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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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Carver Memorial Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Northeast Corner of Union and Mortland Streets N/A not for publication

city or town Searsport N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Waldo code 027 zip code 04974

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eric S. Peterson 9/3/93
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper *Richard Beyer* **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 10/14/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Maine Public Libraries

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite
walls Stone
roof Stone/Slate
other Stuccoed Gable Ends with Half
Timbering

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1910-1943

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

McLean & Wright, Architects

Brown, H. C., Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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The Carver Memorial Library is a striking one-story, three-bay building with field stone walls, half timbered gable ends, and a projecting gabled entrance pavilion. It stands at the northeast corner of Union and Mortland Streets and within a residential area of Searsport.

Facing south toward U.S. Route 1 and Penobscot Bay, the library's symmetrically composed front elevation is highlighted by the central entrance. A flight of eight wide granite steps, bounded mid-way up by a retaining wall with granite coping, leads to the two-leaf oak door which is surmounted by a segmentally-arched transom and a tablet marked "Carver Memorial Library." Narrow, lancet-arched openings which punctuate the upper half of the flanking walls are in turn framed by large wooden brackets that support the overhanging gable. The gable is handsomely detailed with a stucco and half-timbered surface around paired diamond pane windows. Its broad flared eaves and decorative vergeboard are supported by shaped purlins. The recessed walls comprising the balance of the facade rise in a battered fashion from a granite block foundation. A hammer dressed, cut granite water table (which is carried around the building) makes a conspicuous demarcation between the basement and first floor, and extends to form the coping over the entrance retaining wall. Centrally located below it on each wall surface is an eight-pane basement window. Above the basement window is a single tripartite double-hung window with segmentally-arched transoms and granite sills. The broad eaves are supported by exposed rafter ends.

Both end walls are gently bowed outward, and they are punctuated by trios of basement windows and round-arched six-over-six double-hung windows with segmentally arched transoms. The overhanging gable is supported near the corners of the walls with brackets similar to those used on the facade. A group of four diamond-pane windows are located below the gable peak and the half-timbering pattern varies from that on the front. The rear elevation is similar in overall form to the front, however, the projecting stack room with its tripartite window is deeper than the entrance pavilion, the gable decoration is less ornate, and a stone chimney stack breaks the roof plane on the northeast end. Narrow double-hung windows are located on each side wall of the stack room, and the recessed walls are punctuated by a single large tripartite window on the west side and two smaller windows flanking the chimney on the east side. A short cellar entry is attached to the rear of the stack room below the large window.

A description of the library's interior as it originally appeared was published in the October 20, 1910, edition of the Republican Journal (Belfast). The correspondent wrote in part:

On the left of the vestibule is a commodious lavatory and toilet, while the stairways leading up and down open from the right. The

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CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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walls of the vestibule are done in a soft terra cotta with a stencilled design of green tulips. Oak doors with plate glass open into the main or distributing room. Here, as in the vestibule, the floor is of Italian marble. A beautiful dome ceiling, frescoed in old ivory blending into pale green with conventional stencilled pattern, makes the room one of unusual beauty and restfulness. About the dome are mural paintings, representing art, literature, science, and music. The librarian's desk, book racks, and all fittings are of oak. The room is fitted with many electric lights with handsome fixtures of old brass.

On each side of the distributing room are reading rooms most attractively furnished. The adults' room is furnished with reading tables and chairs, while a handsome fireplace gives a homelike atmosphere. The fireplace is faced with black marble and black tiling. A long, low window-seat across the front windows completes a most attractive room. The children's room on the opposite side is furnished the same with the exception of the omission of the fireplace. Brass electroliers with ground glass shades are found in both reading rooms. The walls are cream, stencilled in a Grecian pattern of soft green. Handsome oak pillars separate the reading room from the distributing room.

With the exception of the overpainting of the murals and stencils the interior described above seems little changed. Regardless of the loss of these decorative elements this interior ranks among the finest of its size in Maine.

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CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Constructed at a cost of some \$25,000, and formally dedicated on October 13, 1910, the Carver Memorial Library is a delightful building which blends fieldstone walls with half-timbered and stuccoed gables. Designed by the Boston architectural firm of McLean and Wright, the library was given to the Town of Searsport in memory of Capt. George Albert Carver (1836-1908). It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria A and C for its educational and architectural significance as more fully explained in the Multiple Property Submission "Maine Public Libraries."

Town records indicate that a free public library was formed in Searsport as a result of a town meeting held on October 14, 1871. During this meeting the following actions were taken:

That we do hereby gratefully accept the munificent gift of books made by David Sears Esq. to us, some rare, all valuable and we instruct our selectmen to acknowledge in a suitable manner the acceptance and at the same time convey to the donor our appreciation to his generosity.

That the Selectmen be and are hereby authorized to provide a suitable room and fit up the same in a suitable manner for the reception and keeping of said books, and such other books as may be purchased or donated for a public library in and for the town of Searsport and to make all necessary contracts in order to carry out and give effort to the intention of the donor and in furtherance of this said Selectmen shall make and prescribe all needful rules and regulations concerning the same.

That we accept the proposition of the Searsport Library Association to receive their books and unite them with those to be held and managed under the conditions above mentioned.

That in honor of the founder, this library shall hereafter be known and designated as the Sears Public Library and it is enjoined upon its friends and managers to make it an honor alike to the donor and ourselves.

The Searsport Library Association referenced in the minutes was undoubtedly a social library with members who paid annual dues for the privilege of borrowing books. Editions of the Maine Register indicate that in 1881 the library was open on Saturdays, and that by 1900 the collection had grown to include 2,200 volumes. It is this library which is referred to in an article about the dedication which appeared in the October 20, 1910, edition of the Republican Journal (Belfast). The correspondent opened with the statement that the town "...now has a library building that is a credit to the generous

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CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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builders, a monument to a loyal citizen, and of which any community might well feel proud."

The Carver Memorial Library was given to the town by Mrs. George A. Carver and his children Amos B. Carver and Mrs. Elizabeth Carver Whittier. George Carver was born in Searsport where he was a shipbuilder from 1858 to 1870 and a shipmaster from 1870 to 1877. He subsequently located in New York where he was engaged in the ship chandlery business in the firm of Baker, Carver and Company. The Republican Journal article noted that he summered in Searsport. An announcement of the library building gift appeared in the October 12, 1908, edition of the Republican Journal, at which time it was reported that the building was to be of granite and pressed brick, a design quite different from the one carried out.

The architectural firm of McLean and Wright consisted of the principles William H. McLean (1870-1942) and Albert Hayden Wright. The partnership was in existence from 1902 to 1911, during which time they designed one other public library in Maine: the Witherlee Memorial Library in Castine. Little else is known at this time about any other work in the state by this firm.

In addition to naming the library's architects, the Republican Journal article noted that Peter Wood of Boston was the artist, Harley Brothers of Newton Center, Massachusetts were the masons, and H. C. Brown of Roslindale, Massachusetts was the carpenter. The "Program of Dedicatory Exercises" states, however, that Brown was the contractor and that Morensen and Son were the decorators (Wood presumably was an employee of this firm).

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WALDO, ME

Section number 9 Page 2

Card, Esther. "The Carver Memorial Library." 1976. Typescript copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Herendon, Richard, comp. Men of Progress: Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Leaders in Business and Professional Life in and of the State of Maine. Boston: New England Magazine. 1897.

McLean and Wright Architect File. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Republican Journal (Belfast). Editions of October 12, 1908 and October 20, 1910.

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CARVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Searsport Tax Map 16, Lot 55.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the village lot historically associated with the Carver Memorial Library.