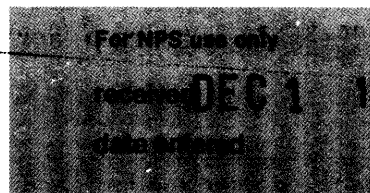


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Pittsfield Public Library

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Pittsfield,

N/A vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

state Maine

code 23

county Somerset

code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<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 Town of Pittsfield

street & number

city, town Pittsfield,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04967

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Skowhegan,

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Pittsfield Public Library was designed in the Beaux Arts style by New York architect Albert Randolph Ross. The building was erected in 1903 by Waterville contractor M. C. Foster & Son, and opened to the public in June, 1904.

The plan of the building makes excellent use of its square corner site. The library is a one-story "Palladian Villa" consisting of a circular central chamber, capped by a shallow dome, from which two identical rectangular wings sweep outward to form a 135° angle. The wings are roughly equivalent in area to the central chamber, and are topped by shallow hipped roofs which meet the dome at its base. The main entrance opens into the central chamber at the angle formed by the two wings, and is surrounded by a shallow classical frame of pilasters, columns, entablature, and pediment. The building's unusual shape allows it to fit into one corner of its square lot (in the angle farthest from either street) and so use the bulk of the lot as a grassy plaza.

The library is constructed of white pressed brick with a granite foundation and base trim. The entablature which runs around the building's eaves, as well as the pediment and decorative work above the front entrance, are of terra-cotta. On a section of the entablature over the entrance is painted "Public Library", and a smaller message between the door and transom-window reads "Open to All". The roof and dome are copper. A small copper finial was recently removed from the dome's crown.

The library's central chamber is reached by climbing a series of steps from the vestibule space inside the front door. The circular chamber is bisected by the librarian's desk, behind which six tall bookcases fan in a semi-circle against the chamber's rear wall. The chamber's dome and supporting pilasters of Keene cement were originally painted a buff color, but were recently white-washed in preparation for a mural. There is some evidence that a mural was executed in an earlier period, but later painted over. The chamber also encloses a small bathroom, office, and some closet-space.

Each wing is a large reading-room with wooden bookcases and tables. Furniture and woodwork throughout the library is of Western brown ash stained to imitate Flemish oak.

The basement, originally used as storage space, has recently been remodelled into a reading room - stack area.

# 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/ 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** 1903 **Builder/Architect** Albert Randolph Ross

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Pittsfield Public Library is one of Maine's most distinctive small-town "Carnegie Libraries", and one of the earliest and finest examples of a Beaux Arts building in central Maine. Designed in 1903 by Albert Randolph Ross of New York, the library is among the most notable of Pittsfield's buildings from any period.

The library was gift to the town by Andrew Carnegie and through the will of local entrepreneur Robert Dodson, the founder of the Pittsfield woolen industry. Dodson resembled Carnegie in being a Scottish immigrant who rose to captain an American industry.

After heated debate throughout early 1903 on the selection of a library site, Pittsfield citizens chose the present location because of its nearness to the Maine Central Rail Road station and tracks. The town was concerned that the library be conspicuous to through train passengers.

Architect Ross was responsible for two other Maine libraries, those at Old Town (1904), and Good Will Farm in Hinckley (1906). Although the later is similar in design to the Pittsfield Library, neither is as successful. Ross is best known for the Washington, D. C. public library of 1900-01.

The Pittsfield Library is among the first Beaux Arts buildings in Maine, and is certainly the earliest example of the style in Somerset County. The Library's angular floor-plan is unique in the state.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Pittsfield Advertiser: April 23, 1903; July 16, 1903; July 30, 1903; June 2, 1904.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Pittsfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	9	4	6	9	6	2	0	4	9	5	8	6	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map #25, Lot 48

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant / Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

## 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 *Earle S. Holtzworth*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/24/82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 1/4/83

*John Nelson Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration