

Hubbard Free Library
115 Second Street
Hallowell
Kennebec County
Maine

HABS No. ME-158
HABS
ME.

6 HAL

3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HUBBARD FREE LIBRARY

HABS
ME
6. HAL
3.

Location: 115 Second Street (west side of street), Hallowell,
Kennebec County, Maine

Present Owner
and Occupant: Hubbard Free Library

Present Use: Public Library

Statement of
Significance: The Library is a notable example of the Victorian Gothic idiom of the 1870's, more especially since an ecclesiastical form is used for a civic structure. The original (1878-79) building in its exterior form resembled a chapel; the two successive additions (1893-94; 1897-98) continued the analogy by presenting a structure that appears to be a small church with transept and extended chapel (or Lady Chapel). Its fine masonry exterior is complemented by an interior that presents exposed trusswork, contemporary stained glass, and stencil decoration.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Built 1878-79; first addition 1893-94; second addition 1897-98. The Association was formed in early summer, 1878; building contract was signed in August, 1878; foundation was complete by fall of 1878; work resumed in spring, 1879; building was dedicated March 9, 1880.
2. Architect, builder, suppliers, etc.: The original (east) portion was designed by Hallowell native Alexander C. Currier (1831-1892), architect for Hallowell Granite Co.; first (cross-axial) addition was designed 1893 by Edwin E. Lewis (1846-1928), a Gardiner architect; second (west) addition was designed 1897 also by Lewis.

Currier donated the original plan to the Association; he also oversaw construction without charge. Hallowell Granite Company had the August, 1878, contract for grading and construction; J. R. Bodwell, its president, donated all stone for the building. Fuller Brothers gave iron cresting (no longer extant). Original ceiling fresco decoration was by Schmacher of Portland.

The first addition (see above) was completed in March, 1894; dedication took place March 15, 1894; it resulted from an endowment donated in May, 1893, by Gen. Thomas H. Hubbard of New York City, a Hallowell native. John W. Berry, fresco painter of Gardiner, renewed the original fresco decoration and reproduced this decoration in the new portion.

The second addition (west portion beyond the cross-axial block) was dedicated January 25, 1898; it resulted from a donation made in the spring of 1897 by Mrs. Eliza Lowell.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is the office of the Registrar of Deeds Kennebec County.

1878 Deed. August 15, 1878, recorded August 15, 1878.
Book 323, Page 115.
Charles Towle
to
Ladies' Library Building Association of Hallowell

Deed. September 26, 1878, recorded November 8, 1878.
Book 320, Page 493.
Adelaide N. Moulton and George Agny, Jr.
to
Ladies' Library Building Association of Hallowell

1879 Deed. June 24, 1879, recorded June 24, 1879.
Book 320, Page 492.
J. D'Wolfe Smith
to
Ladies' Library Building Association of Hallowell

Mortgage deed. November 14, 1879, recorded November 14, 1879
Book 324, Page 304.
Ladies' Library Building Association of Hallowell
to
Stephen Allen, Treasurer of the Trustees of the Maine Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church

1893 Deed. April 25, 1893, recorded May 24, 1893.
Book 395, Page 395.
Ladies' Library Building Association of Hallowell
to
Trustees of Free Library and Reading Room of Hallowell

- 4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Following is a list of original architectural drawings and blueprints on file in the Hubbard Free Library:
 - a. Three large renderings of original building, ink and wash, not signed or dated but known to be by A. C. Currier and done c. 1878.
 - Drawing #1 Elevation of Library facade and north side.
 - Drawing #2 Elevation of rear exterior and rear interior, also floor plan.
 - Drawing #3 Elevation of interior front wall and of interior side wall.
 - b. Group of linen drawings bound in paper and done in ink and wash, labeled "Wood Work/Hallowell Library/1878/ Scale 1/4 in. = 1 ft." All signed in lower right corner "A.C.C., Arch."
 - 1) Transverse Section through Small Dormer. Showing Finish of Rear.
 - 2) Transverse Section through Large Dormer. Showing Finish of Front.
 - 3) Side Elevation. SECTION.
 - 4) Plan of Floor.
 - 5) Porch Finish. Dormer.
 - 6) Framing. Porch.
 - 7) Framing through Small Dormer. Transverse Section.
 - 8) Framing through Large Dormer. Transverse Section.
 - 9) Framing of Rear.
 - 10) Framing of Front.
 - 11) Framing of Floor.
 - 12) Framing of Side.
 - 13) Framing of Roof.

- c. One pencil drawing on paper labeled on reverse "Hubbard Library 1897"

Caption: "Plans for Addition to 'Hubbard Free Library' Building, Hallowell, Maine. Scale - 1/4" to a foot. E. E. Lewis, Architect, Gardiner, Me."

- d. Set of Blueprints. "Plans for Additions to the Hubbard Free Library Building/Hallowell, Maine. E. E. Lewis Architect, Gardiner, Maine."

- 1) Foundation Plan.
- 2) Plan of Floor.
- 3) Transverse Section.
- 4) North Elevation.
- 5) South Elevation.
- 6) West Elevation.

5. Alterations and additions:

- a. At some time in the 20th century a train derailed and damaged the west window, which was then repaired. See photograph in Library.
- b. The original stencil work has been painted over in the two earlier sections, but survives in the third.
- c. The third (west) section has been partitioned off for storage.
- d. The decorative iron cresting on the roof has been removed.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: None

C. Supplemental Material: None

D. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Library photographs show:
 - a. Interior view toward the west.
 - b. Exterior before the first addition.

- c. Exterior before the second addition.
- d. Documentary view of train damage to west wall.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Kennebec County Registry of Deeds and Registry of Probate, Augusta, Maine 04330.

Scrapbook and miscellaneous documents in possession of Hubbard Free Library.

Drawings and plans in possession of Hubbard Free Library.
 - b. Secondary and published sources: Boardman, Samuel L. "Hallowell and its Library," in New England Historical and Genealogical History, July, 1880.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Hubbard Free Library, designed in 1878 and extended in additions designed in 1894 and 1897, is a granite-walled library in the Victorian Gothic style, resembling in its architectural character a village church.
2. Condition of fabric: Well-maintained

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Over-all length approximately 114'. Width of original (east) portion approximately 27½'; north-south width at "transept" approximately 54'; width of west block approximately 31'. Modified Latin cross plan, one story, three-bay facade.
2. Foundations: Granite
3. Wall construction: Ashlar of Hallowell granite, with wood truss roofing.
4. Framing: Trusswork supports roof.
5. Porches: Original 1878 front has entrance porch, approximately 6' x 10'. Like the remainder of the fabric, it is

of rough-hammered ashlar, trimmed with smooth-dressed quoins and cornice. The bold profiles of the prism-cut gable "shoulders" and apex moulding are characteristic of 1870's Victorian Gothic.

6. Chimneys: A brick chimney rises from the east face of the southern cross-gable.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Doorway in entrance porch is marked by the idiosyncratic forms of this period style: polished colonettes of dark stone set on high pedestals, supporting blocks of intersecting gablets, these in turn carrying a heavy lintel which is the base for a blunt pointed arch. The massive archivolt of this arch enframes a rose window that echoes the large rose above it in the gable. Double wood door is original: each is two-panel, upper one diagonal matchboard, lower one raised, carved rosette in center.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows are all pointed-arch, with tracery. Windows on east front are simplest, being coupled lancets-with-quatrefoil under broad-band architrave. All side-wall windows rise through eaves to terminate in dormer gables. Those on north and south walls are grouped in three's on either side of the "transept." In each set, the center window is both wider and higher. Each end of the "transept" and the west wall is lighted by a large single window, divided by multiple mullions. The tracery in the '94 and '97 additions is thinner than that in the original 1878 portion of the building.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, ridge running east-west, with cross gable of same height intersecting it at mid-axis. Covered with slate tiles, with band of decoratively cut tiles running through upper portion of roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Gable walls rise above the roof and carry copings; roof meets wall directly at eaves moulding.
 - c. Dormers: All side-wall windows rise through eaves to terminate in dormer gables.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: Full basement, granite foundation walls.
- b. First floor: A foyer at the east end gives entrance to main hall. Sections on the eastern side of either "transept" arm are partitioned off for specialized functions: on the south, for Library Office; on the north, for rest-rooms. The latter area has its own outside entrance door on the east side, and contains stairs to the basement. The west end is partitioned off for storage.
- c. Second floor: None
- d. Attic: None

2. Stairways: Stairs to basement.

3. Flooring: Thin wooden planking.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster

5. Doorways and doors: The doorway on the east wall of the main hall (leading to foyer) is remarkable stylistically, a translation of the Victorian Gothic masonry of the exterior into wood. Inset colonettes carry a visually massive arch which crests in a large anthemion-like device.

6. Decorative features and trim:

- a. All windows have frosted or stained glass.
- b. There is door-height wainscoting of vertical matchboards.
- c. Original stenciling survives in the west end.
- d. The upper portion is articulated by exposed trusswork and purlins, contrasting with the white plaster finish of upper walls and ceiling.

7. Notable hardware: None

8. Lighting: Modern electrical fixtures.

9. Heating: Modern central heating.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The structure is sited on a gentle hill, with grade sloping to the east. It occupies a corner lot; the rear of the building is only a few yards distant from an infrequently used train track.
2. Enclosures: None
3. Outbuildings: None
4. Walks: Granite entrance walk.
5. Landscaping: Low shrubbery and several young trees.

Prepared by Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
August 1971
and
Alan Mast
December 1972

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during 1971 and 1972 in the course of a photo-data project in the cities of Bath, Hallowell, Monmouth, and Richmond in the State of Maine. The project was arranged in response to the initiative of Mrs. Linda B. Clark of Row House, Inc., in Hallowell, Dr. Charles E. Burden of the Bath Marine Museum, Mrs. Paul L. Roberts of the Richmond Historical and Cultural Society, and Mr. H. Earle Flanders of Monmouth. All of these preservationists actively solicited or contributed funds and effectively fostered increased interest in the architectural heritage of their respective communities. The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, at that time Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey; was supervised in the field by Denys Peter Myers, then Principal Architectural Historian of HABS; was carried on by Student Architectural Historian Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Boston University; and was continued by Alan Mast, Maine Arts and Humanities Commission, and Mary-Eliza Wengren (Mrs. Richard E., Jr.), Maine Historic Preservation Commission, under the field supervision of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Photographers were Mark C. Bisgrove, Sylvester Cobbs, Stanley Schwartz, Leon P. Shepard, and Richard Dwight Sturgis.