

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

562974

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Armstrong Memorial Building

Other names/site number: Former Nesmith Library

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 3 North Lowell Road

City or town: Windham State: NH County: Rockingham

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>E. J. Murphy</u> Director and SHPO		<u>8/1/18</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>NH Division of Historical Resources</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper


Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/

Shingle Style/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone, Wood, Wood Shingles

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Armstrong Memorial Building is the first purpose-built library building serving the town of Windham, New Hampshire and is an eclectic example of late 19th century architecture combining elements of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. The building displays a standard floor plan that was widely used for small public libraries of the period, but it is set apart by its distinctive fieldstone exterior and fine workmanship. The 1 1/2-story structure is located off NH Route 111. Fronted by an elliptical driveway, the building is part of a small historic town center that includes the Town Hall, the Bartley House (currently housing the Town's Planning Office), the 20th century stone-front fire station, the Town Pound, and the Windham Presbyterian Church. A 1978 wood-frame addition at the rear of the Armstrong Memorial Building is subservient to the original fieldstone building which retains a high level of integrity and is in excellent condition.

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Narrative Description

The Armstrong Memorial Library in Windham occupies the southern portion of a 3.0 acre lot of land it shares with the Windham Town Hall and the Windham Fire Station. A paved elliptical access drive with angled parking that extends off of North Lowell Road passes in front of the three municipal buildings. Woods extend behind the building.

The Armstrong Memorial Building is a 1 ½-story structure constructed of random laid, rough, mortared locally-sourced fieldstone including many distinctive and unusual rocks of varying sizes. The building is oriented with its façade facing southeast. At the north end of the façade there is a large boulder used as a cornerstone with the date “1898” roughly chiseled on the front. The building is capped by a broad, low, hip roof sheathed in red asphalt shingles. The overhanging eaves are decorated by modillions and a wide molded frieze encircles the building. Projecting from the center of the façade, the entry porch is sheltered by a steeply-pitched gable roof that displays exposed rafter tails. The front of the gable is sheathed in wood shingles and at the bottom of the porch gable is a granite architrave inscribed “ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL BUILDING”. Each end of the stone is supported by a curved stone capstone – one side is inscribed “ERECTED” while the other reads “A.D. 1898”. The porch roof is supported by two mortared fieldstone piers with two engaged piers against the building. The piers are set into fieldstone side walls that step down and flank the concrete steps leading to the front door. The entrance retains the original heavy wooden door; the upper portion of the door is glazed with a grid of 5 x 6 square glass panes and there are large decorative iron hinges. There is a diamond-paned transom above and a modern storm door shelters the door from the elements.

The varied fenestration is an important part of the building design. To the right of the entry porch is a large inset three-sided bay window consisting of double-hung 6/1 sash capped by transoms consisting of diamond panes. To the left of the porch there is a slightly elevated set of five double-hung casement windows that also extend to the frieze. The south end of the building has four tall, narrow rectangular casement windows, the tops of which extend to the frieze. The north end of the building is bisected by the tall fieldstone chimney that breaks through the soffit. On either side of the chimney is a single double-hung window with 6/1 sash, capped by a diamond-paned transom. The other historic windows are the two wood-shingled dormers with hip roofs that emerge from the front roof slope, on either side of the front porch. Each dormer has a diamond-paned panel set horizontally.

To the rear of the original building is a single-story, wood-frame addition constructed in 1979 and set on a poured concrete foundation. The walls of the south and west (rear) elevations are sheathed in vertical boards. The south side has four narrow, single-pane casement windows set in paneled bays; the rear elevation has a single six-panel door. The north elevation is emphasized by the use of diagonal board siding and has three casement windows set into paneled bays. Modillions are only found on this elevation. The recessed entrance adjacent to the stone building contains a steel door topped by a transom. The entrance is fronted by a concrete ramp

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with iron railing. Adjacent to the door is a diamond-paned casement window which was likely reused from the rear elevation of the original building.

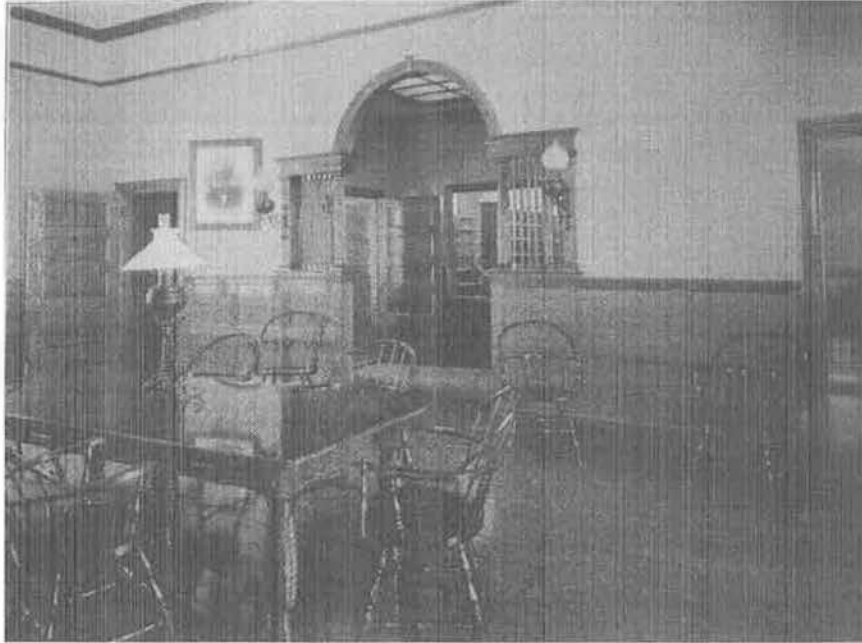
The interior of the building retains a high level of integrity including its original plan which consists of an entrance vestibule with a central delivery room separating the reading room to the north and what was the stackroom to the south. Throughout the building the woodwork is cypress with a natural finish and the floors are hard pine. The entrance foyer has four feet high wainscoting that is paneled with a dentil course. A large iron lantern hangs from the ceiling and appears to be original. Wooden doors with five horizontal panels lead into the various rooms.

