

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED OCT 1 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC NAME

Rice Public Library

AND/OR COMMON NAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

8 Wentworth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kittery

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF
CODE

023

COUNTY

York

CODE

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Corporation of the Rice Public Library

STREET & NUMBER

8 Wentworth Street

CITY, TOWN

Kittery,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine 03904

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rice Public Library of Kittery is a very fine example of the Romanesque Revival style, and is an ornate brick building with hipped roof, facade tower, 2 external and one internal chimneys, and granite trim. There are 2½ stories and a full basement.

The facade, which faces west, features a recessed entrance covered by a wide arch supported by paired Corinthian columns. The entrance bay projects slightly from the body of the building. In the second story of the entrance bay are three tall arched windows flanked by modified Doric pilasters. In the triangular pediment which caps the entrance bay is a hemi-circular window. To the right side of the facade is a 3-story tower with hipped roof. Fenestration differs in each story of the tower, and consists of paired arched windows in the first story, 3 rectangular windows recessed within a low arch in the second story, and 3 arched windows in the third story. Between the entrance bay and the tower is a rectangular window in each story of the facade, cupped by granite labels. To the left of the entrance bay in the first story are two rectangular windows, while in the second story are a pair of arched windows.

Separating the basement level from the first story throughout the building is a granite string-course. Between the first and second stories is a wide band of ornamental brick. In the half story on the north and south sides of the library are gabled dormer windows.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. S. Giddings/Shepherd S. Woodcock

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In her will dated May 18, 1867, Arabella Rice left to the Town of Kittery, of which her father was a native, \$20,000.00 for the construction of a free public library. Although she died in 1872, it was not until 1875 that a board of trustees was formed to take charge of the funds and again not until 1889, at a cost of \$18,500.00, that the building was finally erected.

Whatever the delays, the final product was an architectural gem, a well conceived, ornamental and impressive structure in the Romanesque Revival style with Queen Anne influences executed by architect Shepherd S. Woodcock of Boston whose only other known Maine commission was the Unitarian Church in Ellsworth, now gone. While other Romanesque libraries exist in Maine, all are one story with the exception of that at Skowhegan, also two stories, which is a much less distinguished structure.

Of its type and style, the Rice Public Library is by far the most outstanding building in the State of Maine.

In 1978, a landscaping project carried out by a local garden club further set off this handsome structure.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stackpole, E. S., Old Kittery and Her Families. Lewiston, 1903.

Kittery Bicentennial Committee, Kittery Kaleidoscope. Portsmouth, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Kittery

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	3	5	8	1	4	10	4	7	7	1	7	1	10
ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING								

B

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING							

C

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING							

D

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING							

E

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING							

F

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING							

G

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING							

H

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Assessor's Map 4, Lot 88.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

July, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta,

STATE

Maine 04333

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Eileen S. Feltz

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

8/14/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

John A. C. ...

DATE

10-1-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

...

DATE

9/20/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION