

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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JUN - 3 2016

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Shelburne Free Public Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 233 Shelburne Center Road

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

city or town Shelburne

state Massachusetts code MA county Franklin code 011 zip code 01370

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

Brona Simon May 24, 2016
 Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

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:)

Jan Edson N. Beall 7-18-16
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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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
		sites
1		structures
	1	objects
2	1	Total

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

19th/20th Century Revivals/Late Gothic Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/fieldstone
 walls: STONE/fieldstone, brownstone

 roof: STONE/slate
 other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Built in 1898, the Shelburne Free Public Library is a well-preserved, small, Late Gothic Revival-style building constructed of local fieldstone with brownstone trim (Photo 1). Located in the western Massachusetts town of Shelburne, in the village of Shelburne Center, the library is approximately an eighth of a mile south of MA Route 2, the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway. The exterior retains its original architectural features, including buttresses with brownstone caps and gabled finials; a steeply pitched, parapeted roof, covered with slate; an integral porch with built-in benches, leaded-glass transom, and sidelights at the recessed entry; original, large windows lighting the interior; and three-panel doors, both at the entry and inside the building.

Since its construction, the library has been altered on the exterior only by a small and sympathetic addition that dates to the 1950s. Set back on the library's south elevation, the one-room addition is also constructed of fieldstone, so that it blends seamlessly with the main block (Photo 9). On the interior, the main block of the building retains its original floor plan, varnished wood trim of window and door surrounds (photo 8), and the original tin wall and ceiling finishes in two small service rooms (Photo 4). Windows, floors, and the stove chimney remain in their original form.

In addition to the **building**, the property contains a contributing stone **retaining wall** (Photo 9) and a library sign of unknown date that, though complementary, is considered noncontributing (Photo 10).

Narrative Description

Setting

The west-facing Shelburne Free Public Library, erected in 1898, is set close to Shelburne Center Road in the valley of the Deerfield River, a rural-agricultural area of woodland and open fields. Shelburne Center is a small village with a small number of 19th-century buildings. They include several Federal-style farmhouses and outbuildings, a ca. 1880 multifamily building, and several 20th-century, contemporary-style houses. Village buildings are widely spaced, and given the slope of the land, often have wide landscape vistas. With the exception of a 20th-century house across the street from the library, and the increased traffic along Route 2, the area retains its 19th-century village and farmland aspect.

The library is set on a small lot (21,344 square feet) with hills to the east, west, and north, and Dragon Brook on the east. The land to the south of the library slopes down and opens into a wooded and agricultural landscape. A low stone retaining wall extends from the east to the south sides of the lot, and there is a large spruce tree set behind the retaining wall in the angle formed by the main block of the library and the small addition (Photo 9). There is a freestanding, modern wood library sign on the north side of the building next to the road.

Exterior

The Late Gothic Revival-style library is a particularly inventive architectural interpretation of a Gothic Revival building in local fieldstone. It is a 1½-story building under a steeply pitched, front-gable roof. Rectangular in plan, it is three bays wide and three bays deep. A one-room, one-story, shed-roofed, fieldstone addition extends from the southeast corner of the main block to create an L-shaped footprint.

The library wall's fieldstones are mixed in color and size, laid in a somewhat random pattern, with rounded fieldstones serving as the principal structural material (Photo 3). They are laid in a dark grey mortar whose joints are, by necessity, thick, but are recessed so that the texture of the overall stonework is maximized and catches the raking light. Flat riverbed

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stones form the entry archway, the sides of the window openings, and are used for buttresses at the building's corners. There is a third material, a reddish, rough-faced brownstone, used at window sills, lintels, and buttress capstones.

Engaged buttresses define the building corners. The buttresses, which have two large, dressed, brownstone caps evenly spaced along their length, terminate in a gable-shaped brownstone ornament. A projecting band of fieldstones at ground level serves as a base for the buttresses, and acts as the equivalent of a frame skirtboard (Photo 1).

The roof of the library's main block is covered in a greenish grey slate, trimmed at the ridge in copper that has taken on its typical green patina (Photo 10). The gable ends of the roof have parapets with brownstone coping. A fieldstone chimney is centered on the east end of the roof ridge.

The façade (west elevation) of the main block is dominated by a central entry composed of a wide, slightly pointed arch framed by voussoirs. The archway, which leads to an integral porch, is flanked by long and narrow windows that suggest medieval defensive tower windows (Photo 12). Deeply recessed, the windows have brownstone sills and lintels, and are glazed with a single, fixed-light sash. Above the arched entry is a brownstone banderol with escutcheon shapes at each end of the band. On the left, the escutcheon is carved with "18," and on the right with "98." The band in the center reads: "PUBLIC LIBRARY" (Photo 11).

