite and wooden trim. The jagged roof line is accented by a square Romanesque bell tower with chimes. Architect William R. Miller has produced in this Church in the Triangle one of the city's most unusual and dramatic buildings.



United Methodist Church

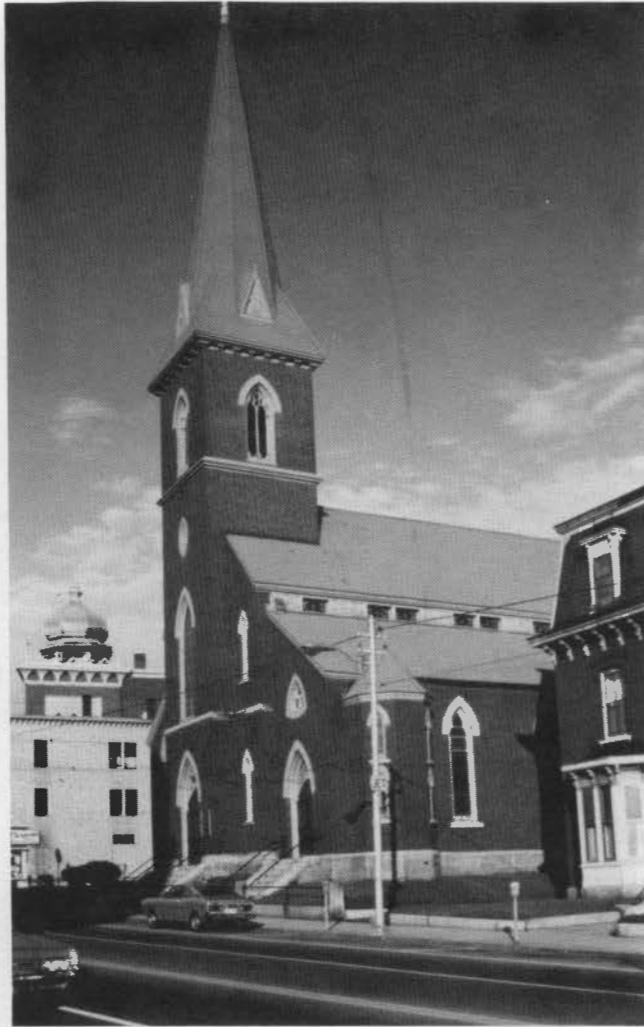


In 1979 Trinity Episcopal parish celebrated 125 years of existence in Lewiston, dating back to its first meetings in Lisbon Small Hall. The parish built its own church in 1859, a charming frame structure in English Gothic style on the site of our present post office. A phenomenon in local history was the arrival of many trained textile workers from Lancashire in England in the mid-nineteenth century. So many English people were attracted by the industrial and business opportunities of Lewiston at that period that a complete residential area known as "English Hill" grew up in the Horton, Bartlett, and Walnut street neighborhood. A larger Episcopal Church was soon needed and was logically sited at the corner of Bates and Spruce Streets, close to the new parishioners.



The Franklin Company gave the Parish its new site in 1876, and the Rev. William Washburn engaged a prominent N.Y. Gothic revivalist, C.C. Haight, to design the present church, which was consecrated in 1882. It differs from most of Lewiston's Gothic Revival churches in being built of granite rather than bricks and has many interesting details, in particular the striking red-roofed pyramidal belfry with its shingled side panels, the hand-hewn oak interior beams, and the stained glass windows. The plan is cruciform with Gothic-arched doors and windows giving the effect of a simple church in rural England. Now listed on the National Register, it is one of Lewiston's handsomest buildings.

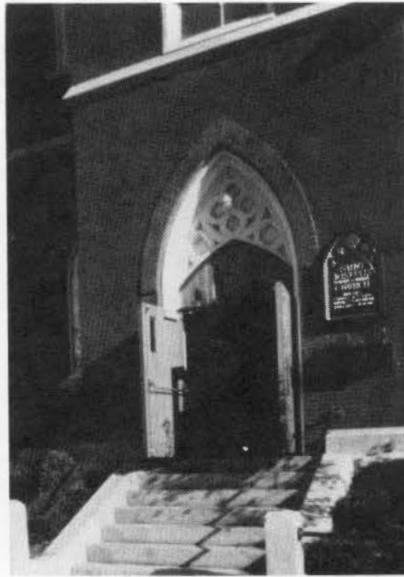
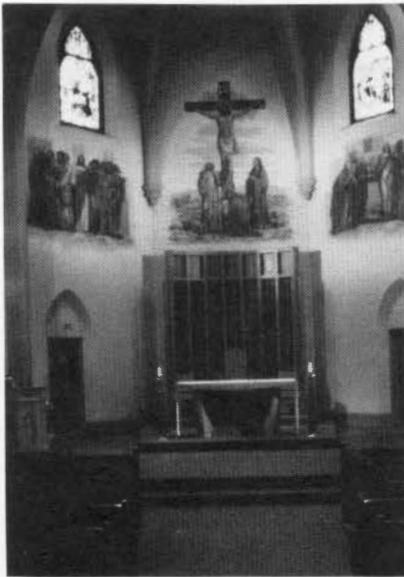




St. Joseph's Church - Main Street

Late in the 1840's Irish Catholics, drawn by the promise of work on the new canals, railroads, and mills, began to move into the Lincoln Street-Rose Hill section of Lewiston. They held their earliest service at the Lincoln Street home of Patrick McGillicuddy in 1850. Later occasional masses were said in the Bates and Cowan Mills, but the first regular services were held in the canal-side church vacated by the Free Baptists when they moved to the corner of Lisbon and Main Streets.

Though burned out by the anti-Catholic “Know-Nothing” faction, the struggling new parish of St. Joseph grew in numbers until the need for a permanent large church became pressing. The Franklin Company owned a prime building site on the corner of Bates and Main streets; but the directors, who had given generously to every other church, refused to sell to Catholics. Bates Mill agent Albert Kesley, more broad-minded than his fellow directors and aware of the church’s good influence on the Irish workers, circumvented their objections by slipping the deed of sale among other routine papers to be signed. Thus Father Michael Lucey was able to start building St. Joseph’s Church in 1864.



A New York architect, Patrick C. Keely, designed this Lewiston church, as well as similar late Gothic Revival churches for Portland and Bangor. The influence of German Romantic religious art is apparent in the Munich-made stained glass windows. Built with brick with granite trim, St. Joseph’s single central steeple, draws attention to the city’s oldest Catholic church.

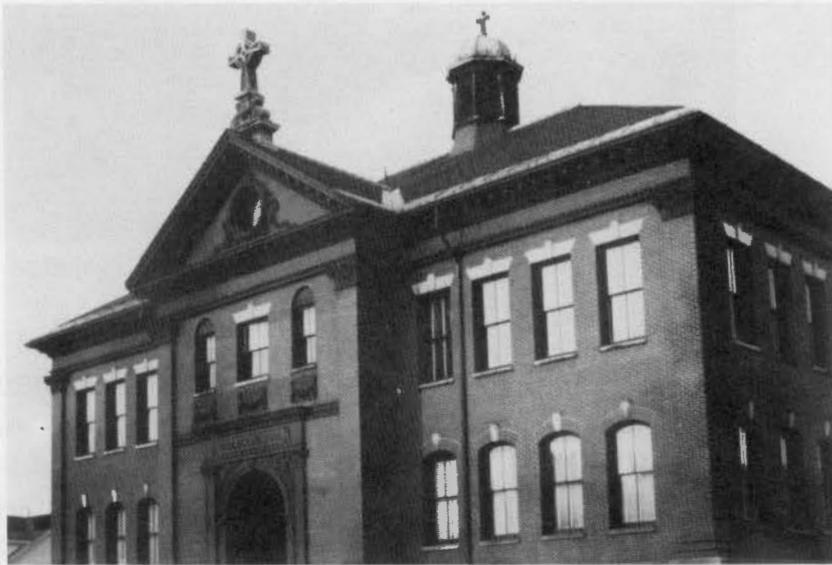


St. Patrick's Church

The Rev. Thomas H. Wallace, having opened a parochial school in the Bonnelie Block shortly after his arrival, proceeded to his greatest accomplishment, the building of St. Patrick's Church. St. Joseph's Church had become overcrowded as thousands of immigrants surged into the city, and Father Wallace saw that once again a new church was needed, this time closer to the Irish settlements in south Lewiston. For this purpose he purchased a striking site on Bates street overlooking the City Park and including mill agent Kelsey's former home at the corner of Walnut and Bates Street. St. Patrick's Rectory, in rather severe Italianate brick, pre-dates the church itself. A Providence, R.I. architect James Murphy, designed St. Patrick's in Gothic style of brick with granite trim. It featured two graceful unequal spires, each surmounted by a gold cross. Thirteen stained glass windows by Mayar of Munich were added in 1927. The church has been recently renovated and modernized, but keeps the same exterior appearance. Father Wallace also built a handsome parochial school named for his parents, where the Universalist Church formerly stood overlooking the park.



The Rectory



The Wallace School

Nearly thirty years after the Irish influx came the great wave of immigration to Lewiston from French-Canada. The first French-Canadian service was not held until 1870 in the Lincoln Street Chapel which still belonged to St. Joseph's Parish. Rev. Peter Hevey is looked upon as the founder of St. Peter and Paul's Parish for it was he who acquired the site at Ash and Bartlett Streets where the earliest French-Canadian Church was dedicated in 1873. This brick Gothic building was outgrown in only twenty-five years as the city's French-Canadian population grew faster than anyone could have foreseen. In 1881 Father Hevey invited the Dominican Fathers, led by Rev. A.L. Mothon of St. Hyacinth, to undertake the running of this large parish. A year later this religious order built the Dominican Block on Lincoln Street at Chestnut for use as their first parish school. Designed in Queen Anne style by G.M. Coombs, it quickly became a social and political center for the French-Canadian community. Now converted to commercial use, it has recently been awarded a place on the National Register.



Dominican Block



St. Peter and St. Paul Church - 1873



Monastery

Meanwhile, members of the vastly expanded Peter and Paul's Parish began to dream of building a great Gothic style church, reminiscent of the cathedrals of Normandy, the province where many of their ancestors had lived before coming to Canada. The original Coumont plan required the demolition of the outgrown brick Gothic church and in its place the construction of a basement or lower church on the Bartlett Street site. The corner stone of this basement church was laid at the same ceremony in 1895 as the first stone of the Dominican monastery. This Victorian Gothic residency for the priests of the parish was completed during the active pastorate of Père Mothon. With its high mansard roof it occupies the rocky site just above the church.

However, it was not until 1938 that the new St. Peter and Paul Church was finished. During the twenty-nine years of waiting and fund-raising this basement church continued to serve—and still does serve—the expanding parish. New plans had been drawn up by Boston architects O’Connell and Shaw, and the actual building began in 1936. The vast stone building which was completed two years later now dominates the city. The facade features a central rose window between twin spires; these towers are the city’s most visible landmark, glimpsed by travellers to Lewiston before any other sight. Though the movement to suburban parishes and the energy crisis have curtailed somewhat the use of the upper church, the building nevertheless stands as a symbol of sturdy French-Canadian faith and their willingness to sacrifice, especially in hard Depression times, to create a permanent proof of their faith.



St. Peter and Paul Church – 1938



St. Peter



St. Paul

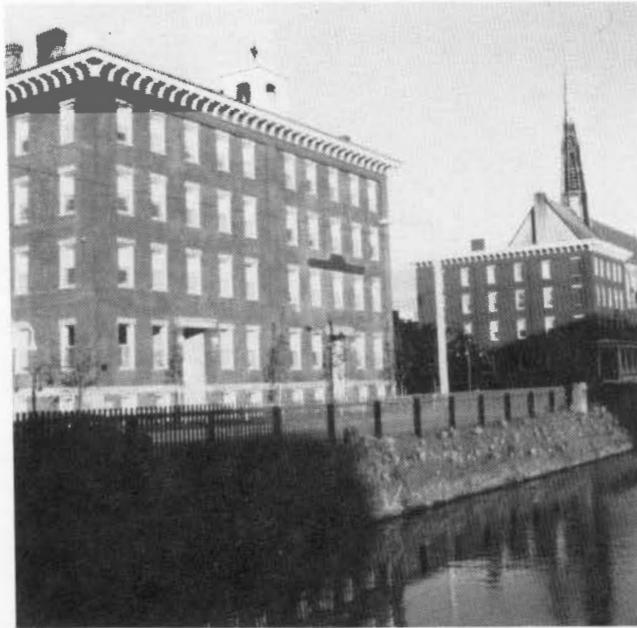




St. Mary's Church

Meanwhile, at the Dominican Block overflow masses were being said for textile workers' families in the riverside area which became known as "Little Canada". By 1907 it had become apparent that still another parish was needed to meet the needs of the growing population; and thus St. Mary's, across from the Continental Mills at Cedar Street, came into existence. Masses were said in several nearby buildings as well as in the roofed-over basement of the present edifice until the lovely building pictured here was completed in 1934. It was started in 1925 by the Rev. Eugene Gauthier who hired the O'Connell firm of Boston to design another Gothic-style church. Built of Maine granite, it received acclaim as the most beautiful church completed in New England in 1934 and still ranks as one of Lewiston's architectural jewels. The reasons for this are evident when one seeks a view of the facade—not easily visible because of the neighborhoods congestion—with its patron saint's statue near the peaked roof-line, its arched windows, and the broad terrace of entrance steps leading to the sidewalk's edge.

At the same time that the Parish acquired this site from the Continental Mills, they also bought two nineteenth-century mill housing units on Oxford street, to use as rectory and school. These solid brick blocks have recently been converted to apartments. Their facades are classically plain in a Greek Revival manner, but the strong roof-lines suggest an Italianate influence.



Mill Housing on Oxford Street

Two other church-related buildings are the city's special legacy from the "Grey Nuns", a branch of the Sisters of Charity, who came to Lewiston in 1878 from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. The first of these is their hospital, St. Mary's, which grew out of their 1888 purchase of the Golder farm, a house on thirty-six acres at Sabattus and Pine Streets. Until that year the combined community of 40,000 souls on both sides of the Androscoggin had no institution for the care of the sick. These nuns, with diocesan and somewhat hesitant state support, proceeded to convert the Golder residence into a thirty-bed hospital, a move which took considerable courage in the face of local anti-Catholic prejudice. Dr. Lois J. Martel, who also immigrated to Lewiston from St. Hyacinthe, succeeded in changing public attitudes and caused the new institution to be accepted by members of his profession. Thus he became one of the founders of St. Mary's Hospital.



Detail of St. Mary's Hospital

The little hospital quickly outgrew its cramped quarters in the Golder home, and a new larger building was planned by a Dominican priest, Paul-Victor Charland, in 1900. Architect William R. Miller further interpreted and executed these plans. The resulting octagonal Gothic towers, crowned with domes of a Brunelleschi elegance, are masterpieces of dramatic architectural effect. Behind the peaked brick facade a bustling institution of 250 beds served the French-speaking community so successfully that two modern wings had to be added and further additions have recently been made.

Looking first at the Hospital, and now, at the Healy Asylum, it is apparent that these Grey Nuns were not only experts at care of the sick, but were also women of advanced taste in architecture. They hired architect J.L. Coburn to design a shelter for orphaned and abandoned boys, specifying not only a handsome exterior, but every facility then available for this charitable work. The new Asylum, opened in 1892, was named for Bishop Healy of Portland, their unfailing benefactor. The sisters ran this Ash Street institution until 1973, when improved social conditions led to its closing. It was then sold for use as a private boarding home.

The Healy Asylum is now included on the National Register, and this extraordinary structure of brick and granite under a great mansard roof certainly deserves its place on this important list. The facade is 130 feet long with a central porch entrance. Two wings, each 120 feet long, are balanced by a lofty white tower typical of the period. The basement contained kitchens, refectory, and heating plant; and the upper floors were devoted to class-rooms, sisters' quarters and chapel, with dormitories on the top floor. Boys up to fifteen years old were housed and educated there, following the same course as public school students. When they finished their studies, they were helped to find work or apprenticeships in the city where many become successful businessmen. Much of the building's original interior is still intact, reminding us that the Healy Asylum was one of Lewiston's best-loved charities for over eighty years.



Healey Asylum – today



The Frye School - 1866

Chapter 3

SCHOOLS

With the loss of Amos Davis' eighteenth century church-schoolhouse and the more recent demolition of the Jackson Schoolhouse on the Greene Road, Lewiston's connection with the simple school buildings of its village past has been broken. In striking contrast to the modest structures deemed adequate before the city's industrial boom, the Frye School, built of brick in 1866, reflects Lewiston's new confidence and the prosperity which Civil War textile orders had brought.

The structure was designed by a prominent Portland architect, George Harding, in a grand Italian manner with bracketed cornices at the roof line and a crowning tower, which has been removed. The strong brownstone doorways add importance to this impressive building, which since the turn of the century has honored the memory of the city's most famous political figure, Senator William P. Frye.



The Wallace School

Looking much as it did when built in 1886, the Main Street school was renamed in honor of Mons. Thomas H. Wallace. Monsignor Wallace served on the Lewiston School board for 29 years, as chairman the body for two terms, a most unusual merging of roles in public and parochial education at a time when local attitudes were more sectarian than at present. Wallace School is a strong brick edifice, with its tower still intact. Its most notable feature is the Romanesque arched entrance outlined by terra-cotta work.



In 1889 the Oak Street Training School was built to a George M. Combs design in Richardsonian Romanesque style. Typical of the imaginative work of Lewiston's foremost architect, the brick walls, two stories over basement, are perfectly balanced by a high-hipped roof giving the structure a sense of weight and mass. Neatly checkered stone work decorates the facade and turret, while the broad stone steps draw further attention to the semicircular central entrance.

The Oak Street Training School served for many years as a normal school to train teachers. It later became an ordinary grade school before being taken over by the Lewiston Board of Education for its offices. It was renamed in 1899 to pay honor to Congressman Nelson Dingley Jr., author of the Dingley Tariff Act. Now listed on the National Register, the Dingley School represents a priceless legacy from our architectural past.



The Dingley Building

Jordan School, raised in 1902, is the youngest of Lewiston's Victorian school buildings. Six tall rounded-arch windows repeat the vertical lines of the twin flanking doorway towers. Visible under the Italianante roofline, the words "Jordan High School" remind us that this brick and granite building, the last word in school architecture, was designed to replace the old Second Empire style high school, on Main Street across from Central Maine Medical Center. When a larger high school was built on Central Avenue, since replaced by the modern East Avenue facility, Jordan High School became a grammar school. Named for professor Lyman G. Jordan, principal for 15 years and president of the school board for 12 years, Jordan School still occupies its site between Wood and Nichols streets with dignity and much noteworthy detail. It has been converted to an apartment complex.



Jordan High School



St. Dom's - 1908

Another unusual building which served for many years as a school was built originally as a clubhouse for the St. Dominic Association. The structure was erected in 1908 on lower Bartlett Street, under the direction of Rev. R.P. Duchaussey. Located in the center of SS. Peter and Paul's parish, the site offered an ideal location for the club's marching bands and roller skating teams. From these team grew the celebrated St. Dominic's ice hockey teams, sponsored by Rev. Francis Drouin. Father Drouin converted the old building for use as the parochial high school in 1941, and it served in this capacity until 1973. The most distinctive architectural feature of this plain brick building is the prominent stepped gable which gives it a somewhat English Jacobean appearance.



Lewiston's Old City Building.

The corner-stone was laid July 4, 1871. The building was dedicated December 1872. The interior of large hall, 80 x 165, and 37 feet and 2 inches high. The or would seat 1,600 people; the galleries would seat 672. The building was 165 t on Park street, 180 feet on Pine street, and 40 feet on Lisbon street. The height in the sidewalk to cornice, 106 feet. The height of spire was 206 feet. The vane 10 feet long. It was destroyed by fire January 7, 1890.

Chapter 4

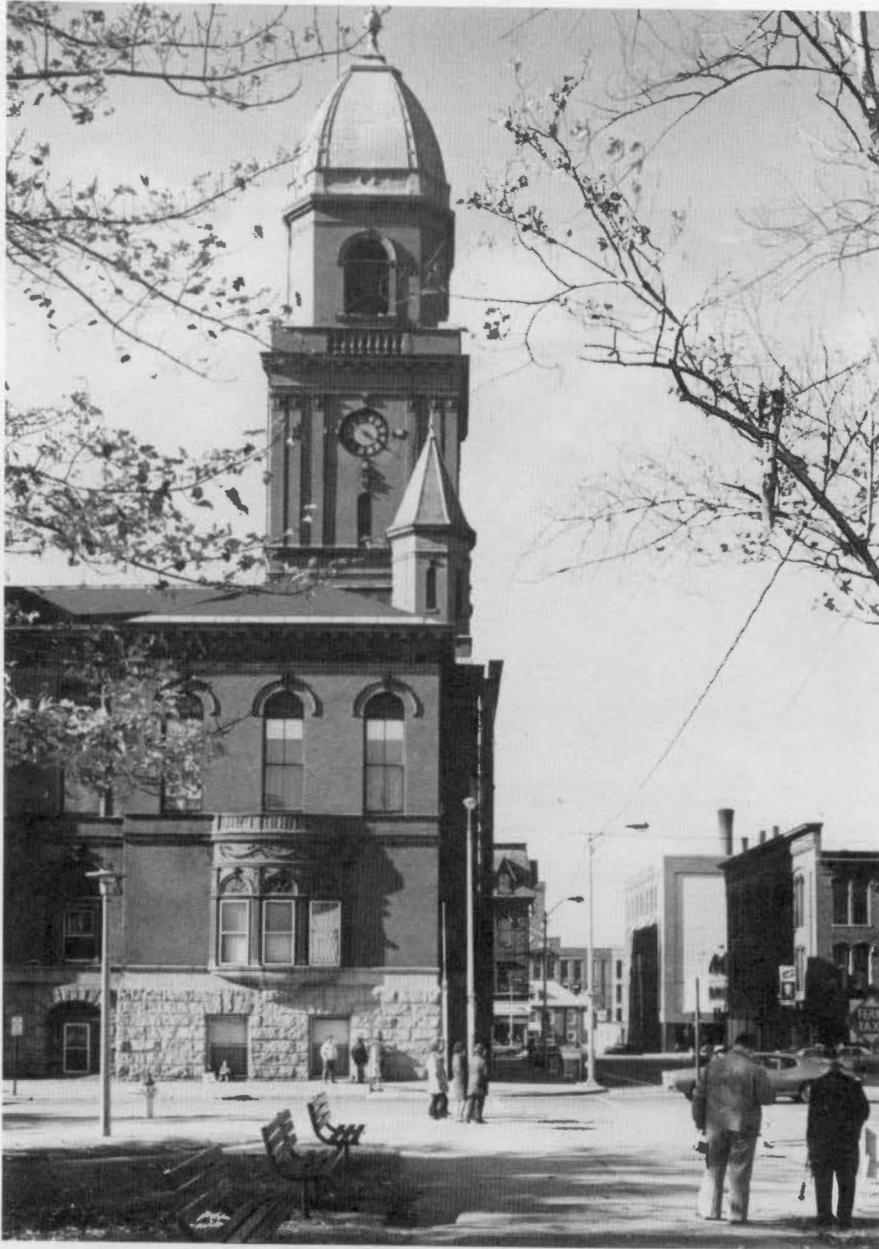
PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The second half of the nineteenth century, which had seen the mills raised as symbols of Lewiston's new industrial and economic power, also witnessed an unprecedented burst of population growth. This led to a demand for new buildings to fill the political, social, and educational needs of an expanding populace. Local entrepreneurs responded by building the brick Yards which we see dotted over old maps, and from these came the material of most of our surviving landmarks, augmented by huge drives of timber floated here from up-river. The young agricultural community had prayed, voted, and studied in modest wooden halls and converted farm buildings', but post-Civil War wealth created aspirations for grander places in which to meet and work.

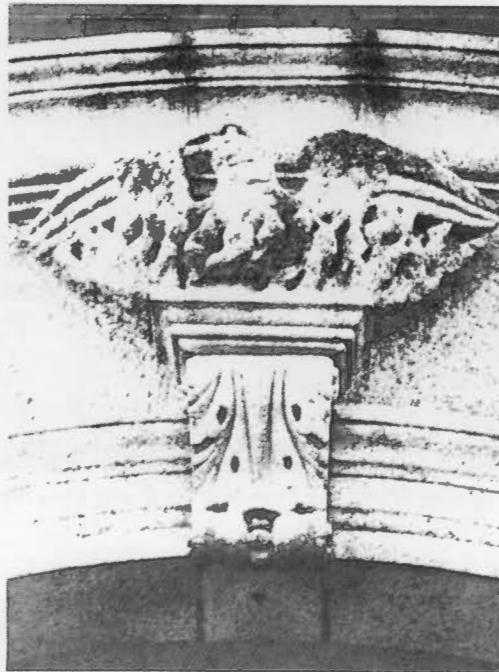
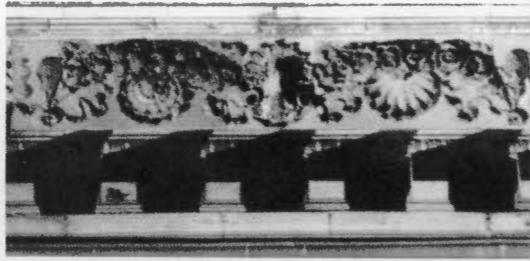
Lewiston's soaring City Building with its copper-clad dome faces the park at the corner of Pine and Park streets. The present structure dates back to 1892 and was designed by John Calvin Spofford, a Maine-born architect from the Boston firm of Brigham and Spofford. It is built of brick and granite in the Baroque Revival style, its tower rising 185 feet above the street. Imposing though it is, the present City Building replaced an even more splendid structure. A disastrous fire on January 7, 1890, swept away not only one of Maine's most remarkable Victorian Gothic structures, but destroyed most of the fine library then housed in the municipal headquarters.

Mayor D.J. McGillicuddy immediately launched plans for reconstruction, and the cornerstone of the new building was laid only eight months after the fire. A Dedication Ball on May 19, 1892 was the social event of the season; social and business functions were combined within the building until 1973 when the top floor hall was converted to much-needed office space. Now on the National Register, the dramatic, impressive Lewiston City Building is very much a living monument, still at the heart of city business and a focal point of the downtown area.



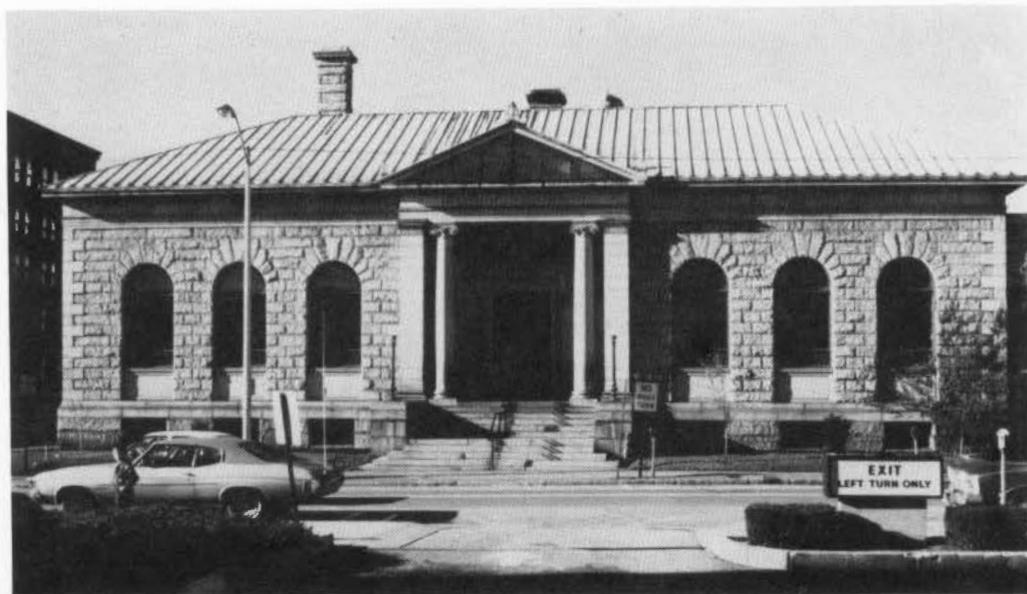


View of City Hall from Corner of Park and Pine Streets



Exterior details - North Wall

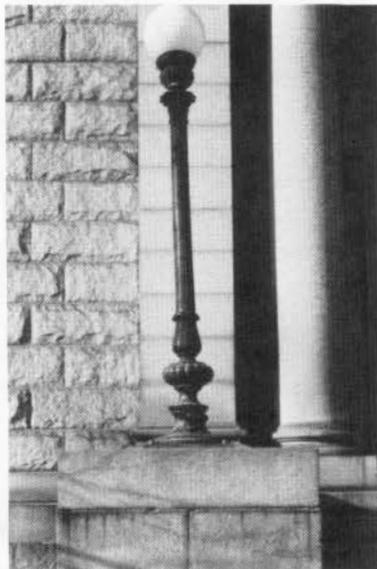
The Lewiston Public library, like the city itself, has its roots in manufacturing. With initial gifts of \$500 from the Bates, Hill and Androscoggin Mills, as well as the Franklin company, the Manufacturers and Mechanics Library Association was founded in 1861, the same year Lewiston was incorporated as a city. Unlike the present free library, however, this early collection of 12,000 volumes was available to the public only by payment of a fee of \$1 per year, a sum which made membership a luxury unattainable to many workers.



The Lewiston Public Library - 105 Park Street - 1903

With the almost total loss of this library in the 1890 fire, the need for an independent free library became evident; and a local attorney Wallace H. White, preached the value of making knowledge available to all members of the community free of charge. His father-in-law, Senator William P. Frye, was able to persuade his close friend Andrew Carnegie to donate \$50,000 to finance a public library in Lewiston. This generous gift was followed several years later by another \$10,000, and in February 1903 the building was opened to the public. Architects Coombs and Gibbs chose granite ashlar for their dignified single-story over basement building in restrained "Beaux Arts" classical style.

The site at the corner of Pine and Park streets had earlier been the location of a roller skating rink which was demolished in 1901. A collection of books donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution started the immense reserve of volumes, which, over the years, has grown far too numerous for their handsome but relatively small home. Dr. Eustache Giguere's memorial collection of French books is of special interest for the Franco-American community, and new books and services of all kinds are continually being added. The fact that the Lewiston Public library has outgrown its present building is an indication of its value to the community.



For sheer bold exuberance no building in the city surpasses the Kora Shrine Temple. This Moorish-style edifice, completed in 1908, is a George M. Coombs masterpiece, a vivid demonstration of his imagination and versatility. The two Eastern-style verdigris domes at either end of the flat roof give an exotic flavor to staid Main Street where it joins Sabattus Street. The Arabic theme is continued in the banks of exquisitely carved windows across the brick facade, and the central door is crowned by a Saracen head with beard and burnoose.



Detail of Saracen head



Kora Shrine Temple

The honors for this unique creation must be equally shared with Harry H. Cochrane, who painted perhaps his most celebrated set of murals for the Temple's banquet hall. Cochrane had travelled widely in the Middle East, gathering inspiration for this project; and he later produced a book, "Following the Fez", which described his pilgrimage. Much of the art work was done in his Monmouth studio and transported to the Kora Shrine Temple.

The present Temple was commissioned by the rapidly expanding secret society of Masons, who in the late nineteenth century outgrew their earlier headquarters at the corner of Lisbon and Main streets, now known as the Gateway Building.

The early photograph of the Kora Shrine Temple shows it surrounded by frame buildings. Deserving of its position on the National Register, Kora Temple will surely become more widely appreciated now that it is more frequently opened to the citizens of Lewiston.



