



Nickerson & Barstow Store (Mersinger Building)

Brewer, Maine

Maine Historic Building Record (MHBR No. 50)

The Nickerson & Barstow Building is a late-19th century wood-framed Italianate style commercial block at a prominent downtown intersection in Brewer, Maine. It was built in three stages in c. 1880, c. 1895, and c. 1900. The building initially housed a general store owned in part by A. A. Barstow, one of the owners of the Bangor and Brewer Steam Ferry Co. which docked just west of the building, and Brewer City Clerk F. H. Nickerson. The two additional retail spaces originally housed a dry goods store and jewelry store. By the 1920s the general store space housed a hardware store. This use continued until at least 1954. The building is significant both for its associations with the

development of Brewer's commercial downtown and as part of an architecturally coherent grouping of nineteenth-century buildings retaining a high degree of integrity along Main and Wilson streets.

The historic context of the site is largely intact to the southeast, along Wilson Street, and to the northeast, along Main Street. Main Street has a mix of commercial, institutional, and residential buildings, with commercial uses predominating, as they have historically. Wilson Street retains its historic residential character to the east of this property.

