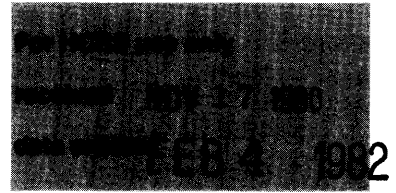


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Norridgewock Free Public Library

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number Sophie May Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Norridgewock

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 2nd

state Maine

code 23-025

county Somerset

code 025

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Trustees of the Norridgewock Free Library

C/O Miss Elizabeth Miller

street & number RFD #1, Box 239

city, town Norridgewock

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04957

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Registry of Deeds, Skowhegan, Maine

street & number

city, town Skowhegan

state ME

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? N/A  yes  no

date N/A

N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

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## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Norridgewock Free Public Library is a distinctive building of the Greek Revival style. It is of brick construction, with wooden and granite trim, with one story, metal-sheathed gabled roofs, two internal brick chimneys, and granite foundation.

The facade faces north, in the gable-end, and it is three bays wide below a projecting pediment supported by Doric columns at the corners. The central doorway is covered by a projecting enclosed entry. Fenestration is 2/2.

The east side of the building features a rectangular projecting bay window with tall, narrow 1/1 fenestration.

A later added one-story wing extends from the west side of the library, with two bays facing north, each of 2/2 type.

The corner columns have been temporarily removed while repairs are being undertaken. An older photograph (enclosed) shows the columns in place.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1841

Builder/Architect

John S. Abbott

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Norridgewock Free Public Library, a Greek Revival temple style building in miniature, is one of a number of 19th-century structures, originally built as law offices, which are stylistically exemplary. It is also notable as having been the office of a number of distinguished legal and political figures. The library organization which it now houses can be traced to a very early social library founded in 1810.

John S. Abbott erected this building in 1841 upon his arrival in Norridgewock and quickly became the most successful lawyer in the community. He also prospered in both farming and lumbering operations. After his departure to join a prominent Boston firm, the office was used by a succession of lawyers and later owned by Stephen Decatur Lindsey who served in the United States Congress from 1877 to 1883. He married a sister of Rebecca Sophia Clark, better known as the author "Sophie May" (Sophie May House - N.R. 10/8/76), who eventually inherited the property. In 1903 she donated the building for use as a public library.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, William, The History of Norridgewock, Norridgewock, 1849.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Norridgewock

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	9	4	3	6	7	3	0	4	9	5	1	7	0	0
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 and justification

Assessor's Map 31, Lot 13

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian / Robert L. Bradley, Arch. Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1980

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Carl S. Feltzworth*

title S.H.P.O. date 10/31/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u><i>Alton Byers</i></u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>2/4/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	