UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED MAY 2 0 1979

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rockland Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION **STREET & NUMBER** Union Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Rockland, First VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE STATE CODE Maine 23 013 Knox **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** XOCCUPIED DISTRICT ___AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM X BUILDING(S) ___PRIVATE _UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL ___PARK X. EDUCATIONAL ___STRUCTURE __вотн _WORK IN PROGRESS -PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLEENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS __OBJECT ___IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED ___GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC X YES: UNRESTRICTED __BEING CONSIDERED _INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION _NO / MILITARY -OTHER: **OWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME 11 City of Rockland STREET & NUMBER e i sugar é City Hall ' CITY, TOWN STATE Rockland VICINITY OF Maine LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Knox County Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE Rockland Maine **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** TITLE DATE __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS STATE CITY, TOWN



CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

X_ORIGINAL SITE __MOVED DATE_____

XEXCELLENT __GOOD __FAIR ---DETERIORATED ---RUINS ---UNEXPOSED CHECK ONE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rockland Public Library of Rockland, Maine designed by the Boston firm, Clough and Wardner, was built in 1903. In style the building is trasitional Romanesque Revival -Beaux Arts Classicism.

Built of granite, the building is of one story with a full basement, covered by a cross-gabled slate roof. Two granite chimneys are present, one at each end of the building.

The facade, which faces east, is dominated by a slightly off-center gabled projection. This projection contains the recessed entrance to the building. The entrance, consists of a double doorway, each door containing a clear glass window; flanking the doorway are sidelights. The entrance recess is supported by a pair of Doric columns. Flanking the recess are tall, narrow windows, each a fixed light over 1/1. The lintel above the entrance carries the words "PUBLIC LIBRARY" in raised letters. Above this inscription, in the gable of the projection, is an arched window with keystone. Decorating each corner and the peak of the projection is an acroterion. To the right of the facade projection are three windows, the central one being fixed lights above 6/1, flanked by windows with 2 fixed lights over 4/1. To the left of the projection are 5 evenly-spaced windows, 3/3 in form.

The north end of the library is 2 bays wide, each bay containing a window with 3 fixed lights above 6/1, with a small arched window above and a basement window of casement design below.

The south end of the library is apsoidal with seven faces, each face containing a 6/6 window. Between each window is a Doric pilaster.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DATES 1		3 BLULDER/ARCH	HITECT Clough and Ward	dner, Boston
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Until one or two decades after the Civil War, almost all libraries founded in Maine were private and available only to a limited segment of the population. However, the ensuing period of industrial development and the accompanying philanthropic distribution of part of the huge fortunes thus amassed made possible the privately endowed public library. Coupled with this was the development of the notion that access to knowledge and cultural benefits should be available to all who wished to partake.

During the fifty year period from 1880 to 1930, the public library in Maine experienced its greatest development both as an educational resource and as a distinctive building type. As a result of this activity, there appeared across the Maine landscape architect-designed special function buildings usually in the centers of communities. Very frequently, particularly in smaller towns, these structures were the most impressive in the area, were often regionally unique in architectural style and ranged through all the contemporary fashions in design.

Among libraries built in this period approximately twenty were founded largely as a result of grants from Andrew Carnegie, the great steel magnate, particularly noted for this type of philanthropy. The Rockland Public library is one example of Carnegie's benefictence and represents an architectural style extremely rare in Maine.

This busy library has served the reading and research needs of this small city since 1903 when, after some years of debate and correspondence among involved parties, a gift of \$20,000.00 by Andrew Carnegie specified for the purpose, was utilized. Land on Union Street was purchased in 1902 and construction began almost at once after plans by Clough and Wardner of Boston were selected from eight submissions in public competition. The unusual design, reflecting both Romanesque Revival and Beaux Arts Classicism, is unique in the city and the siting of the building at the rear of the lot with a broad expanse lawn in front both serve to set this building apart as a landmark for citizens of Rockland and the surrounding area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rockland Bicentennial Commission, Shore Village Story. Rockland, 1976.

James L. Burns, <u>Rockland's Libraries</u>, Then and Now. Ms. at Rockland Public Library.

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