

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AUG 14 1978
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**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 Abbott Memorial Library

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Dexter VICINITY OF 2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Maine CODE 23 COUNTY Penobscot CODE 019

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Dexter

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Dexter VICINITY OF STATE Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Penobscot County Registry of Deeds

CITY, TOWN Bangor, STATE Maine

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 Abbott Memorial Library in Dexter, Maine, designed by J. William Beal of Boston and built in 1894, is a well-executed example of the Renaissance Revival style. The building is one story tall and of brick construction with hipped roof (covered with slates), two internal brick chimneys mounted on the hips, and a granite foundation.

The north and south ends of the building are two bays wide, while an unobtrusive modern addition is attached to the rear (east side) of the library. Below each bay at ground level is a small rectangular window which provides light to the basement.

The facade, which faces west, is five bays wide. Here as elsewhere on the library the windows are framed in granite and are capped with entablatured lintels. Fenestration is one-over-two. The facade's central bay is the focus of the library's exterior and contains the entrance. This bay projects from the facade wall and is surmounted by a triangular denticulated pediment. Within this pediment are floral reliefs which flank a medallion. The entrance, which is covered with a semi-circular arch supported by attached Ionic columns, is flanked by decorative wreaths in relief.

The cornice on all sides is denticulated and covers a granite frieze which is carved with swags and the inscribed names of eminent authors (Dante, Cervantes, Goethe, Auerbach, Shakespeare, Milton, LaFontaine, Hugo). Over the entrance the frieze is inscribed with the words "ABBOT MEMORIAL LIBRARY". All of the frieze inscriptions are carved in Roman epigraphic style.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

J. William Beal, Boston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This remarkably fine example of Renaissance Revival architecture is particularly notable in view of its location in a small rather remote industrial town in Maine.

Money for both the purchase of the land and the erection of the building was provided by George Amos Abbott, a leading figure in Dexter and owner of Amos Abbott and Co., a woolen mill founded by his father. The claim is made that this mill was the first of its kind in Maine.

Abbott contributed \$5,000 toward the purchase of the land and \$27,000 for the building which he deeded to the town for \$1. on Christmas Day, 1894. The generous gift was unanimously accepted by the community the following day.

Of passing interest is the fact that the only other building in Maine with a similar Renaissance open loggia is the Walker Art Gallery at Bowdoin College designed two years earlier by Standford White. It is tempting to think that J. William Beal, architect of the Abbott Library may have been influenced by White.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Plummer, Stanley, History of Dexter, Maine 1801-1901. Dexter Historical Society, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1
 UTM REFERENCES

A 19 | 477220 | 4985490
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C [] | [] | []

B [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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
 Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE July, 1978

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. Felt

TITLE SHPO

DATE 7/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>[Signature]</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	<u>[Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST <u>[Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>11-29-78</u> DATE <u>11/17/78</u>