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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Scoville Memorial Library

AND/OR COMMON
Scoville Memorial Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street, at corner of Library Street N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Salisbury N/A VICINITY OF Sixth - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Connecticut 09 Litchfield 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>librar</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Scoville Memorial Library Association

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street, at corner of Library Street

CITY, TOWN
Salisbury N/A VICINITY OF CT STATE 06068

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Salisbury STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
State Register of Historic Places

DATE
1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN
Hartford STATE Connecticut

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Main Street in Salisbury, a northwestern Connecticut town of 3,600 that was incorporated in 1741, is a wide north-south thoroughfare lined with gracious shade trees. One of the amply-spaced buildings along the street, at the southeast corner of Library Street, is the Scoville Memorial Library, designed in 1894 by Stone, Carpenter and Willson of Providence, Rhode Island. The library's well-maintained three-acre site slopes off to the south and west toward Wachocastinook Creek, known locally as Library Brook, that runs across the southern part of the plot.

The library building is a 35 by 129-foot rectangular structure of grey, rough-faced, random ashlar limestone, quarried locally, consisting of two asymmetric, gable-roofed wings disposed on either side of a central 55-foot-tall, square battlemented clock tower (Photograph 1). There is a 25 by 26-foot wing to the rear that houses the library stacks. The broad roofs are covered with slate. The round-arched entrance, right of the tower, is approached by six stone steps and is surmounted by a stepped gable with a stone plaque affixed to the gable end in which is incised the library's name and the year date MDCCCXCIV. A second, flat-pointed gable breaks the overhanging slightly flared, eaves further to the south. This gable has a large window with segmental arch that is tripartite both horizontally and vertically. Vertically oblong windows with deep reveals alternate with the gables to complete the fenestration of this wing. The southern elevation is apsidal.

The tower has apertures at four levels (Photograph 2). At the top on each surface, small, square openings flank the clock face over a group of three tall round-arched windows that have open louvers to permit passage of the sound of the bells. Two larger, round-arched windows are at the level of the entrance plaque, and two segmentally-arched windows are at first floor level. The upper halves of these four windows are glazed with diagonal muntins.

The front walls of the south wing and of the tower are in one plane, while the front wall of the north wing is set back (see sketch map), and the ridge line of the roof is lower. There is a group of three rectangular windows in the front wall of this wing, and an exterior chimney, flanked by windows at its north end wall (Photograph 3).

The stacks wing projects to the east, behind the tower (Photograph 4). Its north and south walls have two bands of three rectangular windows over segmentally arched windows at basement level. There is a skylight in the roof. The east end is apsidal, corresponding to the shape of the south end of the south wing. In the stacks apse the oblique wall sections have single large, round-headed windows. The lines at which the wall planes meet is not formed by the junction of separate pieces of stone. Instead, the individual pieces of stone are cut at the angle and chiselled vertically to create the desired corner effect (Photograph 5).

The front entrance leads to a vestibule and then to a central hall that runs back the depth of the building. The doorway between the vestibule and

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the hall has a round-arched tympanum with an elaborately carved, openwork screen of shell, rosettes, volutes, and finials. The floor of the hall is composed of red tile tesserae with a Greek key border in black tesserae. On the north wall of the hall there is a plaque reading "The Scoville Memorial Library founded 1891 by a bequest of Jonathan Scoville subsequently endowed and enlarged by the family of Nathaniel Church Scoville and dedicated to the citizens of Salisbury in memory of Jonathan and Nathaniel Church Scoville 1902."

The stairway to the tower rises at the back of the hall in two runs with arcaded balustrade over panelled walls (Photograph 6). To the left of the stairs there is another round-arched opening with tympanum similar to, but not as elaborate as, that over the front doors. The stacks are located to the right of this opening, the bottom of the tower to the left, and the children's room ahead in the north wing. The room at the base of the tower is finished with fluted pilasters supporting a plain entablature above which rise further pilasters embellished with a raised, tapered design to a molded cornice with dentil course (Photograph 7).

The four tonal bells and the large striker bell (Photograph 8) for the hour are located at the level of the tower behind the tall, louvered windows. The bells were cast by the Maneely Bell Company of Troy, New York, the large one with raised lettering reading, "Jonathan Scoville Nathaniel Church Scoville in memoriam 1894." The clock, made by the E. Howard Watch and Clock Company of Boston, is at the top of the tower and has driving rods to each wall to turn the hands of the clock faces on the exterior. The original, framed "Directions for the Care of a Tower Clock" hang on one wall. The original weights are on the floor, as the clock is now electrically powered.

The largest space in the library is that contained in the south wing. Originally an auditorium, it was altered in 1964 with a dropped ceiling to become a reading room. Two large, square windows were installed in the west wall, one of which is visible in Photograph 4, to improve the lighting. An office was constructed for the librarian over the former stage at the south end of the room. The library's circulation desk is located at the north end of this reading room, facing the central hall.

The full basement has a high ceiling and stone partitions as well as stone exterior walls. Brick piers with brick arches are used to help support the massive 8 by 8 inch timbers of the framing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Library History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1894 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Stone, Carpenter & Willson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Scoville Memorial Library possesses high artistic value because of its well conceived Romanesque Revival design and the high quality of its masonry (Criterion C). The present Library Association is associated, by virtue of being the successor organization, with an earlier library that has a strong claim to having been the first tax-supported library in the United States (Criterion A).

Three disparate influences that had developed over a period of years came together in a timely fashion to form the Scoville Memorial Library. The first of these was the town's library tradition, going back to 1771, which was re-invigorated in the 1880's by the formation of a Library Association. A library building was needed. This need was duly noted by Jonathan Scoville, a native son, who over his lifetime amassed a substantial fortune and who provided by his will for construction of the building after his death in 1890. With the need established and the money in hand, the architect, Edmund R. Willson became the third essential ingredient in the creation of the Scoville Memorial Library by providing an outstanding design in the Romanesque Revival style toward the end of the period of popularity of that style as it had been developed by Richardson and others in prior decades.

The plan, massing, and style of the Scoville Memorial Library have a strong similarity to the earlier Massachusetts libraries of H. H. Richardson, a leading American architect. The Winn Memorial Library at Woburn, 1877, Richardson's first, had all the elements of central tower with entrance to the right, wings to left and right, gable roof, and small projection to the rear found at Salisbury. The Ames Memorial Library at North Easton, designed by Richardson later the same year, has a round-headed entrance far more prominent than that at Salisbury and embellished with an ornamental design of the type further developed and used repeatedly by Louis Sullivan, as at his Auditorium building in Chicago, 1889. Richardson's Crane Memorial Library, Quincy, 1880, on the right of a wide, heavy arched opening, has a multi-sectioned window quite similar to that on the right of the round-headed entrance of Scoville Memorial Library. Richardson's first sketch for the Burlington, Vermont, library, 1883, had an apsidal end for the wing on the right of the entrance. Hartford's George Keller in his Ansonia, Connecticut, library, 1891, combined a round-arched entrance with a square clock tower and two gable-roofed wings, although the wings were at right angles to one another.

Stone, Carpenter and Willson designed for Salisbury a library building quite similar to those already existing elsewhere, but with an important

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difference. While all the earlier libraries in this mode had used a combination of earth hues in brownstone, buff colored stone, and terra cotta, Salisbury is executed in a chaste, grey monochrome. Where Richardson used polychromy, as in alternating colors for arch voussoirs, Salisbury is grey. Where Keller used red sandstone for a water table, Salisbury is grey. The earth tones and the robust polychrome of the predecessor buildings have given way in Salisbury to a chaste monochrome. The quarry faced masonry is physically the same, the ashlar equally well done, the molded water table, large voussoirs, and massive lintels and sills are all present, but made less vigorous by their monochrome color.

