

100-1029-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received FEB 14 1985
date entered MAR 14 1985

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

1. Name

historic Kimball Public Library
and/or common Kimball Public Library

2. Location

street & number 67 Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Randolph N/A vicinity of congressional district
state Vermont code 50 county Orange code 017

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Randolph
street & number P.O. Drawer B
city, town Randolph N/A vicinity of state Vermont 05060

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Clerk's Office
street & number 7 Summer Street
city, town Randolph state Vermont 05060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Vt. Historic Sites & Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date Summer, 1980 federal state county local
depository for survey records Vt. Division for Historic Preservation
city, town Montpelier state Vermont

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the fringe of the downtown area of Randolph village, the Kimball Public Library is a 60' x 35', 7 x 5 bay, 1½ story, gable-roofed, brick classically inspired structure trimmed with sandstone. The eaves-front building faces west towards Main Street (Route 12) with the entrance porch recessed behind a wide semi-circular arch centered in the projecting central pavilion on this facade. Matching Palladian windows light the gable ends of the north and south elevations and a large copper dome with iron cresting surmounts the center of the slate roof. The library has a central hall plan and retains most of its original fabric although the original paint scheme has been altered and the stained-glass domed ceiling in the rotunda or delivery hall covered over to retain heat.

The library is 35' from the center line of Main Street and is constructed on land which abruptly slopes down to the southeast, affording a well-lighted basement and ground level access from the rear. The raised basement is faced on the primary (west, north and south) elevations with rock-faced, rusticated granite, that is capped by a wide, molded sandstone watertable. The walls are faced on the three primary facades with red, pressed brick laid in a stretcher bond and joined by thin, tooled joints of red mortar. Sandstone trim highlights these facades. The rear (east) elevation is regular brick laid up in common bond with seven rows of stretchers between each row of alternating headers and stretchers.

The entrance is located on the west facade behind a Romanesque arch centered in the 2½ story projecting central pavilion. The raised basement is lighted by three small, paired, rectangular windows on either side of the central pavilion. Located on the first floor directly above the basement windows, three tall, narrow 1/1 windows with sandstone sills are evenly spaced on each side of the central pavilion. A fixed, square, leaded stained-glass transoms with heraldic design sits atop each of the windows and is capped by a tall flat relieving arch of gauged brick. The first story of the building is 6' above ground level and is reached at the center by a broad flight of eight, Isle-la-Motte stone steps. The steps are flanked by stone buttresses which originally carried electrically lighted Ionic candelabra. At the top of the stairs sits a massive 10' wide sandstone arch with a 5' deep recessed porch behind it. Double leaf doors with plate glass in the top half and capped by a segmental arched stained glass transom lead to the entrance vestibule. The doors are flanked by a small rectangular, fixed-light window on each side.

The semi-circular arch springs from two sandstone impost blocks embellished with egg and dart molding that girds the pavilion and terminates on the impost block in a volute. The arch is composed of radiating voussoirs with a taller keystone at the top. Beed and reel molding and a stylized leaf design adorn the archivolt. The soffit is decorated with a carved dogtooth pattern set in square panels.

The corners of the pavilion as well as the rest of the building are defined by alternating sandstone quoins. On the pavilion these quoins terminate in a sandstone frieze with the name of the library inscribed on it in cast bronze over the arch. Above the frieze, a sandstone string course with egg and dart molding at the level of the second story window sills girds the pavilion and ties it visually to the eaves on the rest of the block. A bank of 4 recessed, rectangular windows with a star pattern mullion configuration rests above the string course and is articulated by

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three Ionic sandstone colonnettes and two pilasters. The date of the building's erection, 1902, appears in bronze numbers above the windows. A wood modillioned cornice with dentils forms a pediment and crowns the central pavilion, its tympanum lighted by a bulls-eye window with surround and four keystones.

Excepting the rear elevation, a wood cornice with dentils and modillions outlines the roof eaves and raking eaves, forming pedimented gable ends on the north and south elevations. In the brick tympanum on each facade, a Palladian motif window with sandstone sill, lintel and archivolt with keystone lights the attic story. The two elevations are also identical in their first story window configurations. Like the west facade, the 1/1 windows rest on sandstone sills and are crowned by square, stained-glass transoms above. The five first floor windows in each elevation are symmetrically placed with the three central windows being spaced closely together with a wider window in the middle. There are five small, evenly spaced, rectangular windows lighting the basement on the north facade, while on the south elevation where most of the basement stands above grade, a central door is flanked by two 1/1 windows and a matching window further to the east.

The rear (east) elevation is less decorative and not as symmetrically balanced as the rest of the building. Like the front elevation, this facade is divided into 3 parts by a shallow projecting 1½ story central pavilion, although the north and south parts on each side of the pavilion are not matching. All of the various windows rest on rock-cut granite sills and are squareheaded with arched openings capped by segmental relieving arches formed by two rows of brick headers. To the north of the pavilion, five evenly-spaced, narrow, 1/1 windows light the stack room on the first floor while below them, shorter 1/1 windows light the furnace room in the basement. There are only two windows on each story to the south side of the central pavilion. The two 1/1 first floor windows light a small reference room and have stained glass transoms above, like the front and side facades, differing only in their granite sills and rowlock arches. On the basement level, two 4/4 sash windows illuminate the east end of a children's activity room.

The central pavilion has irregular fenestration because of a central interior chimney. On the basement level, a door on the south side of the pavilion leads into the building. To the north of the door is a tall blind window opening which is bricked-in and a window adjacent to it of the same size which is 4/4 lights. The second story has four tall, rectangular window openings but the two interior openings are blind because the chimney is behind them. The two flanking 1/1 windows light the rear part of the delivery hall inside. There are two widely spaced rectangular 1/1 windows in the gable.

The eaves treatment on the rear facade consists of a boxed cornice on either side of the central pavilion with a wide fascia board below embellished by moldings. The short section of eaves on each side of the pavilion also has a boxed cornice and a fascia board, while the raking eaves are simply embellished by a molded fascia board.

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The entire library roof is covered with Northfield black slate and trimmed with copper hip, ridge crestings and finials. The center is crowned on the ridge by a copper dome resting on an octagonal drum. A band of triglyphe and metope decoration encircles the top of the drum. At the crown of the dome a strip of anthemion motif cresting stands out against the sky. Originally a tall flagpole rose from the center of the dome.

The classically inspired interior of the library retains most of its original fabric. Upon entering the building, one comes into a narrow vestibule with marble tile inlay flooring and green marble wainscoting. From the vestibule, swinging double doors lead into the delivery hall. The ceiling in the central section of the hall was originally 16' high and had a domed ceiling with a stained glass center. Because of heat loss, insulation and a dropped ceiling were added in the 1950's. Behind the domed area, a large fireplace of red, pressed and molded brick dominates the center of the east wall. A round arch of radiating brick voussiors, graced with beed and reel molding frames the fireplace opening. Egg and dart molding enriches the cornice.

Two rooms flank either side of the delivery hall. On the north side of the hall is a small children's room to the west and a larger stack room to the east of it. To the south of the hall lies a large reading room and a small reference room behind it in the southeast corner.

The stack room and reading room are reached via the delivery hall through wide openings flanked by fluted red birch columns with bronzed Ionic capitals. Behind the columns are pilasters with bronzed erectheum capitals. The columns and pilasters are supported on pedestals faced with gray marble wainscoting which carries around the walls of the delivery room. The terrazzo floor is outlined around the perimeter by a figured mosaic tile border.

All of the rooms on the first floor are finished with varnished red birch. The walls have panelled wainscoting and most windows and doors are framed with fluted pilasters carrying an entablature. Except the double doors leading from the vestibule into the delivery hall, all the interior doors are 6 panel, typical of the Colonial Revival period. A pair of large sliding pocket doors separates the reading and reference rooms.

Originally the interior walls of the delivery room and vestibule were painted a deep red color with a Grecian border in black on a warm olive background. Bands of olive and gilt embellished the top of the walls below the entablature and the ceiling was ivory. The domed ceiling of the delivery room was decorated in the Empire style with festoons and wreaths, below which hung tablets with the names of famous authors painted on them. Soft greens, reds and blues on a gold background completed the dome paint scheme. The rooms on either side of the delivery hall were soft green with a gold border and ivory-colored coved ceilings. Today the walls are an ochre color with light blue ceilings throughout.

Some of the original bentwood chairs and reading tables remain in the library although most of the furniture has been replaced. The stacks are original, however,

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and the bookcases in the reading rooms and the old card catalog remain. There are also plans to remove the dropped ceiling in the delivery hall and restore the dome to its original appearance.

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 1902

Builder/Architect H.M. Francis and Sons

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries numerous libraries were built throughout Vermont by wealthy donors. The Kimball Library in Randolph is one such building and is significant because it embodies the typical architectural characteristics of a library from that era, while at the same time its dome and interior stained glass ceiling make it unique. The interior details are also noteworthy and the building shows a high degree of preservation with few alterations.

Between c. 1890 and c. 1910, Vermont's towns experienced a tremendous growth in library construction. While some of these libraries were relatively large, most of the buildings were more modest in size. They were built at a time when there was great public concern over the education and availability of books for all classes of people. Before the end of the nineteenth century, not many free lending libraries existed and there were even fewer buildings devoted solely to library use, particularly in the smaller towns and rural areas of Vermont.

Near the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries generous philanthropists such as the noted Andrew Carnegie donated the funds for library construction in various communities. In Vermont, wealthy local businessmen, wanting to give a substantial building to their town, most often provided the impetus and funds for a library. Some of the towns benefiting from this largess included Randolph, Pomfret, Pittsford, Newbury, Middlebury, Barre, Brattleboro, Ludlow and Manchester. Randolph's benefactor, Col. Robert J. Kimball, grew up in the town and maintained a summer residence there, although he made his fortune as a banker in New York City.

Kimball recognized the need for a building to house the town's growing collection of books and in 1901 proposed to finance the construction of a library on a lot provided by the town. The lot was actually given by the village and is located in the "religious, cultural and educational" end of town, across from a church and school, and next door to the Chandler Music Hall which was built the year after the library.* A comment by the Rev. George Ladd who gave the opening speech at the Dedication Day ceremonies indicates the importance of the library and its location in the town. He said, "the church, the library, and the school must ever stand side by side as institutions aiming to promote the higher life of the community."¹ The town's residents were proud to have such a stately building and recognized its importance to the character and quality of their community. They continue to hold the same attitude today, as is evidenced in the well-maintained building and grounds.

Kimball retained H.M. Francis and Sons of Fitchburg, Massachusetts as the architects and hired Wiley and Foss as general contractor. Because of Kimball's additions and improvements to the original plan, including the terrazzo floor and marble wainscoting, central heating and electricity, and the copper dome, his original offer of \$10,000 was expanded to \$17,000, the final cost of the building.

*The downtown commercial section of Randolph village was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on May 29, 1975 as the Depot Square Historic District. The Chandler Music Hall was individually entered on the National Register on July 16, 1973.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cooley, Harry H., Randolph, Vermont, Historial Sketches, Randolph, Town of Randolph History Committee, 1978.

Kimball Public Library, Randolph, Vermont, Randolph, The Herald and News, February 26, 1903.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .56 acres

Quadrangle name Randolph, Vt.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	8	6	8	7	3	6	10	4	18	6	16	0	1	10
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 nominated property consists of a .56 acre lot on the east side of West Main Street. The parcel is basically rectangular in shape with a small corner cut out of the northeastern corner. The dimensions of the lot are as follows: The parcel follows Main Street north 165.25 feet; thence turning to the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances Brawley Foster, Preservation Consultant

organization

date September, 1984

street & number Box 929

telephone 802-862-1223

city or town Burlington,

state Vermont 05402

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature

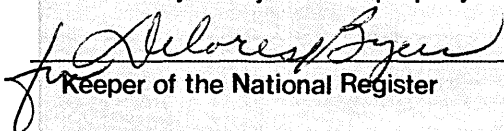


title Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

date 2/1/85

For NPS use only

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



Keeper of the National Register

date 3-14-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In many ways the Kimball Library embodies the salient architectural features of a "typical" Vermont library from that period. Most were rectangular buildings constructed of brick or stone and set on a raised basement which was often rusticated. Centrally located pavilions and Romanesque round arch entries predominated, as did stained glass transoms on first floor windows and slate, gable or hip roofs. Most of the libraries utilized classical revival or Romanesque vocabularies. The Kimball Library drew on both in a unique mix. Although the interiors of the libraries showed more variation, the Kimball Library's central delivery hall with flanking columns is similar to the libraries in Pomfret and Barre.

While many libraries share similar details, the dome surmounting the roof of the Kimball Library and the stained glass ceiling on the interior may be unique in Vermont. These features give the building special significance and set it apart architecturally from other similar libraries in the state. When the dropped ceiling is removed that now covers the stained glass in the dome, the intended effect of diffused light from the ceiling into the delivery hall will again be revealed.

The exuberant use of different materials on the interior also distinguishes the library. Marble wainscotting and terrazzo floors in the delivery hall together with stained glass windows and the abundant use of varnished birch woodwork throughout combine to create warm, inviting rooms. The bookcases around the outside walls and some of the original furniture remain and harmonize with their setting.

The Kimball Library remains a well-preserved, architecturally significant landmark that continues to serve the cultural and educational needs of the community of Randolph.

Footnotes

¹Kimball Public Library, Randolph, Vermont, Randolph, The Herald and News, February 26, 1903, p.13.

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right and proceeding easterly 131.75'. At this point the boundary makes a jog 8.84' to the south and easterly again 23.29'; thence turning to the right and proceeding 142.99' to the south; thence turning right and proceeding westerly 154.62' to the point of beginning.

This parcel of land is the same lot which has always been associated with the library and therefore conveys the original context of the property and protects it.

The deed is located in the Randolph Town Clerk's office, vol. 33, p. 528-529.