

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 16 1979

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic CURRIER GALLERY OF ART

and/or common CURRIER GALLERY OF ART

2. Location

street & number 192 Orange Street _____ not for publication

city, town Manchester _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private (Trust)	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of The Currier Gallery of Art

street & number 192 Orange Street

city, town Manchester _____ vicinity of _____ state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds
Hillsborough County Court House

street & number PO Box 370

city, town Nashua _____ state New Hampshire 03060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None _____ has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Construction of The Currier Gallery of Art was begun in 1927 and completed in 1929. The building remains virtually unchanged with regard to its exterior aspects and has undergone minimal interior alteration. These include such things as removal of outdated radiators from the center of exhibition spaces, more adequate lighting systems, etc.

In its formal, Renaissance Revival style, the Currier Gallery conforms to the prevailing notion of the times that public art museums should resemble private palaces. It sets well back to the north of a lot which comprises an entire city block, amidst a wide variety of trees and shrubs. The main structural elements are concrete and steel, faced with Kentucky limestone. The roof is of hand-made barrel tiles.

The entrance loggia is decorated with cut glass mosaic panels representing the major periods of art history. Along with much of the interior decoration, these panels were designed and executed by the noted craftsman, Salvator Lascari. The loggia is screened by Tuscan columns and antae that support a flat entablature. The denticulated cornice of this entablature continues, in plainer form, around the remainder of the building and forms a horizontal band that breaks the wide expanse of wall above the first-story casement windows and creates an architectural attic. The eaves of the building are embellished by a cornice similar to that over the doorway, but except for the horizontal bands formed by the attic and eaves cornices the walls are articulated only by shallow rustication.

The approach to the building reinforces the formal, neoclassical motifs of the structure itself. Wide paths flank a central reflecting pool with fountain. A series of formal terraces are ascended by sets of short stone steps. Shrubs and flowering trees are pruned into formal and symmetrical shapes.

Partly below grade is the basement which contains office space, service areas, storage and library (converted from caretaker's quarters in 1970). There is also a small auditorium which seats 173 people. The main floor has abundant side light provided by large windows. The second floor is partially illuminated by skylights, but depends heavily on artificial light sources (most suitable for the display of pictures). When viewed in facade, there is a high blank wall superimposed on a story and a half of windows.

(See floor plan attached on continuation sheets)

