

PH0013156

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

William Cohen

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 31 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lawrence Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fairfield CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Somerset CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Board of Trustees, Lawrence Library

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fairfield STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Somerset County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Skowhegan STATE: Maine

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

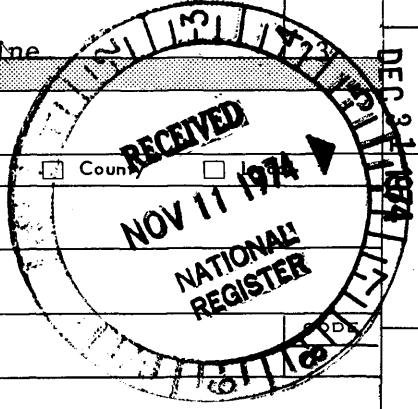
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Somerset

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected between 1900 and 1901 from designs by William R. Miller, the Lawrence Library is a substantial stone building in the Romanesque Revival manner of H.H. Richardson. The structure is rectangular in shape, stands two stories high, and has a hipped roof. The foundation and walls of the Library are of slate rock with granite trim, while the roof is of frame construction covered with slate.

The facade or north wall is symmetrically designed in four major sections. The two central sections consist of the arched entrance with a dormer above it and the octagonal tower. The entrance is approached by a broad flight of granite steps. The two iron railings on these steps are later additions. The door is located within a recessed area behind the arched entranceway. This arch is faced in rough granite. Directly above the arch is a rectangular polished granite tablet bearing the inscription "Lawrence Library." Over the tablet is a gable roofed dormer which contains a group of three arched stained glass windows. Both the sills and the lintels are of granite, the former polished while the latter roughly finished. Above the central dormer window appears a decorative granite crest inscribed with the date 1900. The dormer is flanked by elongated polished granite pinnacles which have bases with carved Romanesque foliage and finials in a Gothic manner.

On either side of the two center sections is a flanking section. Both flanking sections are of identical design. A rough granite string course separates the foundation from the first story. A similar string course serves in part as the sills for a group of three windows with arched rough granite lintels. As on the tower, the masonry wall is completed by a broad course of rough granite. The outside corner is finished in rough granite quoins.

The side or east and west walls of the Lawrence Library are designed identically, repeating the motifs of the facade. The foundation, window, and cornice level granite string courses continue to the sides. Each wall displays a series of four windows with arched rough granite lintels. The gable roofed dormer contains a pair of windows with rough granite sills and arched lintels. The dormer is flanked by elongated granite pinnacles identical to those on the facade. A granite finial ornaments the peak of the dormer's gable roof.

The rear or south wall of the Lawrence Library has the least detail. The foundation, window, and cornice level granite string courses are continued from the front and sides. The rear wall contains three symmetrically spaced groupings of three windows with arched rough granite lintels. The slate hipped roof of the library is ornamented at either end of its crest by a metal Gothic finial.

As with the exterior, the interior of the Lawrence Library retains much of its original appearance. The initial plan of a three-part first

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description

1.

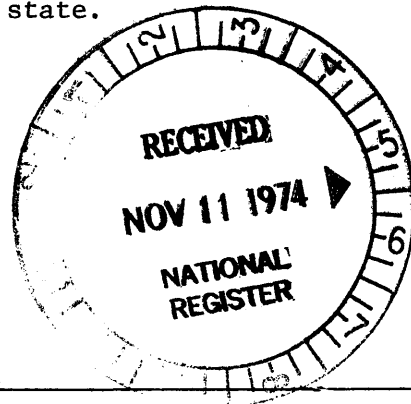
floor with storage on the second has remained in use. In fact, no major changes have occurred since the following description appeared in the Waterville Sentinel of July 26, 1901:

The entrance to the library is domed and very prettily decorated in the old ivory effect. The names of some of the more famous of the New England authors are painted in gold around the lower edge of the dome. These are Whittier, Holmes, Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne, Lowell, Bryant, Longfellow and Franklin. This entrance to the building is very effectively arranged and creates a pleasing impression at the start. Two stained glass windows facing the entrance have the portraits of Mr. Lawrence's two daughters.

On the right as one enters is the stack room with its 3000 and more books. These are so compactly arranged that there does not look to be near as many as this. The stacks will hold 5000 and they are nearly full. The books are arranged according to the Dewey system and a glance over the titles will delight the soul of any book lover.

