

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
 COUNTY: Franklin
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: NOV 2 1973

HB
 2419
 2110255110

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cutler Memorial Library
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner Academy and High Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Farmington CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd: Hon. William Cohen
 STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 007

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

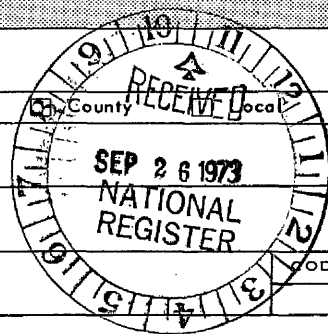
OWNER'S NAME: Farmington Public Library Association
 STREET AND NUMBER: Academy Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Farmington STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Franklin County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Farmington STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The Cutler Memorial Library stands at the corner of Academy and High Streets in the town of Farmington, Maine. It is an unspoiled example of a small early twentieth century library in the Beaux Arts classical style. Erected between 1901 and 1903 from designs by William R. Miller, the building is constructed of North Jay, Maine, granite.

The overall plan of the Cutler Memorial Library is L shaped with the facade on Academy Street and the left side at a 90 degree angle to it on High Street. These two sections are joined together by a circular section with a low tower. The facade possesses two major elements, a classical portico and a doorway at the left and a group of three identical, vertical windows at the right with three smaller cellar windows below them. The portico and the doorway are approached by a broad flight of stairs. The doorway has a wooden door with a large vertical panel and a window above it. Over the door is a panel of colored stained glass. To either side of the doorway is a column with an Ionic capital. Beyond each column is a pilaster. These four elements support a horizontal pediment. Above each of the elements there is a circle in relief in the freize. The steps, the portico, the stone course above the cellar windows, and that below the cornice are all executed in polished granite, while the remainder of the facade is rough granite.

The circular corner tower is of rough granite with the exception of the polished stone course continuing from the facade foundation and a plaque carved with flowers and the date 1901. A metal roof cornice which encompasses the entire building crosses the tower near its top. Another metal cornice surrounds the top of the tower with a circular glass skylight above it. At the center of this is a circular metal platform ornamented with metal Grecian anthemions and a central pinnacle.

Like the facade, the High Street side of the Cutler Memorial Library has two major architectural features, a group of four vertical windows at the left with four smaller cellar windows below and a large chimney at the right which projects from the wall and stands as high as the corner tower. The wall has a rough granite surface with the exception of the polished foundation course. The chimney is of rough granite with a polished granite top.

The Cutler Memorial Library is in a completely original state of preservation on the exterior. The same is true for its handsome interior. The facade and side wings are devoted to both book shelves and reading areas. Original woodwork and furniture has been maintained. The circular tower is the most elegant interior feature of the building. It is surrounded by a series of carved wooden arches and pilasters. The arches have scroll-like consoles at the top, and the pilasters are fluted and possess Corinthian capitals. Above these runs wide circular band of intricate wooden moldings.

(See Continuation Sheet)

*Very simple
Beaux Arts
Maybe just
Neo-classical*

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description

The domed ceiling has a large circular skyline in the center. Plaster surfaces are decorated with stencils of the Grecian anthemion motif. Original furniture is also found in this room.

The Cutler Memorial Library exhibits an unusual design and plan for a small early twentieth century library. Its trustees have strived through the years to maintain its original integrity as a pleasing architectural statement as well as a functional part of the community.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1901-1903**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature <i>No lit. A. C. 11/2/84</i> | <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

In 1845 the first public library in Franklin County was founded at Keith's Mills, now a part of Chesterville. Many other libraries were founded after that and the library in Farmington, the subject of this nomination, was one of them.

In 1865 the Farmington Library Association was formed and shares were sold to subscribers at \$10.00 a share. The nucleus of the library's collection was the books belonging to the old Philomathean Society, a reading group, that had ceased to exist.

In 1880 the Farmington Library Association was defunct but it was the forerunner of the present Farmington Public Library Association formed in 1890 with George C. Purington as its first president. In the fall, the group voted to rent Room #6 in the Masonic Building as its headquarters. The rent was \$50.00 a year. On February 14, 1891, the library was officially opened with Miss Mittie Fairbanks as librarian.

Two persons who joined the association at the founding were John L. and Isaac M. Cutler. Isaac, in 1890, made the first gift to the library—\$500.00. Mr. Purington suggested to Isaac Cutler a permanent memorial to his father, the Hon. Nathan Cutler. Isaac gave permission for plans to be submitted with no regard to cost.

The site selected was owned by Dr. E.C. Merrill. Dr. Merrill's house was moved to the south side of Middle Street where it still stands.

The architect was William R. Miller, a prominent late nineteenth-early twentieth century Maine architect. Born in Durham, Maine, in 1866, Miller attended Bates College in Lewiston two years before specializing in architecture at M.I.T.. He then studied in Europe a year before opening his office in Auburn. While in Auburn, Miller designed many public buildings and residences there and in the adjoining city of Lewiston. Later he formed the firm of Miller and Beal, moving his operations to Portland. William R. Miller died there in December of 1929 at the age of 66 after an active architectural career in Maine.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Natalie S. "History of Cutler Memorial Library." Unpublished manuscript.

Portland Sunday Telegram, December 14, 1929, Obituary of William R. Miller, Architect.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

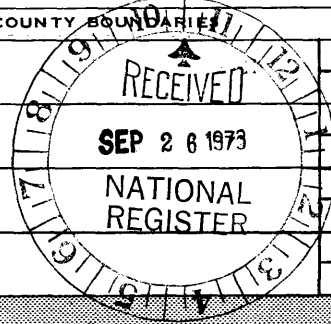
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44°	40'	10"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	70°	08'	56"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Richard D. Kelly

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Comm.

DATE

June, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Augusta,

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name

James H. Munday

Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

September 20, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Cannally

~~Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation~~
Associate Director Professional Services

Date

NOV 2 1973

ATTEST:

Ann Santy
Keeper of The National Register

Date

10-30-73

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

The gray granite of the Cutler Memorial Library came from the Maine and New Hampshire Granite Company quarries in North Jay. The roof was done in Vermont green slate. Horace Purington & Co., of Waterville did the stonework and Joseph Matthew of Farmington did the polished oak woodwork of the interior. The foundation was done by D.H. Carrier of Chester-ville.

This lovely little library graces the center of Farmington and stands as a memorial to the Hon., Nathan Cutler and to those citizens of Farmington who realized the dream of a permanent library come true.

