

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

NOV 21 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Goodspeed Memorial Library

other names/site number Wilton Free Public Library

2. Location

street & number 104 Main Street

city, town Wilton

state Maine

code ME

county Franklin

code 007

zip code 04294

N/A not for publication

N/A vicinity

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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.

Signature of certifying official

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

11/16/85

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:)

Albena Byers

Entered in the
National Register

1/5/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: Library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: Library

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Cast Iron Lampposts at Entrance

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Facing west, the Goodspeed Memorial Library is a one-story T-shaped tan brick building in the Neo-Classical Revival style. It stands on a shallow knoll in downtown Wilton and is bordered on two sides by a river stone retaining wall that rises above a small creek.

The library's three-bay facade features a projecting central entrance pavilion reached by a flight of concrete steps. Rusticated brick piers frame the doorway and its Tuscan columns, entablature and round-arched fanlight. They rise to a broad entablature featuring modillion blocks on the cornice and a paneled parapet; features that carry around the front block. The low parapet walls on the stair landing support a pair of short cast iron lamp posts with round globes. Each of the recessed side walls contain a long multi-pane window comprised of a fixed sash central unit, a six-pane movable transom and a panel below the sill. Rectangular windows, on axis with the main ones but separated from them by a water table, punctuate the brick basement. Keystones decorate the flat lintels, and quoins are utilized at the corners.

The north and south side elevations are identical in their composition. They contain rounded bays with paired windows similar (minus the panels) to those on the facade and two basement openings. The recessed walls of the ell (containing the book stacks) contain the standard window units. At the rear are four basement windows, a door at the northeast corner and four long multi-pane double-hung stack windows.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Like the exterior, the interior of the library has survived with remarkable integrity. The heavy oak framed door opens into a narrow vestibule featuring tall paneled wainscot. A wide two-leaf door set in a deep ornate frame below a fanlight and swan's neck pediment opens into the hall. This entryway is flanked by a pair of closets. The hall is the most elaborately detailed space containing paneled walls, columns and posts rising to a broad entablature, and a ceiling whose central portion is taken up with a richly framed stained glass skylight and coffered lower section. In addition, the original lamps suspended from the ceiling also survive. Immediately in front of the hall is the modestly finished stack room. The flanking reading rooms feature wainscot, wall cornice moldings and wide eared window surrounds. The basement is simply detailed reflecting its more utilitarian function.

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

1916-1938

Significant Dates

1916

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Coombs, Harry S.

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

Given to the Town of Wilton by members of the Goodspeed family and completed in 1916, the Goodspeed Memorial Library is a handsome and well-preserved Neo-Classical Revival style building built of tan colored brick. It was designed by the Lewiston architect Harry S. Coombs and constructed by the B. F. Dunning Company of Massachusetts. 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".

On June 8, 1901, a group of Wilton residents petitioned the town to grant an act of incorporation for the Wilton Free Public Library Association. This was apparently the first effort to organize a local public library. Later that month officers were selected and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution. This organization gradually increased its collection through town tax support and donations. It was housed in the second floor of a downtown commercial building.

In 1914 a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Agnes I. Goodspeed was made known to the town for the purposes of erecting a library building. This was combined with the donation of \$2,000 and a downtown lot from Frank O. Goodspeed and \$5,000 from George F. Goodspeed, both of whom were the sons of Agnes Goodspeed. These gifts enabled the association to proceed with plans to obtain a proper facility. The library was dedicated on October 28, 1916, and remains in its original use to this day.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Franklin Journal (Farmington, Maine), October 31, 1916.

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	4	0	2	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	3	7	6	6	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Wilton tax map 15, lot 143.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property embraces the building and entire lot historically associated with the library.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, 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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The Goodspeed Memorial Library is believed to be the next to the last public library in Maine designed by firms in which Harry S. Coombs was a partner or the sole architect. This commission was also virtually identical to the public library erected in Bridgton three years earlier. His last effort came in 1933 for the Coolidge Library in Solon during his partnership with Alonzo J. Harriman.