

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY - 8 1984

date entered JUN 7 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hills Memorial Library

and/or common ✓ Hills Memorial Library (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 16 Library Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hudson N/A vicinity of congressional district

state N.H. code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Public Library

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of Hills Memorial Library

street & number 18 Library Street

city, town Hudson N/A vicinity of state New Hampshire 03051

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsboro County Registry of Deeds/Hillsboro County Courthouse

street & number PO Box 370, Temple Street

city, town Nashua state New Hampshire 03060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date _____ N/A _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hills Memorial Library is a 1½ story building with a cross-shaped plan. Its slightly battered walls are built of uncoursed fieldstones taken from the nearby "Tarbell lot" on the Reuben Spaulding farm; these stones were chosen to emphasize the rounded shapes typical of the glacial boulders of the New Hampshire landscape. The gable roof of the building is covered with Spanish clay tiles.

The level of the first floor is seven feet above grade, affording a high and well-lighted basement. The windows of the basement and of the main floor are spanned by flat or pointed arches which use flat-sided fieldstones as voussoirs.

The main axis of the building, extending north and south, is intersected by a slightly higher transverse block which provides a porch at the front (west) and a semicircular projection at the rear of the library. The entrance porch is supported on a solid fieldstone basement with side doors leading to the cellar. From the porch floor rise four fieldstone piers (the corner piers strengthened by diagonal buttresses) which support the second story and roof of the porch. The second story, sheltered beneath the roof of the porch, provides a gallery overlooking the reading room of the library. This story is treated on the exterior with cypress half timbering and is lighted by three twelve-light casement sashes, separated by mullions. The studding of the half-timbering bears incised decoration, and the verge boards are decorated with incising and have slightly undulating lower edges. On each side of the porch, the main block of the building has walls pierced by a single basement window and, directly above, by a large window with two twelve-light casement sashes and two six-light transom sashes.

Each end (north and south) elevation has a single wide basement window with a flat-arched opening and with four nine-light sashes. Directly above these are large windows lighting the first floor; these have four fifteen-light casement sashes separated by mullions and, above these, transom sashes also separated by mullions. Each end elevation has projecting barge board supported by lookout rafters and having a wooden pinnacle at their peak.

The rear (east) elevation of the library is dominated by the semicircular projection of the transverse block which crosses the main axis of the building. At the center of this projecting bay is a large fieldstone chimney with granite wash courses; the intersection of this chimney, with the conical roof of the bay is filled by a cricket. On each side of the chimney, lighting an alcove within, is a wide window with three twelve-light casement sashes and with three six-light transom sashes above. On each side of the semicircular bay, the walls of the main block are pierced by a single window with two twelve-light casement sashes and two six light transom sashes. Below the southern window in the main block is a door which provides independent access to the basement, accessible by an areaway; below the northern window is a basement window.

The interior of the building is a single large room. The apparent size of the room is enhanced by the fact that the ceiling is open to the roof, which is framed with heavy cypress trusses. The semicircular fireplace alcove is raised one step above the main floor and fitted with perimeter seats. This alcove was intended not only to provide an attractive nook for reading, but also, through a hearth capacious enough for four-foot cordwood to provide sufficient heat for the library during the cool spring and fall months when the steam boiler was not required. The room above the building's porch has a balcony overlooking the main reading area. Intended as a trustees' meeting room, this

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was also meant to provide a quiet reading area and a place where rare books or reference volumes could be shelved. Today this is used as an "Historical Room".

The basement of the library originally served as a small auditorium which could seat about 200 people and was intended for lectures and meetings of the local literary society. The donor of the library and the architect also foresaw the possibility that this room might one day be required as a separate children's library, and this change was made with the help of several local organizations in 1966. The basement beneath the porch has been remodeled into a staff workroom, while the original furnace room has become a kitchen and eating area for staff and a storage area for periodicals.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1909 **Builder/Architect** Hubert G. Ripley of Boston

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hills Memorial Library was dedicated in 1909 as a gift to the town of Hudson by Dr. Alfred K. Hills, a native who had grown wealthy through his medical practice in New York, and by Dr. Hills' mother-in-law. The building was constructed of native materials on a site which had been donated by another local philanthropist as ideal for a public library, being adjacent to the town's largest school and close to the intersection of three electric trolley lines. Electrically lighted, heated by steam, and fireproof, the building was declared to be a "model of its kind" and second in convenience, permanence and design to no other small library in New Hampshire.

