

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SURVEY

Oxford Rumford 44-56 Congress Street
County City/Town Street Address and Number

Name of Building/site: Community Center / Mechanic Institute
Common and/or Historic

Approximate Date: 1911 Style: Neo-Classical Revival

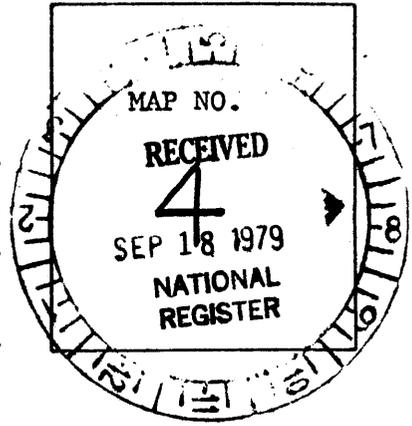
Type of Structure:
Residential Commercial Industrial Other Acreage: 1/4

Condition: Good Fair Poor UTM Ref: 19/377210/4933490

Verbal Boundary Descrip: Assessor's Map #4, Lots 1143-1147

Surveyor: Frank A. Beard Organization: Me. Hist. Pres. Comm. Date: 7/79

Owner: Town of Rumford; Municipal Building
Congress Street; Rumford, Maine 04276



Description: The Mechanic Institute is a large, four-story block constructed of brick with concrete trim. The most distinctive feature is a Doric colonnade at second and third floor level which covers the recessed central bays on one side of the building.

Significance: As part of the early industrial paternalism displayed in the erection of Strathglass Park (NR 10/18/74), the Mechanic Institute was organized by the Rumford Falls Power Company as a benevolent and educational association for the mill workers. The building was designed by Miller and Mayo, a prominent Portland architectural firm, to have stores at the street level with the Institute and other office space on the three upper floors.

The building continues in much the same use with the Institute space now occupied by the Community Center.