



Tyringham Library  
 Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
 County and State

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	2	objects
2	2	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
 in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION, library

GOVERNMENT, city hall

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION, library

GOVERNMENT, post office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS, Craftsman

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: STONE

roof: TERRA COTTA

other: METAL

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### Narrative Description

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Tyringham Library is located at the crossroads of Main and Jerusalem roads in the center of the eponymous Berkshire County town in Western Massachusetts. The Hop Brook, which forms the southwesterly boundary of the nominated property, flows northwest through the narrow Tyringham Valley to and empties into the Housatonic River in the neighboring town of Lee. Completed in 1905, the Tyringham Library occupies a prominent location in the commercial core of the small town center and stands out as a modern object in the otherwise 19<sup>th</sup>-century, vernacular built environment. The one-story rectangular building has walls constructed of native fieldstone, a hipped roof covered with terra-cotta tiles, and painted metal entablature with a tall frieze and modillioned cornice. Entrances are tucked under open porches in each corner of the front façade; the northerly one enters the library, while the other accesses the town's post office, which occupies the space originally designed for town offices. A large tripartite bay window with transoms is positioned in the center of the front wall; a stone chimney offset to the southerly side of the roof is the only asymmetrical feature. Three-quarters of the interior contains the library with a large reading room distinguished by a ceiling open to the rafters with king-post trusses, a rustic stone fireplace and chimney, and bay windows front and rear. A raised alcove is located behind the entry porch with a gallery above; a second gallery behind the chimney is above the post office section on the southerly side of the building. These low lofts under the rafters are more aesthetic than functional. Narrow staircases winding up to both lofts provide views of the entire underside of the roof and its structure. Some changes have occurred over time, but much of the original furnishings and shelving has been preserved. The post office section has been renovated to meet the requirements of that function. A war memorial cast in bronze by local resident Henry Hudson Kitson and mounted on a boulder was erected on the northerly side of the library property in 1937, the bicentennial of the town's incorporation.

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#### Narrative Description

In the words of its designer, John A. Scott, "the handsome library and town building...is constructed of round, lichen-covered field stone and red tile, with the interior finished in natural woods and a huge rustic stone chimney. The ground measurement is 54 x 33 feet... Besides the library apartments, consisting of one large room, an alcove and two spacious galleries, there are rooms for the selectmen and town clerk....The original plans, drawn by John A. Scott, were amplified and perfected by H. Neill Wilson."<sup>1</sup>

The library building is sited near the street on a rectangular quarter-acre lot at the intersection of Main and Jerusalem roads. Small yards exist on all sides except the rear, where the topography slopes down to a paved parking lot. A tall earthen berm along the rear lot line protects the property from flooding by the adjacent Hop Brook. Concrete walkways lead from each of the two entrances to the street, and in between them are a modern flagpole and a bench, both of which are noncontributing features. Blacktopped walkways run along the side walls connecting the parking lot with the entrances in the front corners; the walkway on the library side has an iron railing. Plantings are minimal and are limited to areas along the building's foundations. A mature hedge on the north side of the building embraces a war memorial erected there in 1937. The war memorial, designed by sculptor Henry Hudson Kitson, is contributing.

The building's stonework is its most distinguishing feature (PHOTOS 1–6). Specifications called for the walls to be built of native stone "laid as artistically as the sums raised shall allow."<sup>2</sup> Story has it that local volunteers helped to collect the materials. Stones were to be naturally faced and free from drill or hammer marks, with

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<sup>1</sup> John A. Scott, *Tyringham: Old and New* (Pittsfield: Sun Printing Company, 1905). Wilson's plans for the library have not been located, although the accompanying printed specifications are in the Tyringham Historical Commission's collections.

<sup>2</sup> Building specifications, Tyringham Historical Commission collections.

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joints on the exterior raked out to a depth of two inches. The contractor awarded the job, Frank W. Kane of nearby Housatonic, Massachusetts, selected the largest and best stones for use on the front wall and laid them in an irregular coursing to create a carefully planned rustic appearance (PHOTOS 1 & 2). The largest, flattest stones were used in the corners and jambs of the bay window. The window has a wide central portion aligned flush with the wall and beveled sides that rake substantially back. A leaded-glass transom surmounting the central window has been preserved, while the remaining sashes are energy-conserving replicas. The building has no basement.

Square stone pillars were constructed at the outside corners to support the roofs over the recessed entrance porches. Doorways and windows within the porches have single-slab headers and sills. The library side contains a pair of four-pane casements positioned high on the wall to permit shelf space beneath (PHOTO 5). The post-office side contains a window of conventional size with 8/1 false divided sash (PHOTO 6). In both cases, the existing windows are replicas of original wood sash. Porch floors are paved with large flat stones, with two steps leading up to the doorsill. The library door is intact, while the post-office door is a replacement. A wood floor has been added to the porch on the post office side for accessibility. On the library side, a bronze plaque bearing the library's name, dates of incorporation (1762), and construction (1902) has been embedded in the front wall, being the so-called cornerstone laid in 1902.

The side walls are constructed of smaller stones also laid in an irregular manner (PHOTOS 3 & 4). Each wall has two windows. The library side contains two small double casements positioned high on the wall as was done on the front, and the post-office side contains conventional windows with 8/1 false divided sash to match the one under the porch. The smallest stones were used on the rear wall, which contains a central bay window matching the one on the front flanked by casements and sash units consistent with the types for the library and post office, respectively (PHOTO 4). One additional small window for a bathroom is located on the post office side.