The library was given in memory of Dr. Hills' late wife, and incorporated deliberate references to features of "Alvirne," the summer home that the couple had built in Hudson in 1890. The enclosed porch, the semicircular reading alcove with its triple windows, and the fieldstone fireplace and chimney (built from stones brought from "Alvirne") were all suggested by similar features of the Hills summer residence.

The library was designed by Hubert G. Ripley (1869-1942), a native of Melrose, Massachusetts, and an author and artist as well as an architect. Ripley graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1890 and immediately began to work for the Boston architectural firm of Robert D. Andrews, Herbert Jaques, and Augustus N. Rantoul.¹ Ripley soon left for Chicago to join Charles B. Atwood, chief designer for Daniel Burnham on the Columbian Exposition. Returning to Boston after the Exposition, Ripley soon rose to be chief draftsman for the firm of Peabody and Stearns, noted both for their major commissions and for their inventive shingle style dwellings. Ripley was a prominent member of the Boston Society of Architects and at the time of his death was compiling a history of that organization. At the time he designed the library, Ripley was in partnership with Harry Browning Russell (1872-1934), although Ripley was primarily responsible for the library's design.² In his work, Ripley not only followed themes suggested by Hills' residence, but also consulted with the Superintendent of Public Libraries of the State of Massachusetts, who suggested the open plan adopted in the building.³ Ripley became a personal friend of Hills, and immediately after completing the library was commissioned to design the Alvirne Memorial Chapel in Hudson as a further memorial to Hills' wife.⁴

Combining native materials with references to the Tudor style, the library also achieves the home-like quality desired by its donor. The building is a small but important early work of an architect who achieved national recognition through his commissions and his writings and is an excellent example of the type of building which came to characterize philanthropic giving in New Hampshire during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

¹The Boston Directory, 1891.

²Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects

9. Major Bibliographical References

Webster's History of Hudson, NH - 1673 - 1913.

by Kimball Webster, edited by George Waldo Browne - Granite State Publishing Company, Manchester, NH 1913

Clippings from the Nashua Telegraph, Nashua, NH 1909

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .75 acres

Quadrangle name Nashua, North - N.H.

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References

A

1	9	3	0	0	4	6	0	4	7	3	7	4	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is located on the southeast corner of Ferry St. and Liberty St. in Hudson, N.H. The property is .75 acres in size. It is bound on the north by Ferry St., east by the property owned by D.R. Battey, south by the Webster School, west by Liberty St. Boundaries are indicated by

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries yellow highlighting on the attached sketch map (3-10-2)

state	code	county
N/A		

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arlene G. MacIntyre, Clerk - Treasurer

organization Hudson Historical Society, Inc. date Nov. 14, 1983

street & number 18 Ledge Road telephone (603) 882-9522

city or town Hudson state New Hampshire 03051

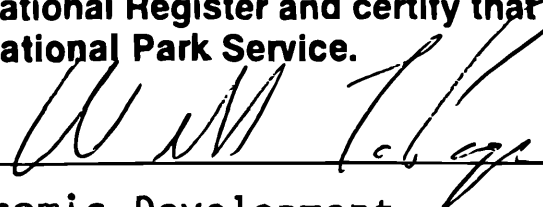
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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



for Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
Deputy New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date MAY 2 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/7/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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(Deceased), facsimile edition. (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), pp. 513, 533.

³Nashua (New Hampshire) Telegraph, June 11, 1909.

⁴Kimball Webster, History of Hudson, N.H. (Manchester, N.H.: Granite State Publishing Company, 1913), pp. 457-472.

