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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Vinalhaven Public Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Carver Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Vinalhaven

N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME

county Knox

code 013

zip code 04863

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<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.

Signature of certifying official

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

11/17/88

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:)

Alfred Byers

Entered in the
National Register

1/5/89

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 19th & 20th Century American MovementsPrairie School

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granitewalls Stone: Granite

roof Asphaltother Polished GraniteColumns

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Vinalhaven Public Library is a rectangular one-story hipped roof granite building whose low horizontal composition gives it a decided Prairie style effect. The vertical emphasis of the round arched entryway in its projecting rectangular porch has minimal impact on the overall configuration.

Standing on a small wedge shaped lot and facing east, the library has a symmetrically composed facade with a centrally located entrance. A short flight of steps leads to a landing that is framed by a round arch springing from polished granite columns set in antis. Long thin granite voussoirs lend the arch a striking quality. A wide dressed stone placque capped by a molded cornice and bearing the inscription "Public Library" surmounts the arch. The narrow porch contains a paneled door framed by sidelights and a three part, multi-pane round arched window. The recessed walls that flank the entrance are of quarry faced coursed ashlar construction with a stringcourse that extends around the building and serves as the sill for the small, square six-over-six windows. Groups of four of these windows are located on both sides of the entrance.

The south endwall features a pair of widely separated small windows that are located on either side of an interior end chimney whose stone stack punctuates the roof. There are no openings on the north side. Two groups of four windows each flanking a center trio punctuate the rear elevation. Thin decorative sawn purlin brackets support the roof's wide eaves.

Inside, the floor plan is comprised of a centrally located vestibule that lies in front of the bracketed circulation desk and librarian's office. Large boxed beams separate this space from the flanking reading rooms, both of which contain their original wall shelves (there is no stack area). All of the interior trim has a darkly stained finish. The basement contains the heating plant and storage areas only.

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

1906-1938

Significant Dates

1906

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clough & Wardner

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

Constructed in 1906 from plans drawn by the Boston architectural firm of Clough and Wardner and financed by a grant from Andrew Carnegie, the Vinalhaven Public Library is a handsome unaltered building of quarry faced granite. Its decided Prairie style configuration makes the library singularly unique among its related property types in Maine. 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 public library movement in Vinalhaven that culminated with the construction of this building had its beginnings in 1887. At that time Governor J. R. Bodwell, the president of the Bodwell Granite Company, one of whose quarries was located on the island, pledged to provide a space for a collection providing that there was public support for it. Local granite workers subsequently raised \$118 and in 1888 the town voted to establish a public library. This initial collection was augmented by 800 volumes in 1890 when the ladies of the Vinalhaven Circulating Library agreed to discontinue their organization. In 1895 the library was installed in the newly dedicated Memorial Hall, and here it remained until the present library building was completed.

Construction of the facility was made possible by a \$5,200 grant from Andrew Carnegie awarded on April 22, 1906. It is one of only eighteen such gifts to public libraries made in Maine by Carnegie. The library on Vinalhaven continues to serve the community in its original capacity.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Vinalhaven Public Library." Undated typescript copy on file at the 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

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Vinalhaven tax map 23, lot 16.

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. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October 11, 1988
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

This library was the fourth and last commission of its type in Maine obtained by firms in which George A. Clough was a partner. His first project was a design for the Buck Memorial Library (1887) in Bucksport followed in 1893 by an identical structure erected in Machias. In 1901 he joined in partnership with Herbert L. Wardner, and the following year this firm designed the Rockland Public Library.