The north and south (side) elevations of the library's main block each have three large, rectangular windows with 6/2 sash lighting the principal interior room. There are also small windows (approximately ten by six inches) at ground level on the north and south elevations that light a crawl space beneath the main block. In addition to brownstone sills and lintels, trim features of the side elevations include a frieze composed of two projecting rows of fieldstones. The east (rear) elevation has a slightly projecting chimney centered on the gable end, and one small window at attic level on the north side of the chimney (Photo 3).

Three large, granite stones lead to the archway of the integral porch and main entry (Photo 13). A wooden accessibility ramp, parallel to the street, also leads to the porch. The walls and ceiling of the porch are wood-paneled and painted a dark red. The ceiling, in cross-section, is a Gothic, pointed arch. Inside the porch, a pair of built-in, inglenook-type benches flank the main entry. The entrance into the library is defined by a massive, wooden, pointed arch that echoes the broad pointed arch at the entrance to the porch. The wooden arch surrounds a three-part, pointed-arch transom, as well as sidelights that flank the main door. Glazing in the transom and sidelights is leaded glass set in a lozenge and diamond pattern, not uncommon at this late 19th-century date. The painted wood framework consists of an outer molded frame and narrow pilasters at each side of the wood panel door. There are deeply recessed wood panels beneath the sidelights, providing a base for what is almost a glass wall. The single-leaf, center-entry door is composed of two square, recessed panels over one large rectangular panel, a pattern that is repeated on the interior doors (Photo 13).

The one-room, 1950s addition to the library extends from the rear of the main block's south elevation, and is deeply set back from the plane of its façade. The addition, a children's reading room, is distinguished from the main block by its low, shed-roofed form. Set into the slope of a hill, the addition, which has a basement, is exposed on the south and east elevations for a two-story height (Photo 3). On its façade (west elevation) is a band of 6/1 windows; on the east is a single window with six-light sash at the main-floor level, and two basement hopper windows with three-light glazing. The wing is matched to the original section of the library by the use of the same local fieldstones and a similar mortar. The addition does not cover any windows in the main block, allowing the southern light to enter the main library room (Photo 2).

Interior

On the interior, the main block of the library has been divided into three rooms. There is the main, large space, and two small rooms at each side of the entry, lit by the single windows flanking the entry (Photo 6). The main room has wood floors, varnished on the southern half of the room where the public enters, and painted on the northern half of the room where the stacks are located. Book shelving, about six feet high, is built in on the north and east walls of the room. It is about four feet high on the south elevation. Books are also on three metal-and-wood shelves arranged within the northern

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half of the room. Above the bookshelves on the walls, which have been covered with a tongue-and-groove fiber wallboard, are paintings of local scenes and a small plaque on the east wall reading "Mercy Anderson First Librarian 1891-1916." The wood stove, whose chimney rises on the east elevation, has been removed and its vent hole closed off. The south half of the main room is occupied by a librarian's desk and equipment, with bookshelves on the south wall. The room is lit by several suspended, fluorescent fixtures below an acoustical-tiled ceiling. There is a single ceiling fan in the room.

As described above, there are two small rooms at each side of the entry (Photos 4 and 5). On the south side, the space currently serves as a storage room; on the north, it serves as a bathroom. Wall and ceiling finishes of tin suggest the original finishes for the entire library interior.

Leading off of the main room at its southeast corner is an opening into the addition—the children's reading room (Photo 8). This room has a linoleum floor, tongue-and-groove fiber wallboard on its walls, varnished door and window surrounds, and an acoustical-tile ceiling from which are suspended two fluorescent light fixtures. Shelving lines the walls on three sides of the room. On the south wall is a window opening, filled with glass blocks set into a wooden frame. A small niche on the south wall contains comfortable seating for children.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the library property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may exist. Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria that favor the presence of ancient sites. The library is located on a small, well-drained, level to moderately sloping lot, in close proximity to wetlands. In general, however, the potential for locating significant archaeological resources on the property is low. Any potential ancient Native American resources that may have been present were likely destroyed by construction of the library, and any barns, stables, or outbuildings constructed on the property.

A high potential exists for locating significant historic archaeological resources on the Shelburne Free Public Library property. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate barns, stables, and outbuildings located on the property and related to library operation and maintenance. Construction features may also exist in the area surrounding the library and other structures.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Period of Significance

1898-1966

Significant Dates

1898 – construction

1952 – library addition

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

George Burnham, builder

John Wesley Riddell, builder

Allen Walker, John Burnham (1952 addition)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with construction of the library and ends at the 50-year cutoff for significance: 1898 to 1966. Because the addition to the library was built during the period of significance, it has achieved its own significance.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Shelburne Free Public Library fulfils National Register criteria A and C. It is locally significant and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanships, feeling, and association.