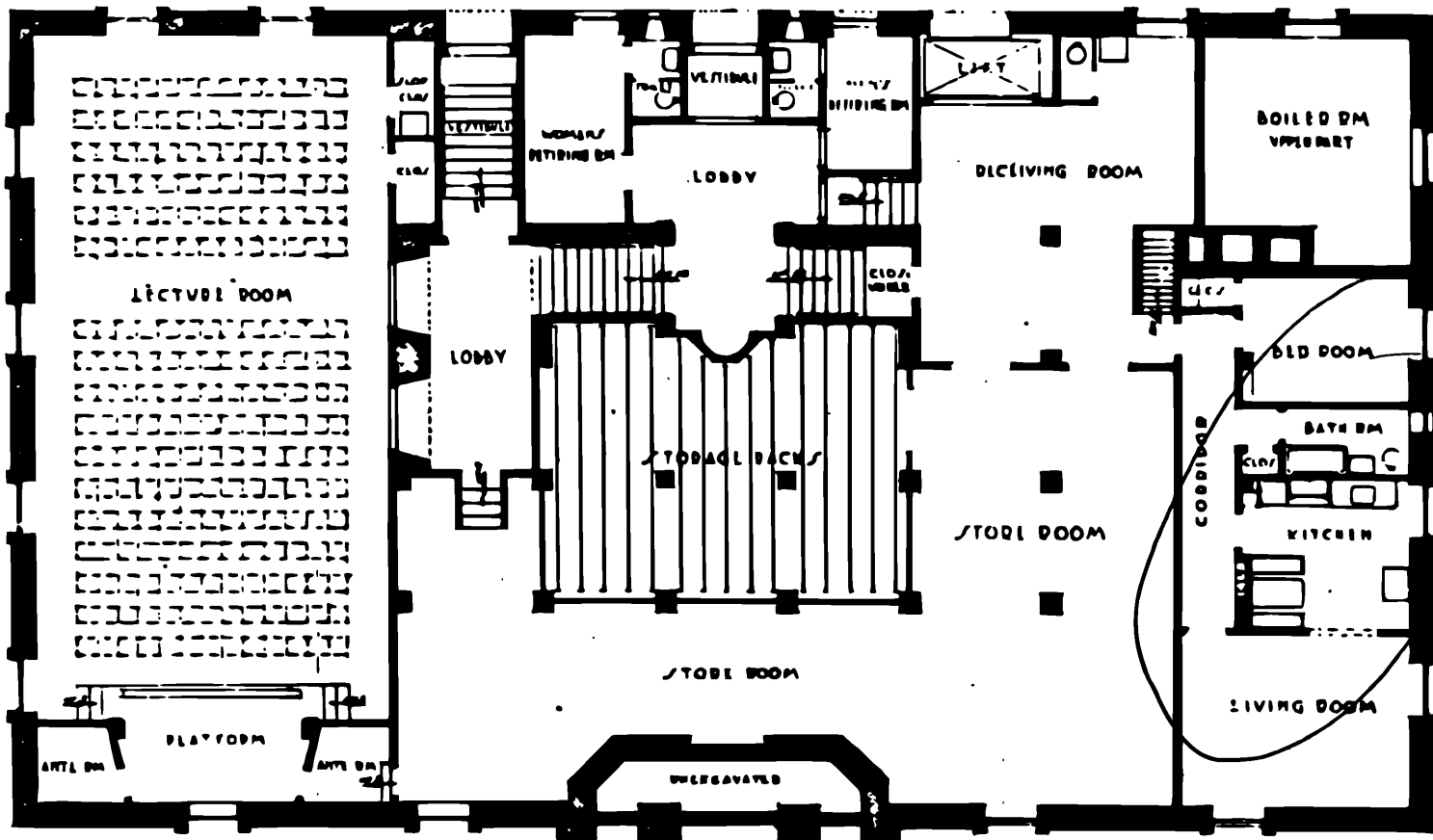
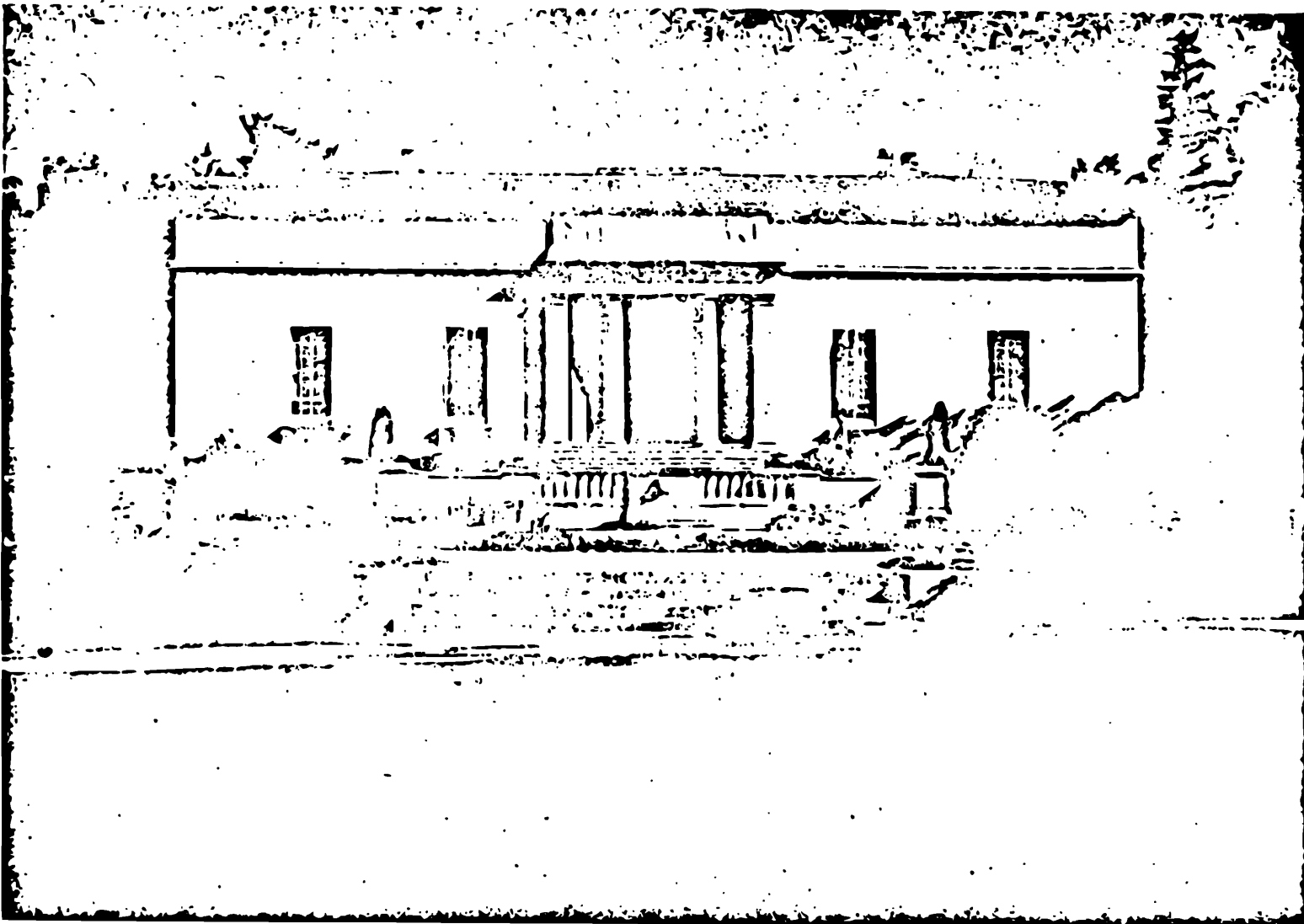
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Basement Plan

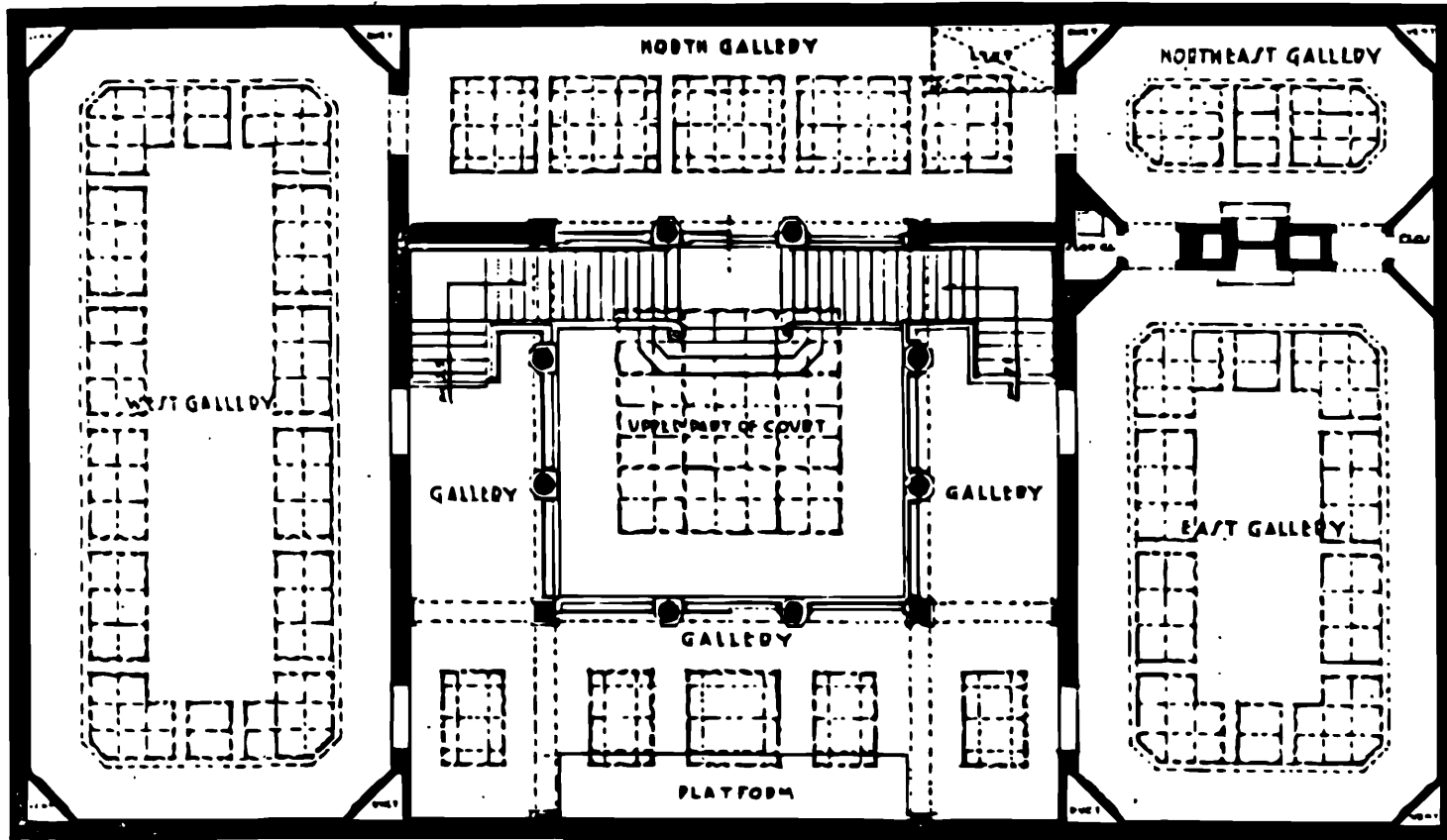
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire
E. L. Tilton and A. M. Githens, architects
Limestone walls on a granite base, with a hand-made barrel tile roof

