Form I	No. 1	0-300	(Rev.	10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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# 7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed by Thomas W. Silloway of Boston for the Soldiers' Monument Association in 1870, Memorial Hall is a fine example of a building with Italian-Gothic overtones. It is a rectangular structure, 45 by 65 feet in dimension with a hipped roof. A central facade bay projects six feet beyond the west or facade wall. The building consists of one story with a finished basement open on the north side.

The fabric of the walls is stone with brick trim. The steeply-gabled central bay, rising above the rest of the main (west) facade, features a tall arched inset with a rose window within the arch. Below this is the double-doored entrance, surmounted by a low-arched window with fourteen panes. The foundation consists of granite slabs.

To either side of the portico is a tall, low-arched, nine-over-nine window. Above each of these is a modified gable which gives the building more vertical thrust. An ornamental brick-work entablature of zig-zag pattern follows the roof-line throughout the building.

The north wall of Memorial Hall features a basement level floor built for commercial purposes. A series of three alternating doors and large display windows, framed in massive granite posts and lintels, characterizes this ground-level facade. Above this the main floor has four windows identical to the windows to either side of the projecting facade bay. A marble tablet bearing the inscription "Soldier's Memorial Hall 1870" is located centrally. Above this is a modified gable with three-part stained-glass window within.

The south wall is identical to the north wall, except that there is no central tablet on the main floor, and the basement level has no granite facing or display windows.

The east (rear) elevation of the structure is simple, featuring three evenly-spaced rectangular windows with granite lintels and sills, in the basement level.

Internally Memorial Hall features a foyer and a galleried hall.

Memorial Hall is in excellent condition and features a unique blend of commercial and religious styles. Although atypical in this regard, it is nonetheless typical of the kind of lavish architecture which was dedicated to the soldiers of the Civil War in the late 1860's and 1870's.



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1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	XMILITARY	X.SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
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<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		INVENTION				
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SPECIFIC DAT	SPECIFIC DATES 1870 EXXXXXXXX/ARCHITECT Thomas W. Silloway, of Boston					

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Memorial Hall in Oakland is a remarkably ambitious Civil War monument for a relatively small community. In 1870, when construction began the population of West Waterville, as it was then named, was only slightly more then 1500. In the light of this it is not surprising that more than four years were required for final completion of the building and then only as a result of a long series of heroic fundraising efforts.

In July of 1870 the recently formed Soldiers' Monument Association announced that plans drawn by Thomas W. Silloway, a prominent ecclesiastical architect, had been approved. Construction was begun the following month, but the building was not ready for occupancy until December of 1873. In the meantime numerous levees, dramatic and musical entertainments, and sales of one kind or another were held to provide a continuing flow of cash to supplement the initial construction funds raised by borrowing.

With considerable forethought, the Association had included in the plans commercial space in the basement to provide income for retiring indebtedness and for maintenance and improvement of the building and grounds. This was admirably carried out by Mr. Silloway in a manner which did not intrude on the main structure or facade of the building. By early 1874 both a savings bank and the post office had moved into this space.

Thomas Silloway, the architect, was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts in 1828 and after a sound education in the arts of design devoted himself to the preparation of plans for public buildings and particularly churches. Establishing himself in Boston in 1851 he spent the next 20 years in designing or remodeling more than 300 churches as well as other public buildings including the State Capital at Montpelier, Vermont. Becoming interested in Universalist theology, he began, in 1852 preaching to congregations of that denomination and was ordained a minister in 1862. During the course of his life he published numerous works in the fields of both architecture and religion.

In 1887, Memorial Hall was transferred by quit claim deed to the Trustees of the Sergeant Wyman Post, G.A.R. with the interesting provision that it should forever bear the same name which should also be carried on to any building which might subsequently replace it.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Waterville Mail, various editions 1870-74     Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 363, p. 519     Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography (New York, 1888) v.5, p. 530     Image: Comparison of Com					
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

The Hall is now owned by the Town of Oakland.

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This handsome Italian-Gothic monument stands as an impressive testament to the determination of the citizens of Oakland to memorialize their sacrifices in the Civil War and has long been established as an important local landmark.