Initially, the architect's specifications called for "the best red cedar shingles" to cover the hipped roof. This cost-saving measure was later amended to a choice of material: tile or slate, dependent on the funding. Terra-cotta tiles were preferred but more expensive, with the end result indicating the outcome. A receipt in the library's collection identifies J. K. Smith from Waterbury, Connecticut, as the roofer. Smith worked widely on factory and large residential projects, such as William K. Vanderbilt's mansion in Oakdale, Long Island, New York.<sup>3</sup> Part of the roof contract probably included the sheet metal entablature that distinguishes roof edges on all four sides of the building. Unusual in its non-complementary Classical design, it is composed of a tall frieze with a thin molding band near the base and dentils along the top; closely spaced stamped modillions run the length of the deep soffits. Seamless K-gutters appear to have replaced the original gutters incorporated into the top of the metal feature.

The interior of the library is distinguished by the exposure of the trussed roof structure fabricated of native wood and a tall stone chimney in which a panel of fossilized stones is embedded just above a stone mantel (PHOTOS 7-9). The oak woodwork in the room includes: door and window trim, window seats in the bay windows, upper gallery railings and stairs, and a number of surviving bookshelves made by Henry W. Stedman, a local carpenter (PHOTOS 10-12). Mission-style oak furniture was made by James A. Rice, a furniture maker and undertaker from Lee. Until 1920, heat was provided by a cast-iron stove that local farmer William W. Hale donated in 1905. The building was wired for electric lights with lines running from the neighboring factory building. The original southern pine flooring has been covered with a vinyl material.

<sup>3</sup> *The Metal Worker*, Volume 53, April 28, 1900 and Jan. 20, 1900.

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When built, the town section contained one large meeting room in the front of the library with a smaller documents storage room and a toilet room partitioned in the rear. The post office took over the space in 1973 and, leaving the rear partitions in place, created a new enclosure in the front room with mailboxes on two sides accessed by passageways along the front and end walls (PHOTOS 13 & 14). Floors and walls in the public areas have been resurfaced, leaving a beadboard ceiling intact but painted. Woodwork in the rear section, including the ceiling, remains intact and unpainted.

In 1937 a war memorial was constructed in the yard on the northerly side of the property, just beyond the library entrance (PHOTOS 15 & 16). Designed by sculptor Henry Hudson Kitson, who lived in the town, it is comprised of a round plaque with an acanthus border cast in bronze. The roundel contains the text: TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF TYRINGHAM WHO RESPONDED TO THE CALL OF THE NATION IN TIMES OF NEED / PEACE BE WITH YOU ALWAYS. The text is framed by two torches on the sides, a five-pointed star at the top, and the dates 1739–1939 denoting the bicentennial of the incorporation of the town, the event that inspired the memorial. On the outside of the torches along the rim of the disc are the words BY DUTY DONE (on the left) and IS HONOR WON (on the right). The casting is attached to the center of an oblong boulder mounted on a masonry base and set within an enclosing cedar hedge. Hydrangeas have been planted in front and grass has been permitted to grow on top of the boulder either by accident or design.

END OF DESCRIPTION

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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.)

Property is:

- 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.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1905–1967

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1905

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

John Albert Scott, designer

H. Neill Wilson, architect

Frank W. Kane, builder

Henry Hudson Kitson, sculptor

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance—1905–1967—has been selected to represent the enduring role of the library in local life since its construction.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Tyringham Library, completed in 1905, is architecturally and historically significant as a distinctive example of a small-town public library. As such, it meets National Register criteria A and C at a local level of significance and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to a high degree. Under criterion A, the library is the culmination of the rural community's effort to build a permanent home for its lending library and create a cultural landmark. Libraries were an important component in turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century New England town planning, symbolizing the maturation of settlements, a commitment to literacy and continuing education, and, along with other civic buildings on the town green, a pride of place. Libraries were also testaments to local philanthropy; they often were the product of the largess of a local benefactor. Such philanthropic efforts created local libraries of distinguished design throughout the region. After the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Carnegie libraries became the norm, which changed the nature of library design and construction. The Tyringham Library was built through local philanthropy, but by no one individual. Rather, it was conceived and created through the dogged efforts of a committee of native and summer residents that raised the modest costs through local subscription. By 1902, when the project was launched, Berkshire County in western Massachusetts had become a major summer destination for wealthy New Yorkers who built architect-designed "cottages" akin to those on the North Shore of Long Island and

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Newport, Rhode Island. A rural backwater off the beaten track, Tyringham attracted summer residents with literary and artistic interests who appreciated its pastoral qualities; most took over and renovated existing farms and an abandoned Shaker colony. Richard Watson Gilder, editor of *Century Magazine*, who rubbed elbows with all sorts of celebrities in the arts, letters, and politics, was a central figure in the Tyringham summer community. Although to a far lesser degree, so was newspaperman John A. Scott, who, with his father-in-law Lucian B. Moore-- proprietor of the boarding house that had been the first introduction many summer residents had to the town--organized the effort to build a new library. In contrast to their neighbors in Stockbridge and Lenox, the Tyringham group prided themselves in being a part of the native community. This perspective resulted in a library building modest in scale, yet rich in materials and craftsmanship. John A. Scott conceived a preliminary design for the library, passing those ideas onto country-house architect H. Neill Wilson of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Wilson developed working plans and specifications, and likely selected the contractors, to build a small, modest building with distinctive design characteristics and materials that were available only through the network of architects and builders involved in the construction of country houses. The low walls are constructed of local fieldstone, specified to show no chisel or drill marks, coursed in a carefully planned, irregular manner. They are topped by a terra-cotta tile roof with rafters and trusses exposed on the interior; a massive stone fireplace and chimney is the focal point of the interior. Neither the masonry, the tile roof, nor millwork would have been available outside of the country-house context. However, the Tyringham Library is a rare instance where those sophisticated elements were successfully conditioned to fit a public building in a rural town center.

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#### **Developmental history/additional historic context information**

Tyringham had a circulating library as early as 1791; it contained 67 books. Another with 107 books had organized by 1807. These and others over the years were supported by local individuals in their homes or by Sunday Schools. And so it continued until 1891 when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted the town \$100 for books and an annual appropriation of \$15 for administration. Dr. Joseph Jones, proprietor of the Fernside summer resort, was appointed chairman of the first library board. Shelving and other furniture was installed in the Center School, and with the support of local citizens and summer residents, the catalog of books grew. When school consolidation required the school space to be restored to classroom use, the library was forced to find a new location, leading some people to agitate to create a permanent home for it.<sup>4</sup>

Lucian B. Moore was chairman of the library board at the time, and it was through his efforts that funds were raised for the present library: a \$1,300 town contribution voted at town meeting and the rest by subscription, mostly from summer residents. The town's contribution came with the contingency that space be provided to keep town records.

Moore operated an early summer boarding houses in the Tyringham Valley, following the success of Dr. Joseph Jones's redevelopment of one of the abandoned Shaker family compounds—Fernside—on the hill west of the town center in 1874. Both capitalized on the wave of summer tourism that was sweeping across the Berkshires after a railroad through the Housatonic Valley was completed and began to carry the New York elite to Stockbridge and Lenox. Moore named his place Riverside Farm. His patrons dubbed him “The Father of the Valley,” as he was very active in providing them with entertainment, both of the “native” kind--church suppers, country fairs, and strawberry festivals--and more sophisticated offerings, such as a public library. For the latter effort, he counted on the support of Richard Watson Gilder, editor of *Century Magazine*; the artist Helena de

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<sup>4</sup> Scott, *Tyringham: Old and New*, 3-4.



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Kay, Gilder's wife; Egyptologist Robb de Peyster Tytus; and Francis E. Leupp, U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who had become summer residents in Tyringham.

Another key individual was John Albert Scott (1873–1950), a New York newspaperman with family roots in Tyringham. He was born in his grandfather's home on East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Manhattan. His grandfather, William Scott, was a banker and his father, Albert E. Scott, was a stockbroker. His mother, Lucretia Hazen Scott, was raised in Brooklyn; her father, Melzar Flagg Hazen, also was a stockbroker. Scott's maternal grandmother, Emma (Mrs. M.F.) Hazen was one of the New Yorkers boarding at Lucian B. Moore's Riverside Farm. In 1889 she purchased the Shakers' North Family Farm, and after demolishing most of the buildings they left behind, expanded an old dairy house into a residence that she named Nakomis Lodge, being more interested in Indian lore than preserving the material legacy of the Shakers. Mrs. Hazen is remembered as the first "summer resident" in Tyringham—that is, the first New Yorker to buy property in the town, a precedent that many others followed.<sup>5</sup>

As a young man in his twenties, John A. Scott made his summer residence with an aunt at Nakomis Lodge and became a driving force in summer society. He was an avid historian and collected and wrote about local history. Scott teamed up with Lucian B. Moore in his library campaign, even filling the librarian position. He married Moore's daughter, Lucy Margaret Moore, in 1903, a year into the construction of the new library. The story of Scott's and Lucy Moore's romance captivated the interest of novelist Edith Wharton, whose summer cottage, The Mount, was in nearby Lenox. Wharton had attended the groundbreaking of the Tyringham Library in 1902, probably at the invitation of Richard Watson Gilder. She immortalized the couple as Lucius Harney and Charity Royall—and the library—in the novella *Summer* published in 1917.<sup>6</sup>

In large part, the library was a project of Tyringham's summer residents. While a library had been supported by townspeople since 1791, according to John A. Scott's historical pamphlet published in 1905 for the dedication of the new building, it never had a landmark building until the summer residents supported it. In Scott's own words, "The Hop Brook Valley may be said to have passed out of the swamp age into the pioneer epoch, then successively into the Shaker age, the papermill age, the agricultural period, the tobacco and the summer boarder epoch. Now, whether for weal or for woe, the valley appears to be well advanced upon the era of the landed proprietor—that is, a period in which large farms are owned and occupied as summer homes by persons having their principal interests elsewhere."<sup>7</sup>

The natives had a somewhat different perspective: "The dawn of the summer boarder or the landed proprietor epoch has contributed much to the present passion for progress. Those of the native inhabitants who have remained have been people of too large intelligence to have their better life standards destroyed or even confused by the incoming of city summer residents. No rural valley could be more fortunate in the class of 'summer boarders' or 'landed proprietors' which it has attracted than has our own Hop Brook Valley."<sup>8</sup>

The new library with its intentionally rustic stone walls and modern tile roof and metal entablatures is emblematic of the improvements introduced into the Tyringham Valley by the summer residents. It also more generally reflects the modernizing effects that took place in the once remote Berkshires at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. New England towns took unusual pride in the appearance of their centers and civic buildings.

<sup>5</sup> Eloise Myers, *Tyringham: A Hinterland Settlement* (Pittsfield, MA: Eagle Printing and Binding Company, 1989), 48 & 93.

<sup>6</sup> The Scott-Moore nuptials were reported as an "auspicious occasion" in the *Berkshire Valley Gleaner* on April 29, 1903. The groundbreaking was covered in the *Gleaner's* July 2, 1902 issue.

<sup>7</sup> John A. Scott, *Tyringham: Old and New*, 7–8.

<sup>8</sup> George Frederick Wells, "Preaching or Practice to Save the Country Church: How We are Working in Tyringham," *The Expositor and Current Anecdotes*, Vol.15 (1913), 461.

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Originating with town commons ornamented by churches of imposing scale and design and evolving in the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the iconic New England Village, popularized by widely published graphic images, New England developed a distinctive approach to town planning.<sup>9</sup> By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the library was an important component of the civic building group, a symbol of the value the community placed on literacy acculturation. It also usually was a monument to someone's philanthropy during a time when the wealthy class was ascendant. Libraries appeared in hundreds of towns, and some of the nation's most renowned architects, first and foremost Henry Hobson Richardson, were called upon to create distinctive edifices.

The larger towns and cities in western Massachusetts, such as Stockbridge, Lenox, and Pittsfield, were planned in the traditional way with town centers distinguished by greens ornamented with self-conscious civic architecture, but the small rural towns like Tyringham had no such focal point or imposing architecture. Moore and Scott and their subscribers had the same civic-mindedness, philanthropic motivation, and modernizing spirit that created libraries in other New England towns, it was just manifested on a much smaller scale. Tyringham had no green or other civic building in its center; the library came to represent all those things—a focal point—for the modest community.

Library philanthropy was localized until it became intertwined with Andrew Carnegie after he sold his steel company to J. P. Morgan for nearly a half-billion dollars in 1901 and began funding the construction of new public libraries throughout the United States—1,689 libraries all told, 204 in 1903 alone.<sup>10</sup> While the Tyringham Library was under construction in 1903, so was one in nearby Lee, which had received a \$12,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie. At the library dedication during Old Home Week in Tyringham in 1905, Robb DePeyster Tytus, president of the event committee and library trustee, announced that the library trustees refused to accept \$500,000 from Mr. Carnegie (an exceptional and seemingly exaggerated amount) in the name of rural conservatism.<sup>11</sup> Bishop A. H. Vinton of Springfield announced that "Massachusetts has been the pioneer in [building local libraries]. Every village here had a library before Mr. Carnegie thought of library disease."<sup>12</sup> Both Tytus's and Vinton's choice of words express a certain disdain for Carnegie's efforts, which may have been fueled by the controversy his philanthropy had caused over "tainted money," that is, they thought it was ill-gotten wealth made by the exploitation of workers, and that such "indiscriminate charity" focused attention more on the giver than the recipients.<sup>13</sup> There is no other indication that the Tyringham subscribers harbored resentment of Carnegie or his dollars, but the summer residents strove to keep the focus local and took four years building the library (for far less than \$500,000) to be able to dedicate it to the town in 1905 nearly free of debt.

Although John A. Scott is credited with the design of the Tyringham Library, the plans and specifications were created by H. Neill Wilson, a Pittsfield architect who designed a number of country houses for summer residents in Stockbridge and Lenox. Born in a Cincinnati, Ohio, suburb, he was the son of James Keys Wilson (1828–1894) one of the city's first trained architects and a well-respected practitioner of the Gothic Revival style.<sup>14</sup> After training in his father's office, H. Neill Wilson (1855–1926) opened an independent practice in

<sup>9</sup> Joseph H. Wood & Michael Steinitz, *The New England Village* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1997).

<sup>10</sup> Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free To All, Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890–1920* (University of Chicago Press, 1995). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnegie\\_library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnegie_library).

<sup>11</sup> "New Library Dedicated. Eventful Day at Tyringham... Addresses by Richard Watson Gilder, Charles W. Bosworth and Bishop Vinton—Mr. Gilder's Original Poem—Ex-Ambassador Choate Fails to Arrive in Time to Speak," *Springfield Daily Republican*, 10 August 1905.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Van Slyck, *Free to All*, 20–21. Van Slyck wrote that the tainted money controversy motivated Andrew Carnegie to rethink his approach to giving and the way philanthropy was practiced in the United States and the pauperizing effects of almsgiving. His solution was to create an independent corporation that followed clearly defined procedures and made contractual agreements with towns receiving grants. Four libraries funded by Carnegie were under construction in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1905. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnegie\\_library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnegie_library).

<sup>14</sup> *The American Architect and Building News*, Vol.46 No.984 (11/3/1894), 41–42.

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Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1879. He relocated to Pittsfield in 1885, presumably attracted to the growing demand for country houses in the Berkshires. Among church, school, and civic projects he undertook in and around Pittsfield, Wilson designed at least five country houses in Lenox and Stockbridge: the Leonard Beckwith House (1892), Lakeside (1894), Shadow Brook (1894), Interlaken (1894), and The Orchard (1899); and after it was damaged by fire, designed an expanded Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge's well-known hotel, in 1897.<sup>15</sup> During this period, Wilson returned to Cincinnati to take on significant commissions there, most notably the Rookwood Pottery and the Glendale Lyceum.<sup>16</sup>

While the concept of the Tyringham Library originated with John A. Scott, the materials and workmanship that went into it are the result of Wilson's involvement. There are two sets of specifications drafted by the architect reflecting his participation in adapting his plans to the ups and downs of fundraising. A number of specifications ranked materials contingent on the funds being available at the time they were needed. For example, Scott specified the library to be constructed of round, lichen-covered field stone. To defray costs, townspeople were said to have gathered and carted stone from the area. However, this picturesque account is belied by the highly professional masonry skill exhibited in the irregular but precise coursing walls. The quality of the work reflects H. Neill Wilson's experience with the construction of country houses and their accessory buildings and structures, as well as his familiarity with local craftsmen. Likewise, the tile roof was provided by a well-established Connecticut contractor (Frank W. Kane) who must have completed other, larger contracts in the area. It probably was Wilson who introduced the tile and slate options to Scott, who apparently had settled for the wood-shingle roof cited in the original specifications. Interior millwork, especially the ceiling truss-work, as well as doors and windows, would have been obtained through sources known to the architect.

