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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Dalton Holmes Davis Memorial Library
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Bridgton N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04009

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			<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.

Carol S. Fretwell 11/16/88
Signature of certifying official Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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:)

Melrose Byers Entered in the National Register 1/5/89

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)Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Cast Iron Lampposts at Entrance

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dalton Holmes Davis Memorial Library is a tall one-story three-bay tan colored brick building of modest Neo-Classical Revival style proportions and detailing. Its T-shaped plan is barely discernable by virtue of the width of the stack room. The virtually unaltered library occupies a small corner lot in a mixed residential/commercial area of Bridgton.

Facing north, the principal elevation is composed of a bold projecting central entrance pavilion flanked by recessed walls. A long flight of concrete steps rise to the door between low parapets that support the original cast iron lamp posts with round glass globes. The fully glazed door is surmounted by a name plaque that is in turn sheltered by a bracketed hood. Framing this central panel are two wide brick shafts punctuated only by a single small narrow window on the front side. A stringcourse meets the hood and carries around the building, and some distance above it is a molded cornice and low parapet. The multi-pane windows and transoms in the recessed walls rest above panels and they are framed by corbeled brick surrounds. A wide granite water table separates these units from smaller basement windows. Brick quoins mark the corners of the buildings.

The east and west sides are identical in their composition. Wide rounded bays containing a pair of fixed windows with movable transoms project from the main block and a similar window punctuates the slightly recessed walls of the stack room. Additional six-pane basement windows lie below the main openings. The wide rear wall contains four long narrow windows in the center half (and basement openings), a door at the southeast corner and a small gabled shed at the southwest.

The interior retains its original configuration and darkly stained woodwork. The vestibule is flanked by small former storage rooms that are accessible through doors located in the hall. From this latter space reading rooms are located to the right and left beyond wide openings framed by boxed beams, whereas the stacks are set behind the circulation desk. The librarian's office is located

See continuation sheet

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)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance

1913-1938

Significant Dates

1913

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Coombs, Harry S.

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

Designed by Lewiston architect Harry S. Coombs and completed in 1913, the Dalton Holmes Davis Memorial Library is a one-story brick building that continues to serve in the capacity of the town library. Its construction was made possible by a \$10,000 bequest from Somerville, Massachusetts resident and Bridgton native Dr. Nathan J. Davis in memory of his son Dalton Holmes Davis. The library retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and association. It meets the requirements for registration under criteria A and C for its educational and architectural significance as more fully described in the multiple property submission "Maine Public Libraries".

Bridgton's public library history appears to have begun about 1819 with the organization of the Bridgton Library Society under the leadership of Rev. Nathan Church. In 1830 this society merged with the Youth's Library Society to become the Union Library Society. These early subscription libraries appear to have dissolved by the 1840s, but were subsequently followed by the Literary Reading Society (organized 1854), a library established in 1867 by local businessmen and a Reading Association founded in 1876.

The Bridgton Public Library was incorporated on July 2, 1895, but like the organizations that preceded it this was a subscription library with members charged an annual fee of one dollar. This collection was initially housed in a commercial building but by 1900 the members had raised sufficient funds to erect a separate facility. The bequest by Dr. Davis enabled the corporation to erect a new, more substantial building which was dedicated on July 30, 1913. The library subsequently received the private library of former Governor Henry B. Cleaves, another Bridgton native, in a pattern of donation frequently repeated in Maine during this period. Unlike most public libraries, however, Bridgton's did not abolish its subscription fee until 1941, four years after the town began to appropriate funds for

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"History of the Bridgton Public Library". Undated typescript copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Shorey, Eula M., ed., History of Bridgton, Maine. Bridgton: Bridgton Historical Society, 1968.

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

Acreege of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9	3	6	3	0	0	0
Zone		Easting			Northing		

4	8	7	9	1	0	0
Zone		Easting			Northing	

C

Zone		Easting			Northing	

Zone		Easting			Northing	

B

Zone		Easting			Northing	

Zone		Easting			Northing	

D

Zone		Easting			Northing	

Zone		Easting			Northing	

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Bridgton, Tax Map 23, Lot 145.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property embraces the building and entire lot historically associated with the library.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1988

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

at one corner of the stack room and the stair leading to the basement occupies the opposite corner. Additional book shelves have been introduced into both reading rooms and the basement has been partially converted for additional book storage.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

its annual maintenance. This action was taken after closure of the facility in 1936 due to financial hardship.

The Bridgton library was the third project of its type obtained by firms in which Harry S. Coombs was a partner or sole architect. In 1912 he also obtained commissions for libraries in Fort Fairfield and Oakland. He subsequently designed a library for the Town of Wilton that is virtually identical to the one in Bridgton, although it exhibits a more stylish interior featuring a skylight and columns.