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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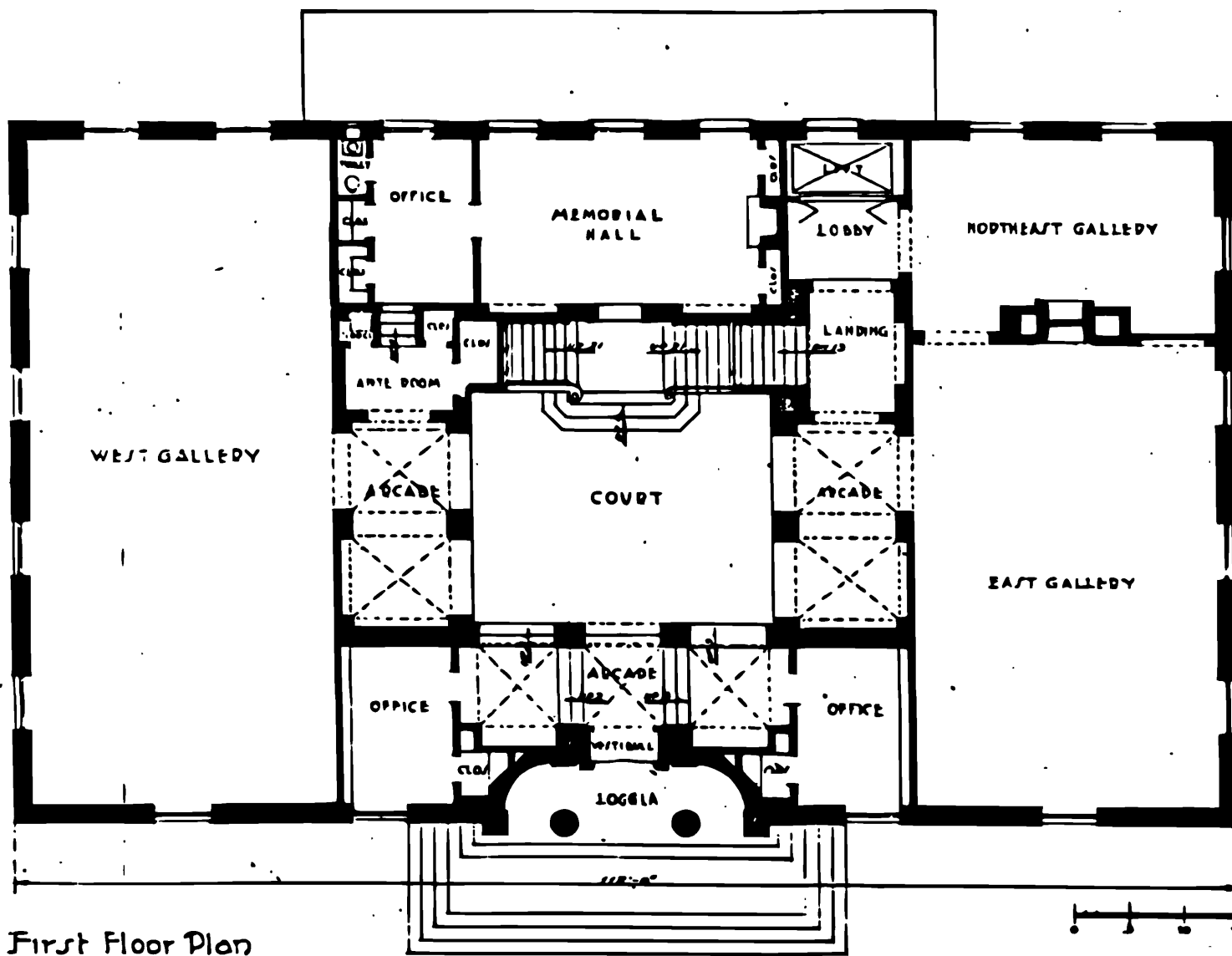
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Second Floor Plan

