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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Madison Public Library  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Old Point Avenue  not for publication  
city, town Madison  vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04950

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	<u>1</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Maine Public Libraries  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Carol S. Feltner 11/16/88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
Arthur Byers Entered in the National Register 11/5/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: Library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: Library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19 and 20th Century Revivals  
Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granite  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Metal: Tin  
other Octagonal  
Rotunda  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Madison Public Library is an L-shaped one-story brick building featuring one of the most unusual compositions in Maine. This distinction derives from the arrangement of the wide projecting entrance block that projects from the angled rectangular wings. Rising above the intersection of these three components is an octagonal tower capped by a similarly configured standing seam metal roof. The building stands on a corner lot near the community's commercial district.

Facing northwest, the facade features a flight of granite steps that rise to a narrow recessed porch framed by two pilasters and a pair of smooth stone columns set in antis. They support a stone entablature decorated with a keystone. Oval windows with four equally spaced stone voussoirs flank the entrance, and all three components are located within a wall surface with corner pilasters and a corbeled stringcourse. Crowning the elevation is a corbeled cornice. The wings that extend at obtuse angles from the entrance contain reading rooms and the book stacks. Their primary walls are punctuated by a trio of symmetrically placed one-over-one windows surmounted by Queen Anne transoms. Corbeled cornices meet the stringcourse established on the facade. Three small windows located on axis with the main units punctuate the granite foundation on each wing, a pattern repeated throughout.

The endwall of the south wing contains four equally spaced double-hung windows with transoms and a modern doorway for handicapped access. Its counterpart on the east wing features two of the standard windows as well as four smaller one-over-one units arranged in horizontal rows of two, one above the other. This fenestration denotes the location of the book stack and its configuration is carried across the back side with six windows. Two additional openings punctuate the back wall of the south wing.

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Continuation Sheet**

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The crossing tower contains three wide diamond pane windows on its principal sides, two paneled divisions over the wings, as well as two small segmentally arched openings and the exterior chimney at the rear. Circling the tower is a wide corbeled cornice whose detailing matches that of the entrance.

Inside, the main door leads to the hall/delivery room defined by the tower. Openings lead to the offices (remodeled from the reading room) in the south wing and a smaller reading area and the stacks in the east. To the right of the entrance is a stairway that leads to a balcony which extends around the tower. On the left is a bathroom. All window and door surrounds retain their darkly stained woodwork.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education  
Architecture

Period of Significance

1906-1938

Significant Dates

1906

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Snow & Humphreys

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Designed by the local architectural firm of Snow and Humphreys and completed in 1906, the Madison Public Library is among the most unusual of such buildings in the state. Further distinction is afforded the library by virtue of its being one of only eighteen whose construction was funded by a grant from Andrew Carnegie. The library retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and association. It meets the requirements for registration under criteria A and C for its educational and architectural significance as more fully described in the multiple property submission "Maine Public Libraries".

Madison's public library traces its history to a meeting held by local townspeople on January 4, 1886. The founders of the Madison Library Corporation pledged to raise \$250 for the purposes of establishing a library provided that the town would match this figure. Their mission successfully completed, the organizers opened the library on April 30, 1887, in the second floor of a commercial building. By 1904 the collection had apparently outgrown its space and measures were taken to find a solution. During this period Andrew Carnegie was approached for a grant and this was made on June 2, 1904, in the amount of \$8,000.

In July of the following year the Industrial Journal (Bangor) reported that C. L. Humphreys had recently been in Waterville to look at the newly built library for ideas on a similar facility to be erected in Madison. Humphreys apparently drew little inspiration from that building because the two are wholly different in plan and form. (Although both are very eclectic and original forms in comparison to others of the period.) In any case, work was completed by the end of 1906 and the library opened for use on January 3, 1907. It continues to function in its original capacity with only minor changes to the disposition and use of the interior space.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Clark, Emma Folsom, Comp. History of Madison. Madison, Maine: Privately Printed, 1962.  
Lewiston Evening Journal, January 3, 1907.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A 

1	9
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4	3	0	4	0	0
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4	9	6	0	4	7	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Madison tax map 19, lot 13.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property embraces the building, the non-contributing war memorial and the entire lot historically associated with the library.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian  
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October 11, 1988  
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132  
 city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

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Centrally located in the walk leading to the library is the town's monument to its Civil War dead. The solemn pose of a bronze figured soldier at ease stands on a tall granite pillar. It was erected here in September, 1907 having been sculpted by the Hallowell (Maine) Granite Company. It is not considered a contributing object to the library, although it merits future study in the context of war memorials in general.