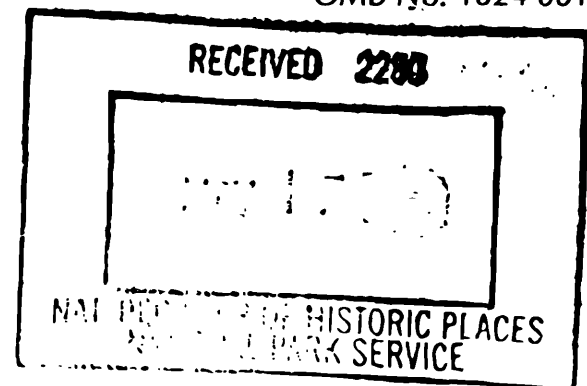


690

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name The Libby Museum

other names/site number N/A

#### 2. Location

street & number Route 109N and Corner of Lang Pond Road NA not for publication

city or town Wolfeboro NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Carroll code 003 zip code 03894

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Nancy C. Muller 4/30/98  
Signature of certifying official Date

New Hampshire  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper *Robert Savage* Date of Action 6/29/98

**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	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

Recreation/Culture

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

Recreation/Culture

**7. Description**

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

No style

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Asphalt

walls Stucco

other Wood

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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The Libby Museum  
Carroll County, Wolfeboro, NH

**DESCRIPTION**

The Libby Museum is a single story, approximately 120' x 40', building located on Route 109 at Winter Harbor on Lake Winnepesaukee in Wolfeboro, NH. It was constructed in 1912 by the Doe construction company of Wolfeboro. It was designed by Dr. Henry Libby with consultation from the Doe Co. and an architect from Boston, MA by the name of C. Howard Walker. The building sits on a 1.42 acre parcel of land on what is historically known as College Road (Route 109) at the corner of Lang Pond Road.

The foundation of the Libby Museum is of cement and rises to about 4 feet above the ground on the west side. The outside walls are of 8" x 8" vertical posts, the walls being covered with stucco and rising to the height of the roof line approximately 20 feet above ground level. There are 6'6" x 4'4" single pane windows, or translucent glass, on all four sides which are placed on their long axis. There are a total of 30 of these windows with 10 on the front, 12 on the back, and 4 on each of the sides. There is a one-bay portico on the (south) façade which covers the main entrance to the building. The gable portico is supported by cement slab 24' wide by 12' deep. It supports a gable on vertical posts.

The hip roof (once sheathed in Spanish tile) has a covering of asphalt shingles. The roof is supported by 4" x 4" rafters which have additional 4" x 4" struts at each 8" x 8" posts in the north and south walls. There are no interior posts but each post on the two long sides of the building are connected to each other by steel cables.

The interior consists of one large room with a suspended ceiling 20' above the hardwood floor. The inside walls are of plaster.

One ingenious feature of this building is an air circulation system which starts in the foundation of the south wall continues under the floor and across to the north wall. Here there are exits inside the museum below the window line which are hidden to the casual observer. There are four openings at ground level in the foundation at the south (front) of the building. Air enters these 50" x 18" openings to exit, as previously described, cooling the building.

Also on the property, just behind the museum is a small wooden storage shed, with asphalt roofing, which was constructed in 1990.

**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 significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

**Period of Significance**

1912 -1948

**Significant Dates**

1912

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

C. Howard Walker, Architect

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Wolfeboro Public Library, Wolfeboro, NH

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property 1.42

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>19</u>	<u>317720</u>	<u>4831300</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Phillip H. Decelle/President  
Christine E. Fonda\*

Organization Friends of the Libby date March 1998  
NH Division of Historical Resources\*

street & number Box 214, 5 Percy Drive telephone (603) 569-1060  
Box 2043\* (603) 271-6437\*

city or town Wolfeboro Falls state NH zip code 03896  
Concord\* NH\* -03301\*

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****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.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Town of Wolfeboro

street & number 84 South Main Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Wolfeboro state NH zip code 03894

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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The Libby Museum  
Carroll County, Wolfeboro, NH

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Libby Museum is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for significance in education. It is the only example of a locally-founded and operated New Hampshire museum devoted exclusively to the natural history of the region. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period 1912-1948, its date of construction to the 50-year cut-off.

