

100-10010-0010  
OCT 11 1983

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **OCT 11 1983**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Goodrich Memorial Library

and/or common Goodrich Memorial Library

**2. Location**

street & number Main and Field Streets, N/A not for publication

city, town Newport N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Vermont code 50 county Orleans code 019

**3. 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 checked="" 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                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <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                    |
| N/A   | <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:                          |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Goodrich Memorial Library Association

street & number 68 Main Street

city, town Newport N/A vicinity of state Vermont

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Clerk's Office

street & number Town Hall, Main Street

city, town Newport state Vermont

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures  
title Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont

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## 7. Description

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|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered              | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   | date _____  |

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Goodrich Memorial Library, anchoring one end of Newport's Main Street, is a 55' x 66', 3 x 3 bay, 2-1/2 story, hip-roofed brick veneer, Queen Anne-Romanesque block, with a prominent corner tower and projecting central pavilions that relieve the principal front (south) and left (west) elevations. A coursed granite foundation and beveled watertable give way to the common bond brick walls. Granite window sills, lintels, and a string course highlight the facade.

The entrance is located in the central 2-1/2 story pavilion. The doorway is recessed behind a round granite arch. The semi-circular archway has radiating voussoirs and springs from granite impost blocks inscribed with the building's date of construction. Above the doorway a granite plaque reads "Goodrich Memorial." A pair of windows lights the end of the second floor hallway which terminates in the pavilion. A granite string course at the level of the second floor lintels girds the pavilion and ties it visually to the rest of the block. Above, a wide, geometrically patterned brick band, sandwiched between the granite lintel course and a similar higher string course, rises through the eaves of the main block. A full modillioned pediment crowns the central pavilion, its tympanum lighted by a large, semi-circular window with radiating muntins. On the sides of the pavilion, a granite "lintel" and round arch "transom" with sawtooth brick infill cap rectangular blind panels of patterned brick.

A pair of windows on either side of the entrance bay fill out the front (south) fenestration. First-floor windows boast rectangular leaded stain glass transoms and corbelled brick brackets run below the eaves of the block's hip roof.

The left (west) elevation, like the front (south) facade, is broken up by a projecting central bay that houses the interior stairway and landing. This central bay differs from its front facade counterpart in several ways. There is no doorway on the first floor, but rather two small, high windows that light functional rooms below the stairs. The double, second floor window which lights the landing is graced by semi-circular leaded stain glass transoms set within a compound arch head. Narrow windows with granite sills and lintels are located on the sides of the pavilion. The grouping of three narrow windows on the left (north) end of the elevation is unified by two higher fixed lights set within continuous stone lintels and sills which span the three windows below. This unusual fenestration pattern identifies the stacks, a room that runs the length of the rear elevation.

In the round corner tower a band of 1/1 windows light each floor. They are sandwiched between granite sills and lintels that run together to form string courses. A paneled, polygonal brick band, a granite string course and bracketed cornice run below the polygonal slate roof.

The more plain right (east) elevation fronts a neighboring commercial block. Granite sills and lintels give the surface relief. A second-story, polygonal frame oriel window overhangs the alley between the two structures.

The rear wall is uncharacteristically symmetrical. Ten tall, narrow windows with granite sills and lintels give the elevation a rhythmic fenestration. A fixed square light sits atop each of the windows. The lights are paired by sharing continuous granite sills and lintels. In such a way the band of fixed lights is transitional between the ten-bay first floor and the five-bay second floor fenestration. The double-hung second floor windows maintain the symmetry and rhythm established by the first floor. The same second floor granite

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string course that girds the rest of the block runs at lintel level. Corbelled brackets run below the eaves.

The interior of the library retains most of its original fabric. Solid granite posts in the library's basement support the wooden super-structure.

On the first floor, a central hallway divides the main reading room on the left from the children's reading room on the right. The hallway extends to the stacks, a room spanning the rear of the building. A side hall off to the left leads to an open well, two-flight stairway which rises to a second floor of identical plan.

In the first floor hall, oak panels rise above the mottled red Swanton marble floor tiles and baseboards, to chair rail level. Oak surrounds with bullseye corner blocks frame the doorways. The paneled ceiling and coved cornice are pressed tin. Latticed valance screens with corner sunburst motifs adorn the doorways to the front reading rooms. The main reading room features a coffered tin ceiling and extends into the round corner projection of the tower.

Oak panel wainscoting climbs the outside walls of the staircase. The balusters are slotted panels and the newel post exhibits geometric abstractions of the classical column. A double window with round arch leaded transoms lights the landing. The "keystones" sport bullseyes.

There are six fireplaces throughout the building and they revel in the use of molded brick fired in the shape of classical details. In the children's reading room, a round arch frames the fireplace. Its radiating voussoirs recall the arch on the facade. Molded panels flank the arch. A cornice with dentils and cyma recta molding crowns it. Paneled brick pilasters with molded bases and capitals with egg and dart molding flank the canted fireplace in the main reading room. Brick pellet molding and egg and dart molding grace the architrave; an anthemion design adorns the frieze, and bead and reel and egg and dart moldings enrich the cornice. In the Vermont Room overhead, a horseshoe arch frames the fireplace. The anthemion motif, and the bead and reel and egg and dart moldings are reproduced in Roman brick to embellish the entablature.