Note ceiling sash in galleries arranged to bring the source of light near the side walls



First Floor Plan

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire
E. L. Tilton and A. M. Githens, architects

A lofty covered court with painting galleries on second floor opening towards it

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect** E. L. Tilton and A. M. Githens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Currier Gallery of Art was erected on the site of the mansion built and occupied by Governor and Mrs. Moody Currier. The will of Hannah Currier, honoring intentions of her husband, stipulated that the house and grounds be the site for an art gallery. Their estate provided an endowment fund which has supported the Gallery ever since. The building was constructed expressly as an art museum and as such is very typical of the period and compares favorably with other public buildings of the period. It is also an outstanding example of classical themes and elements in the design of American public buildings. The collection is nationally renowned for its distinguished character and high quality. The Gallery has been a major educational resource for the people of Manchester and the State of New Hampshire for almost fifty years.

The architects, Edward L. Tilton (1861-1933) and Alfred T. Githens, formed a partnership in New York in 1920 and became noted for their designs for libraries, museums, and other public and educational buildings. In addition to the Currier Gallery of Art, the firm designed the Carpenter Memorial (Manchester Public) Library (1912-14); the William H. Welch Library at Johns Hopkins Medical School; libraries at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and Girard College, Philadelphia; the Wilmington, Delaware, Public Library (awarded the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1930); and a number of other public libraries. The firm was engaged in designing the United States Post Office in Manchester, as well as other major commissions, at the death of the senior partner in 1933.

9. Major Bibliographical References

American Public Buildings of Today, various authors, pp. 129-136.

10. Geographical Data

NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 48,400 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Manchester, NH

Quadrangle scale 15'

UMT References

A

1	9	2	9	9	7	2	5	4	7	6	3	4	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Myrtle Street on the North, Ash Street on the East, Orange Street on the South, Beech Street on the West, City of Manchester, New Hampshire (220' x 220' square) Tax Assessor's Card No. 1, Map 3.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Doty, Director

organization Currier Gallery of Art date December 4, 1978

street & number 192 Orange Street telephone (603) 669-6144

city or town Manchester state New Hampshire

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, NH Department of Resources & Economic Development
title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date 10.11.79

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 12/19/79
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 12/18/79

Chief of Registration