Stone, Carpenter and Willson designed no other rough stone building with medieval overtones, so far as is known, except one. The one exception is the Petersham Memorial Library of Petersham, Massachusetts (northwest of Worcester) of 1889 (Photograph 9). In this earlier library, Willson was the partner in charge. His grandfather had been the first Unitarian minister in Petersham. The Petersham structure clearly is the forerunner of the Scoville Memorial Library. Many elements of the two designs are similar, including the rough stone construction with slate gable roof and slightly flared eaves, the general plan, the tower off center to the left with entrance to its right the two tall gabled dormers on the right that break through the eaves, and the apsidal end at the right. One wing of the Petersham Library was devoted to an auditorium for public events, as was the case at Salisbury. The windows in the gabled dormers in both cases are multi-sectioned. Different stone was used, field stone random rubble at Petersham, more expensive sandstone ashlar at Salisbury. While the tower at Petersham is octagonal with a tent roof, at Salisbury the tower is square and larger, with a castellated roofline. While the dormers at Petersham have Gothic arches in keeping with the pointed roof of the tower, at Salisbury the dormers have stepped gables in keeping with the parapet of the tower. At Salisbury the chimney to the right and small gables to the left, that appeared at Petersham, are omitted, thereby simplifying the design. Scoville Memorial Library is a more sophisticated and urbane design, reflecting the contemporary trend toward classical simplicity.

There was a competition for the Scoville Memorial Library, that Stone, Carpenter and Willson won. Details of the competition are not known but its existence is established by the library's records. There is a receipt dated September 12, 1893 reading, "Received of Scoville Memorial Library Association \$25 awarded for 2nd best design in competition for Library Building," signed, Martin & Hall, Providence. Another entry, in a summary tabulation of expenditures dated March 30, 1895, reads, "Architects, competing designs and commission \$550." Unfortunately, there are no further details on how the competition was conducted and what other architects participated.

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Stone, Carpenter and Willson were the leading firm in Providence of their day, carrying on a prolific practice. Generally, they built in brick with granite, sandstone, or terra cotta trim, not the quarry-faced stone of the Scoville Memorial Library. Numbered among their works are the County Court House, Provident Institute for Savings, Central Police Station and District Court, and the New York, New Haven & Hartford R. R. Station. Like other firms of the Victorian era, they were adept at working in several styles, including Romanesque Revival and Tudor Revival as well as Beaux-Arts Neo-Classic, but none of these buildings resembles the Scoville Memorial Library. They designed the State Prison in Cranston, Rhode Island, 1878, in stone, but it is a dull, dark building, unlike the Salisbury library. Their Lyman Gymnasium at Brown University resembles Richardson's Crane Memorial Library at Quincy in profile, but is constructed of brick and granite.

One of the buildings for which Stone, Carpenter and Willson is best known is the Providence Public Library of 1898-1900, Edmund R. Willson, partner in charge. According to Cady, whose book is the standard source on Providence architecture, it was the firm's "outstanding achievement"¹ but it did not resemble the Salisbury library, although it was commissioned in the same year. The Providence library is an oblong, hipped roof structure in the

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Renaissance Revival style built of rusticated limestone and yellow brick.

Edmund R. Willson was the partner in charge of the Salisbury library; correspondence to and from him is in the library's archives. His letter of October 7, 1893, addressed to Donald T. Warner, Chairman of the Scoville Memorial Library Association, gives insight into the firm's method of calculating its fees. Willson wrote, "Could you put us in the way of getting some money on account of the work done for the Scoville Memorial Library Association? You may remember our compensation was to be, for all of the work except superintending, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the cost of the building. At present, we have done all the work except full sized details, which will be required as the building is in process of construction. This is ordinarily reckoned at one per cent, leaving $2\frac{1}{2}$ for the scale plans and specifications, which is the work we have already done; so we think that there should be due us $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on \$16,000., or \$400." The records show that \$375 was paid two months later, and that by the end of the job total architects fees came to \$647.83.