The dedication of the library occurred on August 9, 1905, during the town's Old Home Week, a celebration filled with speeches, picnics, and pageantry, which was thoroughly covered by the *Springfield Daily Republican*.

The Tyringham library was dedicated today with all ceremony and an array of eminent men surprising for a town of only 314 inhabitants. After a struggle of three years, during which the building has been reared bit by bit, as the money seemed to be in sight, the little stone and tile structure stands complete with not more than a couple of hundred dollars of indebtedness to be cleared away....There were fully 700 people present for the day's exercises.

The dedication of the library occurred at 3:30 o'clock. The building is just barely out of the hands of the painter, who is Town Clerk George R. Warren. The main library rooms have received many donations. In addition to the books already published as received this week, T.D. Thatcher of Branford, Ct., came back to the old town toting a basketful from his own library. Mrs. R.F. Fielding of Pittsfield yesterday sent a large picture, appropriately framed of Edward Stedman, the Pasadena drummer boy. In the picture he appears in his uniform beating his drum. Postmaster E.L. Tinker, who has been one of the warmest friends of the library and one of the most enthusiastic of the Old Home Week men, has donated a standard clock which looks as though it had been built especially for the library. Another contribution highly prized is in the historical line and comes from Hamlin Clark and is an old fashioned charcoal bake oven, a

<sup>15</sup> Richard S. Jackson, Jr. and Cornelia Brooke Gilder, *Houses of the Berkshires, 1870-1930* (NY: Acanthus Press, 2011), 298. In an interesting coincidence, Shadow Brook, built for Anson Phelps Stokes and his family in 1894, was purchased by Andrew Carnegie and was where he died in 1919.

<sup>16</sup> Sue Ann Painter et al., *Architecture in Cincinnati: An Illustrated History of Designing and Building and American City* (Ohio University Press in association with the Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati, 2006).

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roaster and reflector which were stood before the open fireplaces, and a saddle used in a local family a hundred years. The library is not completely furnished. The chairs in use are borrowed for the occasion, but a handsome set has been promised. In the alcove is a table given by Mrs. L.B. Moore. It was used for more years than anybody known in the Shaker community at Fernside. Miss Hazel Tinker, daughter of the postmaster, was installed this week as librarian with Miss Lucy Beach as assistant.

Lucian B. Moore was praised for his years of commitment to see the project through. During his speech, Robb DePeyster Tytus dubbed him "Father of the Valley," perhaps for the first time publically. Naturalist John Burroughs was in attendance, as he was spending three days with the Gilders. Richard Watson Gilder read an original poem he had written for the occasion. He also read a letter from President Theodore Roosevelt in which he expressed his regrets for being unable to be present at Old Home Week. Former President Grover Cleveland, who had spent a summer at L.B. Moore's Riverside Farm and was a subscriber of the library, sent a letter in which he wrote, "I knew the stone library long before its completion, and I know the hard struggle of its birth." Former ambassador Joseph H. Choate was expected to speak but arrived late, after the assemblage dispersed.<sup>17</sup>

John A. Scott published a small pamphlet on the history of the town, *Tyringham, Old and New*, as an Old Home Week souvenir. In it he recapped the story of the library's creation with an illustration drawn by Robb DePeyster Tytus. He culminated his history with the arrival of the summer residents, of which his grandmother, Emma Hazen, was the first. Then, with his dream of a public library realized, he relocated to Rome, New York, in 1909 where he was employed as the editorial writer of *The Rome Sentinel* for the next 41 years. Molly Moore Scott died sometime between 1915 and 1920, according to censuses, and shortly after, her husband married a Rome woman.

In Rome, he used the public library extensively to research his daily editorials. The Rome library was incorporated in 1895 and installed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century home of its benefactor, John B. Jervis, a renowned local citizen, a civil engineer who worked on the construction of the Erie and Delaware & Hudson Canals, public water systems, and in early railroad development.<sup>18</sup> Scott became a Jervis Library Association trustee and was active in the planning and construction of a wing on the Jervis house between 1925 and 1926. In 1927 Scott published a history of Rome, *Ft. Stanwix and Oriskany*, first in the sesquicentennial edition of the *Sentinel* and later as a book. He also published *Rome, N.Y. - A Short History* as a school textbook in 1943 as president of the Rome Historical Society, which had a museum in the Jervis Library. The following year Scott was appointed City Historian. When he died in 1950, it was recalled, "He often wrote of the past, yet he did not live in the past. His daily editorial comments on present events were penetrating, considered and thoughtful. Among the staff of the *Sentinel* everyone from the publisher down is called by his or her first name, everyone but the chief editorial writer. He was Mr. Scott to everyone. This was not in the formal sense but because we were so fond and so proud of him."<sup>19</sup>

The Tyringham Library has changed little in its organization, function, and appearance since it was put into service in 1905. It continues to be open to the public on a limited but regular schedule under the supervision of a paid librarian. The library section is historically intact except for the addition of additional book shelves and furniture. Central heat was installed in 1920; the building has been electrified since its construction. What is now the post-office section was designed as a meeting room for the town board with an area in the rear to keep town documents. This function was introduced into the plan when the town agreed to contribute funds to

<sup>17</sup> *Springfield Daily Republican*, 10 August 1905.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.clrc.org/digital/jervis/jervisindex.htm>. Accessed August 5, 2016.

<sup>19</sup> *The Sentinel* (Rome, NY), 13 November 1930.

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construct the building. Prior to this, the town had no official quarters. After the town acquired a shuttered rake factory building next door and moved its offices there, the town space in the library was converted for use as the local post office in 1973. Renovations to that space and insulated windows, added in 1998 and matching the design of the originals they replaced, are the only alterations to have occurred.

### Tyringham War Monument

The artist responsible for the Tyringham War Monument was Henry Hudson Kitson (1865–1947), an American sculptor known for his work on Civil War monuments and memorials. Born in Huddersfield, England, he developed his early sculpting skills in English workshops, while his older brother, Samuel James Kitson (1848–1906, also a sculptor, had attended art schools. (Two other brothers, John William Kitson and Robert Lewellen Kitson, also were artists.) In 1877 Henry came to New York to work in Samuel J. Kitson's shop where he worked on projects associated with the construction of William K. Vanderbilt's Fifth Avenue mansion and on the Astor Memorial Altar and Reredos in Trinity Church, Manhattan. With his brother's support, Henry returned to Europe in 1882 to study at the École des Beaux-Arts and École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. When he returned to New York two years later, he worked in his brother John William Kitson's business, but relocated to Boston in 1886 to join his brother Samuel, who had moved his studio there.<sup>20</sup>

In Boston Henry H. Kitson began accepting commissions for memorials and began teaching. He married one of his students, Theo Alice Ruggles, in 1893, and they settled in the Boston area. Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson established her own independent reputation in public sculpture. Henry's studio work was awarded medals from the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association, American Art Association, Universal Exposition in Paris (1889 and 1900), and World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago (1893). Theo received similar commendations, and in 1890 was the first American woman to receive an honorable mention in the Paris Salon.<sup>21</sup>

Henry Hudson Kitson is best known for one of his earliest public sculptures: The Minuteman statue in Lexington, Massachusetts, erected in 1900. With its success, he was asked to create similar monuments in places like Framingham, Massachusetts, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In the Boston area, he also created statues for David Farragut in South Boston (1881), Roger Conant in Salem (1911), Robert Burns in the Back Bay Fens (1920), and the Pilgrim Maiden in Plymouth (1922).<sup>22</sup> From 1911 to 1927, both Henry and Theo Kitson contributed numerous statues and sculptural elements for monuments at Vicksburg National Military Park in Virginia.<sup>23</sup>

They essentially made their living designing war monuments, so it was not out of character for Henry H. Kitson to contribute one to Tyringham, where he purchased a farm sometime after his wife died in 1932. Kitson married a local woman, Marie Hobron, and took over the house her father had owned where, according to historian Eloise Myers, he completely changed the appearance of the buildings and the land.

He changed the design of the barn and used it for his studio. The farmers of the town tore down their stone walls and saved the rocks from their plowed fields to dump onto the Kitson property. Thus, he built the chimney on his house to represent smoke rising to the sky and the front of his studio to imitate the grottoes of Europe. The sculptor personally supervised local workmen in the

<sup>20</sup> John W. Leonard, ed., *Who's Who in America, 1903-1905* (1903), 846. Frank Torrey Robinson, *Living New England Artists* (1888), 113–119. Kathryn Greenthal et al., *American Figurative Sculpture in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston* (Boston: Northeastern University Press and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1986) 299–301. Lorado Taft, *The History of American Sculpture* (1925), 489. David Bernard Dearing, *Paintings and Sculpture in the Collection of the National Academy of Design, Vol. I, 1826–1925* (NY: NAD, 2004) 335. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Hudson\\_Kitson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Hudson_Kitson).

<sup>21</sup> John W. Leonard and Albert Nelson Marquis, *Who's Who in America* (A. N. Marquis & Company, 1903), 846.

<sup>22</sup> "Henry Hudson Kitson," [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Hudson\\_Kitson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Hudson_Kitson). Accessed August 5, 2016.

<sup>23</sup> "Henry Hudson Kitson," <https://www.nps.gov/vick/learn/historyculture/henry-hudson-kitson.htm>. Accessed August 5, 2016.

Tyringham Library  
Name of Property

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placing of each stone, its contour to conform with its position. Then he visualized a roof in keeping with the rocks, He wanted a thatched roof like those on the country houses of his old haunts in England. For the thatch, he persuaded a few farmers in Tyringham and Lee to raise rye one summer but the venture failed. So he settled for a composition shingle of many thick layers, with blended colors to represent motion—the motion of wind, swirling autumn leaves.