Second floor rooms correspond, in plan, to first floor rooms. The paneled wainscoting and patterned tin ceilings echo those on the first floor. The second floor's significant departure is the room over the stacks. Called the Assembly Room, it is an auditorium with a high ceiling and walls that taper toward it like the inside of a mansarded attic. This ceiling is not articulated on the exterior. The ceiling and walls are sheathed in horizontal beaded boards.

The stacks have been modernized and the large original oak check-out desk has been removed. The interior is otherwise intact.

## 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/<br>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** 1896-1898 **Builder/Architect** William Storey

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Goodrich Memorial Library is an excellent example of a Queen Anne-Romanesque library executed in brick and granite. An outstanding monument on Newport's Main Street, it is one of the few remaining indicators of Newport's late 19th century greatness. Both the exterior and interior features of the building show a high degree of preservation with few alterations. Designed by William Storey, it shows the influence of earlier Newport structures designed by the prominent Vermont architect, Lambert Packard.

Newport in the 1890's was a boom town. The previous decades had witnessed an explosion of business activity. The Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railroad had fueled the tourist trade and nursed the burgeoning paper and lumber industries. In 1893, 4,000 people lived in the Newport area, and it was the seat of Orleans County. Extravagant residences, four and five story Second Empire tourist hotels, brick and frame commercial blocks all lined Main Street. Two commissions by the prominent Vermont architect, Lambert Packard, one, an Opera Block, the other, the County Court House, further dignified Main Street and seemed to announce Newport's coming of age.

In 1896, Converse Goodrich purchased the Sherman lot on Main Street. On the corner of Field Street, half a block from the court house and two blocks from the edge of Lake Memphremagog, it was a choice lot.

Goodrich retained William Storey to design the exterior and hired Onesime Sabourin as foreman and contractor. Goodrich himself is given credit for the design of many of the interior appointments. Architecturally, the library owes a debt to several sources. Lambert Packard was a disciple of Richardson's Romanesque Revival. The bold, round arch entrance of Packard's Newport Court House may have inspired Storey's design. The round arch is a motif used on both the interior and the exterior of the library. Packard's Opera House, which was located down the street, employed the same corbelled frieze and sawtooth brick transoms that, with careful observation, can be seen on Storey's facade.

The asymmetrical massing is characteristic of the Queen Anne style, although here it is dictated by the site. Two elevations face streets, one an alley, and the fourth abuts a commercial block. So, it is understandable that attention is drawn to the front and left (west) sides, the sides which front Main and Field Streets. What might otherwise be a symmetrical hip roof block is relieved by projecting bays and a corner tower. The plan also reflects the site. The reading rooms face Main Street while the more functional stacks room and librarian's office face the alley and adjoining commercial block. Lest the projecting bays and the tower undermine the continuity of Storey's facades, he visually tied them to the main block by a granite string course that girds the whole building.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Memphremagog, VT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Scott Merrill, Field Architectural Historian

organization Vt. Div. for Historic Preservation date February, 1983

street & number Pavilion Building telephone 802-828-3226

city or town Montpelier state Vermont

# 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eric Galston*

title Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date 9/30/83

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

*John M. ...* date 11/23/83  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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An exuberant use of different materials, both natural and man made, characterizes the interior. Marble floors and oak wainscoting combine with pressed tin ceilings and molded brick fireplaces to create visually active rooms. The same attention to detail given the first floor is maintained throughout, as the fireplace in the second floor kitchen compares favorably with that in the children's reading room. The original oak furniture and the graceful lighting fixtures remain and harmonize with their settings.

The Goodrich Library was built before the statewide profusion of Classical Revival libraries. This fact reflects the prominence of Newport in the 1890's. This civic monument took its place on a Main Street already crowded with monuments to commercial prosperity. But Main Street today is gutted, by fire and by waning fortunes. The grand hotels are gone and many of the commercial blocks, one by one, have been replaced by 20th century infill. The opulent residence once located across Field Street from the library is now a parking lot. And so the historical value of the library increases as the buildings of the glory years dwindle.

Across Main Street, the Renaissance Revival style Federal building and the Queen Anne Packard Court House stand side by side. Together with the library, these three public buildings form the core of old Newport.

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Albee, T.E., "City's Goodrich Library was Built in 1898", The Newport Daily Express.  
April 14, 1964, Newport, Vermont.

Nelson, Emily M., Frontier Crossroads, Volumes I and II. Phoenix Publishing: Canaan,  
New Hampshire, 1977.

Newport, Vermont: 175 Years Since Settlement, Fifty Years Since City Charter: 1793-  
1968. Commemorative Book Committee: Newport, Vermont, 1968.

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The nominated property consists of the Library and its rectangular lot located at the north-east corner of Main and Field Streets. The lot measures approximately 75 feet x 100 feet and is described on page 168 of Volume 21 of the Newport Town Land Records. The property is the original lot purchased by Converse Goodrich in 1896 for construction of the Library.