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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 Rumford Public Library
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Rumford Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Rumford N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04270

3. Classification

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

Paul S. Fetterworth 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:)

Alton Byers 1/5/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

Late Victorian

Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Stone: Slate

other Wooden Paneled Pavilion

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Rumford Public Library is a one-story Romanesque Revival style building constructed of brick. Its prominent features include a wide projecting gabled entrance pavilion on the symmetrically composed three-bay facade and a slate roof. A flat roofed 1969 addition extends to the rear. The library occupies a generous sloping lot bordered on two sides by trees.

Facing east toward Rumford Avenue the library's principal elevation is dominated by the entrance pavilion. A short flight of concrete steps leads to a landing bordered by low brick parapets that are capped by granite copings. These copings join the water table that carries around the building and below the principal window sills. Behind the landing is a broad semi-circular arch that springs from the water table and has a denticulated extrados. This opening shelters a porch containing a modern two-leaf door as well as the original paneled and glazed walls. Above the arch is a long stone name plaque surmounted by a trio of nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows and a bull's eye panel in the gable peak. Short gable returns with modillion blocks extend to the similarly detailed cornice that is carried across the facade. Both of the recessed flanking walls contain paired six-over-one windows separated from three pane transoms by granite sills. Two basement windows are positioned below the main units.

The north side elevation of the original block contains a three-sided bay window with a pair of six-over-one windows flanking an eight-over-one, all of which have multi-pane transoms. A single opening punctuates the basement and the bull's eye panel and cornice returns are repeated here as they are on the south end. The north wall of the addition has a door in the lower northeast corner. On the south side three windows, minus the bay, occupy the main floor and a second trio is located in the gable peak. An emergency door leading to a stair and a small flat roofed enclosed entrance porch are located on the addition. Multiple windows punctuate the rear of this block.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The interior plan is comprised of a wide vestibule that leads to the cross axial barrel vaulted hall and the delivery room/circulation desk. A stair on the south side leads to the basement. Wide darkly stained moldings comprise the surrounds of the windows and segmental arches leading to the reading rooms. Vertically sheathed wainscot is utilized in both rooms and a bracketed mantel framing a Roman brick fireplace is the primary feature in the north room. A pair of square posts separates the hall from the desk behind which is the stack room provided by the addition.

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

1903-1938

Significant Dates

1903

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stevens, John Calvin

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

Built in 1903 from plans drawn by John Calvin Stevens, Maine's preeminent late nineteenth and early twentieth century architect, the Rumford Public Library is a modest Romanesque Revival style brick building, one-and-a-half stories in height. Funding for construction was provided by a grant of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie. 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".

The campaign that lead to the construction of the 1903 building was apparently the first successful attempt to secure a public library in Rumford, a community that had been transformed in the late 1880s and 1890s through rapid industrial development lead by paper manufacturer Hugh J. Chisholm. Prior to the emergence of the free public system, however, a commercial circulating library of some 1,000 volumes had been established by A. Z. Cates. This business remained in operation until the public facility opened and then vanished like its contemporaries in countless other Maine towns.

Rumford was one of only eighteen communities in the state that had been awarded a grant from steelmaker and library patron Andrew Carnegie. This award was made on January 22, 1903, and carried with it the requirements that the town pledge yearly maintenance for it and provide a suitable lot. Additional gifts for shelves and books were made before the opening by the Chisholm family. With the addition of a two-story block in 1969 the library continues to serve in its original capacity.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rumford Public Library File, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

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
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3	7	6	9	1	0
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4	9	3	3	5	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the so-called "library lot" on Town of Rumford tax map 3.

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. Mohney, Architectural Historian date _____

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission telephone (207) 289-2132

street & number 55 Capitol Street city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The architect for the project, John C. Stevens of Portland, had previously designed libraries in Buckfield and Clinton and also secured in 1903 the commission for the Cary Library (N.R. 6/25/87) in Houlton. Both 1903 projects are very similar in their designs, the primary difference lying in the treatment of the entryway and inclusion of a stack room at the rear of the Houlton library.