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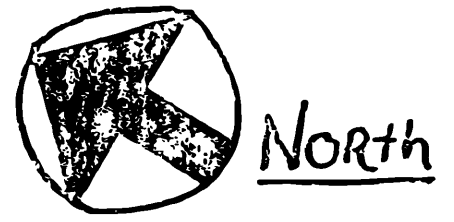
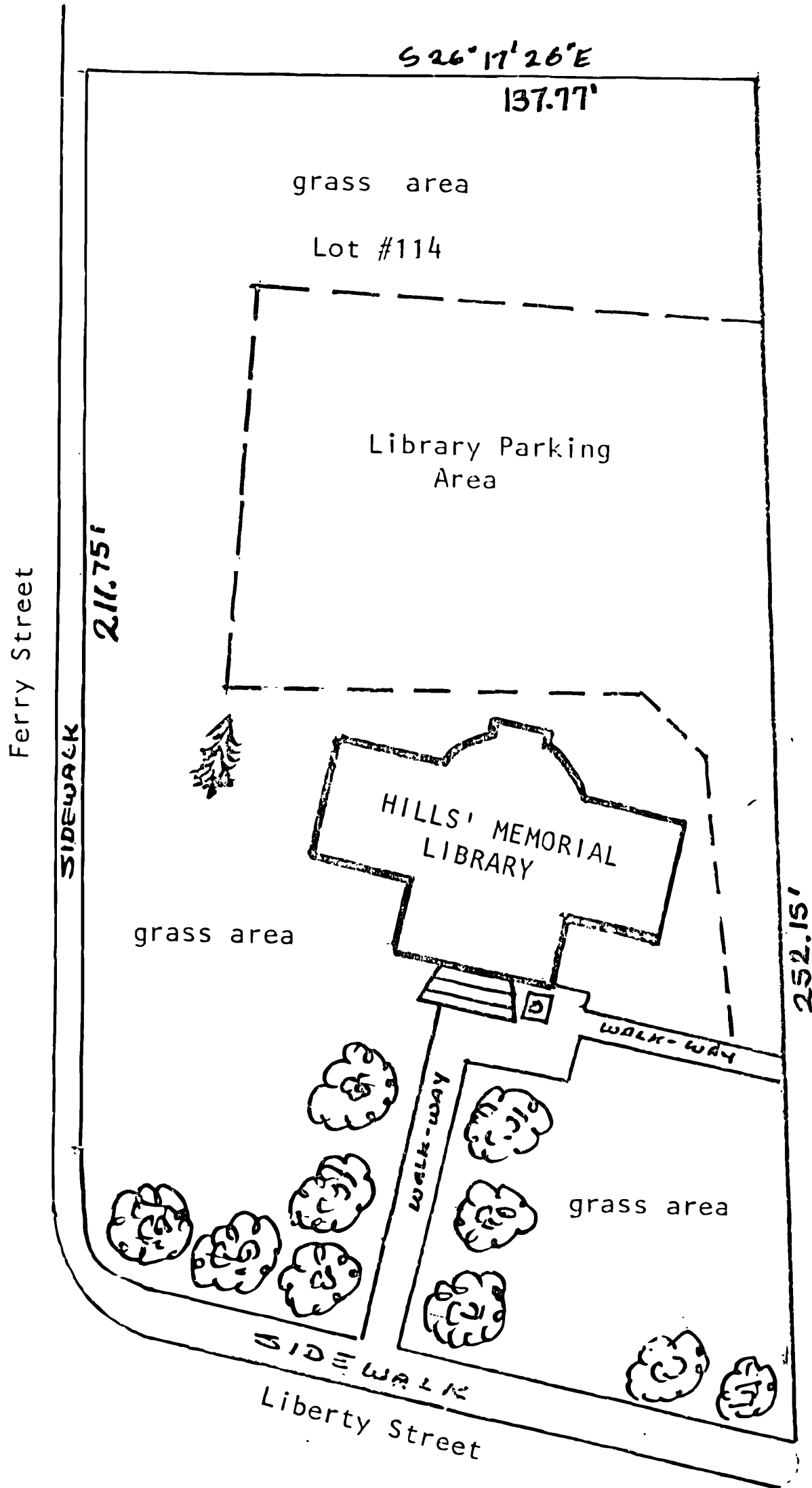
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HILLS' MEMORIAL LIBRARY
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



scale= 1" = 40'

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This certifies that the appearance of the photographs has not changed