The Bandstand – Kennedy Park

A focal point of most late nineteenth century town parks was the bandstand. We are fortunate to have one of these light hearted creations still gracing the present Kennedy Park as a symbol of our forefathers' love of outdoor band concerts. In that simpler era Sunday was the only day free of labor, and the day's social activities centered around church services and afternoon strolls in the park. The Lewiston Bandstand carries the date 1861 on its curved and decorated dome, but this date refers to the year that the land for the future park was given to the city by the Franklin company. The present richly Victorian structure actually dates from 1881, replacing an earlier, smaller bandstand from the Civil War period. Its cast-iron railings, polygonal shape, and cheerful coloring combine to bring a festive note to its cool green setting.

In stark contrast to the debonair Bandstand, the brick bulk of the old City Farm looms up suddenly on the Cottage Road like a Bronte creation on the moors. This huge house, built by the city in unrelieved Greek Revival style, stands on land bought from the Goddard farm. It must have extended a grim welcome to the forlorn inmates whose poverty drove them there to work, live and quite likely to die. Many of these paupers are buried in the graveyard at the back, later taken over as a city cemetery.



Old City Farm

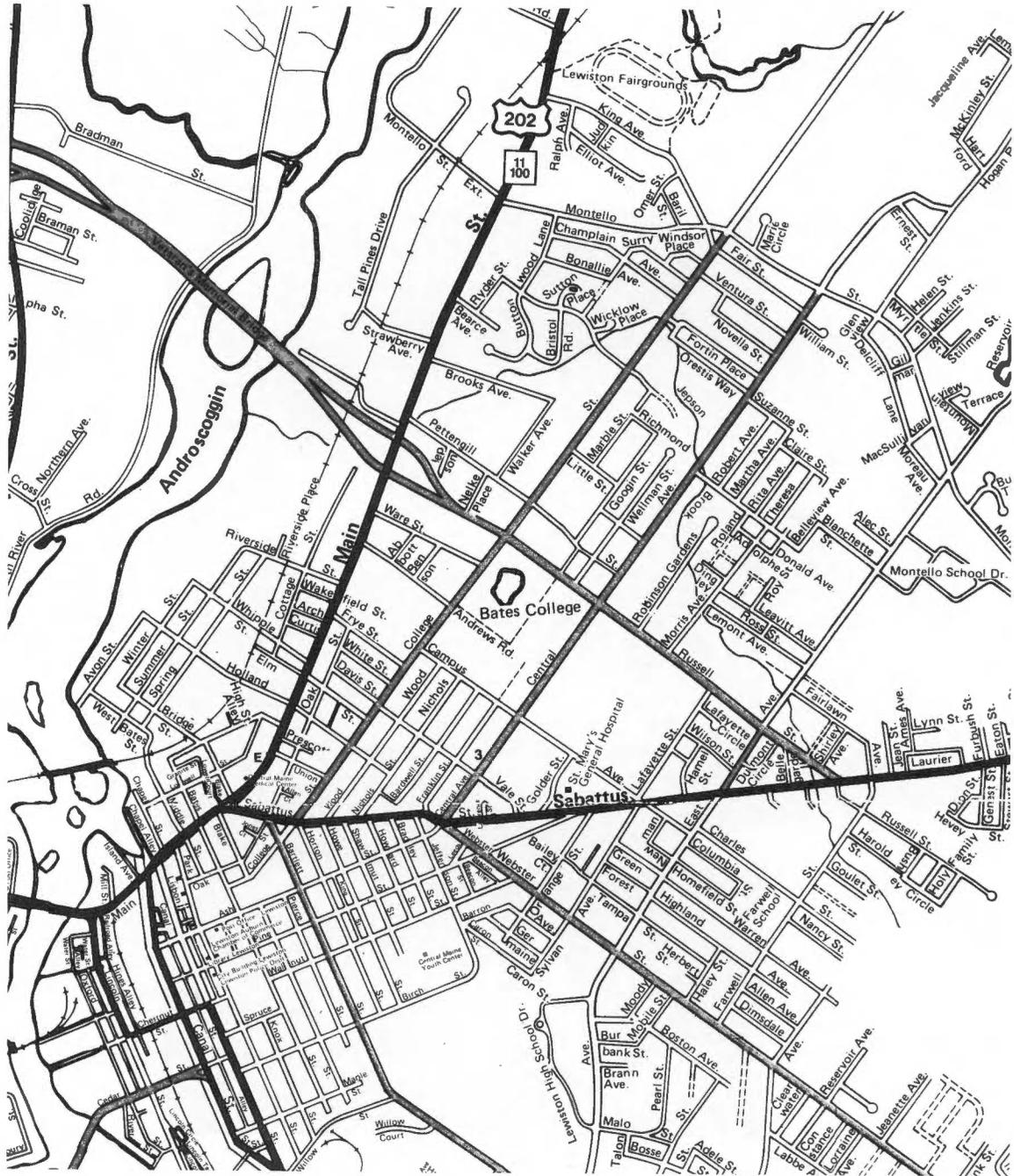
Sometimes described as the “Ellis Island” of Lewiston, the Grand Trunk Railway Depot on Lincoln Street, with its backdrop of mills, boarding houses and churches, was the first sight seen by thousands of French-Canadian immigrants when they arrived in this county. Aside from this meaningful historical link, the brick one-story depot is architecturally unmatched in this city as an example of “stick style” construction. This style is characterized by a steep roof forming a sort of veranda with exposed framing both



supporting and decorating this overhang. Though no longer needed as a depot since the closing of the Grand Trunk Line, local preservationists are earnestly seeking ways for this little building to continue to serve its old neighborhood.



R.R. approach to Depot



Chapter 5

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

As a city grows, industrialization and increased commerce generally result. Lewiston was no exception, and prosperity soon propelled the community into the forefront of Maine's retail business activity. Sadly, no buildings remain from Lewiston's early nineteenth century commercial life to mark this accomplishment.

We do know that from 1813 James Lowell did an extensive trade in general merchandise in his store on Main Street near Hammond Street, the town's first commercial district. This junction, where Sabattus meets Main Street, is still known as Lowell's Corner.



The Hayes Building - today

Rivals soon arrived and newer stores were built further down Main Street until business activity became centered around the bridge. The only surviving store located in the city's original commercial area is the former J.L. Hayes Grain Store, which has occupied the same Main Street site since 1868.



Lowell & Bates Streets

Unique in being always owned by the same family, this old photograph shows the Hayes building before its facade was shingled. Urban development and "renewal" have swept away most of the thriving Main Street firms, but two Greek Revival brick buildings still stand as reminders of the high quality of many of Lewiston's commercial buildings of the 1850's and 1860's. The older one is located at the corner of Lowell and Bates streets, and the other is at the corner of Middle and Main. Both were built for a grocer named J.K. Blanchard and exemplify strength in their brick construction with granite trim.



Middle & Main Streets



The College Block

After the opening of the new road to Lisbon in 1846, most of Lewiston's important commercial buildings began to be sited in this promising area, eventually drawing trade away from Main Street and the central Haymarket Square. Farmers now had easy access for their products, and the railway brought workers for the new mills as well as goods for the rapidly expanding city. This mid-century upsurge in trade led to the building of most of Lisbon Street's grander buildings.

One of the earliest, the College Block, occupies the site which was once John Cole's farm, bought from him for \$3,000 by the Lewiston Water Power Company. After a further sale to the Franklin Company, this site was developed in 1865 with a single-story brick building called Lisbon Hall. The location was central to the developers' plans, linking the city's two major business districts, Lisbon and Lincoln Streets. In time two stories were added and it came to house many stores, offices, and meeting room, and the city's first library, the Manufacturers and Mechanics Library Association. Lisbon Hall also served as a provisional City Hall and can be called Lewiston's birthplace. In addition it served as a social center for the newly-arrived immigrants from Canada, who gathered there for musical and religious assemblies. The name "College Block" was given to the building when Benjamin Bates gave his share to the new college.

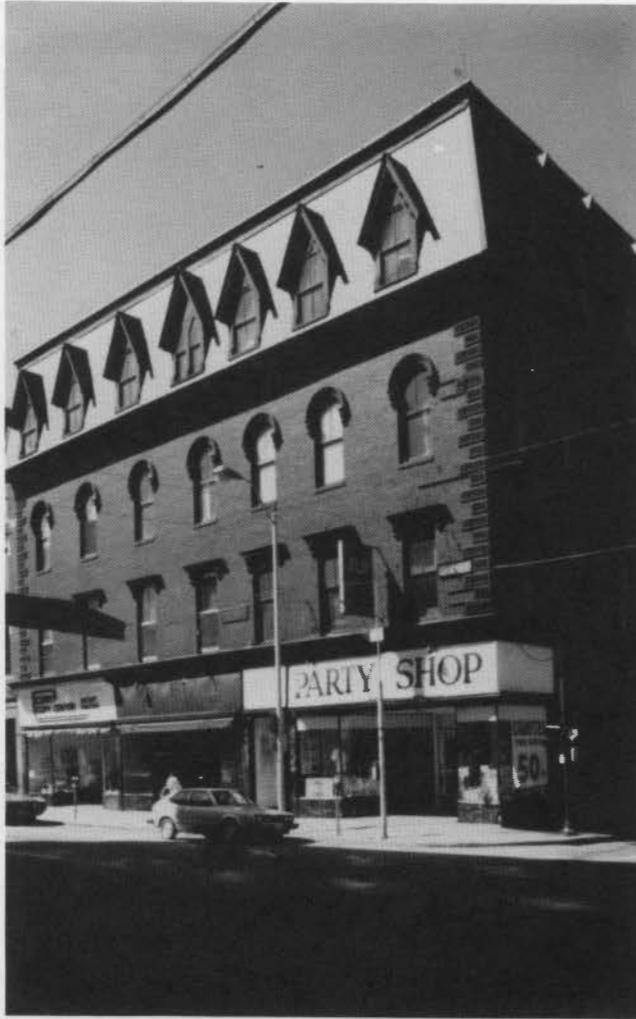


The College Block - Lisbon Street



The Pilsbury Block

Another building associated with Lewiston's early commercial development is the Pilsbury Block of 1873 at the corner of Lisbon and Pine streets. It was developed by George Pilsbury, the Franklin Company's paymaster and director of the Peoples's Savings Banks. This block, which served as the Bank's first home, still emerges as an Italianate corner building having two series of brick arches set into recessed areas.



The Monroe Block

Contemporary with it are two other distinctive brick blocks, the Lyceum Hall and the Monroe Block. The latter, located at the southeast corner of Lisbon and Pine streets, intersects its mansard roof with a series of Gothic style pointed windows. The windows on the third floor carry Romanesque arches, while the second floor arches are Italianate, a most imaginative mixture.



The Lyceum Hall

The Lyceum Hall is little changed from early photographs. It still displays five granite-trimmed windows on the second and third floors and a mansard roof, also with five windows.