On the left of the entrance is the reading room, comfortably fitted up. A fine pastel portrait of Mr. Lawrence hangs on the south wall of the reading room. It is the work of Mrs. Flora Cross Clark, and was presented to the library by the Fairfield Book Club. In a little niche that is just the right size on the west wall hangs a fine oil painting done by F.E. McFadden, a local artist. The subject is the "Moor of Venice," from Shakespeare's Othello, and the execution is fine. Then there is a splendid globe which was presented by Mrs. E.P. Kenrick. The globe is 18 inches in diameter and stands on a bronze pedestal 43 inches high. The globe is modern in every respect and will be a very valuable affair in the library. The room is furnished with heavy and substantial furniture with easy reading chairs and all the necessities of a modern reading room.

Over a seventy-five year period, the Lawrence Library has successfully retained both its ruggedly picturesque exterior and its classical interior to become a landmark in its community and state.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1900-01

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architect William R. Miller's Lawrence Library of 1900 in Fairfield strongly reflects the influence of H.H. Richardson. During the 1870's and 80's, Richardson began to revolutionize American architectural design by the forceful unity with which he composed Medieval Romanesque forms as well as by his utility in organizing space. Small community libraries were emerging at this time, and these became one of the building types most frequently requested of Richardson and his contemporaries. Richardson solved the problem by creating one and a half story structures such as the Crane Memorial Library in Quincy, Massachusetts of 1880-83, which were divided into three major sections, an entrance flanked by a reading room and stacks. The Lawrence Library is an adaptation of Richardson's libraries in both style and plan. Yet the Fairfield building's departure from Richardson's purity of Romanesque detail and asymmetry in composition are indicative of the Beaux Arts influence which was being felt in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Like so many of its counterparts, the Lawrence Library was the out-growth of a nineteenth century private library organization. In the case of Fairfield, this was the Ladies Book Club. Founded in 1895, the Club started with twenty-four members and forty-eight books. A bookcase was placed in a local confectioner's shop with the hope of adding fifty volumes each year. However, interest in the effort grew more rapidly than was anticipated, and by 1899 the Club had moved to two rooms in a bank block. The continued growth and support of the library resulted in serious consideration of a permanent building to house the collection. During the Club's May, 1900, meeting, Edward J. Lawrence announced that he was prepared to give his native town a public library if a suitable site could be found. Within a short time, Mrs. L.E. Newhall donated a choice lot which faced the community park and was located between her residence and Lawrence's.

Edward J. Lawrence was a highly successful lumberman. At the turn of the century, his mills sawed 120,000 feet of lumber per day and employed 225 men. He made available \$15,000 to construct the library from the plans of William R. Miller (1866-1929), a prominent Lewiston, Maine, architect whose practice extended throughout Central Maine. In addition, both Lawrence and Mrs. Newhall gave \$1,000 each for the purchase of books.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

W.R.M. Miller
Lewiston
12-9-70

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Fairfield's Public Library," Waterville Sentinel, Waterville, Maine, July 26, 1901.
Fairfield Register, 1904, Kent's Hill, Maine, 1904.
 Hitchcock, Henry Russell, H.H. Richardson and His Times, Cambridge, Mass., 1966
 Obituary of William R. Miller, Portland Sunday Telegram, Portland, Maine, December 15, 1929.

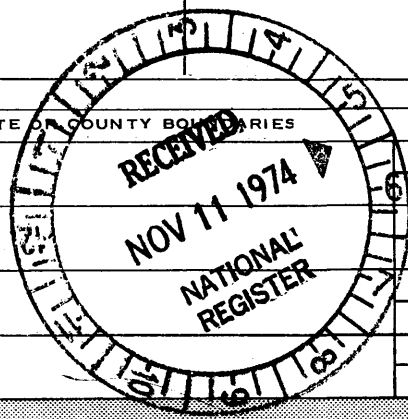
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44°	35'	16"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		69°	35'	55"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



VTM
19/452150
4937120
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Architectural Historian
Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: 10-25-74

STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>James H. Mundy</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>November 6, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>DEC 31 1974</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Acty. Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>DEC 31 1974</u></p>
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8. Description

1.

Appropriately named for its donor, the Lawrence Library was erected between 1900 and 1901. The dedication took place on July 24, 1901. In its account of the ceremony, the Waterville Sentinel observed:

Many towns over the country have had occasion to rejoice in the gift of a public library from the hands of the Scotland born and American made millionaire; others have rejoiced in the gift from some son who has secured fame and fortune in other than his native place; but Fairfield rejoices in the gift of a man who was born within her borders, educated in her public schools and whose position of wealth and influence among the foremost business men in the State has been won in his native town. ... He is one also who has worked his way up from the bottom of the ladder by his hard work and who has shown that success is possible for any man in Maine and in Fairfield. The gift is therefore especially prized.

Thus, Fairfield has benefited for three quarters of a century from the generosity of Edward J. Lawrence and the skill of William R. Miller. Together the self-made philanthropist and the late Victorian architect created a useful building for the community embodied in one of Maine's most distinctive expressions of the Romanesque Revival.

