

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Penobscot County
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 30 1974

H13
2419
71974000
479250

1 NAME

COMMON:
Stewart Free Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2 LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
ME 11/43

CITY OR TOWN:
Corinna

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd: Hon. William Cohen

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Penobscot CODE: 019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	library	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Corinna

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Corinna

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Penobscot County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hammond Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bangor, Maine

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

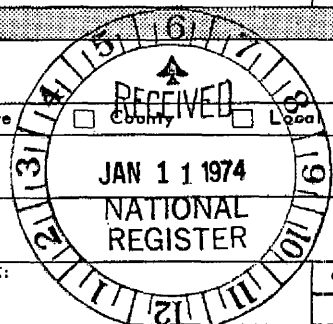
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Bangor, Maine

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23



STATE: Maine

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)
 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)
 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stewart Free Library is an imposing brick and granite building of late Victorian design. Planned for Levi M. Stewart by William H. Grimshaw of Minneapolis, Minnesota, the library was erected between the fall of 1895 and the spring of 1898.

The Stewart Library has a granite foundation with brick wall construction and granite trim. The facade is composed of three bays. The central bay contains a square tower which projects from the facade and rises above the building. In the tower section a granite staircase leads to an arched entrance with a double door on the first story. In the arch over the doorway is a decorative window. Above the arched doorway is a double window with a granite sill and lintel. Over the window is a modified Palladian Motif composed of a double brick panel with an arch above it. A granite lintel is found below the panels. To the left and right of the panels are two narrow recessed panels which complete the Palladian design. This design is emphasized by two granite blocks at the top of each section which flanks the double brick panel. A granite keystone is found in the arch above the double panel. Beyond this is a clock encircled by a brick molding to the left and right above the clock is a diamond shaped granite block. The left and right sides of the tower reflect the appearance of the front. The design includes an arch with a granite lintel and a granite keystone. Over this is a clock with a diamond shaped granite block to the left and right above it. The brickwork at the top of the tower projects outward on all four sides to support an octagonal wooden belfrey in the French Mansard style. On each side of the belfrey is a pointed arch opening with a wooden balustrade across it and a curving finial at the peak. The eight sides of the belfrey slant inward as they rise. There is a small flat platform at the top of the belfrey with an overhanging molding. Atop this platform is a delicate cast iron balustrade and an eagle weathervane.

To either side of the central tower is a bay with three levels of three part windows. The first story possesses a three part window with a granite sill and a brick arch. Between the window and the arch is a decorative carved wooden panel. The second story has a three part window with a granite sill and a granite lintel. The third three part window is located on the front of gabled dormers which projects from the hip roof. The window is a modified Palladian design with a granite sill, a brick arched central section and two lower flanking sections with horizontal granite lintels.

The side walls of the Stewart Library extend back two bays before projecting out one bay and then continuing to the rear. At either side, the front wall of the projecting rear section has a first story entrance. These entrances are approached by granite steps and are entered by double doors. Over each doorway is a rectangular window and a simple wooden portico supported by a column. The side and rear window treatment is a modified version of that found on the facade. First story windows have

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7. DESCRIPTION

granite sills and brick arches with granite keystones. The second story has windows with both granite sills and lintels; while a roof dormer on each side echoes the Palladian motif of the two on the front.

The surface of the Stewart Library is further decorated by features used in the high Victorian Gothic. On the first and second stories horizontal bands of ornamental brickwork run around the building at the sill and lintel levels of the windows. These bands are highlighted by granite blocks at the corners of the facade tower, at the corners of the structure itself and as part of the lintel treatment of the first and second story windows. An elaborate brickwork cornice surrounds the building.

The lower floor contains a public library, Levi M. Stewart's private library, and town offices. The second story is devoted to a large public hall with a seventy-five foot stage and a seating capacity of five hundred people. In recent years the floor in this large room has been relaid to accommodate basketball games as well as civic and entertainment functions.

The Stewart Free Library of Corinna is a highly ornamental late Victorian building in a virtually original state of preservation. The style is an eclectic one, reflecting the High Victorian Gothic in its decorative surface treatment of varied materials and textures, the Colonial Revival in the presence of the Palladian motif, and the French Second Empire in the mansard roof of the belfrey. All of these elements combined to create a dramatic architectural statement which dominates the rural Maine village of Corinna.



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) 1895-98

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>philanthropy</u> |
| <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

Twenty-five miles west of Bangor, Maine lies the small wool manufacturing town of Corinna with a population of approximately 2000 people. A basically one industry town of this size in Eastern Maine is in itself not unusual but the fact that town is visually dominated by a refined late Victorian Town Hall and Library of the architectural integrity and proportions of the Stewart Free Library is unusual indeed.

Adding to the unique character of the Stewart Library is the fact that it was designed by a mid-western architect from Minneapolis by the name of William Harrison Grimshaw. Grimshaw designed thirteen school buildings as well as many other public and private structures during his career in Minneapolis. Mr. Grimshaw was commissioned to design the Stewart Free Library by Levi M. Stewart a Minneapolis millionaire and the contract was awarded to a prominent Bangor contractor by the name of William N. Sawyer.

Levi M. Stewart was the son of a Corinna minister and the scion of a typically Maine gospel of temperance and abolition. He started his career as a teacher, later becoming a fisherman in Searsport, Maine where he saved enough money to put himself through Dartmouth College. He later graduated from Harvard Law School with the financial assistance of his brother who was also a lawyer.

In 1858 through the influence of another former resident of Corinna, Levi and his brother moved to Minneapolis and established a law office. Stewart was an early speculator in Minneapolis real estate and by the end of his career had become one of the leading authorities in that field in the Northwest as well as having amassed a fortune estimated between 12 and 20 million dollars.

In 1895 Levi or "The Elder" as he was called by the townspeople had work begun on the Stewart Free Public Library as a suitable memorial to the memory of his mother and father. By the time it was finished, "The Pride of Corinna" cost \$65,000 and was considered one of the finest public buildings in the state. Stewart personally donated the first 3000 volumes to the library upon its completion in 1898 and at the time of his death, left his own private law and literary collection consisting of 10,000 volumes to the Stewart Free Library. At the same time he left a total of

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wood, Lilla E., A Brief History of Corinna, Maine, Bangor, L.P. Bass Publishing Co., 1916
 Collections of Minnesota Historical Society
 Vol XIV Minnesota Biographies, June, 1912
 Minneapolis Journal, September 30, 1897.

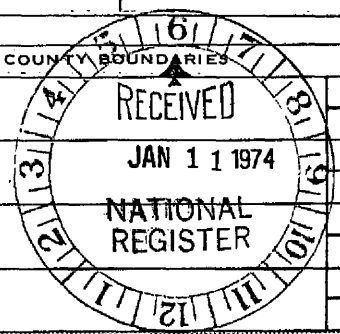
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 55' 16"	69° 15' 50"	
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



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: 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 NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

A. B. W. [Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/30/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 7-26-74

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

\$175,000 to his remaining relatives in Corinna. Stewart also left a \$50,000 trust fund for the maintenance of the Library.

The "Pride of Corinna" stands today as a well preserved monument to late Victorian architecture, to the philanthropy of Corinna's most financially successful son, and to the interrelationship of rural Maine and the mid-West as created by William Grimshaw and "the Elder" of Corinna.

