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2006 Statewide Historic Preservation  
Honor Award Presented to:

Oxford County  
Courthouse  
for Former Jail Renovation

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The renovation of the former jail in the 1895 Oxford County Courthouse is a superb example of adaptive use. It is located in the center of South Paris and is home to numerous civic functions, including the State of Maine Superior Court, District Attorney, the Treasury, the Register of Probate and the County Commissioners. Attached to the main courthouse is a building, which formerly housed the Oxford County jail and living quarters for the jailer and his family.

The use was discontinued in 1979 when a modern detention facility was constructed elsewhere – and the space sat unused until then. The Oxford County Commissioners needed a public meeting chamber, and with the team of Smith Reuter Lull Architects and contractor Carmine DeFillippo, they accomplished this beautifully. A master plan was conducted in 2002 and work began in February 2005 with extensive demolition and hazardous materials abatement. Removal of the sparse interior finishes, exterior metal security bars and the two levels of metal jail cells revealed the original masonry walls and a large open space with 18' vaulted concrete ceilings.

The space was subdivided for office use for the Treasury and County Administrator, and a large chamber for the Commissioners was created. New mechanical systems, windows and finishes were installed throughout the 2,000 square feet of renovated space. The project achieved the major goal of adapting and updating a space to maximum potential to serve the modern functions required by its users well into the future while respecting the historic character of the building.

The Oxford County Courthouse is located at:  
26 Western Avenue  
South Paris, Maine 04261  
(207) 743-6359