

PH0508535

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 1 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1978

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

Lewiston Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner, Park & Pine Streets

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lewiston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd William Cohen

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

CODE
023

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE
001

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Lewiston

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Lewiston

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Auburn, Maine

STATE

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 Public Library in Lewiston, Maine, designed by the local architect George M. Coombs, is a dignified granite ashlar building of one story with a basement. The roof is of hipped form with a decorative cresting along the ridge and eaves. A single chimney is present, centrally positioned near the rear of the building.

The facade of the building, which faces east, is seven bays wide with a slightly projecting central entrance. The entrance, at the head of a stone stairway, is surmounted by a triangular pediment with acroterions, and is flanked by Ionic columns within Doric pilasters. The six windows of the facade and four windows on each end of the Library are topped by semi-circular arches with radiating voussoirs in the Romanesque Revival style. The corners of the building are decorated with quoins. A simple frieze is set off by string courses. The words PUBLIC LIBRARY are inscribed above the entrance.

The basement level of the building projects slightly and features rectangular windows below those of the main story.

Built in 1902, the Lewiston Public Library is a well-preserved and worthy example of turn-of-the-century Colonial Revival style public architecture.

LEWISTON
1/12/78

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1902-3 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Coombs and Gibbs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While the architectural merits of the granite building alone make the Lewiston Public Library a worthy nomination, the history of the library is also significant as a reflection of Lewiston's development.

The first library in Lewiston was begun in 1861 by the Manufacturers and Mechanics Library Association. By 1889, it had over 11,300 books. Only one year later fire destroyed the Lewiston City Building where the library was located and left only 670 books in the library collection. Not to be easily defeated, the library reopened in the new City Building in 1892. An interesting combination of types of New England libraries, this collection was created by proprietors, sustained by subscriptions, and located in space that was the gift of the city.

Also in the 1890's, the DAR had started a book collection and a fund for a free public library building. The DAR books became available to the public in the recital room of the Lewiston Journal in 1899. Through U.S. Senator William Frye, an offer to support the library fund was received from Andrew Carnegie. Mr. Carnegie agreed to donate \$30,000 if the city would support the library with \$3,000 a year, or he would donate \$50,000 if the city would give \$5,000 a year. The latter offer was accepted, and a city council commission, created in 1901, took charge of the project. The lot on the corner of Park and Pine Streets was purchased for \$9,000, and the Lewiston firm of Coombs and Gibbs was chosen as architects. Another local firm, of Greenleaf and Doring were awarded the building contract at \$40,000. Due to delays and unexpected expenses this sum was not enough to complete the structure, so Senator Frye reluctantly petitioned Carnegie for another contribution. Carnegie obliged the city with an additional gift of \$10,000.

The DAR turned its collection of 300 volumes over to the city in February, 1903. A board of trustees was formed, with the stipulation that a member of the DAR and a representative of the Manufacturers and Mechanics Library Association would always serve on the board. Miss Josephine Beard was hired as the first librarian in the fall of 1902, and she was in charge of cataloguing the new collection. She was, however, discharged when she was married in 1904 as it was curiously deemed inappropriate for a married woman to be a librarian. The \$5,000 annually budgeted by the city was not increased until 1920, although long before that it had ceased to cover more than salaries and expenses, leaving little for the purchase of books or improvements.

Since its beginning, the library has served the changing needs of the city of Lewiston. As early as 1904, the obligation to serve the French speaking population was recognized, and services to that segment of the population have subsequently

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hemmer, Phyllis B., History of Lewiston Public Library, M.A. Thesis, University of Maine, 1965

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	4	0	2	6	6	0	4	8	8	3	0	0	0
ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING							

B

ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING						

C

ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING						

D

ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING						

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 Kristen H. Stred, Intern
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE October 1977

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street

TELEPHONE 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Earle S. Sheddworth

TITLE S.H.P.O.

DATE October 27, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 1/3/78

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

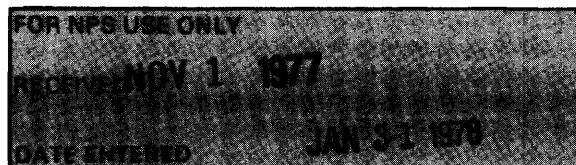
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-24-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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increased. Community programs have included lessons in reference work to high school students, loans to city playgrounds, and work with Americanization classes at the YMCA. In 1940, some badly needed repairs on the building were finally completed. Through the 1960's, interest from the League of Women Voters, Friends of the Library, and concerned librarians has worked to increase and improve the services of the library.

The Lewiston Public Library has its roots, as the city does, in manufacturing. The library grew with the city, and today serves the needs of the French population, the children, researchers, and that part of the public that reads just for recreation. But by no means is the least appreciated aspect of the library the handsome structure that houses the collection and graces the streets of Lewiston.