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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 West Gouldsboro Village Library

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number E Side of Rt. 186

not for publication

city, town West Gouldsboro

vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Hancock

code 009

zip code 04607

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>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ 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.

*Eric J. Fredman*  
Signature of certifying official  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

9/3/91  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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:)

*Beth A. Surge*

10/23/91

*BAS* 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. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The West Gouldsboro Village Library is a one-story three-bay Tudor Revival style building of handsome design. It features a tall rubble stone foundation that rises to the window sills, stuccoed exterior walls and chimney surfaces, and a steeply pitched gable roof framing half-timbered peaks. The library stands in a rural location adjacent to the West Gouldsboro Union Church (NR 4/5/90).

Facing west, the library's symmetrically composed front elevation consists of a shallow projecting entrance vestibule whose door, framed by sidelights, is surmounted by an elliptical, bracketed hood. A half-timbered gable caps the vestibule, whereas a short flight of stairs bordered by a low stone wall with concrete copings leads to the door. The concrete planters from the pottery of noted local artist Eric E. Soderholtz mounted atop the wall are original features. Tripartite casement windows with small square panes are located on each of the recessed walls which flank the vestibule.

The side elevations are identically composed. Each has an interior end, exposed face chimney with paved shoulders sloping to the rubble stone bases. Single windows similar to those on the facade are located on either side of the chimney shafts. The half timbering, consisting of vertical boards rising from a large horizontal member with shaped dentils and corner brackets, matches that on the vestibule gable. There are three groups of casement windows across the rear elevation that match those on the facade.

Inside, the intimate space is comprised of a single large room at each end of which is a wooden mantelpiece capped by a sloped, three tier chimney breast. Small arched niches located on either side of the projecting chimneys contain original bookcases. The coved ceiling is enframed by a large plaster molding.

Standing in front of the library aside the walkway is the original concrete post and sign board inscribed with the words VILLAGE LIBRARY and the date 1907. It is believed that artist Soderholtz also contributed this feature to the library.

**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)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1907 - 1941

Significant Dates

1907

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Savage, Fred L., Architect

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

West Gouldsboro's Village Library is a small, but nonetheless striking Tudor Revival style building erected in 1907 from plans drawn by Bar Harbor architect Fred L. Savage. It is one of only a handful of library buildings built in Maine in this style. The building is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria A and C as more fully described in the multiple property submission "Maine Public Libraries".

According to local tradition, the idea of establishing a library in West Gouldsboro was generated in 1904 by the Rev. Samuel R. Maxwell, minister of the adjacent Union Church. This suggestion was quickly acted upon, and on January 5, 1905, a social library organization known as the West Gouldsboro Village Library was officially incorporated. On August 17<sup>th</sup> of the following year the parcel of land on which the present building stands was acquired, and a building committee formed. The members, Alfred Franklin Tracy, Eric E. Soderholtz (a noted local artist), Charles Follett, Frank P. Noyes, and Fletcher T. Wood, approached architect Fred L. Savage for a design. The Bar Harbor Record noted in its June 5, 1907, edition that work had commenced on the new building. It proceeded rapidly, for the dedication was held on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The total cost had amounted to \$2,520.38, \$500 of which was donated in 1908 by Andrew Carnegie.

The West Gouldsboro Village Library remained in operation until 1956, at which time it had 1,700 volumes in its collection. After closing, the building was maintained by the West Gouldsboro Improvement Association. However, on August 28, 1990, eighty-three years after it originally opened, the library was re-established.

The architect of the library, Fred Lincoln Savage (1861-1924), grew up in Northeast Harbor on nearby Mt. Desert Island. Although the source of his architectural training is a yet unknown, by the 1880s he had established a practice on the island. Throughout the remainder of his career, Savage was

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bar Harbor Record. Editions of June 5 and 14, 1907.

Fred L. Savage Architect File. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Records pertaining to the formation and subsequent history of the library are available from the trustees.

**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**

Acreeage of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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5	7	2	0	1	0
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4	9	2	3	7	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The West Gouldsboro Village Library occupies the Town of Gouldsboro tax map 60, lot 45.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with this property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1991  
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior  
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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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responsible for the design of a large number of buildings, principally summer cottages in fashionable enclaves such as Northeast Harbor, Bar Harbor, Seal Harbor, and Islesboro. Savage also designed a variety of non-residential buildings, and even received commissions as far removed as California, but the subject structure in West Gouldsboro is the only known library with which he is connected.