The Odd Fellows Block, built in 1876, moves away from the Second Empire look with its Italianate roof, strongly accented with cornice brackets. The windows are Victorian Gothic, dominating a textured facade which is trimmed with a fanciful combination of brick and granite.



Odd Fellows Block



The Osgood Building

Twenty years later Henry Osgood built two of the three planned sections of his white enamel brick-fronted building at 131 Lisbon Street. The architect J. Coburn and Sons, specified pure gold leaf gilding on all the trim and imported the white bricks from Leeds, England. Though less impressive than the original design, the white facade of the Osgood Building still lends a bright accent to Lisbon Street.

Several later buildings, especially the Masonic Hall, mentioned earlier as the present Gateway at the corner of Lisbon and Main streets, give distinction to this commercial street. Built in 1902, it was designed by George Coombs and features elaborate Italianate details. The interior, including the handsome assembly hall, was gutted by a fire in 1977. With the exception of the copper roof, the building's shell survived the fire and was for some time threatened with demolition. Happily the landmark has been saved, handsomely restored into shops, offices, and apartments. Its appearance has been changed somewhat by the addition of a fifth floor and mansard roof.



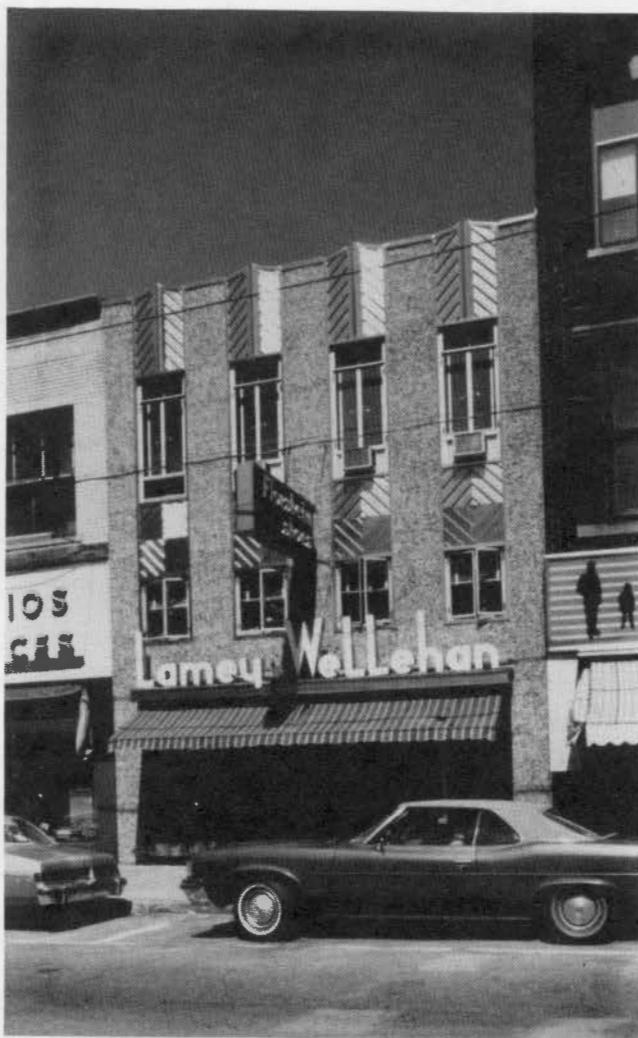
The Masonic Building



53 Lisbon Street

On the same side of Lisbon Street, at number 53, stands another notable commercial building. This classical granite structure could be nothingless than a bank, strong and secure in appearance. It was built in 1921 by Coombs and Gibbs.

Nearby geographically, but worlds apart architecturally, is the 1936 Lamey-Wellehan Building, a small gem of Art Deco styling design by Coombs and Harriman. With its black glass exterior sheathing and angular aluminum trim it made a fresh statement in the middle of the Depression.



110 Lisbon Street

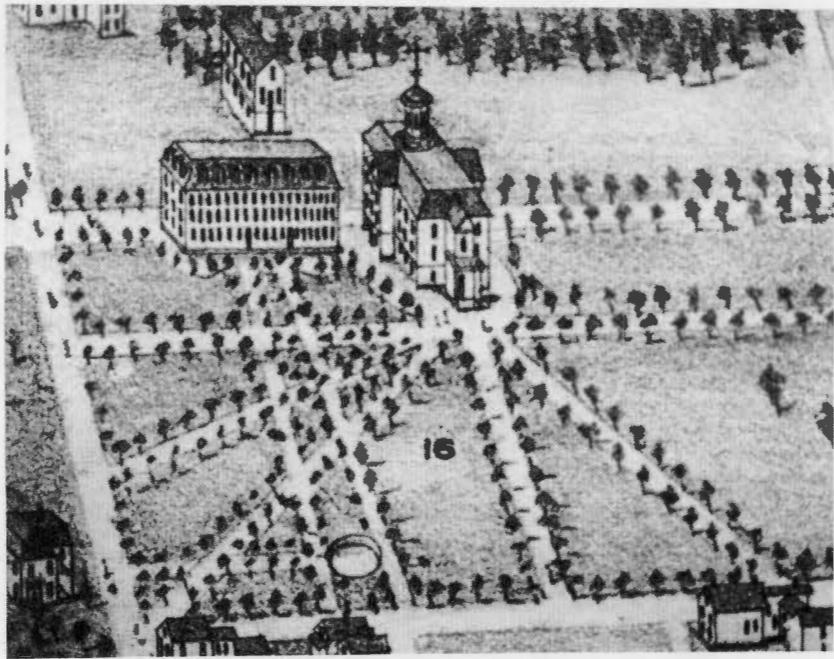


The commercial block that dominates all others in Lewiston is the former B. Peck Store, designed in 1898 by Coombs, Gibbs and Wilkinson. Old photographs show it as it was meant to look, with sweeping, Romanesque arches and intricate surface detail. A featureless facade was added to cover the first two floors in the 1930's.

Rising five stories from Main Street, the shopping facility came to be known as "The Great Department Store," and for a time was the largest such building in New England. To make space for this huge structure, Bradford Peck demolished the old brick Frye Mill housing blocks. At the time it was considered a daring move to transfer his dry goods business from Lisbon Street to the far side of Main Street. Two years earlier Peck had written a utopian novel, "The World a Department Store" in which he described an ideal city filled with Beaux Arts buildings. These were drawn by Harry Wilkinson and were similar in style to his real-life department store.



*The Peck Building - today
L.L. Bean*

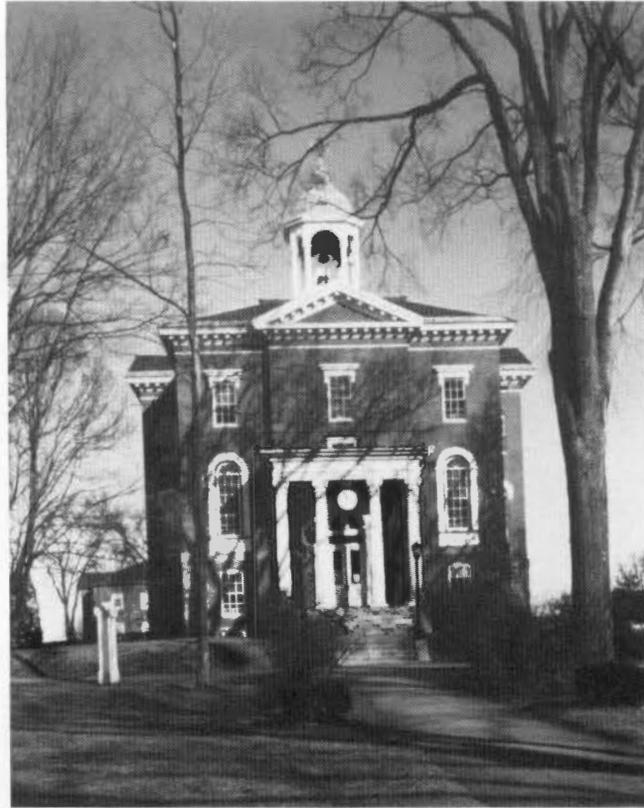


1875 Bird's Eye - Hathorn & Parker

Chapter 6

BATES COLLEGE CAMPUS

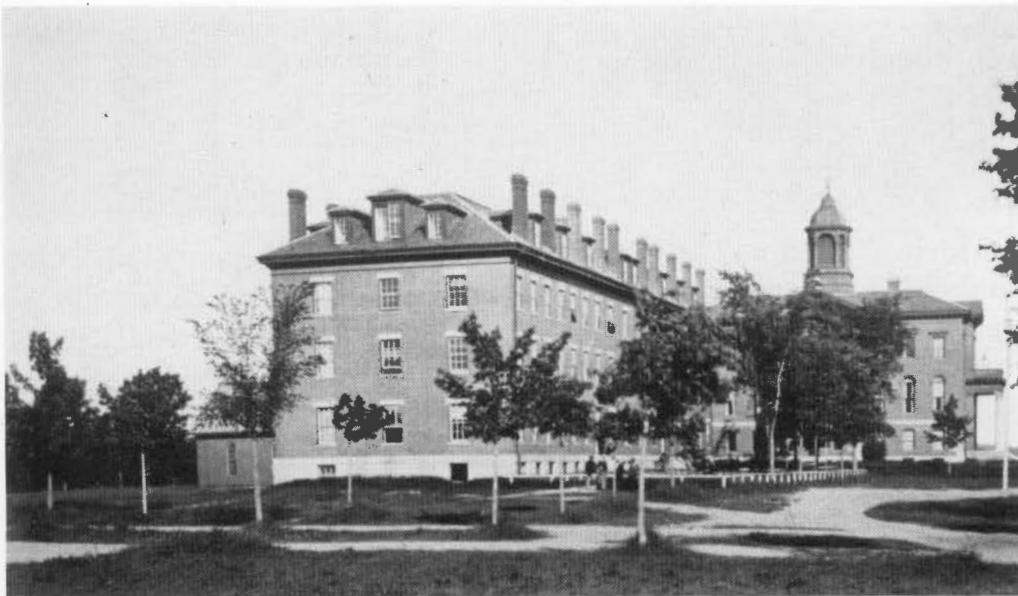
The picturesque green campus of Bates College, studded with ivy-covered buildings of mellow brick, would not exist in its present form if it were not for the more utilitarian brick buildings that line Lewiston's river and canals. From these textile mills whose Civil War profits triggered Lewiston's spectacular postwar growth came the wealth and vision that transformed the modest Maine State Seminary into a liberal arts college. Benjamin Bates chose to endow the city where his fortune was made by making large donations to the struggling young college. His first pledge of \$25,000, followed in 1868 by an additional \$75,000, put the college on its feet financially and prompted the Maine Legislature to name the new college for Bates.