Meeting Criterion A, the library is significant for its 115 years of continuous operation as an educational institution, in the town of Shelburne, Massachusetts. Following from that fact, the library’s formation was a part of the 19th and 20th centuries’ movement to make books and ongoing education available to people, first, through private circulating libraries whose members paid fees to borrow books, and then, through public libraries supported by their towns and open to all residents without charge. The Shelburne Center library is significant as an outgrowth of the former, and an example of the latter. During its long history the library has been part of other educational movements of the 20th century, one of which was to spread the availability of books to a larger crosssection of the population by delivering them into the schools and into the community. As part of that movement, Shelburne Center librarians expanded readership by welcoming children into the library public through activities and reading programs. The Shelburne Free Public Library is also representative of small-town libraries throughout the country that responded to developments in media by introducing newspapers, magazines, and film to their offerings, while continuing to introduce public speakers and their programs into village life. On an institutional level, then, the library was part of a national movement in which libraries evolved from village book repositories into community educational centers.

Meeting Criterion C, the library is significant for its architecture. It is an outstanding example of the ingenuity of rural communities to accomplish construction of an important building in a current architectural style when professional help was unattainable. It was designed and built with the utmost of economy by residents using the most readily available material—stones that were taken from local fields, local streambeds, and local walls. Using freely available materials the builder adapted the fieldstones to a style in which they were rarely used, the Late Gothic Revival, expanding them from their common use as foundation materials to use in the entire building. The resulting building, the Shelburne Free Public Library, is a fine example of the Late Gothic Revival style, being made particularly picturesque by its polychromatic materials, generous use of leaded glass, and Gothic forms such as the engaged buttresses, pointed arches, and steeply pitched parapet walls. The Late Gothic Revival is also known as High Victorian Gothic, so named as it was a second phase of interest in Gothic architecture that took place in urban areas in the 1870s, but occasionally appeared in rural areas into the subsequent decades, as it did here in 1898. The Shelburne Free Public Library is the only building in town in this particular style, rendered in fieldstone.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
EDUCATION

Shelburne Free Public Library was the first dedicated, town-owned library building in the town of Shelburne. Construction of the library in Shelburne Center maintained the village’s role as an institutional center along with the First Congregational Church, when the village of Shelburne Falls was becoming the town’s industrial and commercial center. Presence of the library helped maintain the center’s viability as a village, which continues to the present.

The library’s institutional strength was founded on its collection, which has served for more than a century as an educational resource for the community. As an educational institution, the library was notable at the time of its founding in 1892 for the broad range of literature it contained, for the book selection process that required all library trustees to read and review books for the collection, and for their selection to be made by a vote of the entire board. Over time, a broad-

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minded and well-informed group of trustees consciously developed the library's collection in reference to needs in school, church, and in the homes of its residents in a changing society.

ARCHITECTURE

The Shelburne Free Public Library is a unique building in the town of Shelburne for its construction in fieldstones collected from local fields (Photo Nos. 1-4). Furthermore, the fieldstones with brownstone trim were so used that they expressed a recognizable historic revival style: the Late Gothic Revival. This accomplishment of Shelburne's carpenters and farmers, without the guidance of an architect, represents the community's understanding of the role of architecture to express its values: a well-designed Late Gothic Revival building in stone, albeit fieldstone, was meant to last with distinction as a center of education.

In fact, after the Mohawk Trail was established in 1914, the library became a tourist destination, a site to see in a quick turn off the trail. It was noted for both its materials and design in Mohawk Trail advertisements, and by word-of-mouth. The Shelburne Falls newspaper reported on the interest it drew.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The town of Shelburne had been in existence for over a century when the Shelburne Free Public Library was established.

Settlement

Originally set out in a grant of 1712 as Deerfield's Northwest Pasture, Shelburne was set off as a district in 1768. Its settlement had begun in the 1750s near Shelburne Falls, but was later abandoned. When it was taken up again in the 1760s, several families returned to the Falls, but a larger number settled just north of what today is Shelburne Center, on an ample plateau on Village Hill, one of the many hills in this section of Franklin County. The original settlement was on a Native American footpath that connected the Connecticut Valley with the Mohawk River Valley in New York. During the 17th century the pathway had been a route between western hunting lands and the Connecticut River. To mid 18th-century settlers it became the only usable route into new territory, having been improved in 1753 into a cartway for oxen-drawn wagons.

After a critical number of settlers had arrived on Shelburne's Village Hill, they built their first meetinghouse ca. 1769 there, establishing it as the settlement's civic center. It was an agricultural community served by the nearby roadway (now known as MA Route 2, or the Mohawk Trail) and by new connector roads to the north and south. It is safe to assume that there were few books to be had among the settler families, but that religious books were probably the most prevalent.

Rise of Shelburne Falls

Shelburne's population rose notably after the Revolutionary War, and then stabilized at around 995 people for several decades. As the 18th century ended and the 19th began, the civic and religious center of Shelburne remained on Village Hill, while industry began to develop in the secondary village at Shelburne Falls on the Deerfield River. Between 1820 and 1870, Shelburne Falls became the more actively growing village in town, with waterpowered industry on the river and commerce to support it. In 1833, Franklin Academy was founded at the Falls as a high school, and new church societies were formed and met there as well, though they did have independent church buildings. Meanwhile, the locus of Shelburne Center moved south from Village Hill to its current location straddling the Mohawk Trail. This shift was the result of the First Congregational Church moving its congregation to a new building on the roadway in 1845. Although the Congregational Church continued to draw its members from both villages, after the official separation of church and state in Massachusetts it no longer served as Shelburne's town government center, and the town's civic functions gradually moved to Shelburne Falls.

The town's growing population is sure to have brought more books into the community, but until the mid 19th century there was no formal means of obtaining books and passing them on to others; more likely, books were distributed from friend to friend from personal libraries. Public recognition of the advantages of a lending library, and the money to establish one, converged in Shelburne in the 1850s. The first organization for book lending was begun in 1854, when the

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Arms Library, a circulating library society, was founded at the Falls by one of its prosperous citizens, Major Ira Arms, as the town's first free library, moving from one building to another as it grew. Major Arms, joined by Mr. and Mrs. Francis R. Pratt, supported the library financially so that lending could be free and new books could be added to the collection.

At about the same time the Arms Library was formed in 1854, two residents of Shelburne Center, Captains William and Walter Wells, formed a cooperative book-lending association in one of their homes in the 1850s. There was a three-dollar annual fee-for-lending library, which might have made it less attractive than the free Arms Library's circulating books, but the Wellses had gathered a formidable collection of 2,000 books, including many books of fiction, among them the works of Charles Dickens, Sir Walter Scott, and the poetry of William Wordsworth. In the 1850s, a library collection that included novels was highly unusual. More commonly, library lists of that period are heavy with religious treatises and published sermons, with popular books on geography, travel, and science. The center's book-lending association was a strong asset to the village.

Shelburne Falls continued to grow, with the addition of a fire department to protect the concentrated population of 1,582 there in 1870. Following the Arms Library, the Arms Academy was built in the Falls in 1889, and a new church, Trinity Church, was built in 1884. As a civic and educational center, Shelburne Center had been eclipsed by the Falls in the 1880s. This decade was also the peak for the town's population, with 1,621 residents in 1880. Reflecting both the increase in population and its concentration at the Falls, in 1897 a new town hall was constructed there, where it was convenient to the largest number of residents.

Although they had access to the Arms Library at the Falls, and to the lending association books, residents of the center by 1890 began to advocate for their own permanent, town-owned library. The first warrant taken to town meeting to build a library was in 1892. Even though it took a few more years to pass, the town was behind the effort, and in 1894 an Author's List of Books, Shelburne Free Public Library was published, suggesting that development of a library collection had already begun. One of the principal supporters for a Shelburne Center library was resident Mercy Anderson who, as *de facto* librarian, began selecting books for the future library as early as 1891. The Andersons were a farming family who had lived in Shelburne Center for several generations. Mercy and her sisters, Martha and Susan, were educated young women who attended Mount Holyoke College where their papers, covering from 1868 to 1933, are now collected. It is possible that some of the books had been inherited from the Wellses' book-lending association, which we know held books of the listed authors. Among the authors listed in 1894 were: Louisa May Alcott, Hans Christian Anderson, Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Rev. Phillips Brooks, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning, Robert Burns, George Gordon, Lord Byron, Thomas Carlyle, Daniel Defoe, Charles Dickens, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Victor Hugo, George Eliot, Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Thackeray, and Jules Verne. This was a collection strong in American and British literature, but as the rest of the list indicates, it was balanced by holdings in geography and travel accounts, abolitionist, popular science, and religious works.

Formal organization came in 1896, when a board of officers with six trustees, a chairman, secretary, treasurer, and librarian was established. During the first few years both men and women served as trustees, but within a few years it was a women-led institution, and continued as such. Mercy Anderson was voted as the first librarian, and in 1896 set to putting the library together temporarily in the Ladies' dressing room in the Vestry Building (now gone) on Route 2, next to the Congregational Church. She had two cupboards to hold books and a small woodstove for heat in the winter. The library, thus formed, was open three days a week, and in the following year, 1897, townspeople voted to pay her \$25 a year for her work. They also voted \$2,000 to construct the new library building. In the meantime, all the board of library officers took part in selecting books, rather than giving that task solely to the librarian. Each officer had to read books and to personally recommend or reject them for the collection, which resulted in a collection of broad, well-considered interests. With a \$50 annual appropriation from the town, they began buying books several times a year from the publishing house DeWolf, Fiske and Company.

In 1898, Shelburne resident Rufus Dinsmore sold the town a plot of land in the center for \$50, and the library building was constructed. Town histories tell that farmers from around the center brought in stones from their fields and streams. Only once, in the minutes of the library's board of trustees, is it mentioned that stone walls were also used for the

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building, but as that was frequently the practice for road building, it is credible that farmers who knew that stones would continue to surface every spring would consider it expedient to use stones from their stone walls for the library. Directing the building effort was George Burnham, a 33-year-old single man who had been born and lived in nearby Greenfield, and spent his early adult years as a farmer. A carpenter by trade in the 1890s, he was assisted by John Wesley Riddell of Shelburne, who listed himself in the 1880 census as a farmer, but by 1900 as a carpenter and contractor. Although there were accomplished stonemasons in Shelburne, there is no mention of any of them working on the building. Rather, the minutes of the library's board of trustees record that it was George Burnham who originated the idea of a fieldstone building, as a result of having begun in 1884 to collect stones on his employer Deacon William Peck's farm fields. Rather than turn the annual collection into stone walls, he piled up the fieldstones for future use. When the library was to be built, he saw their potential, and with the help of local teamsters brought the more than ten years' worth of collected stones to the library site. One stone stood out as unusual among them, a large round stone, and it was set at the apex of the façade wall. The completed new building had cabinets for books, but no source of either heat or light beyond daylight.

The Library as Repository, 1898-1920s

Minutes of the library trustees exist from 1896, and though they were minimal until the 1930s, they track changes to the building and its relatively smooth operations. The first two actions of note for 1898 were to reduce Mercy Anderson's salary to \$20 from her original \$25 a year, and to institute fines for overdue books. The following year's accounts were in better shape so that Mercy's salary returned to \$25, where it was to remain for the next five years. The trustees also voted to spend money for new curtains for the building. Library hours were expanded in 1901 to a seven-month stretch of two hours on Thursdays and Saturdays, followed by five months of 1½ hours on those two days. A janitor was brought in for \$6 a year in 1904, and Ms. Anderson was to get \$40 a year. Screens for windows and the front door were purchased.

The library trustees bought 40 to 70 books each year, and in several years' minutes the books were identified, perhaps as they were large purchases. A complete set of Charles Dickens' works was added in 1910, and a set of Walter Scott in 1912. It was not until 1912 that the town voted to buy "a much-needed wood stove" for the library. Short hours meant that there was not much time for browsing in the collection, so in 1913 one of the trustees, F. Alvord, was asked to print a catalogue of the books in the library for people to keep in their homes. By 1915 the issue of rebinding older books came up, and from then on, it was one of the duties of the trustees to rebind and repair books throughout the year. Evening hours were voted down that year, too, as the danger of lighting the library by kerosene was too high.

The year 1916 was eventful. First of all, after twenty years, Mercy Anderson resigned as librarian at age 68, and Carrie Dinsmore, whose husband Rufus sold the town the library's lot, was appointed in her place. Some lighting, likely electric, was installed in the library that year, as it was henceforth open on Saturday evenings until 9 pm. The library responded to World War I in 1917 by collecting money for books to send to soldiers.

The first indication of an expansion of the library's functions as a holding place for books was in the early 1920s. In 1921 the library accepted the gift of an oil painting of Darwin Barnard by Ira Barnard, and took in the personal library and correspondence of missionary Fidelia Fiske of Shelburne. The board of trustees chiefly focused on buying books and caring for the building. Twenty-two years after construction, work on its façade was needed, presumably repointing. It turned into a "re-finishing" of the west façade in 1923, when glass in an undisclosed location was also replaced. The trustees' minutes show that as a group they had minimal interest in preserving the history of work on the building. Minutes of 1923 failed to identify what refinishing went on, but they did dutifully report the purchase of a dustpan in 1923 and a stepladder in 1927. It appears from the 1926 minutes that woodwork in the porch was "finished" by Mr. King that year.

Regional town libraries worked together at the time to improve services, and cooperation among regional town libraries is suggested when, in 1927, it was voted to send duplicate copies of books in the collection to the town of Heath. Clearly, the collection was growing, so in 1927, a Miss Jones was paid to prepare a new catalogue of the library's holdings. There were changes in personnel that year, when Harriet Davis in 1927 replaced Carrie Dinsmore as librarian. It is interesting to note that in none of the censuses did either Mercy Anderson or Carrie Dinsmore list herself as working as a librarian, though both were paid for their work. The selection of local women to run the library as trustees and as librarians

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continued. Harriet Davis, the youngest librarian at age 18, worked for two years, then resigned. She was replaced by 39-year-old Hattie Fiske, the first woman to identify herself as a librarian in a census; her salary rose to \$125 in 1930. Unlike college-educated Mercy Anderson, Hattie and the two previous librarians had not gone beyond the eighth grade in their formal education.

Library as Repository and Cultural Institution, 1930-1949

Beginning in the 1930s, the library trustees began to record an interest in children's literature, and in 1931 they voted to join the Children's Book Club of America and the Junior Book Guild for a three-month's trial. The two organizations provided book reviews and services to develop a children's book collection. A request from a trustee to include more books on the period of adolescence was passed over at this time. Awareness of the potential for the library to extend its role in the community by recording history began in 1930, when a scrapbook was begun to track town history. Also, a 1934 request by the state to publicize the work of the Commonwealth's libraries was met by the trustees with their proposal to write the history of the library and publish it in the local newspaper. They asked Mrs. Bardwell, a trustee, to undertake the task, which she accomplished in 1935.

In 1937 Hattie Fiske resigned as librarian, and Eleanor Williams, who was a high school graduate and mother of four, was selected to replace her. Williams' early tenure coincided with lean budget years for the library but she responded ably. One of her actions was to look to the Arms Library to get books they were not using, and which the Center Library could not afford. The trustees also put off buying some books, such as "Roosevelt's books," and borrowed books from other libraries to read before deciding whether to buy them or not. Then, in 1938, a discovery in the library brought a shift in the library's fortunes. Robert Bardwell Williams, the son of Eleanor Williams, was working as janitor in the library and pulled out the Fidelia Fiske collection of correspondence and while browsing through it recognized a rare stamp on a letter to Fiske from a fellow missionary in Hawaii. Fiske had been an 1842 graduate of Mount Holyoke, and after teaching a year in Shelburne went to Persia as a missionary, from 1843 to 1858. She came home in poor health, but was able to teach religion at Mount Holyoke College until her death in 1864. The stamp Williams recognized was known as the "Hawaiian Missionary Stamp," a rare find that, when sold, brought the town \$55,000, which it turned back to the library. With its stamp profits, the library trustees began renovation work on the library, which appears to have consisted of the 1940 purchase and installation of an oil storage tank in one of the library's small rooms.

Robert Williams, soon after his discovery, enlisted in the Air Force and became the only soldier from Shelburne to lose his life during World War II.

During the 1940s the library, under Mrs. Williams' guidance, began a community outreach to bring the institution into greater use in the community. In 1941 she put on a tea for local teachers to see how the library could cooperate with them on their book report assignments. Hours were extended to Sundays from noon to 1:30, so there was more opportunity for working people and students to use the library. In 1944 she oversaw the addition of a Junior Department, with 47 nonfiction and 72 fiction books for young people. The adult collection in 1944 had 126 fiction titles and 68 books of nonfiction. Talk began in 1945 of the need for an addition to the library, and that an addition would require more land, as the original lot was so very small. Shelburne Center was proud of its book collection, which may have continued to be stronger than nearby libraries, so in 1948 when a federation of regional libraries under the leadership of Archibald MacLeish, the Librarian of Congress and western Massachusetts resident, asked the two Shelburne libraries to join, Arms Library agreed, but Shelburne Center's library rejected the offer, preferring to maintain its independence in choosing books.

Work on the library building in the 1940s aimed to make it more comfortable, and to maintain its condition. Heat was the largest issue to be tackled. First, a new oil-burning stove was approved with greater heating capacity than its predecessor, and second, it was decided to insulate the interior of the building. It would have been at this time that the tin-covered walls and ceilings of the main room were covered (or replaced) by the fiberboard walls and dropped acoustical ceilings, and the floors were refinished. Soon the library was heated five days a week during the winter rather than the two to three heating days previously provided, but the oil stove was still inadequate.

Shelburne Free Public Library
Name of Property

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Library as Community Center, 1950-1965

During the 1950s Eleanor Williams, with trustee support, suggested a new history of Shelburne be written, and asked for the library to play a larger role in preserving town history by collecting documents. She began the showing of films in the library. In 1950, she addressed the library's two principal physical problems by offering a donation of \$5,000 in memory of her son, Robert Williams, for construction of an addition to the library. Her sister added another \$2,000 to the fund. An addition would be used for children, providing more space for the balance of collection, and it would offer the opportunity to install a furnace that could heat the building adequately. It would, finally, bring the community into the library more often, with space available for organization meetings. After making the donation, Ms. Williams resigned as librarian, and Mrs. Mary Dole took on the position. Mary Dole took the library fully in the direction begun by Eleanor Williams, actively reaching out to schoolchildren by putting books in the schools that were considered character-building, by offering summer reading programs and prizes for every five books read, and by working with the churches to have books available that reinforced their themes. During the Korean War she worked on the state board of librarians planning for rural libraries. This time, as a move for federation developed, Shelburne Center joined in.

The addition that Eleanor Williams funded began in 1952. Allen Warner of Greenfield made the plans, calling for a fifteen-by-twenty-foot building. He had worked on the original building, and was joined in the design work by John Burnham. Peter Rucci and Sons of Greenfield did the masonry work, which was carefully matched to that of the original building, once again using local fieldstones. Wesley Phillips of Shelburne did the carpentry work. Five years later, Eleanor Williams died, and her memorial service was held in the library. She had been a trustee for twenty years, and librarian for fifteen.

Mary Dole diversified library activities, hosting short plays, put on by children, on the lawn of the library, holding exhibits on flowers, weaponry, and paintings, and introducing films into the repertoire. The library as community center blossomed in the 1950s and the 1960s. The library had grown to a collection of 15,000 books, 10,000 of which circulated. Well into the 1960s Dole continued to attract residents to the library for talks, book reviews, displays, and children's reading programs.

The library continues today, much as it did in the past, with limited hours but with a current collection of newspapers, magazines, movies, and current and classical fiction and nonfiction. A computer tracks the library's holdings; interesting events and programs for children and adults are regularly scheduled. During its hours of operation, there is a steady stream of people coming to borrow, return, meet, exchange news, and introduce the very young to their library.

Preservation Issues

There are no preservation issues of concern for the library if it continues to be maintained as it has been. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places would reinforce the pride Shelburne has for this library and help assure its continued use and preservation. The Arms Library in Shelburne Falls is already listed in the National Register, within the Shelburne Falls Historic District (2010).

Archeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute valuable information related to the settlement history of Shelburne, the operation of the library, and the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the library clientele and residents of the Shelburne Center locale. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute important information related to the individuals and social groups who worked in, and frequented, the library. Identification and careful mapping of barns, stables, and outbuildings associated with the library may contribute information related to 19th-century transportation and the facilities associated with public buildings in Shelburne.

Shelburne Free Public Library
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Federal censuses, 1880-1940. www.ancestry.com

Burnham, Mrs. Walter (comp.). History and Tradition of Shelburne, Massachusetts, Springfield, MA: Pond-Eckberg Company, 1958.

Davenport, Elmer. As You Were Shelburne. Worcester, MA: Worcester, Massachusetts, 1972.

Everts, Louis H. History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, volumes I and II. Philadelphia: 1879.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance Survey Town Report. "Shelburne." Typescript, 1982.

Shelburne Free Public Library. Author's List of Books, Shelburne Free Public Library. Shelburne Falls: J. L. Goldsmith Book and Job Printer, 1894.

Shelburne Free Public Library. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1896-2013, mss.

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): SHL.39

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>689652</u>	<u>4717766</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Lat/Lon: 42.589010, -72.688613 (WGS84)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Please see attached assessor's map.

Shelburne Free Public Library
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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The lot lines of the property were chosen as the boundaries of the nominated property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie Parsons, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May, 2016
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617 727-8470
city or town Boston State MA zip code 02125
e-mail betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

Additional Documentation

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:

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: Shelburne Free Public Library
City or Vicinity: Shelburne
County: Franklin State: MA
Photographer: Bonnie Parsons, Chris Skelly
Date Photographed: August 2014 (Parsons, nos. 1-8); 2016 (Skelly, nos. 9-13)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1, View to Southeast
- 2, View to northeast, showing addition
- 3, View to west, showing east elevation of wing and main block
- 4, Interior: view of room at northwest corner of main block
- 5, Interior: view of room in southwest corner of main block
- 6, Interior: view to northeast of main reading room
- 7, Interior: main reading room stacks, view to north
- 8, Interior view of wing

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- 9. Addition, view to northwest
- 10. Library sign, facing southeast
- 11. Detail, front façade, facing east
- 12. Main block and addition, facing northeast
- 13. Detail, main entrance, facing east

Property Owner:

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

name Town of Shelburne
street & number 51 Bridge Street telephone 413-625-0300
city or town Shelburne Falls state MA zip code 01370

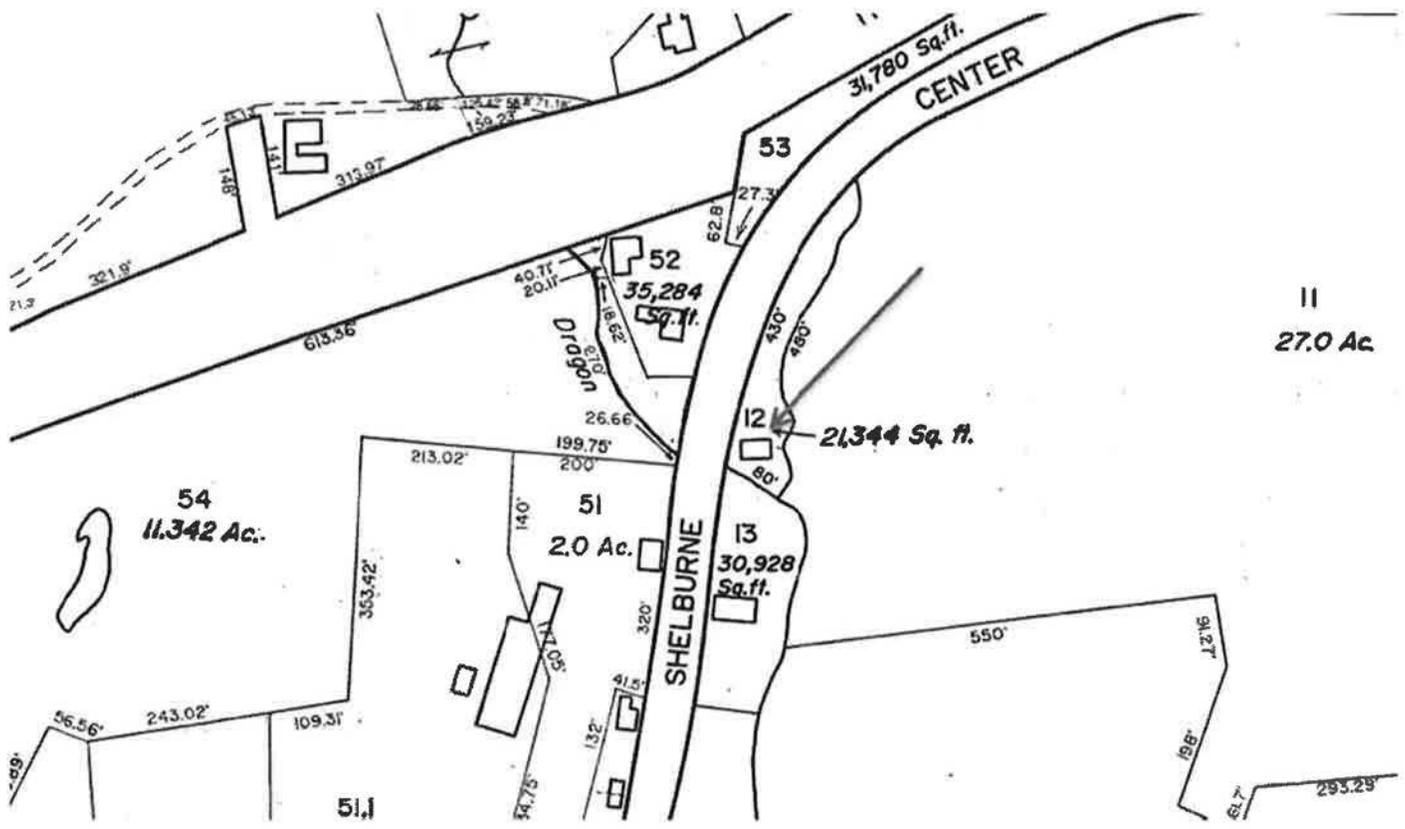
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

Shelburne Free Public Library
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Assessor's Map Excerpt











 **BAKER & TAYLOR**
Information and Entertainment Services







FICTION

F-10

M-1

F-11

F-12

F-13

F-14

F-15

F-16


Ice Cream
Sundae Party!
Saturday, Sept. 28
at 10:00
Event includes the
serving of ice, and
free pizza and drinks

C-F

FICTION

F-H

H-L

L-M





Dig Into Reading

NON-FICTION
705-1400

FICTION
W-Z

BOOKS
A-C

READ
BLADES

FICTION
C-M

FICTION
A-C

Dig Into
READING!



SHELBURNE
FREE
PUBLIC LIBRARY





8 PUBLIC LIBRARY 90



PUBLIC LIBRARY

108



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Shelburne Free Public Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/27/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/12/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000453

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.18.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Shelburne Free Public Library

233 Shelburne Center Rd.

Shelburne, MA 01370

Sept. 14, 2013

Dear Beth,

The Board of Trustees of the Shelburne Free Public Library is in full support of your efforts to obtain an honorary listing for the library on the National Register of Historic Places, in relation to your Scenic Byways grant.

On their behalf, I am sending this letter of support. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Burnham
Elizabeth Burnham

Library Director



RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 3 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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

May 24, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Shelburne Free Public Library, 233 Shelburne Center Rd., Shelburne (Franklin), 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.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Current Chair, Shelburne Historical Commission
Bonnie Parsons, consultant
Elizabeth Antaya, Director, Shelburne Free Public Library
Elizabeth Giannini, Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Richard Manners, Shelburne Board of Selectmen
John Wheeler, Shelburne Planning Board
Terry Narkewicz, Town Administrator