The 20' x 30' reading room to the north is the most elaborate room in the library and in addition to paneled wainscoting with a dentil course, it also has a picture rail and a denticulated cornice. The natural cypress mantel on the north wall is eight feet wide and nearly as high, with paired elongated columns and a dentil course; the fireplace is faced with cream-colored brick. Below the mantel and over the fireplace is a 4' x 2' bronze tablet detailing the donation of the building to the town of Windham, including a brief history of the Armstrong family as well as the names of those involved in the building construction. On either side of the mantel, marble tablets are mounted on the wall inscribed with the names of the town's Revolutionary War soldiers in gold. Other tablets around the room list those who fought in the War of 1812, French and Indian War, War of Rebellion (2), World War I and World War II. With the exception of the latter two, the marble tablets were installed shortly after the building was completed. It is not known when the World War I tablet was installed; the World War II tablet dates to the early 1950s. The French and Indian War panel is inscribed with its maker "Fuller and Winslow Nashua NH". At the center of the room is the original reading table of quartered oak with large wooden supports in a twisted design; a number of the original chairs also survive and are stored in the basement. The traditional brass lighting fixtures above are modern. Originally there were table lamps and wall sconces. Between the reading room and the delivery room there is a distinctive (Palladian-style) archway with fluted columns and piers and delicate balusters rising from the wainscoting. The delivery room also has wainscoting; the skylight above has been painted over. The stack or book room to the south measures 24' x 30' and was designed with a shelving capacity of ten thousand volumes. It lacks the wainscoting of the other rooms and presently contains various exhibition cases as well as suspended fluorescent lighting. The stone-walled basement also has brick piers in the center of the space.

The Armstrong Memorial Building shares a 3.0 acre lot with the adjacent Town Hall and Fire Station. The Town Hall is a 2 ½-story gablefront, clapboarded building that was constructed as a meetinghouse in 1798 and remodeled to its present appearance c.1868. The original Windham Fire Station to the north was initially constructed in the 1940s and displays a mortared fieldstone foundation. (It now houses the Community Development Department.)

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The Memorial (Reading) Room

Source: Leonard Allison Morrison. *Dedication Exercises of Armstrong Building*. Boston: George W. Armstrong, 1899.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1899-1968

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dinsmoor, William Weare

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Armstrong Memorial Building is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as the first purpose-built library building in the town of Windham. It reflects the 19th century trend of establishing free public libraries and moving away from private, social libraries. The Nesmith Library began in Windham in 1874 after a bequest from a former resident allowed the town to purchase books to be housed in the Town Hall. The construction of a dedicated library on the town common and adjacent to the town hall occurred in 1898. The building continued to serve that purpose until 1997 when a new structure was built. The funding of the construction of the library by a descendant of one of the town's founding families, reflects the age of philanthropy that resulted in the construction of dozens of New Hampshire libraries between 1890 and 1915. The Armstrong Memorial Building is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a late 19th century library in a rural New Hampshire community bearing the imprint of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. It was designed by Boston architect William Weare Dinsmoor, a Windham native who was also of Scotch-Irish descent.

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The library is significant on the local level. The period of significance under Criterion A extends from 1899, the date of the library's construction, to 1968, the fifty-year eligibility requirement for the National Register of Historic Places. Under Criterion C, the period of significance is 1899, the date of completion and dedication.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A, Education: The Armstrong Memorial Building is representative of the evolution of the public library movement in New Hampshire, from privately-controlled "social libraries" to public libraries accessible to all. The earliest New Hampshire libraries were collections of books that were purchased by organizations or private individuals and then shared among members of the group. The first in New Hampshire was the Portsmouth Social Library, which was established in 1750 by a group of wealthy merchants who obtained their books from London and elsewhere.¹ Local citizens incorporated 156 social or proprietary libraries before 1820.²

