Creating a Maine railroad landscape, 1890-1897: architecture of the Portland & Rumford Falls Railway and the Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad

In 1890, paper magnate Hugh Chisholm chartered the Portland & Rumford Falls Railway to provide service between Maine's largest city and the nascent industrial community of Rumford Falls. From 1890 to 1897, directors of that railroad embarked upon a cohesive building program to distinguish its stations from competitors and to attract traffic to Rumford Falls. This railroad's program represents a seminal moment in small town railroad station architecture because it was an early manifestation of a planned, replicated design. Civil engineer Frederic Danforth implemented the comprehensive...
Portland and Rumford Falls Railway. Portland and Rochester Railroad. B&M.

Maine is the 39th most extensive and the 41st most populous of the U.S. states and territories and it is bordered by New Hampshire to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec to the north. Maine is the easternmost state in the contiguous United States, and it is known for its jagged, rocky coastline, low, rolling mountains, heavily forested interior, and picturesque waterways, and also its seafood cuisine, especially clams and lobster. There is a continental climate throughout the state, even in areas such as its most populous city of Portland.

The Maine Central Railroad Rumford Branch is a railroad line in Maine now operated as part of the Pan Am Railways system. The Rumford Branch leaves the mainline at Leeds Junction and continues northwest up the Androscoggin River valley, passing through Livermore Falls and terminating at Rumford. The branch comprises the remaining trackage of three earlier branches.

The Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad reached Oquossoc in 1902. Liste der Eisenbahngesellschaften in Maine: Railroad, bis 08.11.1890 "Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad" • Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad • 11. Buckfield, Maine. Of the town was 1,494. The Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad passed through the town. Its depot was at Buckfield List of Maine railroads. • 1886 • 1896 • N/A • Rumford Falls and Buckfield Railroad • ME • 1874 • 1896 • Portland and Rumford Hebron, Maine. Academy. Milepost 36. 2: Mechanic Falls junction with Buckfield Branch Railroad, later Portland and Rumford Falls Railway until 1952 [5] (station razed 1968). [5293]

This thesis examines the initial development of the two rail lines based on photographs, architectural drawings, and documentary research. It explores how these building programs fit into the greater schema of corporate railroad architectural development. It elucidates the national trends toward an interconnected industrial landscape and early attempts at corporate branding through vernacular architecture.

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