The Libby, as it is called, is a museum of natural history with emphasis on the flora and fauna of New Hampshire. It contains collections and/or specimens of native animals, plants, minerals, fish, and birds. It attracts thousands of visitors (between 4,500 and 5,000 in 1997) and also provides educational experiences to hundreds of youngsters in the summer and to school groups in the spring and fall. It has provided, with some minor exceptions, these types of services since its opening in 1912.

Dr. Libby began planning for this museum in 1890, having collected and mounted a wide variety of specimens. He conceived the idea of a museum when his collection outgrew his space in which to house it. His dream was realized in 1912, by which time he had retired to devote himself to this endeavor. He perceived the museum thus:

*"A museum of natural history should be a place to study, but if the specimens are not studied, it should be a place to flash before the eyes certain awakening influences, a spot where the mystery and drama of life, up from the lost ages, may somehow make its appeal to the imagination and from imagination to curious investigation."*

Dr. Libby maintained this purpose for the 21 years he lived after the completion of the museum. He passed away in 1933 leaving the museum to family members with the proviso that they maintain it in his vision. He provided that if it was not maintained according to the terms of his will, the museum would go to the town of Wolfeboro. This occurred on August 7, 1956, when the Probate Court of Carroll County declared the Selectmen of Wolfeboro to be the Libby Museum's trustees.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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The Libby Museum  
Carroll County, Wolfeboro, NH

**LIBBY MUSEUM - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

The Libby Museum exemplifies a tradition beginning in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, "The Age Of Reason", and reaching its high point during the 19<sup>th</sup> century's Victorian Era. It was believed that all knowledge was knowable, and that if one could understand the laws of nature, one could understand everything. Athenaeums and lyceums began to be established around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in response to these beliefs. These institutions, like earlier royal "cabinets", collected in the fields of natural history, art, and literature; but unlike the earlier "cabinets", the new athenaeums and lyceums were committed to popular education. During the Victorian period, schools, museums, and libraries were constituted on a much greater scale through the largesse of wealthy benefactors. Creation of these "popular" institutions was inspired by the desire to make knowledge available to people from all walks of life.

In New Hampshire, this movement resulted in the establishment of a number of institutions that were devoted to collecting in all fields of knowledge. Both the Portsmouth Athenaeum (founded 1817) and the New Hampshire Historical Society (founded in 1823) originally had substantial natural history collections, but both institutions evolved to place almost complete emphasis on books, manuscripts, and collections of fine and decorative arts. The New Hampshire Antiquarian Society in Hopkinton (founded in 1859 and incorporated in 1875) and the Woodman Institute in Dover (founded in 1915) also were established to collect in wide-ranging fields of natural history, science, art, and literature. Both retain their natural history collections and also maintain collections in a variety of other categories, whereas the Libby is unique in New Hampshire in being exclusively a natural history museum.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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The Libby Museum  
Carroll County, Wolfeboro, NH

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bowers, David, Q. The History of Wolfeboro NH 1880-1994. Vols. I, II, and III. Wolfeboro Historical Society. Wolfeboro, N.H. 1996.

The Granite State News. 1890-1997.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Plan book 132/pg. 2 Carroll County Registry of Deeds: Wolfeboro Tax Map7, Block 1 Lot 19 and Wolfeboro Tax Map 7, Block 1 Lot 12. Boundaries are indicated on the attached sketch map.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**


The nominated property consists of the lot upon which the Libby was constructed in 1912.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

 CONTRIBUTING BLDG. - THE LIBBY

 NON-CONT. - STORAGE SHED

 PARKING LOT - GRAVEL

 BOUNDARIES {1.42 ACRES}

--- LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE

