

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Kennebec
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 24 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Lithgow Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Winthrop Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1st: Hon. Peter N. Kyros

STATE <u>Maine</u>	CODE <u>23</u>	COUNTY: <u>Kennebec</u>	CODE <u>011</u>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Library</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Lithgow Library

STREET AND NUMBER:
Winthrop Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kennebec County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
95 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta,

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

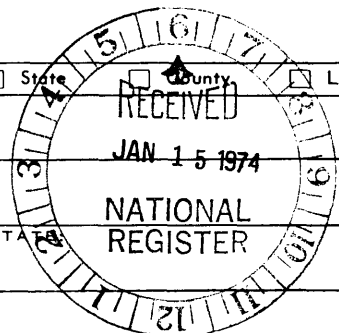
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lithgow Library is a one and a half story rectangular granite building in the Romanesque Revival style. The grey granite has a rough surface with finished details. The facade is composed of three major parts, a projecting central entrance section flanked on either side by a wall with a series of windows. The central entrance is approached by a flight of finished granite stairs. The building is entered through a large Romanesque arch of finished granite. Below each base of the arch is a semi-detached Romanesque column and two brackets. On either side of the arch is a pair of vertical rectangular stained glass windows. At either corner of the projecting central section is a semi-detached Romanesque column. Over the arch is the inscription, "The Lithgow Library". The first story of the central section is divided from the gabled half story by a finished horizontal molding. Within the gable are three windows surrounded by finished Romanesque arches and semi-detached columns. The gable is outlined in finished granite.

On each side of the central section is a series of five vertical rectangular windows divided by finished semi-detached Romanesque columns. The upper section of each window contains a stained glass panel. Below the first, third, and fifth window is a finished circular panel bearing the name of an important literary figure. The roof is covered with red slate and has an eyelet window on either side of the central gable. These windows are similar to those found on the Romanesque Revival buildings.

The gable ends of the Lithgow Library are as ornamental as the facade. On the first story there are two groups of three vertical rectangular windows. Both sections of each window are stained glass. The windows are divided by finished semi-detached Romanesque panels. Between the two groups of windows is a solid wall. On the west wall, this area is rough stone, while on the east wall, there is a large square panel containing many names of writers. Beneath each window grouping and the section in-between is a finished circular panel inscribed with a name of an author.

The half story of each end wall contains granite cut in a variety of decorative patterns. The half story is divided from the first story by a finished horizontal molding. The gable roof is outlined by finished granite. A projecting chimney is located in the center of the gable and extends above the roofline. The base of the chimney is ornamented with three carved granite brackets.

The chimney on the west wall is of rough granite to the roofline, while that on the east wall has a decorative panel with the date 1894 near the peak of the gable. At the peak of each gable end is an ornamental granite chimney cap comprised of a grouping of small Romanesque columns.

The rear wall is similar to the facade. The treatment of the wall on either side of the central section is identical. The central section consists of three bays of stained glass windows on either side of a chimney.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION

Three circular author panels appear under each group of windows.

The Lithgow Library has a handsome interior. The first floor is divided into three major sections, a central half with a stack room at the left and a reading room at the right. The hall and stack room are finished in dark Colonial Revival woodwork, while the reading room has a lavish white and gold French Renaissance decor. The half story contains a large central meeting room with flanking storage rooms.

The Lithgow Library has not undergone any important architectural changes since its construction between 1894 and 1896. The beauty of its exterior Romanesque Revival design combined with the richness of its interior have made it the most important library of the Richardsonian manner in Maine.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1894-96**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The Lithgow Library in Augusta reflects as direct an inspiration from the work of H.H. Richardson as any building in Maine. During the 1870's and 80's, Richardson began to revolutionize American architectural design by the forceful unity with which he composed Medieval Romanesque forms as well as his utility in organizing space. Small community public libraries were emerging at this time, and these became one of the building types most frequently requested of Richardson and his contemporaries. Richardson solved the problem by creating one and a half story structures such as the Crane Memorial Library in Quincy, Massachusetts of 1880-83, which were divided into three major sections, an entrance flanked by a reading room and stacks. The Lithgow Library of 1894-96 is an adaptation of the Crane Memorial Library in both style and plan. The similarity in design is especially understandable in light of the architect, Joseph Ladd Neal, a Wiscasset, Maine native who entered the office of Richardson's successors shortly after the master's death in 1886. Yet the Augusta building's departure from Richardson's purity of Romanesque detail and assymetry in composition are indicative of the Beaux Artes influence which was being felt in the decade following his death.

Like so many of its counterparts, the Lithgow Library was the out-growth of a nineteenth century private library organization. In the case of Augusta, this was the Augusta Literary and Library Association, which was founded in 1872. Money for books and equipment was raised by obtaining life memberships at fifty dollars per person. Despite an initial subscription of \$2,500 and support from such prominent citizens of Maine as the James G. Blaine family, Senator James W. Bradley, and Governors Joseph Williams, Lot M. Morrill, and Seldon Connor, the effort faltered financially. Fortunately, however, Lewellyn W. Lithgow bequethed \$20,000 to the city of Augusta in 1881 to found a public Lithgow Library and Reading Room. Augusta also became a residuary legatee and received an additional \$16,000 for the project. The trustees of the Lithgow Library first met in February of 1882 and decided to consult the Augusta Library and Literary Association about the terms of a merger. The old organization offered to join with the new one if its debts would be assumed. This was agreeable to both.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Lithgow Library and Reading Room, Augusta, Maine August 7, 1897.

Hitchcock, Henry Russell, The Architecture of H.H. Richardson and His Times, 1936

Van Rensselaer, Mariana Griswold, Henry Hobson Richardson and His Works, 1888.

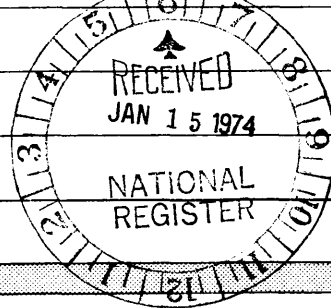
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 18' 55"	69° 46' 42"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mr. Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: December, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Mundy

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 7, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. B. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/24/74

ATTEST: Wm. Mundy
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7-19-74

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Aside from making books immediately available to the public, the trustees of the Lithgow Library had the longer range goal of a permanent building in mind. In 1888, they purchased a site at State and Winthrop Streets in Augusta, and added to it in 1892. Public fund raising began in the summer of 1891 and had produced \$22,000 by the fall of 1892. With a goal set at \$40,000, the trustees appealed to Andrew Carnegie, the great steel magnate who was known for his generous gifts to libraries. Carnegie responded from Venice, Italy, on November 15, 1892, with a challenge that he would donate half of the remaining \$18,000 if \$9,000 could be raised by local subscription. Within six months, Carnegie's gift was matched, and the trustees proceeded with plans for a building. A nationwide competition was held to obtain a design, and sixty-nine architects from Maine to Colorado sent drawings.

In the book published at the completion of the Lithgow Library, the following account of selecting a design appears: "On the 15th of July, these plans were opened for examination. Some of them were of very elegant conception, and too expensive for consideration. A majority of them did not meet the conditions required. So severe was the censorship that only a few received positively favorable regard, and not one was entirely acceptable without minor alterations of detail."

The trustees deliberated for almost two months before voting on September 12, 1893, to accept with alterations the plan of Neal and Hopkins of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. John L. Neal and Alfred Hopkins were well prepared for their architectural practice. While Neal studied and worked as a draftsman with H.H. Richardson's successors, Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge in Boston, Hopkins spent several years as a draftsman in the office of James Renwick in New York. The Neal and Hopkins partnership continued from 1891 to 1894. Their design for Lithgow Library achieved such success that it was reused by Neal for Morrill Memorial Library in 1896, in Norwood, Massachusetts.

The corner stone of the Lithgow Library was laid on June 14, 1894. The building was constructed during 1894 and 1895 with completion in January of 1896. A month later on February 3 of that year, the library was dedicated. Thus, Augusta received a stylish public library which is now recognized as Maine's purest expression of the late nineteenth century Romanesque Revival fostered by H. H. Richardson.