The Scoville Memorial Library Association is the successor organization to two earlier Salisbury libraries. The first of these was founded by Richard Smith who used funds provided by 39 other citizens and himself to bring 200 books from London to Salisbury to establish the Smith Library in 1771. The original record book is at the Scoville Memorial Library. Smith was a Tory and returned to England at the time of the Revolutionary War, but his library continued for some years. On April 11, 1827 the Smith Library Company voted to establish a public library open to any citizen upon paying the annual subscription fee of \$3.34.²

In 1803 Caleb Bingham, a native of Salisbury who had moved to Boston where he became a bookseller and a trustee of the Boston Public Library, sent 150 volumes to Salisbury for sole use of children from nine to 16 years of age. The books initially were housed in the minister's residence, and then in the Town Hall. At a Town Meeting on April 8, 1810 it was voted that "the Selectmen be authorized and directed to draw upon the town treasurer for the sum of \$100 payable in favor of the trustees of the Bingham Library for Youth to be laid out and expended for purchasing suitable books for such library."³ This action was the first recorded commitment of public funds for library support in the United States. Further public financial support on the part of the Town of Salisbury was forthcoming in 1821, 1826 and 1836.

At the time of the dedication of the Scoville Memorial Library, George W. Holly of Bridgeport wrote a letter dated July 8, 1895 stating his regrets at not being able to attend, and taking the occasion, "as the only surviving native who in younger days drew books from the old Bingham Library" to recall how the library was run. The books were kept in cupboards in the old Town

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Hall, he said, "and four times a year the library was opened. Interested parties took their seats on wooden benches while the librarian called off the books, beginning with the letter A. One hearing announced a book he wanted called, 'I'll have it,' and the volume was laid aside to be entered in a record book."

Without question there were older libraries. The distinction claimed by Salisbury relates to the matter of taxpayer support, and there is general agreement that in this respect Salisbury was first. Strongest counter claim comes from Peterborough, New Hampshire where in 1833 the town itself (not an individual) established a library that has been maintained by public taxation ever since, as contrasted to the Bingham Library which did not survive in its original form. Norton cites four writers on library history, Dr. Herbert B. Adams, Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, Gwendolen Rees, and Joseph Kane,⁴ in support of the Salisbury position. In 1978 Robert C. Hilton, writing in the Library Journal, endorsed the Salisbury claim, saying, "At Salisbury, Connecticut the first known municipal library taxation came about in 1810 as a result of the philanthropy of native son and Boston bookseller and publisher Caleb Bingham."⁵

In the latter half of the 19th century the Smith and Bingham libraries in Salisbury languished. The books were boxed up and put in storage. The Salisbury Library Association was formed in the 1880's, the old books, with new titles added, were returned to the Town Hall, and a catalog published in 1889. This group and its books were merged into the Scoville Memorial Library a few years later. 79 titles from the Bingham Library are shelved at the Scoville Memorial Library today, 14 of them from the original 150.

Jonathan Scoville observed the activities of the ladies' Salisbury Library Association in the 1880's and resolved to build a library building. He implemented his resolve by testamentary gift of \$12,000. Jonathan Scoville (1830 or 1834?-1891) was born on a farm in Salisbury where his father not only farmed the land but also manufactured pig iron from an iron mine on the farm, part of the substantial activity in iron mining and processing that flourished in northwestern Connecticut in the 18th and 19th centuries. After attending Harvard College where he concentrated on scientific studies, Jonathan Scoville became a salesman for his father of iron suitable for the manufacture of railroad car wheels. In 1856 he visited Buffalo, New York where he saw an opportunity, and in 1860 he established there the Buffalo Car Wheel Works. He was soon joined by his brother, Nathaniel Church Scoville, and together they conducted a highly successful manufacturing operation which they converted advantageously to a joint stock company several years before they died. In the early 1880's Jonathan served three years in the United

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States House of Representatives, and then succeeded Grover Cleveland for a term as mayor of Buffalo. A bachelor, he was considered somewhat eccentric; he admired flowers and books, and was noted for his orchid greenhouses. Nathaniel Church Scoville died on November 21, 1890, and Jonathan Scoville five months later on March 4, 1891. During their lifetimes they owned all their property in common, and upon their deaths their combined estates were estimated at \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000.⁶

The family of Nathaniel Church Scoville matched the gift of Jonathan Scoville for construction of the library, donated the clock and bells, in 1899 made possible the addition of the stacks tower, in 1902 endowed the library, and continues active in its support to the present time. By the time of the 1895 dedication costs amounted to \$22,818.13, (there was a cash balance on hand) the chief item being \$15,858.79, the amount paid to Newton Bartram, a Sharon, Connecticut contractor who presumably furnished the stone from near-by Lion's Head in Salisbury and did the masonry work.

The Scoville Memorial Library continues a library function in Salisbury that dates back to 1771 and includes the important event of first taxpayer support for a public library in this country. Its fine grey limestone building, created through the philanthropy of the Scoville family and the design skill of Edmund R. Willson, continues in place with complete integrity. The late-20th-century vitality of the Scoville Memorial Library Association is demonstrated by the ambitious program now in hand to increase the library's physical plant and service to the community.⁷

1. Cady, p. 187.
2. Norton, p. 8.
3. Norton, p. 9.
4. Norton, p. 12.
5. Hilton, p. 1223.
6. Buffalo (New York) Commercial, March 4, 1891.

7. Plans are now in hand to alter and enlarge the library as shown by the "Development Program" page, attached. The principal change will be a new wing on the back, to be built of grey limestone walls and slate roof as nearly as possible indistinguishable from the materials used in the existing building. On the interior of the south wing, the present dropped ceiling will be

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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removed and the original coved ceiling returned to view. A 14-bulb, glass and metal chandelier with three tiers of anthemion acroteria, found in the attic, will again be hung from the coved ceiling. A climate-controlled area will be installed in the south end of this wing. The front entrance steps will be replaced by a new arrangement of steps and a three-run ramp to provide access for the handicapped.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

AGREEMENT NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3

QUADRANGLE NAME Sharon

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 630 640 46148 650

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described in the Salisbury Land Records, volume 34, page 581.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David F. Ransom

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Historian

DATE

October 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

33 Sunrise Hill Drive

TELEPHONE

203 521-2518

CITY OR TOWN

West Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

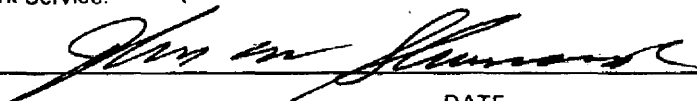
NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE March 9, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

4/29/82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Buffalo (New York) Commercial, March 4, 1891.

John Hutchins Cady, The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950, Providence, The Book Shop, 1957.

Robert C. Hilton, "Public Support for Library Service: Revolutionary Democracy in Action," Library Journal, June 15, 1978, p. 1223 ff.

Letters from Robert O. Jones, Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission, dated September 5, 1979 and September 30, 1979, to author.

Charlotte B. Norton, History of the Scoville Memorial Library, Lakeville Journal Press, 1941.

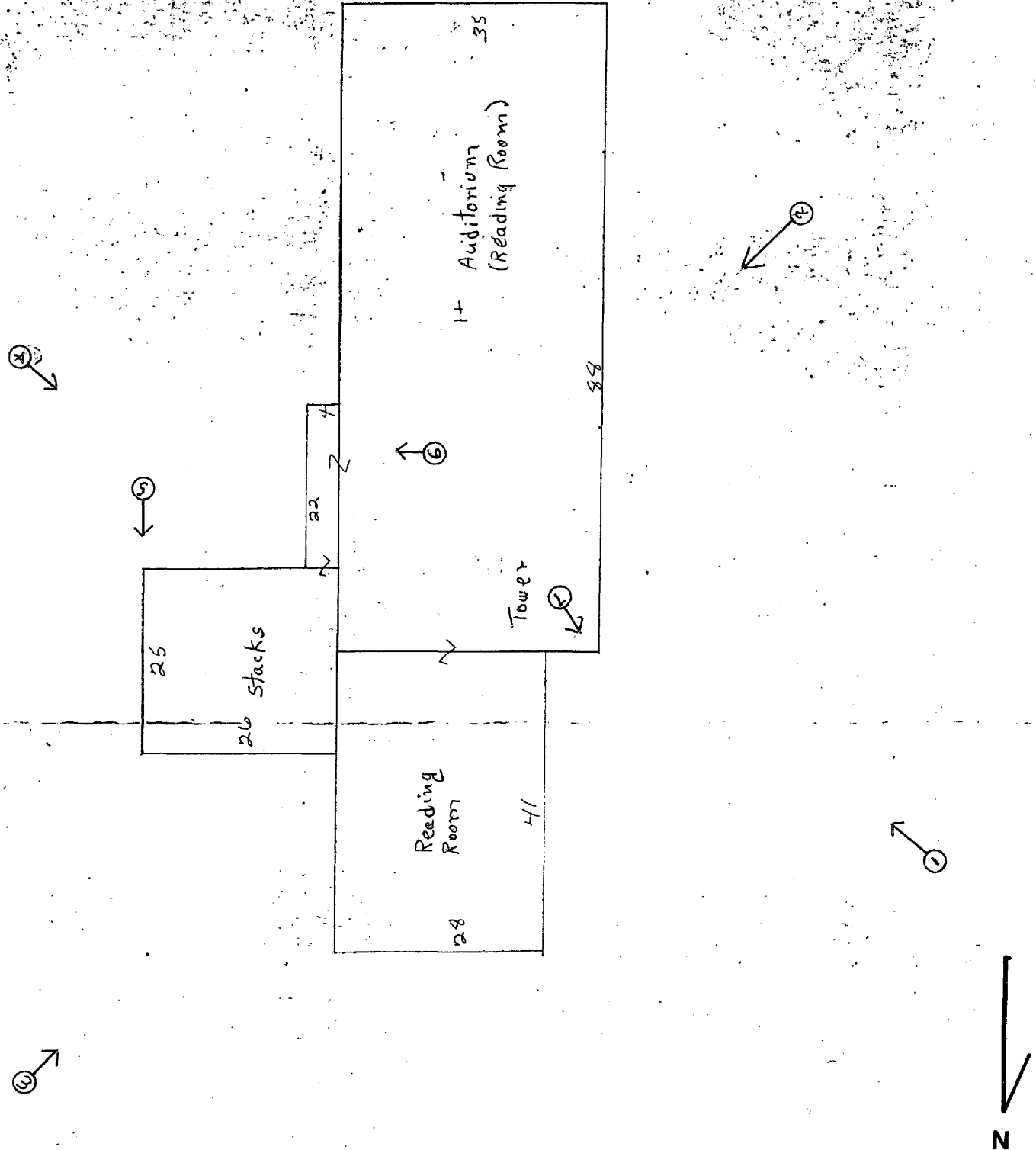
Ronald J. Onorato, "Stone, Carpenter and Willson, An Analysis of an Architectural Firm, 1858-1908," typed manuscripts, Providence Rhode Island.

Archives of the Scoville Memorial Library.

Charles J. Taylor, History of Great Barrington, 1676-1882, Extension 1882-1922 by George E. MacLean, Great Barrington, Massachusetts, 1928.

Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970, originally published 1956.

Building Profile
Photo Map

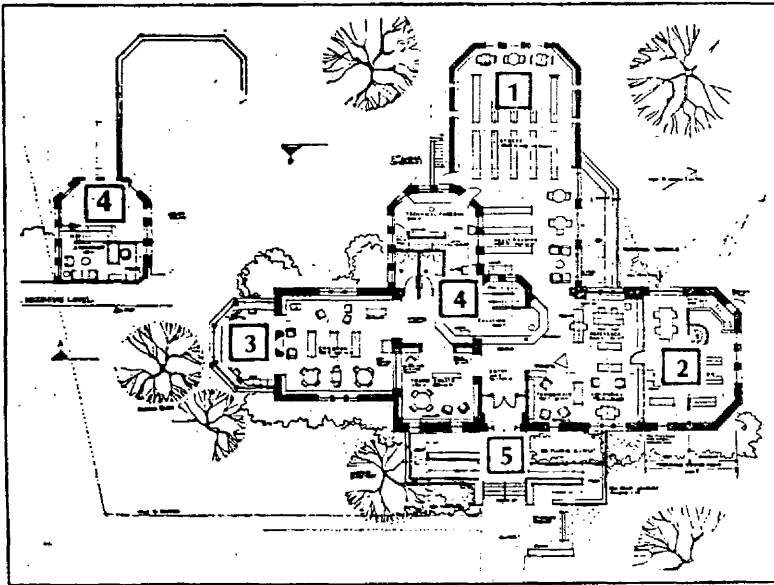


SCOVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Renovation and Expansion to Improve
and Modernize Services