Hathorn Hall

The Reverend Orin B. Cheney, whose name survives on his splendid first home on College Street was the father of the college in all but name. A vigorous minister of the Free Baptist persuasion, he resolved that the burned Parsonfield Seminary should be replaced by another institution for the education of Free Baptists somewhere in Maine. The realization of this dream was to be known as the Maine State Seminary, chartered by the State Legislature with a grant of \$15,000. The choice of Lewiston as the location of this school came about largely through the efforts of Dr. Alonzo Garcelon and Major William R. Frye, who raised gifts of \$15,000 from the town of Lewiston and the Franklin Company and convinced Cheney that Lewiston would soon become an important center of population. Though the building committee first favored the land now occupied by Riverside Cemetery, the final choice was an area east of David's Mountain. Twenty acres were bought from the farm of A.R. Nash, whose house at 227 College Street now belongs to the College.

The Seminary's first building, started in 1856, is still the outstanding ornament of the campus. Designed by Gridley J.F. Bryant, a famous architect of nineteenth century New England, Hathorn Hall soars from its central position in classic Italian style, easily earning its central position as the first Lewiston building to be listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Seth and May Hathorn of Woolwich, a pious and parsimonious couple, left a bequest in their will amounting to \$5,000 which largely paid for the Seminary's original building. Named for the eccentric old couple, the Hall contained the first chapel, library and classrooms. Gas, steam heat, and electricity were much later additions.



Parker & Hathorn Hall

Only a year later living quarters for the first 115 students were ready for use. Again Gridley Bryant was the architect, this time designing in pure Greek Revival style, still evident despite changes and additions. The dormitory was named for Judge Thomas Parker of Farmington, who gave \$5,000 in the panic year of 1857 when most other pledges were wiped out. When opened, the north end for male students was divided by a brick wall from the south end where the carefully chaperoned young ladies lived, all students providing their own stoves. Thus it was clear from the beginning that coeducation, unknown until now in New England, was basic to Dr. Cheney's plan, influenced, we are told, by his indomitable wife, Eveline.

Another part of Cheney's plan, though not openly expressed at first, was the amending of the Seminary charter to create collegiate status in 1862. College and seminary classes were taught in the same building until the seminary was discontinued in 1870, although its college preparatory department lasted another thirty years as Nichols Latin School.

Meanwhile the Free Baptist Theological Institute was transferred from New Hampshire to Lewiston and became a department of Bates College. Endowed by a Lewiston textile magnate, J.L.H. Cobb, the new divinity school was named for him and occupied the building which earlier housed Nichols Latin School. The college Commons and dormitory known as John Bertram Hall first housed Nichols Latin School and then Cobb Divinity School. This 1869 edifice reflects the simple lines of Greek Revival architecture, but displays Italian elements in its corner towers.



John Bertram Hall

In 1895 the Theological Institute moved to its new home in Roger Williams Hall, a gift of a Providence Free Baptist minister, Deacon Anthony; and here it remained until the theological department was dropped from the ever more secular college in 1908.

Roger William's Hall, Bates College,
Lewiston, Me.



A chemical laboratory was built in 1891 in Romanesque style from a bequest of Dr. Isaiah Hedge. It has now been converted into a dormitory. Coram Library followed in 1902, the gift of Josiah Coram of Lowell. It was designed by New York architects Harts and Tallant in neoclassical style and served as the college library until it became too small for current needs and a large modern library was opened just behind it in 1971.



Hedge Hall



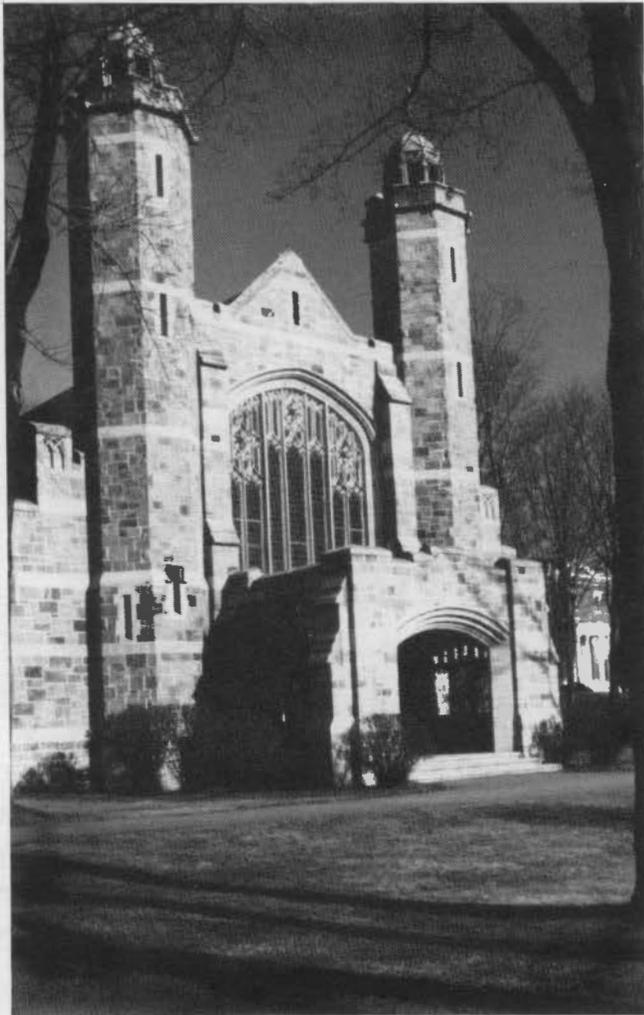
The Coram Library - 1902

An expanding College welcomed two more buildings early in the twentieth century, including Libbey Forum in 1908, built of red brick with a stately Romanesque arched doorway, the gift of W.S. Libbey of Lewiston.



The Libbey Forum

In 1913, Mrs. D. Willis James of New York contributed \$60,000 for the construction of a chapel in English Gothic style, designed by the Boston firm of Coolidge and Carlson. This handsome structure replaced the small chapel in Hathorn Hall; its stained glass windows are particularly lovely.



The Chapel

In recent years the College has added more buildings in a variety of styles, blending well with one another, but never adequate to meet the needs of a growing institution. To fill these needs the College has acquired one fine old house after another in its vicinity. Whether one chooses to regard these houses as primarily college buildings or as residences, they can serve as an architectural link between "town and gown".



Cheney House

Probably the most prominent of these homes is Cheney House, built in 1875. Designed by Boston architect John Stevens, this stately house was built for the first president of the College. The three sections of this wooden structure, all topped by mansard roofs, are now used as student housing.



240 College Street

A step further down College Street at 240 is one of the City's best examples of a 'shingle style' Queen Anne house. It was designed in 1891 by George M. Combs for Col. J.T. Small, a successful Lewiston realtor and railway contractor. The house remained in the Small family until its purchase several years ago by the College. Its geometric colonial style trim, painted white, contrasts well with its wooden shingles.

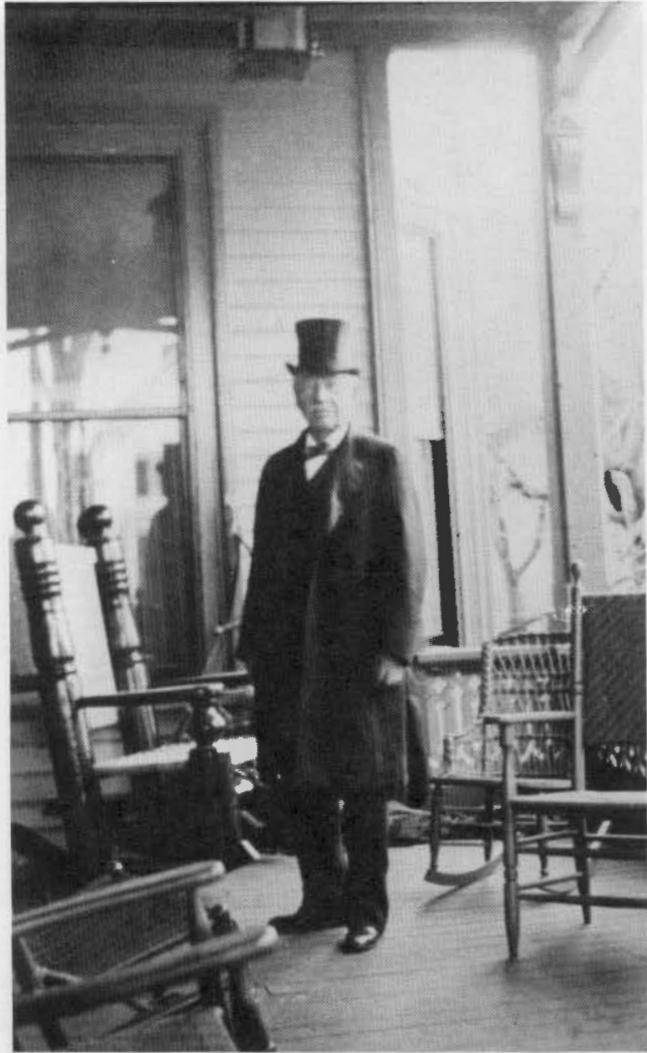


227 College Street

Across the way at 227 College Street is the old Neal-Nash farm built around 1850. This farm was comprised of the twenty acres grant to the Maine State Seminary, now Bates College. With its strong, plain corner moldings, triangular-shaped roof, and bold pilasters and cornices over the off-center door, the Nash house is a classic example of early Greek Revival architecture. This was by far the most popular style for town and rural houses throughout New England from 1830 to 1850.



Entrance - 227 College Street



Senator Frye

Chapter 7

HOMES



At end of Frye Street are three houses which are still in private hands. A particularly charming Gothic Revival cottage, dating from 1856, was the first home of Senator William Frye. It was moved to its present location at the corner of Oak Street when the Senator built his splendid mansion at the corner Main and Frye streets. The most recent owner, Dr. William Fahey, bought it in 1948 from Senator Frye's grandson, Donald C. White.



10 Frye Street

Across the street at number 10 is one of Lewiston's most delightful examples of eclectic Victorian architecture. The Gothic tradition is represented by the peaked gables; Italianate details include the windows and doorway, the latter still retaining the original etched glass panels. A mansard roof united the various parts of this brick structure and the large cupola-topped barn adds a degree of character. It was designed in 1873 probably by George Coombs. The agent of the Androscoggin Mill, J.G. Coburn, bought it from Albert Nealey and lived there for several years, although it was built by Hearcy Day.

Day also built and lived in the Second Empire style house next door, number 6 Frye Street. This home has been converted into apartments. It is much changed in appearance, from old photographs, and the great barn is long gone. Many Main Street homes have become commercial property, but architecturally not all have been altered radically.

The building at 297 Main Street, known as the Webber House, has a particularly interesting history. The present house bears little resemblance to the original dwelling, built in 1843 for the Reynolds family. It was built in stark Greek Revival style. A later owner Edwin Scruton, hired George Coombs to alter the building radically converting it into a Second Empire style house complete with mansard roof and two classic porches, which are still visible in old photographs. The bay windows were another Coombs addition. The barn, recently demolished, dated from Reynolds' time. Dr. George Webber, one of the founders of Central Maine General Hospital, bought the house from Scruton in 1905. It now serves as doctors' offices.



297 Main Street - The Webber House



364 Main Street - 1880

At 364 Main Street stands one of Lewiston's outstanding examples of Queen Anne style architecture. Originally the home of L.L. Blake, a Lisbon Street furniture dealer, it has been the convent of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Joseph's Parish since 1913. It was constructed in 1880, at the peak of the local vogue for picturesque and elaborate effect. The building sits, like Queen Anne herself, in complacent brick splendor, adorned with a circular corner turret, a half-timbered gable, and literally dozens of granite-edged windows. Slightly back from the house is an equally substantial coach-house. A passerby would do well to pause and admire the skill with which such a variety of building materials were handled by local builders a hundred years ago. It is now offices of Central Maine Health Care.

Another notable Main Street dwelling from the Civil War period is the J.L.H. Cobb house at 350. The three-story wooden building, built in 1864, has the sharply-defined mansard roof of the Second Empire era. Mr. Cobb built and ran the Cumberland Mill and contributed much of his considerable fortune to local causes. His special interest was the Divinity School at Bates College which bore his name. It is intriguing to learn that this site was once the location of a dancing "pavilion" the only public recreation facility in the midst of the forest for miles around the little settlement at Lewiston Falls.



350 Main Street - Cobb House - 1864



Henry Free House - 1884

Another site which was settled early in the city's history is the north corner of Main and High Streets where the Henry Free house now stands. This elegant Victorian house has a fine curved mansard roof and French tower with wrought iron trim. The building is of brick with much curved and bracketed wooden trim; the door is especially attractive. The house was built in 1884 by John H. Robbins, president of the Manufacturers National Bank. His daughter Edith married Henry Free whose name is now associated with the house.

The site was occupied much earlier by the farmhouse tavern of Col. John Nash, whose property extended from the River to the present College area. The narrow post road that ran past Nash's tavern to Greene was then at a much higher elevation than the "Maine" Street which eventually evolved from it. This account for the series of neighboring homes apparently stranded on their high banks. When they were built these houses were at street level, before Main Street was lowered to its present grade.

On the lower side of this slope, at the corner of Main and Holland streets, is the Drew-Holland homestead, now converted into offices. Listed on the National Register, the house was built in 1854 by Captain Daniel Holland. It is a splendid brick Italianate home, once crowned with a cupola. The Civil War veteran and attorney, Franklin M. Drew, lived there from 1878 to 1925, during which time he served as probate judge and historian and treasurer of Bates College. After his death the house was used for many years as a funeral home. The interior has been restored to its Victorian opulence in keeping with the elegance of Col. Drew's stained glass windows depicting Longfellow and James Bowdoin, still visible in the two front rooms.



377 Main Street – Drew Holland Homestead



427 Main Street - 1887

On the same side of Main Street at 427 is Lewiston's best example of a Victorian apartment building, the Bauer Apartments of 1887. This double-fronted three story building is accented with conical towers and banks of bay windows, underscored with geometric trim. The Italianate roofline also carries intricate detail; and the entrance ways are emphasized by the double row of windows above them, making this an early instance of imaginative apartment house design which has no modern local rival.

Just north of the Bauer Apartments at 447 Main Street is a Colonial Revival house designed by George Combs. An outstanding feature of this square frame house is the high portico with Ionic columns, flanked on either side by Palladian windows. The hip roof is marked by two great chimneys and is edged in sturdy brackets. It was built in 1907 by Wallace H. White, who married Senator Frye's daughter. Their son, Senator Wallace White, also made his home in this impressive residence.



447 Main Street - 1907



1893 – Photo of the Frye House

Senator William Frye's house next door at the corner of Frye Street is probably more significant in Lewiston's history than any other private home. The 1893 photograph shows it as it was, its Second Empire dignity yet unfaded, as George M. Combs planned it in 1872. Senator Frye was Lewiston's foremost public figure. His mobile career from mayor to attorney general, to Congressman and finally U.S. Senator, made him Maine's Republican leader, ousting James G. Blaine from that position. He spent thirty years in the Senate, participating in every national and international issue, in particular the promotion of American commerce and shipping. He was twice acting-Vice President of the United States and was appointed by President McKinley as a peace negotiator at the close of the Spanish-American War. His home was placed on the National Register in October of 1976.

Although the Frye home is only a shadow of its former elegant self, its outstanding features are readily apparent. It is now an apartment building.



Detail of Frye House

On the north corner of Main and Frye streets stands another imposing house, also converted from family use, but painstakingly preserved both inside and out. Now occupied by social service offices, this Queen Anne style brick house was built in 1875 for a Lewiston mayor and merchant, Joseph H. Day. A later well-known occupant of the house was William Gray, the cinema magnate, who filled the interior with extravagant decoration. The main house has a high turret and connects with a stylish three-bay stable to form an L-shaped unit.



Gray House - today - View from Main Street

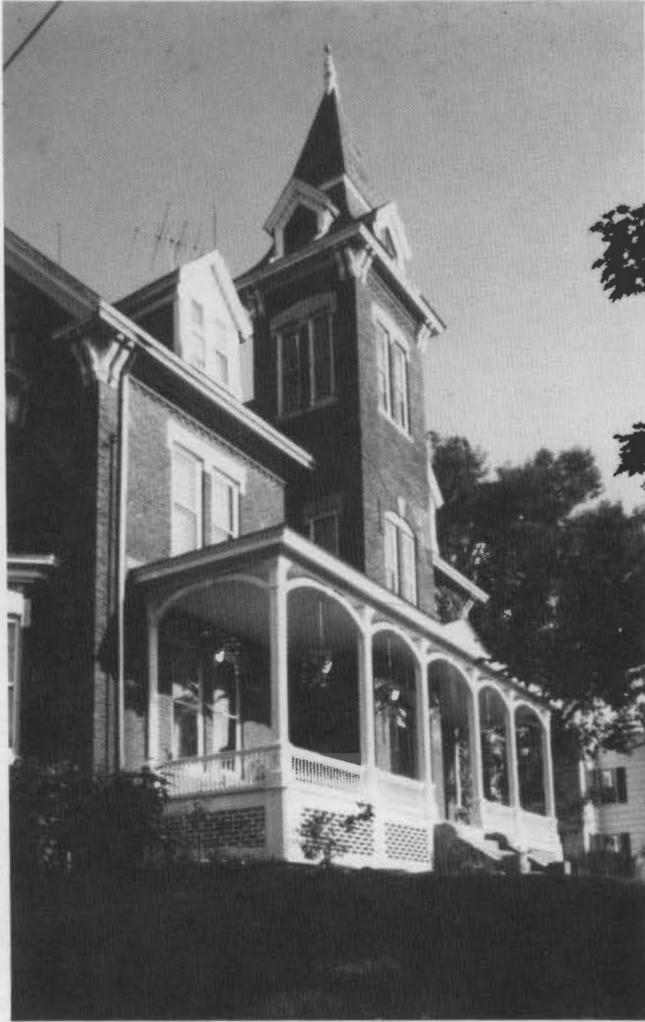


460 Main Street - Clifford House - 1901

Just across Main Street at the corner of Arch Avenue stands the Clifford house, considered one of George M. Coomb's outstanding architectural achievements. It was built in 1901 for a prominent Lewiston contractor, John D. Clifford. Although basically Queen Anne in style with its wide variety of materials, decorative trimmings and asymmetrical lines, there is nevertheless a suggestion of eighteenth century Georgian architecture in the hip roof with dormer windows and in the superb Palladian window on the south side. The carved oak stairway is still used and admired by visitors to the offices into which the house has been converted.



Detail of Clifford House



Quite different in style is the J.C. Lord house at the corner of Main Street and Mountain Avenue. Lord was a successful local grocer, who had the contract for provisioning the city poor farm. He built his 1882 mansion in an eclectic Victorian style. The architect, J.H. Coburn, rather daringly combined a Second Empire roof with a peaked Gothic gable. The bay windows are Italianate, and the central door reveals etched glass panels. The roof lines, gables, and high tower are not only picturesque in themselves, but they pleasingly repeat the sweeping shape of David's Mountain which rises at the back. This astonishing house well deserves its place on the National Register.



476 Main Street – The Frost House

Nearby, at 476 Main Street, is the Frost house. Although now somewhat changed, it is still recognizable as a 'Shingle Style' house, a refinement of Queen Anne, complete with a dome-shaped roof on the corner tower. The entire house, and in particular the roof, repeats strong, simple geometric forms. It was designed by Chicago architect Charles Sumner Frost in 1887 for his father, A.E. Frost, a local mill owner and lumber merchant.

A little further up Main Street at number 506 is the Chaffers house. This well-maintained wooden house combines several architectural styles, including a feature unusual in Lewistor, a widow's walk. Bradford Peck of department store fame built the house and large stable in 1893 and sold it to Dr. Chaffers in 1919. It is now occupied by offices.



Chaffers House - 506 Main Street

At 617 Main Street is the former Bearce home. Dating from 1880, it was built of wood in Federal style by a local contractor, Albert Furbush, who used the large house and adjoining barn for his home and business. George Bearce, successful Lewiston lumberman, bought it as a family home where he kept and bred trotting horses. The barn, topped with a stylish cupola, once sheltered the family cows. It now contains six apartments.



617 Main Street – former Bearce House



632 Main Street - Manning House

The General Manning house, at 632 Main Street, has also been altered into a multifamily dwelling. It is an imposing white Queen Anne style house, built in 1854 by Manning, a Civil War general whose family had long farmed that rural area. After the death of his wealthy southern wife, Manning became a recluse and left the interior unfinished. He did, however, complete the installation of an elevator, a unique feature in a private home in Lewiston at that time.



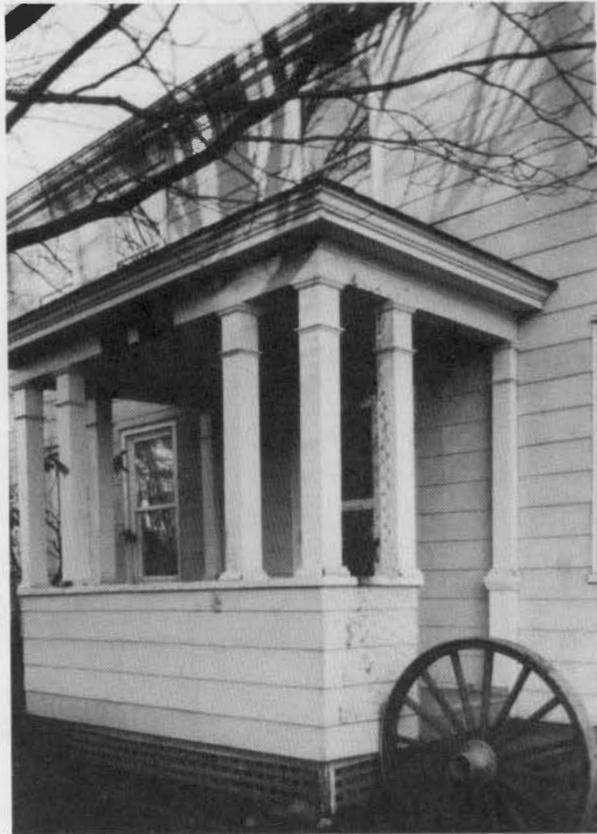
One of the City's few surviving eighteenth century homes still stands at 814 Main Street, in the section known as Barkerville. It is a simple one-and-one-half story white painted frame house Colonial in style. It is the home of Charles Bartlett, whose family bought it in 1897. The house is said to have been built by Jacob Barker in 1791. Barker was one of the original settlers of this community and was the founder of Barker's Mills, from which Barkerville is named. A large grist mill stone once used in Barker's successful grist mill is still visible in the foundation of the house. The original small-paned windows have been replaced by bay windows, and two porches have been added; but otherwise the outer appearance of the house resembles old pictures of the Barker house.

Also on Main Street at the northern end of Barkerville stand two of Lewiston's oldest, most historic houses, both built by members of the Herrick family. Israel Herrick arrived here about the time of the American Revolution and with his son John built a thriving tavern beside the post road to Greene. The Herricks, who trace their ancestry to Eric the Red, were one of the most prominent families in the new settlement. The old Herrick Tavern still retains the basic shape of an eighteenth century colonial-style frame building, but the small-paned windows have been changed and a front porch and modern siding have been added. A garage has replaced the stables.

More recognizably historic is the Sampson house located across the street at number 824. It was built about 1843 by John Herrick's son, Ebenezer, who helped draft Maine's state Constitution in 1820. He was also the first Lewiston man to become a member of Congress. His son Oliver lost his life in the Civil War and was buried, like the other members of the family, in the old Herrick graveyard near their homes on upper Main Street. The Ebenezer Herrick house is larger than most Greek Revival dwellings and has a central doorway, but otherwise displays the typical roof line and corner pilasters of that popular style.



824 Main Street - 1843



The Stukas Farm - 1798

Other old houses, built as farms and mostly still operated as such, are noteworthy because they demonstrate the practicality of early Maine farmers who adapted their buildings to climate and function, using the cheap, plentiful wood from their surrounding land. These frame homes are usually one-and-a-half stories with a barn attached for winter access. Examples of such farms on Lewiston's outskirts are the Mennealey and Louis farms on Larrabee Road and the Emmi home on the Old Greene Road. Three other well-kept old farms can be seen on the Ferry Road, once the vital link carrying agricultural produce to the Garcelon Ferry which crossed the Androscoggin River south of the later bridges. The Stukas farm, originally the Litchfield place, and the 1843 Lachance farm are examples of substantial two-and-a-half story colonial-style houses, whereas the Hodgkin house, part of which dated from 1798, is a more modest one-and-a-half story structure with a wide sloping roof.



The Hodgkin House - 1798



Holland House - College Street

Main Street houses mentioned so far are representative of the still greater number that once stood on Lewiston's premier street and have since fallen victims to development or decay. Still others stand there soundly, but are similar enough in style to those already listed that no separate reference seems necessary.

College Street, however, has been nearly as well endowed as Main Street with architectural assets, several of which survive and deserve mention. By far the most important house on the street is Captain Daniel Holland's magnificent home at the corner of the street that bears his name. It was built in 1872 at the height of the captain's brilliant career first as a tanner who supplied boots to the Union Army, then as a captain in the Light Infantry Company, later in lumber, real estate, and banking, and finally as a member of the Governors' Council and the Maine State Senate. In addition to his ability as a businessman, he had a reputation for kindness, good judgment, and honesty.

His old home is a testimony to his skill in designing and building at the height of the Second Empire period in this city. Old photographs show the huge brick mansion, complete with soaring Mansard roof and columned entrance porch. Wrought-iron posts now somewhat unconvincingly support the portico and the barn has been demolished', but the house itself looks basically as it did a century ago. The granite foundation, granite trim and Italianate roofline above the second story still give it great distinction. Inside it has been renovated for multifamily living.

The Nash, Small, and Cheney houses a little further up College Street have already been mentioned in connection with Bates College, their present owner, but this long quiet street has always attracted builders of



Corner of Pettengil and College - 1838

substantial homes. An especially well-preserved early nineteenth century home, its cupola-topped barn still intact, stands at the corner of Pettengil Street. Photographs from the turn-of-the-century show the two-story frame house much as it is today, except that a tall chimney at the center of the cupola was removed when central heating was installed. This cupola was built not as an ornament, but to support the chimney, and it remains there. Built in 1838 as the Baptist parsonage, it was first occupied by the Rev. Issac Libby. After the Baptist Church was moved from Mountain Avenue to Main Street, it was bought by Luther Whittier, who in turn sold it to the Crowley family in 1899. The Crowleys added porches at front and back, as well as tennis courts. The present owners have restored the interior with authentic antique furnishings.

The most ambitious private building attempted during the boom period in Lewiston's history took place on Pine, Bates, Park, Ash, and Bartlett Streets, which replaced Main, Chapel and Lincoln streets as the fashionable residential roads of prosperous post-Civil War Lewiston. Old photos of the area show large, gracious homes lining tree-shaded streets with horse-drawn carriages plodding gently by. Most of these buildings were designed as single family residences, but a majority of them have since been converted to multifamily use or commercial space. The elegant Dewitt Hotel and three churches that once faced the park are now gone, but three outstanding private residences have survived, all now altered for other uses. One of these is Dr. Bradford's home at 54 Pine Street. It has been added to the National Register and deservedly so, as it is an excellent example of sensitive preservation, retaining its sober style while serving contemporary function as office space. George Coombs designed this mansard-roofed brick house as a private home for Dr. William G. Bradford, a homeopathic physician who practiced here for over fifty years.



54 Pine Street



Three other homes, less well-preserved but equally representative of the City's growth, are the Russell, H.C. Little, and Smith houses on Bates Street at the corner of the Park. Dr. Edward Russell, a former mayor, state legislator, and prominent physician, built his Italianate house in the late 1860's. This square brick structure with its strong horizontal lines at the door, roof, and cupola, has unusual brickwork over each window and emphatic brackets supporting the overhanging roof. Dr. Russell is said to have performed the first appendectomy in the State of Maine in this very house. In the late nineteenth century it was purchased by the YMCA which ran it as a home for young women for nearly seventy-five years.

Next door, at 188 Bates Street, is the H.C. Little house. This home dates from 1858 and is built of brick in modified Italianate style. A triangular pediment breaks the customary straight roofline; and brick quoins ornament the facade, which now carries an elaborate porch of later date. The brackets decorating the cornice are more numerous, but smaller in size than those on the Russell house; and the high roof give the house a less strictly Italianate look than its neighbor.

Little, like many successful entrepreneurs of this period, tried his hand at many different endeavors; he helped build the Lyceum Hall block, served as postmaster, as auditor for the Franklin Company, and finally defeated Daniel J McGillicuddy to become a Republican mayor in 1888. Since 1949, the Little house has been the local headquarters of the American Legion.

The records of the Franklin Company give only the name Smith as the original buyer of the three house lots on Bates Street in the accompanying photograph. This early builder designed his brick double-fronted house in Greek Revival style, with typical projecting brick pilasters and granite sills and window lintels.



*H.C. Little House
now American Legion*



Mill Block - Park Street

Not far from these once affluent private homes, on Park and Maple streets are the great brick blocks built by the Androscoggin Mill as housing for their workers. Canal and Mill Streets were also lined with these dignified blocks, but now only the Park, Maple and Oxford Street blocks remain. Now converted to apartments, these classic Italianate buildings with their wide roof lines, granite-topped windows, and solid construction are enduring proof of the taste and confidence of nineteenth century mill architects.



Bartlett and Pine Streets

Residential construction gradually extended from the streets surrounding the Park to Bartlett and Pine Streets. The most significant house on Bartlett street, both architecturally and historically, is that built by Dr. Louis Martel at the corner of Walnut street. Few Lewiston homes combine so many different styles. The Italianate tower is surrounded with Romanesque arches and joined to the roof with Gothic dormers. Further movement and interest are provided by the granite trims at the base and decorative brickwork running horizontally along the top and middle of the building. Dr. Martel died prematurely, and occupied the house for only a few years, but his service to the City was unique.



Pine and Pierce Streets

Dr. Martel was a leader in many civic, cultural, and charitable activities. He was the cofounder of *Le Messenger*, Lewiston's French newspaper of 88 years duration; he performed a vital role in the early operation of St. Mary's Hospital and he was the founder of Institute Jacques Cartier.

Nearby at Pine and Pierce Streets is the former Dr. Milton Wedgewood house. It was constructed in 1850 in the Second Empire style so popular at that time. The home's mansard roofs are at three different levels, including a central turret adorned with ornate windows and wrought-iron railings. Shaded by a rare beech tree, this is one of the handsomest houses in downtown Lewiston.

Equally impressive in a later architectural style is the immense square wooden Colonial Revival building at 253 Pine Street. In front of the high pillared porch is an open fieldstone porch repeating the fieldstone foundation material. The Bleachery agent, James Walsh, was it first occupant, followed by Henry McCusker. The building served as the home of Bliss Business College before being sold for use as a funeral home.





Just around the corner at 67 Webster Street is another former mill agent's home, built in 1902 for George Bean, agent for the Androscoggin Mill. Though much altered to meet the requirements of a subsequent owner, the original Queen Anne design is still evident in the variety of turrets, porches, peaked gables and oval windows that adorn the two-and-one-half story structure.

On the opposite corner of Walnut and Webster streets is Lewiston's oldest brick home dating from 1812. This simple one-and-one-half story Colonial building, with its neat symmetrical lines, replaced a farm house on the same site.



Webster and Walnut Streets – 1812

CONCLUSION

***F**rom an architectural point of view Lewiston is a "pleasant place" and reflects the variety of historical events that have created this city by the Androscoggin. Outlying farms, Bates College edifices, private homes, commercial structures, and industrial complexes combine to fascinate the student of architecture in Lewiston. Recent history caused numerous architectural examples to be destroyed, but a cursory glance at the facades and roof lines along Lisbon Street alone will convince the reader that Lewiston does offer a unique combination of architecture and history.*