



Kennebec County Courthouse

Augusta, Maine

Architectural Analysis

The Kennebec County Court House was built in four major phases between 1829 and 1907 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

The Kennebec County Superior Court Room was renovated in the Renaissance Revival style in the 1890's. The style was popular in the late 19th century for important public spaces and the homes of the wealthy. As with many revival styles of the period, designers working in the Renaissance Revival frequently combined motifs and elements from a range of styles popular across Europe during the Renaissance period (1400 – 1600). In this period, the architectural and decorative vocabulary of the Roman Classical era was

rediscovered after being “lost” during the nearly one-thousand years of the Medieval era, when the Gothic style was predominant. It is not unusual to find restrained early Florentine Renaissance elements used alongside florid French Rocco elements in the same room. This eclectic mixing of periods and styles is a primary characteristic of Victorian era design. The court room decoration is a good example of the style from the 1890's period.

Sutherland Conservation & Consulting provided an analysis of the historic interior of the Superior Court Room for PDT Architects as part of the planning for the new courthouse addition now being designed.

