

PH# 369535

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1976
DATE ENTERED	SEP 8 1976



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Haskell Free Library and Opera House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Caswell Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Derby Line, Vermont
and

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vermont

STATE

Rock Island, Quebec

CODE
50

COUNTY
Orleans

CODE
019

3 CLASSIFICATION (Canada)

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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

Haskell Free Library, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Derby Line

VICINITY OF

STATE

Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Town Clerk of Derby

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Derby

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

1969

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Pavilion Building
Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Haskell Free Library and Opera House is a 2½-story granite and brick structure situated on the International Boundary between Derby Line, Vermont and Rock Island, Quebec. It is the focal point for entrance into these two villages from the east.

The building, which houses a library and an opera house, rests on a granite block foundation and is of masonry load bearing construction - cut granite blocks on the first story and yellow brick laid in common stretcher bond on the second story. The roof, which is supported by a denticulated cornice, is hipped on the main (south) facade while the rear elevation is gabled.

A 3-story polygonal tower at the southwest corner of the building dominates the main elevation together with two granite balustraded porches, one at the center for the library entrance, the other at the east end for entrance to the Opera House. The tower contains three 12/1 windows with stained glass, rectangular transoms on both the first and second stories. The three third-story windows rest upon smooth granite sills which project from a rough granite stringcourse which surrounds the building immediately below the cornice. These windows are round-arched and capped by brick radiating voussoirs with granite keystones and imposts. Between the second and third stories are stone paterae. The tall, octagonal tower roof supported by a denticulated cornice, is topped by a finial.

The projecting enclosed entrance porch on the main (south) facade is of cut granite block on the sides with a smooth granite facade consisting of a compound round arch springing from corner piers. The piers also support panelled corner pilasters which in turn, support the entablature upon which a second story balustrade sits. In raised stone letters in the entablature are the words "Haskell Free Library". Sidelights and a stained glass, semi-elliptical transom surround the library door.

The projecting, enclosed porch entrance to the Opera House on the east side of the facade is less elaborate and smaller in scale, consisting of smooth granite corner piers flanking double doors topped by a bay window. The piers support a granite entablature which in turn, supports a granite balustrade on the second story, similar to, but smaller in scale than, the balustrade over the library entrance. In the entablature are the words "Opera House" in raised stone.

In axis with the central porch is a bay dormer whose vertical face breaks the cornice line. The three round-arched windows in the dormer are similar to those in the corner tower and also rest upon granite sills projecting from the stringcourse beneath the cornice.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-1)

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On the west facade, seven bays deep, a central three-bay pavilion projects approximately four feet from the wall surface of the building. On the second story of the pavilion is a porch consisting of a stone balustrade supporting four turned granite columns. In turn, the columns and pilasters support a denticulated cornice surmounted by a pedimented gable which contains a single round window.

The first and second story windows on the south and west facades are all 12/1 sash with stained glass rectangular transoms, granite lugsills and splayed lintels. The windows are placed in axis with each other except on the west facade where there is a double window on the first story. Above each second story window, except in the tower, is an ornamental stone panel with ears, flush with the building surface.

On the rear (north) elevation are narrow windows with stained glass, rectangular transoms, granite lugsills and splayed lintels on the first story and a blind arcade with brick radiating voussoirs, granite keystones and imposts, on the second story. In one of the six arcades are panelled double doors serving as a fire escape from the Opera House. In the slate-sheathed pedimented gable are a Palladian window, and a round window above that.

Steel beams support the recessed northeast corner of the first floor on the east elevation. The back entrances to the Opera House are located here. Fenestration is less regular on this elevation and is composed of three tiers of small windows.

On the interior of the library a wide hallway opens to a large reading room, and a librarian's room panelled with birdseye maple, both located in the United States, a children's room which straddles the International Boundary, and the stack room, wholly located in Canada. There are three glazed brick fireplaces with Neo-Classical surrounds - columns, pilasters and entablatures. A solid oak dado lines the walls. The ceiling is pressed metal.

On the interior of the Opera House, a wooden staircase with a panelled dado ascends on the east wall to the ticket booth, located in the window bay area over the entrance doors, and continues to the gallery of the auditorium. The Opera House interior is a scale model of the

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-2)

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Old Boston Opera House and seats 450 persons in wooden folding seats, on the main floor and in a balcony on three sides of the auditorium.

The stage, wholly located in Canada, is 50 feet wide and 24 feet deep and features a main curtain with a Venetian scene painted on it. The proscenium arch, ornamented with sculpted plaster, is 26 feet wide and 20 feet high. An Arcadian scene of nudes and putti, painted in pastels, decorates the proscenium wall in a Rococo manner.

The balcony is also profusely decorated with plaster-sculpted foliage and putti, painted in pastels and gilt. In the center of the shallow-vaulted, pressed metal ceiling is a circular recess, painted with floral designs, from which hangs the auditorium chandelier.

Both the interiors and exterior of the library and Opera House are in an original and excellent state of preservation.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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	1901-4	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James Ball - Architect Nate Beach - Builder
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Haskell Free Library and Opera House is significant as an example of the importance that community education and the arts have played in a small Vermont town.

Equally significant, the importance of community education and the arts at the turn of the century is reflected in the architectural integrity of the building.

Uniquely situated on the International Boundary of the United States and Canada, the building has served the villages of Derby Line, Vermont and Rock Island, Quebec, as their cultural community center for over seventy years.

Its sustained use and excellent state of preservation attest to the building's continual importance as a cultural center.

A gift to the villages of Derby Line, Vermont and Rock Island, Quebec, by Martha Stewart Haskell and her son, Horace Stewart Haskell, the building was designed by James Ball of Rock Island, Quebec and built under the supervision of Nate Beach. It was completed in 1904. Some of the outstanding features of the building include the structural and ornamental use of granite, stained glass imported from Scotland, ornate fireplaces and rich woodworking on the library interior, and one of the most elaborate opera house interiors in a completely preserved condition in Vermont.

The Opera House, a scale model of the Old Boston Opera House, is able to house a full-sized opera and has been the setting for many stage productions, orations (including an appearance by William Jennings Bryan), and theater education courses throughout the years. With the arrival of the motion picture, stage use gradually declined, and in recent years, the Opera House has been open only in the summer months when guest speakers still attract an international audience. The library is open year round.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haskell Free Library and Opera House. Haskell Free Library, Inc.
 Derby Line, Vermont and Rock Island, Quebec - 1967

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

650

A	1 8	7 2 8 <i>700</i>	4 9 8 7 5 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jane A. McLuckie, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

March 12, 1976

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Pinney

William B. Pinney,

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/8/76

ATTEST: Robert B. Kettig
 Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

9/3/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Haskell Free Library and Opera House, Derby, Vermont

Section 8 - Areas of Significance: Architecture; Music; Theater.

Statement of Significance:

The Haskell Free Library and Opera House is significant as an example of the importance that community education and the arts have played in a small Vermont town. Equally significant, the importance of community education and the arts at the turn of the century is reflected in the architectural integrity of the building which is a good example of turn-of-the century post-Richardsonian Romanesque architecture with Neo-Classical Revival detailing, in Vermont. Its sustained use since its construction in 1901-4, and excellent state of preservation attest to the building's continual importance to the communities of Derby, Vermont and Rock Island, Quebec as their cultural center, providing high quality opera in a full-sized opera house, as well as orations, plays and theater.

Uniquely situated on the International Boundary of the United States and Canada, the building was a gift to the villages of Derby Line, Vermont and Rock Island, Quebec, by Martha Stewart Haskell and her son, Horace Stewart Haskell. The building was designed by James Ball of Rock Island, Quebec and built under the supervision of Nate Beach. Some of the outstanding features of the building include the structural and ornamental use of granite, stained glass imported from Scotland, ornate fireplaces and rich woodworking on the library interior, and one of the most elaborate opera house interiors in a completely preserved condition in Vermont.

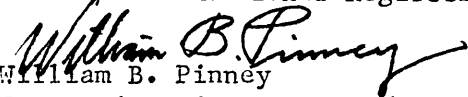
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Section 10

A: 18/728600/4987500

Section 12

The Haskell Free Library and Opera House was nominated to the National Register or Historic Places on April 26, 1976.


William B. Pinney
State Historic Preservation Officer