- 1 *New Wing for Adult Services:* combines quiet reading area (facing brook) with new stacks
- 2 *Renovation for Special Collections:* climate-controlled, secure facility, shared with Salisbury Association, for rare books and valuable historical materials
- 3 *Remodeled Children's Room:* bright, cheerful activity area with books within children's reach
- 4 *Centralized Staff Area:* efficient work space and convenient supervisory station
- 5 *Re-designed Entrance:* easier access for everyone



Floor plan developed by Huygens and Tappé Inc. (Boston) and King Architects (Avon), from suggestions made by staff, Board members and Library users. See complete designs on display in the Library.

A PROUD TRADITION OF LIBRARY SERVICES

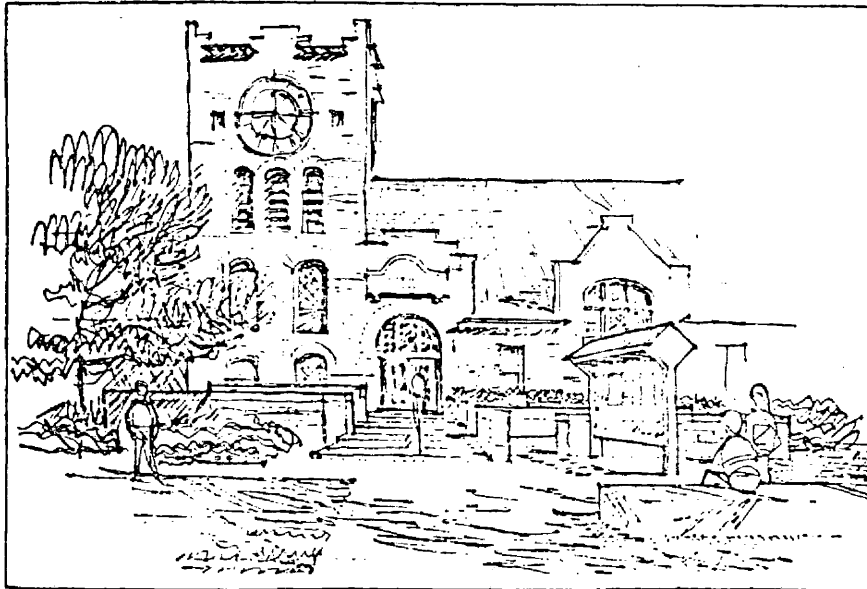
Library services have been available to residents of Salisbury since 1771 when Richard Smith had 200 books imported from his native England. In 1803 Caleb Bingham, a book-seller of Boston, donated 150 books for use by children in his home town. An appropriation of public money for the Bingham Library for Youth in 1810 made this the earliest tax-supported library in the United States. The Salisbury Library Association, formed in the 1880's, supervised operation of the book collections then housed in the Town Hall.

Bequests by Jonathan Scoville and the Nathaniel Church Scoville family made possible construction of the present building, dedicated July 11, 1895. This handsome structure now houses 38,000 books for over 2,000 registered borrowers. On October 14, 1978, the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries presented the Scoville Memorial Library with a plaque commemorating the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Bingham Library for Youth as "The Nation's First Public Library."