In the late 18th century some Windham residents were shareholders in a library in Salem. When that library was discontinued, the books were divided among the shareholders becoming the nucleus of the first library in Windham in 1800.³ A Sunday school library was established in 1832 in the Presbyterian Church. In 1839 former citizen John Nesmith of Lowell, presented each of the seven school districts in town a library of fifty volumes.⁴ In Windham, a second attempt at a library was established in 1852 but was destroyed by fire in 1856.⁵

The first free public library in the state (and in the country), defined as a library wholly supported on an on-going basis by municipal taxes, was established in 1833 at Peterborough. This was the first time a town deliberately created a free library, open to all members of the community, with public funds.⁶

In April 1871, the first major step toward establishing a public library in Windham was achieved with a \$3,000 bequest to the town by Colonel Thomas Nesmith (1788-1870), who was born in Windham but later became a prominent citizen of Lowell, Massachusetts. In May 1871 the first books were purchased and were placed in a room on the upper floor of the town hall. The library's collection and circulation continued to grow in the years that followed. By the early 1880s, local residents were borrowing approximately 4,500 books annually from the library

¹ James Garvin, National Register Nomination for Shedd-Porter Memorial Library, Alstead, NH.

² Shirley Adamovich, p. 3.

³ Leonard A. Morrison, *Granite Monthly*, Vol. 10, August 1887, p. 281. The author refers to this as a "public" library. It is assumed that the books were available to all although the library was not supported by public funds.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Morrison, 1887,

⁶ Adamovich, p. 3.

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which had a collection just under 2,500 volumes. By the 1890s the library had outgrown its space in the town hall.

In 1897 Leonard Allison Morrison (1843-1902), a prominent Windham resident, contacted George Washington Armstrong, a descendant of one of the town's founding families, with hopes of securing a library building. Morrison had been instrumental in the establishment of the Nesmith town library, served as town meeting moderator, and represented Windham in the state legislature where he was involved in various education reforms. He was also an accomplished local historian and writer. His town history of Windham was published in 1883 and he was given the honorary degree of M.A. by Dartmouth College in 1884. Many of Morrison's writings celebrated the Scotch-Irish families of the early Nutfield settlement of 1719.⁷ What are now Londonderry and Windham were founded in April 1719 by a group of Scotch Presbyterians who set sail from Londonderry in the north of Ireland. Many had previously fled from Scotland to Ireland to avoid religious persecution. Morrison prepared genealogies for a number of local Scotch-Irish families including the Morrison, Allison, Armstrong, Kimball, Norris, and Sinclair clans. He also published the poems of an earlier relation, Robert Dinsmoor (1757-1836), the "Rustic Bard" who was a Windham farmer and considered by many to be the greatest Scots-Irish poet in the U.S. in the 19th century. Robert Dinsmoor's poems, written in a Scottish lilt inspired other local poets including John Greenleaf Whittier, who lived in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

George Armstrong and Leonard Morrison shared a deep pride in the achievements of their Scotch-Irish ancestry and a desire to perpetuate the memory of their forefathers. Charter Robert Armstrong had come from the north of Ireland and was one of the original proprietors of Londonderry on June 21, 1722. His descendant, George W. Armstrong (1836-1901), was born in South Boston in 1836. George's father, David Armstrong, was a ship carpenter who was born in Windham in 1806 but moved to Boston in 1826. George Armstrong received only a grammar school education. His father's illness and death in 1851 led him to work as a penny postman and newsboy at a young age.⁸ He went on to become a very successful Boston businessman who made his fortune in railway baggage transfer and as the proprietor of dining rooms and news rooms on multiple New England railway lines. Armstrong lived in Brookline, Massachusetts but also owned a 500-acre summer estate, "Gilnockie", at Center Harbor, New Hampshire.⁹

According to an account contained in the Dedication Booklet, Leonard Morrison knew that George Armstrong liked to peruse the Reports of the New Hampshire Library Commissioners and read the descriptions of the various libraries in the state – their size, their prosperity, the kind of building they occupied and whether the buildings were the gift of a benefactor. Morrison sent Armstrong a copy of the Library Commissioners' third biennial report with the suggestion that it would be fitting for him to give a memorial library building to Windham, the home of his

⁷ The early Nutfield settlement of 1719 comprised what is now Londonderry, Derry, Windham and parts of Salem, Hudson and Manchester.

⁸ Leonard A. Morrison. "The Armstrong Clan – George W. Armstrong", *Granite Monthly*, Vol. VIII, Nos. VII and VIII, July and August 1885, pp. 198-199.

⁹ The name clearly is based on the simple rubble tower built in Scotland by ancestor Johnnie Armstrong in 1520.

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ancestors. Nearly a year later, in May 1898, Armstrong visited Morrison and told him that he had decided to pay for the erection of a town library building.¹⁰ Armstrong was by no means unique in offering to endow the construction of the town's library building. During this period, as New Hampshire's residents increasingly left the state for new opportunities in urban areas or out west, wealthy and successful natives and/or summer visitors emerged with offers to construct buildings that many communities could otherwise not afford. Of the 110 library buildings constructed in New Hampshire before 1930, only about ten appear to have been built wholly with community funds.¹¹

On Saturday, June 25, 1898 a Town Meeting was held to see if the town would vote to "erect upon the town common a suitable and substantial building for the town library, the same to be donated to the town when completed". Town Meeting accepted the gift and a location was finalized on July 16th. On Monday, July 24, 1898 ground was broken for the library. G.W. Armstrong selected William Weare Dinsmoor of Boston, a Windham native, to be the architect.¹² The choice to construct the library of fieldstone was also reportedly Mr. Armstrong's. As Morrison wrote in the Dedication booklet, "That material was new to us as a building material, which is used by the rich and opulent in all the cities, in their abodes, and in their rustic homes".¹³ Armstrong's affinity for the use of fieldstone is evident in the stone arch and wall which marked the driveway leading to his Center Harbor summer estate.¹⁴ It may have also been a conscious decision to evoke a sense of the stone buildings in his ancestral homeland.

The library building was "designed for beauty, for convenience, for durability".¹⁵ The 1 ½-story, 33' x 53' building was sited west of and parallel with the town hall. It was constructed of selected pasture stone from old walls on the James Cochran and William C. Harris properties. In order to give the building a greater variety of color and a more artistic appearance, the stone was selected for the most part from the north side of the walls where the stone was more densely covered with moss. The stone laying was done by Loren Emerson Bailey, a Windham native who lived in the adjacent town of Salem. The battered stone walls, four feet deep at the base and two feet deep at the frieze, were constructed entirely on ledge. The roof was sheathed with fireproof shingles, colored ox-blood red.¹⁶

¹⁰ Leonard Allison Morrison. *Dedication Exercises of Armstrong Building for Nesmith Library, Windham, New Hampshire, January 4, 1899*. Boston: George W. Armstrong, 1899, p. 3.

¹¹ Shirley Gray Adamovich, ed. *The Road Taken: The New Hampshire Library Association, 1889-1999*. West Kennebunk, Maine: Phoenix Publishing, 1989, p. 9.

¹² How Armstrong came to select Dinsmoor as architect is not known. Census records indicate that Leonard Morrison lived with his older cousin, Eleanor Park (b.1834) who was also coincidentally W.W. Dinsmoor's aunt. It seems likely that Morrison made the introduction.

¹³ Morrison, *Dedication Exercises*, p. 6.

¹⁴ The arch is still visible at the entrance to 72 Coe Hill Road in Center Harbor although Armstrong's summer house has been demolished.

¹⁵ Morrison, *Dedication Exercises*, p. 7.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

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The interior of the library was divided into a vestibule, delivery room, reading room, stackroom and librarian's room, an arrangement that was typical of the period. The focal point of the building was the 20' x 30' reading (memorial) room with its large fireplace. Over the fireplace and below the mantel a bronze tablet was mounted commemorating the donor and his family history as well as the names of the library trustees, the architect and Leonard Morrison. Decorations included three large pictures depicting landmarks of ancient architecture – the Coliseum at Rome, the Acropolis at Athens and the Forum at Rome. A portrait of George Washington Armstrong was hung on the wall and later a portrait of Leonard Morrison was added. In addition to a large quarter oak reading table and twelve chairs, the room was equipped with three large iron lamps, designed by the architect. The stack room was designed with a shelving capacity of 10,000 volumes; when the building was completed there were 3,102. The attic, if finished, could accommodate another 8,000 volumes if necessary.

As the building neared completion, in August 1898, it was decided to install marble plaques in the reading room listing the names of local soldiers who fought in various wars. As local historian Brad Dinsmore notes, it was a time of heightened patriotism as the Spanish American War had recently come to an end.¹⁷ Initially the marble tablets listed those who fought in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the War of the Rebellion. One of the tablets indicates that it was made by Fuller & Winslow of Nashua. Directories indicate that in the late 19th century T.D. Fuller and H.F. Winslow were dealers in marble and granite monuments and were located at 9 Water Street in Nashua. Later, tablets listing those who served in World War I and World War II were added.

The new library building was dedicated on Wednesday, January 4, 1899 at two o'clock in the afternoon with ceremonies held in the adjacent town hall. The address was given by the Hon. Albert E. Pillsbury of Boston. His mother, Elizabeth Dinsmoor, was a native of Windham and lived in the town before her marriage. Pillsbury who served in both houses of the Massachusetts legislature, President of the Massachusetts State Senate and as the Attorney General of Massachusetts from 1891 to 1894. Other speeches were made by W.H. Anderson of Lowell, Rev. Augustus Berry of Pelham and Mr. Armstrong, who presented keys of the building to Rev. J.P. Harper, the village pastor and one of the library trustees. After the speeches, the audience walked over to inspect the new building.¹⁸ A booklet commemorating the Dedication Exercises was prepared, written by Leonard Allison Morrison and published by George W. Armstrong in 1899. It includes one photograph of the exterior and one of the interior, included in this document.¹⁹

¹⁷ Brad Dinsmore. "Memorializing Windham Veterans"
<https://windhamnhhistory.org/2018/03/20/windham-life-and-times-march-23-2018/> It should be noted that Dinsmore is a descendant of the Dinsmoor founding family.