Kitson named his house and studio Santerella, and it, along with his eccentricities, became an immediate local attraction. He died in 1947. Santerella continues to be a notable local landmark (MHC Inventory No. TYR.32).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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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

# \_\_\_\_\_

**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): TYR.42

Tyringham Library  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.245891                      Longitude: -73.204324

2. Latitude:                                      Longitude:

3. Latitude:                                      Longitude:

**Or UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      3.      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
    Zone    Easting                      Northing                      Zone    Easting                      Northing

2      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      4      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
    Zone    Easting                      Northing                      Zone    Easting                      Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary represents the parcel dedicated to the library.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Neil Larson, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission                      date November 2017

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd.                      telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston                      state MA                      zip code 02176

e-mail      betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us



Tyringham Library  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

---

### Photographs:

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Tyringham Library

City or Vicinity: Tyringham

County: Berkshire State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Neil Larson

Date Photographed: 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 16. View from NE.
- 2 of 16. View from SE.
- 3 of 16. View from SW.
- 4 of 16. View from NW.
- 5 of 16: Detail of library entrance, NE corner.
- 6 of 16. Detail of post office entrance, NW corner
- 7 of 16. View of reading room from north gallery.
- 8 of 16. View of rafters, trusses and chimney from north gallery.
- 9 of 16. View of roof and north gallery.
- 10 of 16. View of reading room & original lighting and furnishings.
- 11 of 16. View of north alcove, original shelving on left.
- 12 of 16. View of north gallery.
- 13 of 16. View of post office entrance from rear office.
- 14 of 16. View of post office rear office.
- 15 of 16. View of war memorial from SE.
- 16 of 16. Detail of cast bronze plaque on war memorial.

Tyringham Library  
Name of Property

Berkshire, Massachusetts  
County and State

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

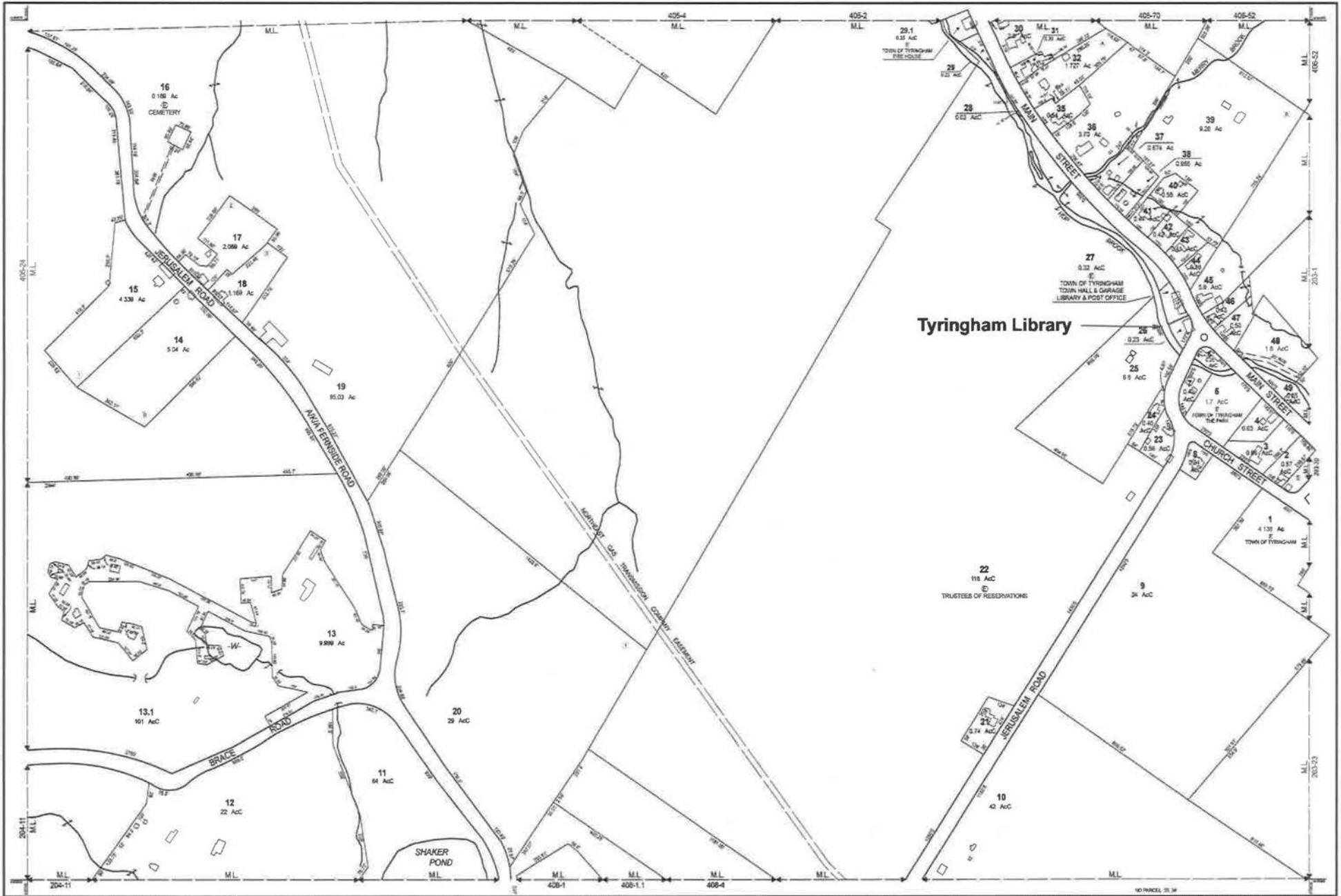
---

name Town of Tyringham  
street & number 116 Main Rd. telephone 413-243-1749  
city or town Tyringham state MA zip code 01264

**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 18 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.

Tyringham Library, Tyringham (Berkshire County), MA



Tyringham Library

THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.  
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**LEGEND**

UNIMPROVED AREA CALCULATED	AC	EXISTING PROPERTY	---
RECORDS DIMENSION	AcG	SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	---
SCALE DIMENSION	---	BUILDING	---
MATCH LINE	---	POINT OF BEGINNING	---
WATER	---	COMMON OWNERSHIP	---
		WETLAND	---

SCALE: 1" = 200'

FEET: 0 100 200 300 400 500 600

METERS: 0 25 50 75 100 150

REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2015

PROPERTY MAPS  
**TYRINGHAM**  
 MASSACHUSETTS



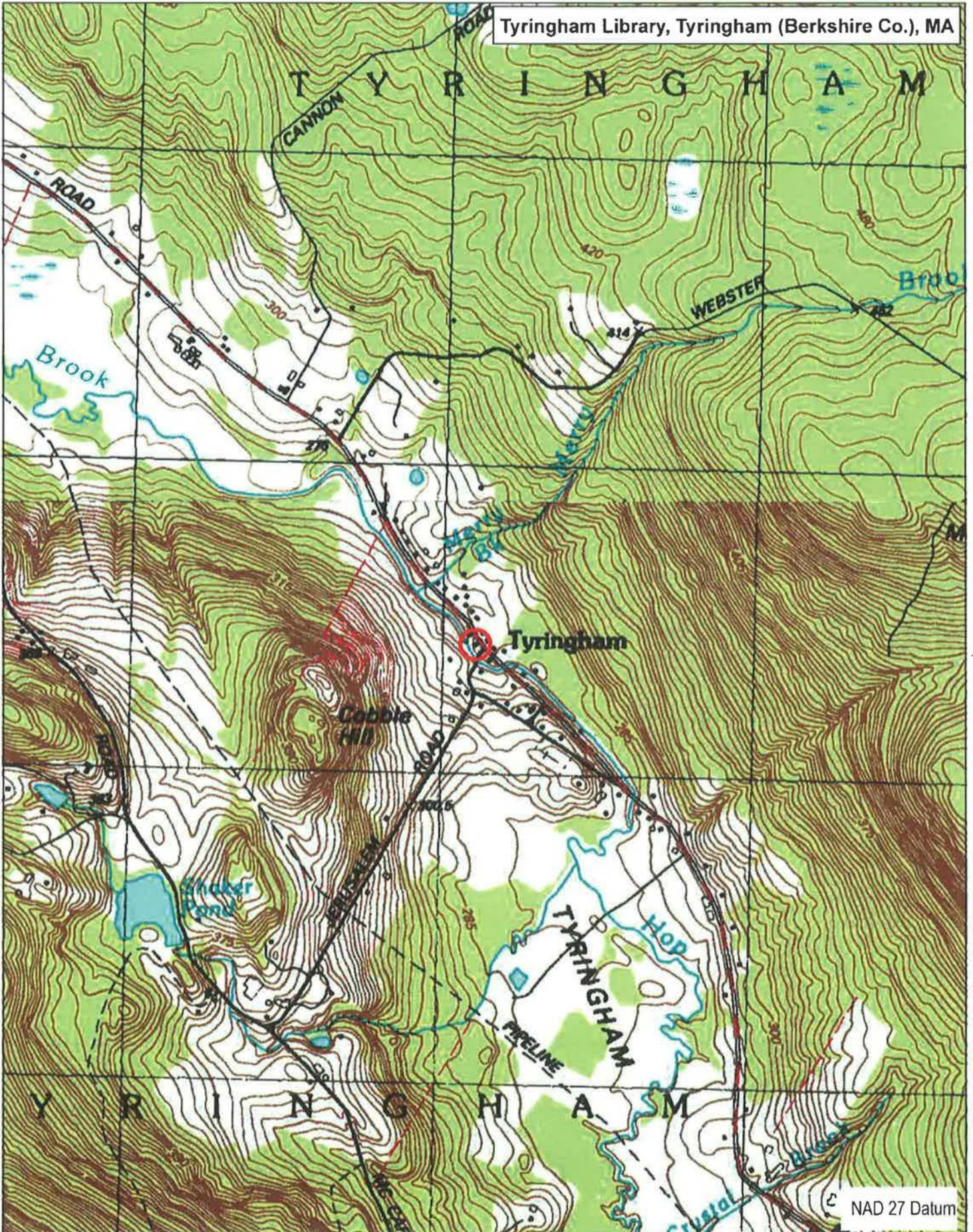
MAP NO.  
**204**

647

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649

Tyringham Library, Tyringham (Berkshire Co.), MA



4680

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4678

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NAD 27 Datum





STRENGTHEN  
POST OFFICE  
01261











**TYRINGHAM  
POST OFFICE  
01264**





















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**MAILBOXES**

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MAILBOX 14	1400
MAILBOX 15	1500
MAILBOX 16	1600
MAILBOX 17	1700
MAILBOX 18	1800
MAILBOX 19	1900
MAILBOX 20	2000





TO THE MEN  
AND WOMEN OF  
TYRINGHAM  
WHO RESPONDED  
TO THE CALLS OF  
THE NATION IN  
TIMES OF NEED

PEACE BE WITH YOU  
ALWAYS

1739 - 1939

BRITLY DONE

HONOR NOW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 11/27/2017      Date of Pending List: 1/2/2018      Date of 16th Day: 1/17/2018      Date of 45th Day: 1/11/2018      Date of Weekly List: 1/11/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      1/11/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall      Discipline Historian

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      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.



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

November 20, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Tyringham Library, Tyringham (Berkshire), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Molly Curtin-Schaefer, Tyringham Town Administrator  
Alice Hale, Chair, Tyringham Historical Commission  
James Consolati, Chair, Tyringham Board of Selectmen  
Mark Curtin, Chair, Tyringham Planning Board  
Neil Larson, consultant