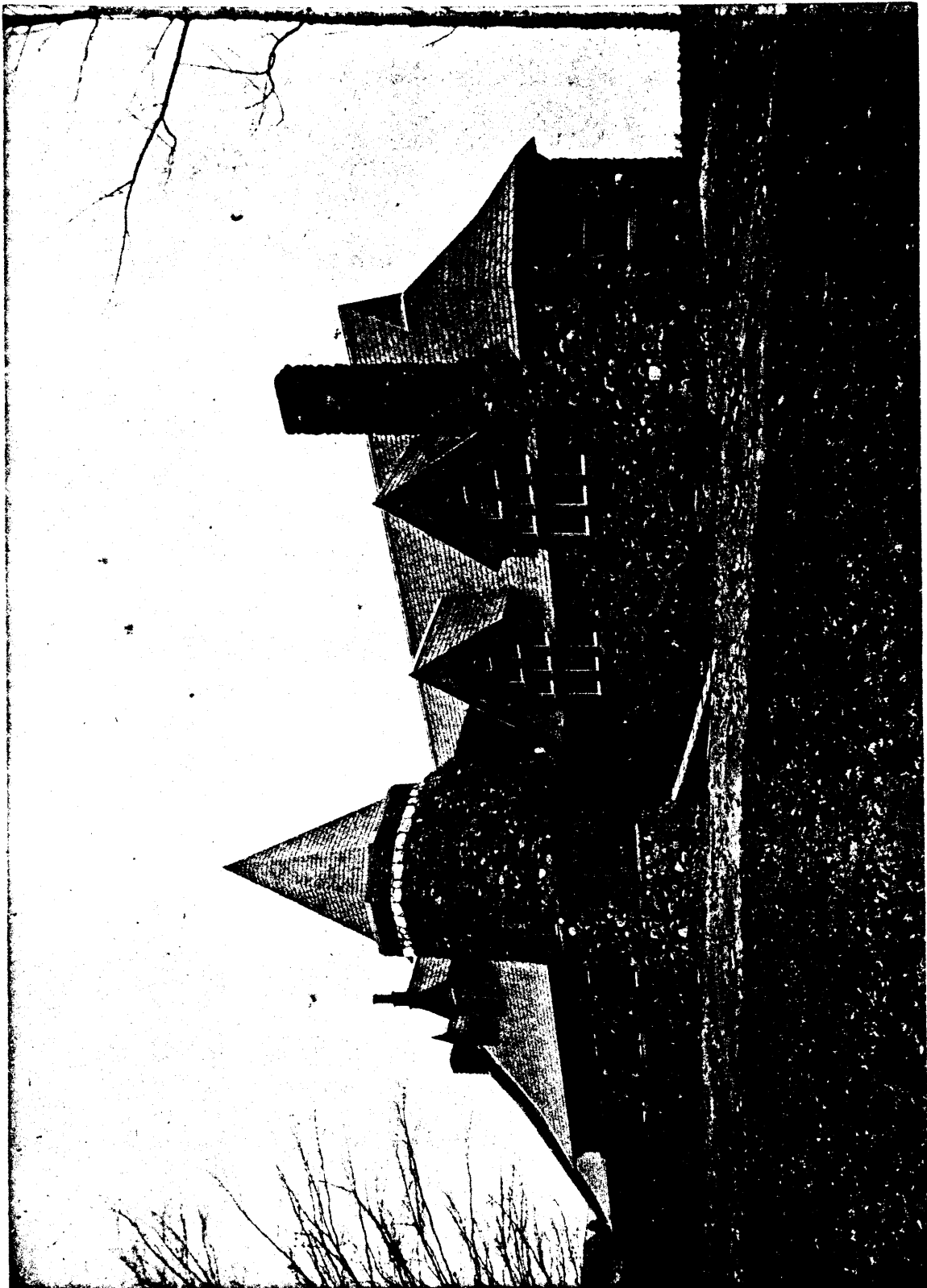
The Board of Trustees shares with all residents great pride in the library's illustrious history. It is also committed to the future with a long-range plan for modernizing and improving the Library's services to the community.

GOAL FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: \$570,000

We are half way toward reaching our goal. To implement a full project, we need your support.



Design for more convenient entry to the library, with facade otherwise unchanged. Main addition in rear. Complete plans by Huygens and Tappé can be seen in the library



Photograph 9
Scoville Memorial Library
Salisbury, CT
PETERSHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS