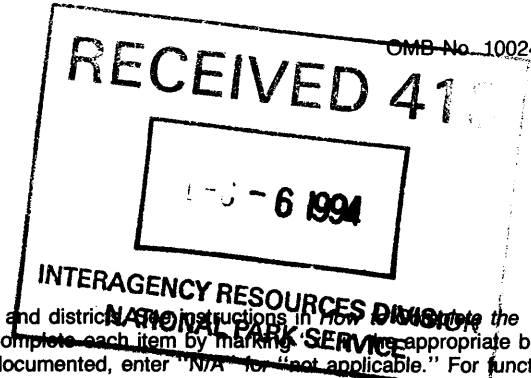


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts in accordance with the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Whitman Memorial Library

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Off East Side of Route 26, 1 Mile Southwest of Junction with Route 232 N/A not for publication

city or town Bryant Pond N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04219

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Eugene Thibodeau* 11/30/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall 1.12.95  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Maine Public Libraries

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**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)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood/Weatherboard  
Wood/Wood Shingle

roof Asphalt

other Pedimented Entrance Porch

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

**Period of Significance**

1910-1944

**Significant Dates**

1910

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Bacon, Alton H., Contractor

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Whitman Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Oxford, Maine  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less Than 1

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	3	6	9	0	2	0	4	9	1	5	1	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

3 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1994  
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

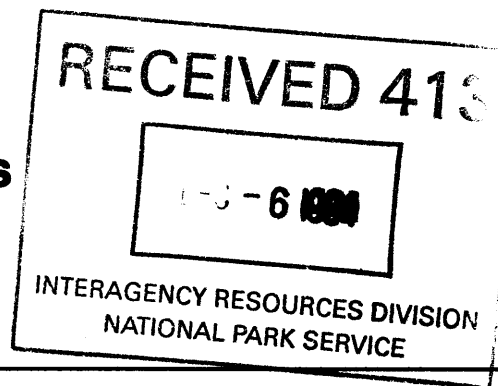
### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**WHITMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARYSection number 7 Page 2

The Whitman Memorial Library is a one-story, three-bay, T-shaped frame building, the main block of which is covered by a high hipped roof. It is sheathed in weatherboards and wood shingles and rests on a brick foundation. The library is sited toward the rear of its lot that adjoins State Route 26 in the small village of Bryant Pond.

Facing north, the library's symmetrically composed front elevation features a pedimented entrance porch that shelters the central doorway. A pair of thin columns resting on low wood shingled walls support the roof. The doorway behind consists of a paneled door framed by broad diamond pane sidelights and surmounted by an arched diamond pane transom. Large single-pane rectangular windows flank the entrance. The elevation is further distinguished by the band of wood shingles which are located at the frieze level between the flat architrave and projecting cornice. This feature extends around the building including the rear ell.

The east side elevation is punctuated by a single, centrally located one-over-one window whereas the west end contains two such units. On the rear elevation, a one-over-one window is located between the east end and the projection of the ell, and two others flank an interior end chimney on the western side. The narrow, gabled ell has a rear entry and a window on the west side.

Inside, the library retains all of its original finishes. Its plan is typical of the period with a vestibule leading into the central delivery/circulation area at the south end of which is the librarian's desk. To the west is the reading room with its mantelpiece on the south wall, and to the east are the stacks. Thin columns standing on low paneled walls frame the wide entrances to the two rooms. Narrow tongue-and-groove wainscoting is located in the delivery/circulation hall. The varnished cypress woodwork has aged to a medium brown color. Of additional note are the four styles of pressed metal ceilings which exist in the three rooms and vestibule.

The most significant addition to the library was the construction in 1957 of a basement. It was excavated inside the existing brick foundation and concrete walls poured, thereby leaving the original structure undisturbed.

The lot on which the library building stands is bordered at its western edge near Route 26 by a low rubble stone wall. This structure was erected at the same time as or shortly after the library was constructed. It was presented to the town by the Freeman family who were summer residents. After World War I a stone monument bearing a memorial plaque was erected near the northwest corner of the lot.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**WHITMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARYOXFORD, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

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Completed in the spring of 1910 by local contractor Alton H. Bacon, the Whitman Memorial Library is a modest one-story Colonial Revival style building of frame construction. Funding for the erection and outfitting of a library was provided to the town in the will of Eleanor Bryant Whitman for whom, in conjunction with her husband Alanson M. Whitman, it is named. The library is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria A and C as more fully discussed in the multiple property documentation form entitled "Maine Public Libraries."

The founding of the Whitman Memorial Library appears to have been the first time in which a public library of any kind existed in the Town of Woodstock. Its benefactors were both descended from two of the earliest settlers of the town, Samuel Bryant and Luther Whitman. Eleanor Bryant and Alanson M. Whitman were married in 1864 and spent their entire lives in Woodstock. In her will Eleanor Bryant Whitman bequeathed \$1,500 to construct a library building, \$4,000 to be expended "in good moral books of history, biography, scientific and miscellaneous works to be deposited in the building when erected and finished," and \$500 for furnishings.

As a condition of her bequest, Whitman's will required the town to provide a lot in Bryant Pond village "in good location as near the center of the village as possible." On October 23, 1908, a special town meeting was held to consider the gift at which a unanimous vote to accept it was taken. Herbert J. Libby, Horace C. Berry, and Eugene Cole were elected trustees. A lot was acquired from the Franklin Grange on December 7, 1908, although subsequent disputes about the boundary delayed final approval until March of 1909. At the regular town meeting in 1909 a building committee was appointed and plans prepared, with the building to occupy the "knoll" next to the Grange Hall.

In comparison to many of its elaborate architect designed contemporaries, the Whitman Memorial Library is a modest building in its exterior composition and detailing. Nonetheless, it clearly belongs to that group of specialized public library buildings which by virtue of their design, location, and purpose have an important place in their community.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WHITMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number   9   Page   2  

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History of Whitman Memorial Library, Woodstock, Maine: 1910-1985.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WHITMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Section number 10 Page 2

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Woodstock Tax Map 16, Lot 19.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary embraces the entire village lot historically associated with the library building and stone wall.