¹⁸ *The Library Journal*, February 1899.

¹⁹ Leonard Allison Morrison, *Dedication Exercises of Armstrong Building for Nesmith Library, Windham, New Hampshire, January 4, 1899*. It is interesting to note that it must have taken some time to prepare the lists of soldiers for the marble tablets and then have them crafted as the photo in the book does not mention or show the marble war memorial tablets.

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For the next seventy-five years the Armstrong Building remained largely unchanged and unimproved other than basic maintenance. Although the demands on the library had expanded greatly, the building had no designated children's room or space for activities. The library basement was not usable due to moisture issues. In 1978-1980 an addition was constructed to the rear of the building, designed by Robert Lemire and Associates of Lakeport (Laconia), New Hampshire. It was constructed by Windham builder George Dinsmore, a descendant of the Dinsmoor founding family.

Funds for the construction of a new town library were approved at the 1996 Town Meeting and after years of planning, the new Nesmith Library building opened at 8 Fellow Road on August 28, 1997. The Armstrong Memorial Building now serves as the Windham Town Museum, maintained by Museum Trustees appointed by the Board of Selectmen, along with volunteers from the Windham Historical Society.



Armstrong Memorial Building shortly after completion.
Source: Leonard Allison Morrison. *Dedication Exercises of Armstrong Building*. Boston:
George W. Armstrong, 1899.

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Criterion C: Architecture

The Armstrong Memorial Building aptly illustrates aspects of the Shingle Style and the Colonial Revival style which both found considerable popularity and were frequently mixed in the eclectic designs of late 19th century American architecture. The Shingle Style was developed in New England c. 1880 and subsequently spread to the rest of the country in the form of wooden suburban and resort buildings. The predominantly wood-shingled buildings were also a revival of early New England Colonial forms. The Shingle Style emphasized qualities of weight, density and permanence. In the Armstrong Building the architect has utilized stonework rather than wood shingles to similarly form a continuous covering. Other elements of the Shingle Style present in the building include the broad overhanging roof, an entry defined by shingles and squat supports and casements and sash windows with many lights and grouped into twos and threes. Initially inspired by the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial, the Colonial Revival style is often a combination of Colonial-inspired details and contemporary elements. In the Armstrong Building the Colonial Revival influence is seen in the building's overall sense of symmetry, its Classical cornice, and interior details such as paneled wainscot, a Palladian archway and the fireplace with colonettes and dentil moldings.

The Armstrong Memorial Building is one of a handful of public libraries in New Hampshire constructed of local fieldstone. The Richardsonian-style Nichols Memorial Library in Kingston (1898) was built the year before the Windham building. Others including Hills Memorial Library in Hudson (1909) designed by Hubert G. Ripley of Boston and the Samuel A. Wentworth Library in Center Sandwich (1915), a Gothic building designed by J. Randolph Coolidge of Boston, postdate the Armstrong Memorial Building. All three of these buildings have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Inside, the library displays the typical floorplan of its period with a vestibule, delivery room, reading room, stackroom and librarian's room. The focal point of the interior is the 20' x 30' reading room with its large fireplace. The influence of the Colonial style is evidenced in the Palladian-style opening which separates the delivery room and the reading room as well as the wainscoting with dentil trim.

The Architect: William Weare Dinsmoor

William Weare Dinsmoor (1859-1950), was born in Windham, the son of Isaiah Dinsmore and his wife, Margaret Mary Park (whose mother was a Morrison).²⁰ The 1880 U.S. Census indicates that the young William was then living in Windham with his parents, working as a clerk in a dry goods store. Isaiah Dinsmore was a farmer and died in 1881. Margaret M. Dinsmoor was a poet and was a writer for the *Youth's Companion* and other periodicals. Mrs. Dinsmoor also served as the poet for Windham's 150th anniversary in 1892.

²⁰ As stated previously, William Dinsmoor and Leonard Morrison were related.

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It appears that William W. Dinsmoor left Windham for Boston shortly after his father's death. On September 14, 1883 he married Anne Maria Macdonald, daughter of John Macdonald of Jamaica Plain. The 1885 Boston directory indicates that he was then a periodicals dealer, living in Jamaica Plain. His son, William, was born in Windham in July 1886.²¹ There is no other

listing in the Boston directories until 1894 when William W. Dinsmoor is listed as an architect, with an office at 28 School Street, Room 52. No information has emerged regarding any architectural training, formal or otherwise.

The architectural career of W.W. Dinsmoor is eclectic, as was that of most architects of the late 19th and early 20th century. He designed a wide variety of buildings but is not known to have designed any other libraries. His first known architectural commission was for a school for St. John's Episcopal Parish in Roxbury, Massachusetts, constructed in 1894 at a cost of \$20,000.²² In the mid to late 1890s he was responsible for the designs of single, two and three-family housing in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and West Roxbury. Documented designs include single family dwellings at 52 and 95 Robinwood Street in Jamaica Plain, both of which are examples of his work blending aspects of the Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival styles.²³ In 1897 he designed a 2 ½-story hip roofed dwelling for Mrs. Mary Crosby on Westbourne Terrace in Brookline.²⁴ In 1903 he designed a one-story, wood frame commercial block at 84-88 Commonwealth Avenue in Concord, Massachusetts.²⁵ Three years later he was the architect for two large auto garages, one at 169-173 Huntington Avenue in Boston and the other at the corner of Fleet and Porter Streets in Portsmouth.²⁶ Other buildings known to have been designed by Dinsmoor include the brick Colonial Revival Sinclair Weeks House at 65 Lenox Street in West Newton (1917). He also designed two Craftsman-Colonial houses in Pinehurst, North Carolina for Mrs. Emma Sinclair of Boston in 1909.²⁷ One of these was a 1 ½-story stuccoed cottage with

²¹ His son, William Bell Dinsmoor (1886-1973), attended Boston Latin School, graduated from Harvard University in 1906, and after working in an (unknown) architectural firm joined the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in 1908 and later was a professor at Columbia University. He was a respected expert on the architecture of ancient Greece. In 1927-1928 he was the architectural consultant for the construction of the interior of a full-scale concrete replica of the Parthenon in Nashville, Tennessee.

²² *School Journal*, Nov. 10, 1894

²³ Massachusetts Historical Commission, 52 Robinwood Avenue (BOS.10123, 1896) and 95 Robinwood Avenue (BOS.10124, 1897).

²⁴ *American Architect and Building News*, 1897. Exact location is not specified.

²⁵ Massachusetts Historical Commission, 84-88 Commonwealth Avenue (CON.1317, 1903)

²⁶ *Boston Globe*, December 27, 1906 and *The Automobile*, October 25, 1906. Neither garage is extant. The Portsmouth garage is Dinsmoor's only other known New Hampshire commission.

²⁷ Massachusetts Historical Commission, 65 Lenox Street (NWT.3881, 1917). Deborah Saloman, "Old House, New Look: Metamorphosis of a village showplace", *PineStraw Magazine*, February 2017. <https://www.pinestrawmag.com/old-house-new-look/#>. See also Deborah Saloman, "Comfort Zone", *PineStraw Magazine*, August 2016.

<https://www.pinestrawmag.com/comfort-zone/>

Armstrong Memorial Building
Name of Property

Rockingham, NH
County and State

exposed rafter tails and a recessed porch with squat columns. The other is a stuccoed cottage with a red tile roof. The latest architectural commission found for W.W. Dinsmoor was the design of the classically-inspired granite architectural setting for the Memory Statue/War Memorial in Sherborn, Massachusetts, erected in 1924.²⁸ William Weare Dinsmoor died in Boston on October 3, 1950.

Although W.W. Dinsmoor is not known to have designed any other libraries or stone buildings, the Armstrong Memorial Building shares similarities with his other known works. The Jamaica Plain residences which he designed in 1896 and 1897, shortly before the Armstrong Building, show the ease with which he combined elements of the Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. Also of interest, are the two stuccoed cottages in Pinehurst, North Carolina which he designed in 1909, utilizing aspects of both the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles.

²⁸ Massachusetts Historical Commission (SHR.904).

Armstrong Memorial Building
Name of Property

Rockingham, NH
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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(accessed 6 February 2018)

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<https://www.pinestrawmag.com/comfort-zone/>

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Armstrong Memorial Building
Name of Property

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Armstrong Memorial Building
Name of Property

Rockingham, NH
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 311890 | Northing: 4741440 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property consists of a portion of Tax Map Parcel 11-A-590 in the local assessor's records. That lot encompasses a total of 3.0 acres and also contains the adjacent Town Hall and Town Fire Station. The nominated boundary includes the footprint of the building and a buffer of five feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes the land historically associated with the Armstrong Memorial Building but does not include the additional acreage of the Town Hall and Fire Station.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lisa Mausolf/ Preservation Consultant
organization: _____
street & number: 6 Field Pond Drive
city or town: Reading state: MA zip code: 01867
e-mail lmausolf@att.net
telephone: 781-944-5958
date: May 2018

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County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Armstrong Memorial Building

City or Vicinity: Windham

County: Rockingham State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Lisa Mausolf

Date Photographed: April 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 9: View looking west at facade and north elevations.

Photo 2 of 9: View looking northwest at façade of Armstrong Memorial Building.

Armstrong Memorial Building
Name of Property

Rockingham, NH
County and State

Photo 3 of 9: View looking north at south and façade elevations. Visible at left is 1978 addition.

Photo 4 of 9: View looking southwest at north elevation with 1978 addition at right.

Photo 5 of 9: View looking west at Stack Room.

Photo 6 of 9: View looking north in Memorial (Reading) Room. Note bronze plaque over fireplace and marble memorial tablets for local citizens serving in various wars.

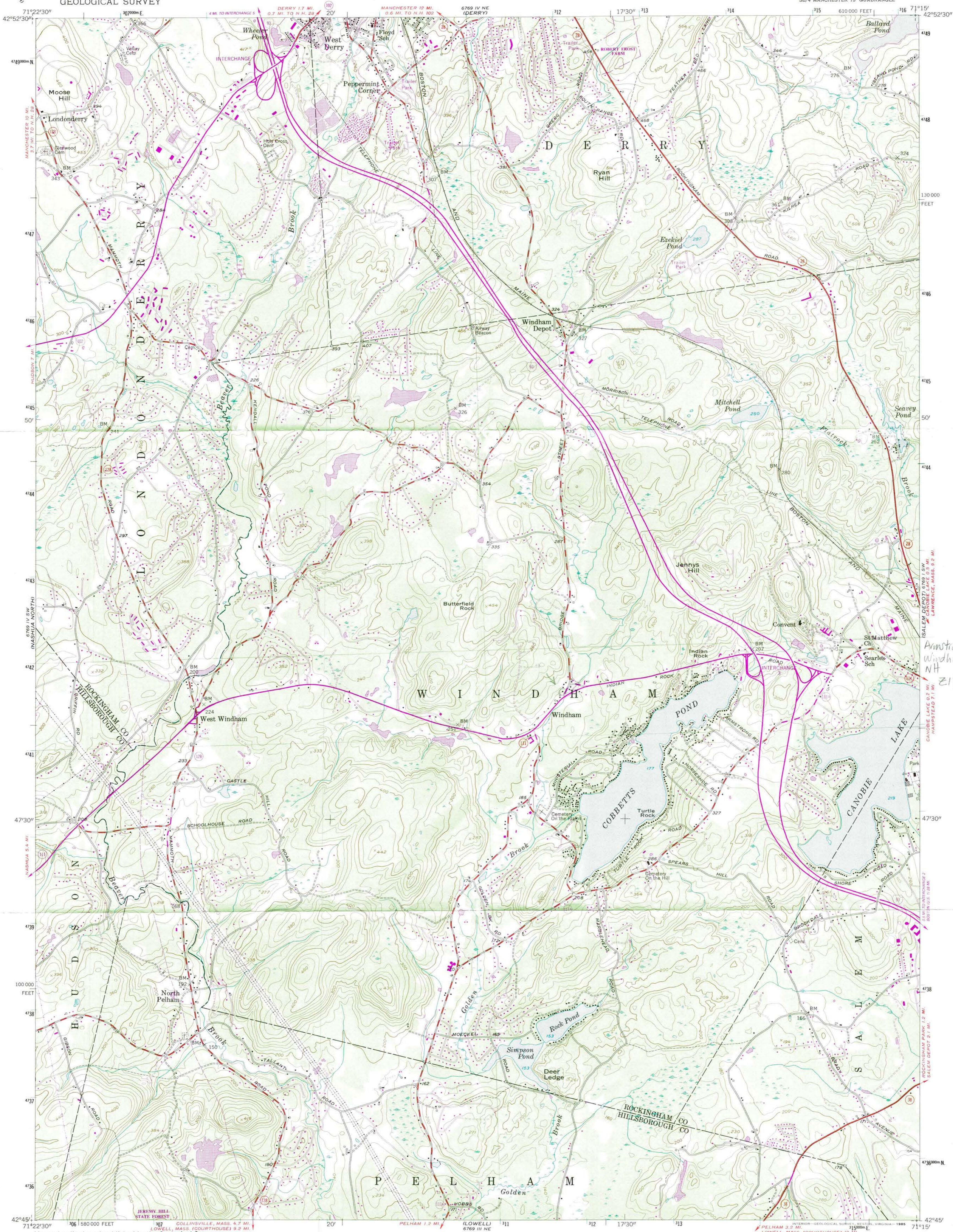
Photo 7 of 9: View looking southwest at archway between Reading Room and Delivery Room.

Photo 8 of 9: View looking northeast at bronze plaque over fireplace in Reading Room listing those involved in the building's construction.

Photo 9 of 9: View looking southwest at archway between Reading Room and Delivery Room. Note painted skylight over the Delivery Room.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and New Hampshire Geodetic Survey

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1947 and 1952. Field checked 1953

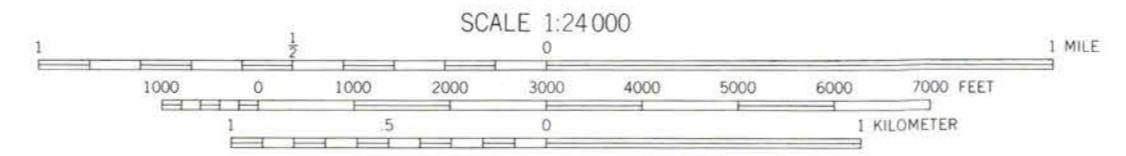
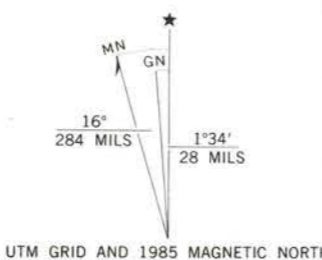
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on New Hampshire coordinate system.

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	State Route



WINDHAM, N. H.
SE/4 MANCHESTER 15' QUADRANGLE
42071-G3-TF-024

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1985
DMA 6769 IV SE - SERIES V812

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1985
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas





ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL BUILDING

ARMSTRONG
MEMORIAL BUILDING
at the
WINDHAM
MUSEUM

ARMSTRONG
MEMORIAL BUILDING
ENTRANCE
MEMORIAL
MEETING ROOM



ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL BUILDING
ERECTED 1898

ARMSTRONG
MEMORIAL BUILDING
—The—
**WINDHAM
MUSEUM**





MOECKEL
➤ PICNICS ➤
SWIMMING

MOECKEL'S
➤ PRIVATE POND ➤

CORBETT'S
POND BEACH

ARMSTRONG
BEACH





A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF WINDHAM, WHO SERVED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, 1775-1783.

(This section contains a list of names and military titles, which are difficult to read due to the image quality.)

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF WINDHAM, WHO SERVED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, 1775-1783.

(This section contains a list of names and military titles, which are difficult to read due to the image quality.)

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF WINDHAM, WHO SERVED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, 1775-1783.

CALDWELL JAMES.	COCHRAN JOHN.
CLYDE JOSEPH, CAPT.	CALDWELL JOSEPH.
COCHRAN ISAAC, LIEUT.	CALDWELL THOMPSON.
CLUMBERT JAMES, LIEUT.	CALDWELL SAMUEL.
CREGGE DAVID, LIEUT.	CAMPBELL ANDREW, D.
CREGGE JOSEPH, LIEUT.	CAMPBELL DAVID.
BENTON LIEUT.	CAMPBELL HENRY.
BIED ABRAHAM, LIEUT.	CAMPBELL JAMES.
CRANAM ALICE, LIEUT.	CAMPBELL JOHN.
MORISON JOHN, SERGT.	CAMPBELL SAMUEL.
DAVIDSON DAVID, SERGT.	CLARK GEORGE.
DAVIDSON JAMES, SERGT.	CLOUGH DAVID.
DICKNEY DAVID, SERGT.	CLYDE DANIEL, JR.
DINGMOOR ROBERT, SERGT.	CLYDE WILLIAM.
HOPKINS JAMES, SERGT.	COCHRAN JOHN.
KYLE EDWIN, SERGT.	COLLINS THOMAS.
MULVINE WILLIAM, SERGT.	CONLIS JOSEPH.
MORISON SAMUEL, SERGT.	DARRAH ARTHUR.
LADD ELIPHALET, SERGT.	DARRAH WILLIAM.
TOOM BELJAMIN, SERGT.	DARRAH WILLIAM S.
DICKNEY WILLIAM, ENSIGN	DAVIDSON JESSE.
COCHRAN JOHN, CORP.	DIXEY JAMES.
MOODY JOHN, CORP.	DINGMOOR JOHN.
MORROW ALEXANDER, CORP.	DINGMOOR SAMUEL.
OSWENSON ROBERT, JR, FIFER	DUNLAP ADAM.
SALES THOMAS, BAR.	DUNLAP THOMAS.
ANNIS CHARLES.	DUTY MARK.
ANNIS EZRA.	
ARMOUR	
BOLTS	LIAM JAMES.
BROWN	JOHN.
BROWN	LIAM.
BURNS	LUCH.
CARRUI	DON.



OLD DERRY ROAD

LOWELL ROAD



WAF 6
CITY & COUNTRIES
FOR THE WEEK
WEDNESDAY
MAY 19 1911
MAY 19 1911



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Armstrong Memorial Building

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: NEW HAMPSHIRE, Rockingham

Date Received: 8/6/2018 Date of Pending List: 8/27/2018 Date of 16th Day: 9/11/2018 Date of 45th Day: 9/20/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002974

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 9/11/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments: _____

Recommendation/
Criteria _____

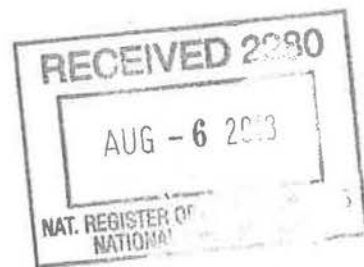
Reviewer Roger Reed Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

NH Division of Historical Resources
19 Pillsbury Street
Concord, NH 03301



Memorandum

From: Peter Michaud
To: Roger Reed
Date: August 1, 2018

Dear Roger,

Attached are National Register of Historic Places nominations for the St. Anne Historic District in Berlin, NH and the Armstrong Memorial Building in Windham, NH. Each is the one true National Register nomination for their associated resource.

August 2 is my last day here at the NHDHR. If you have any questions please contact Megan Rupnik at (603) 271 6435 or by e-mailing megan.rupnik@nh.dncr.gov.

It has been a pleasure working with you in the tax credit and NHL programs, I hope our paths cross again in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Michaud
National Register Coordinator