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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL - 8 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
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 an 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 Hepburn Library of Lisbon

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

street & number 6899 Lisbon Center State Road (County Rd 10) [ NA ] not for publication

city or town Lisbon [ NA ] vicinity

state New York code NY county St. Lawrence code 089 zip code 13658

#### 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 as 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.)

*Russell Perreault DBHPO*

*6/30/16*

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

*Edson H. Beall*

date of action

*8-22-16*

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

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

EDUCATION/Public Library

EDUCATION/Public Library

**7. Description**

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

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> and 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL

foundation STONE  
walls BRICK  
SANDSTONE  
roof ASPHALT  
other

**Narrative Description**

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

Name of Property

County and State

**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 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 that 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 boxes that apply.)

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance:**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

**Period of Significance:**

1917-1966

**Significant Dates:**

1917, 1920

**Significant Person:**

NA

**Cultural Affiliation:**

NA

**Architect/Builder:**

Architect: Samuel D.P. Williams (1866-1958)

Builder: J.D. Flack

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See 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 Building 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 repository: Preservation Studios

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 0.93 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

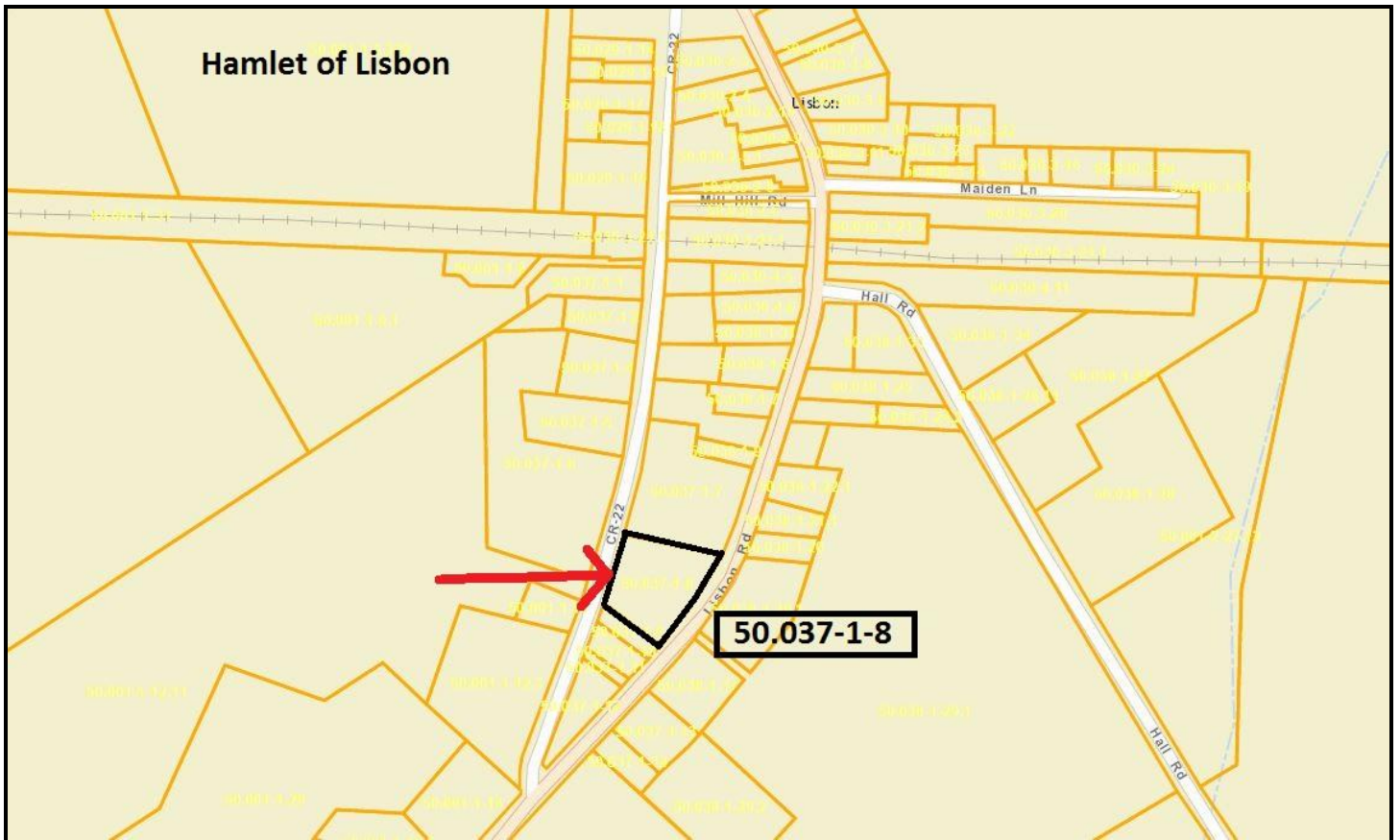
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Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property boundary for the Hepburn Library of Lisbon (6899 Lisbon Center State Road, Lisbon Township) is indicated by the heavy line on the attached map and is contiguous with St. Lawrence County tax parcel #50.037-1-8.

**Boundary Justification**

The current boundary is the historic boundary of the lands associated with the Hepburn Library of Lisbon.



St. Lawrence County Tax Map, Town of Lisbon.

**Hepburn Library of Lisbon**

Name of Property

**St. Lawrence County, New York**

County and State

Hepburn Library of Lisbon  
Lisbon, St. Lawrence Co., NY

6899 Lisbon Center State Road (CR 10)  
Lisbon, NY 13658



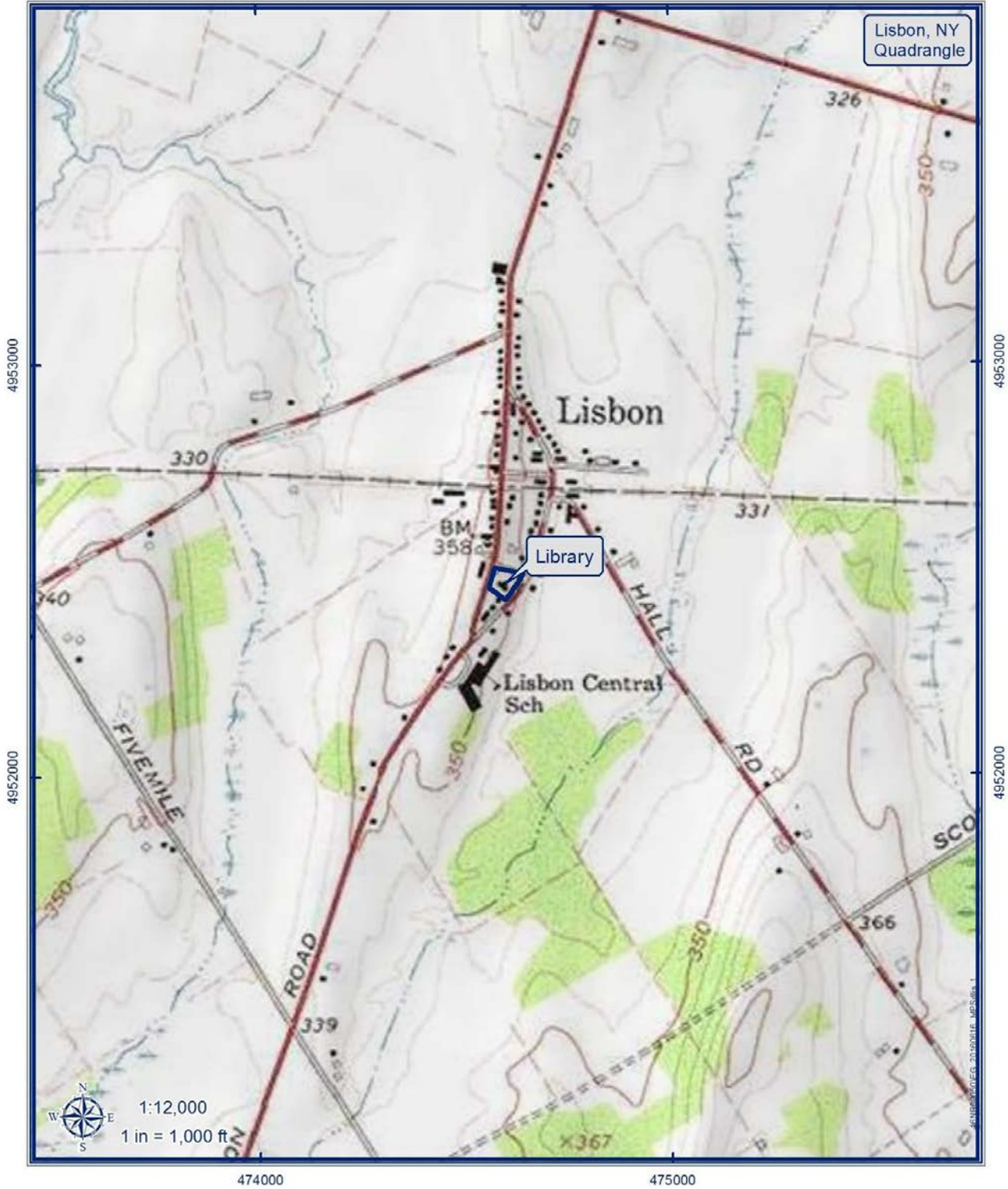
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

Hepburn Library of Lisbon  
Lisbon, St. Lawrence Co., NY

6899 Lisbon Center State Road (CR 10)  
Lisbon, NY 13658



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
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Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

**Hepburn Library of Lisbon**

Name of Property

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**Hepburn Library of Lisbon**

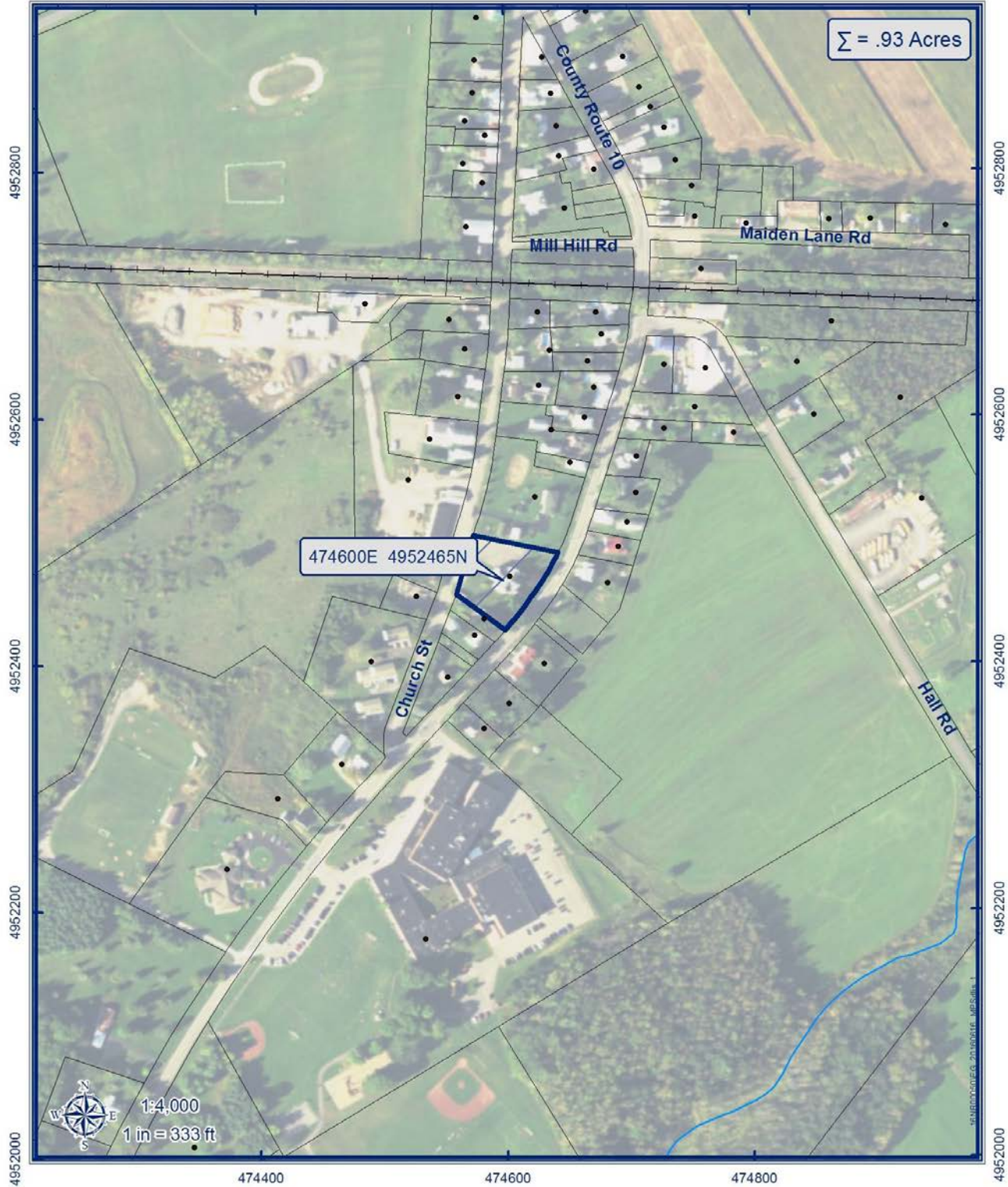
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**St. Lawrence County, New York**

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Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation



Hepburn Library of Lisbon  
Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Matthew Shoen (Historian) and Kelsie Hoke, M.Arch. (Project Manager)

organization Preservation Studios date May 1, 2016

street & number 60 Hedley Place telephone 716-725-6410

city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14208

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**Additional Documentation**

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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.

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**Property Owner**

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name Township of Lisbon

street & number 6963 County Rd 10 telephone 315-393-5988

city or town Lisbon state NY zip code 13658

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**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 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, D.C. 20503

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Narrative Description of Property

**Overview**

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon (1917-1920) is built on a site that slopes slightly from the northeast to the southwest. It is roughly cruciform in plan with a cross-gabled roof and has exterior walls of rough-faced yellow brick with sandstone trim. The central block runs east-west with slightly shorter wings running north-south. The east elevation is the primary façade; a gable-roofed, one-story entrance wing projects from the south corner of the facade. Two additional entrances on the north elevation provide building access from an asphalt parking lot in the northwest corner of the site. One is accessible and leads into a common room; the other opens onto stairs down to the kitchen and up to the library and attic. The interior of the building contains a utilitarian first floor and highly-finished second floor with an unfinished attic. The building has been well-maintained and is substantially intact to its period of construction. Most of its principal areas are unaltered and include original furniture, window sills, doors, plasterwork, bookshelves, casework, paneling, and fireplaces on the first and second floor. Notable non-historic modifications include the installation of the handicapped-accessible door on the north elevation and a nearby elevator, modern updates to the interior finishes of the first-floor common room, and exterior storm windows (over the historic sash).

**Location and Setting**

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon is located in St. Lawrence County, New York, at 6899 Lisbon Center State Road (County Road 10) in the center of the hamlet of Lisbon. The state road serves as the main thoroughfare through Lisbon and the Hepburn Library is on the west side of this road, oriented almost due east, facing private residences and a large pasture space beyond. The building occupies a plot of land rising slightly in grade before leveling out on Church Street just behind the library to the west. The library plot features a lawn with a few shrubs and trees that demark the northern and southern property lines. The building is accessed via a concrete walkway that extends from the Lisbon Center State Road to the entrance porch on the primary (east) façade, and through side entrances from a parking lot in the northwest corner of the lot. Other National Register-listed buildings in the hamlet are the Lisbon Town Hall (NR 1980), Lisbon Railroad Depot (NR 2000), and United Presbyterian Church of Lisbon (NR 2005)

**Exterior**

The cross-shaped plan of the Hepburn Library of Lisbon is composed of an east-west block with slightly shorter wings extending to the north and south. The entry is contained in a one-story gabled wing that projects forward from the southeast corner of the building (partially filling in the corner between the east and south wings.) The library has a granite foundation supporting exterior walls of yellow brick. The first-floor level of the building features a rusticated brick pattern and is capped by a deep sandstone watertable. Each of the gable ends features a built-up parapet and stone coping extending above the steeply pitched, cross-gabled roof. The remaining faces of the building have a bracketed and denticulated cornice beneath the eaves. The original windows remain and are one-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash with exterior vinyl storms.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

*Primary (east) Façade*

The primary façade is composed of a wide, one-bay east wing with the sides of the north-south block extending a single bay to either side. A two-bay, single-story entry wing is attached asymmetrically to the wing and south block and projects ten feet forward of the wing. Stone steps and a recessed porch, supported by a stout Romanesque column, occupy the north bay of the entry wing. To the south is a three-part Chicago-style window, and a narrow window is centered beneath the gable above. The main portion of the east wing has no windows on the first floor, but the center bay of the second floor contains a tall central window resting on the watertable flanked by two narrower windows. The three windows share a continuous sandstone lintel supporting three blank brick arches. Above, the words, "Hepburn Library," are spelled out across the façade in large brick letters. Three small arched windows with brick arches, linked by a single sill, occupy the gable. The east elevation of the north wing has triple windows on the first and second floors; those in the second floor also have a transom. The south wing has a single narrow window abutting the side of the entry wing on the first floor, and three stepped windows rise along the roofline of the entry wing at the second floor.

*South (side) Elevation.*

The south elevation comprises the two-bay south wing, with the east wing and entry wing extending one bay to the east and the west wing extending two bays to the west. The south wing has paired windows on the first and second floors in each bay. On the first-floor level, owing to the change in grade across the site, the east paired windows are full height while the west paired windows are short. A chimney with decorative brickwork rises above the gable and parapet; the gable contains two quarter-round windows flanking the internal chimney. The south elevation of the west wing is similar, though it contains just a single window in each bay on both floors with transoms topping the second-floor windows. To the east, the entry wing obscures all but the cornice and roof of the east wing and contains a single window at the western end; just west of center, an opening at grade level with a hatch cover provides access to the basement.

*North (side) Elevation.*

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation without the entry wing to the east. On the first-floor level, an accessible entry door has replaced the paired windows in the east bay, which originally matched the paired windows on the west. On the second floor, there are large paired windows in each bay and, in the attic, two quarter-round windows beneath the decorative chimney. (As on the south, the rest of the chimney is internal.) The north elevation of the east wing has two single windows at the first floor and no windows at the second floor; the north elevation of the entry wing holds the porch and a single window. The north elevation of the west wing is divided into four bays. At the ground floor, a side entry door occupies the second eastern bay and has a shed-roofed awning supported on wooden corbels. West of the door is a low window. On the second floor, a single high window is present in each bay, lighting the interior from a height above the stacks. A small window is present in the first eastern bay, just above the watertable, lighting an interior stair.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

*Rear (west) Elevation.*

At the rear of the building, the one-bay west wing has three small windows centered on each floor with a round window located in the gable. The north and south wings to either side contain triple windows on both the first and second floors, with transoms topping the second-floor windows.

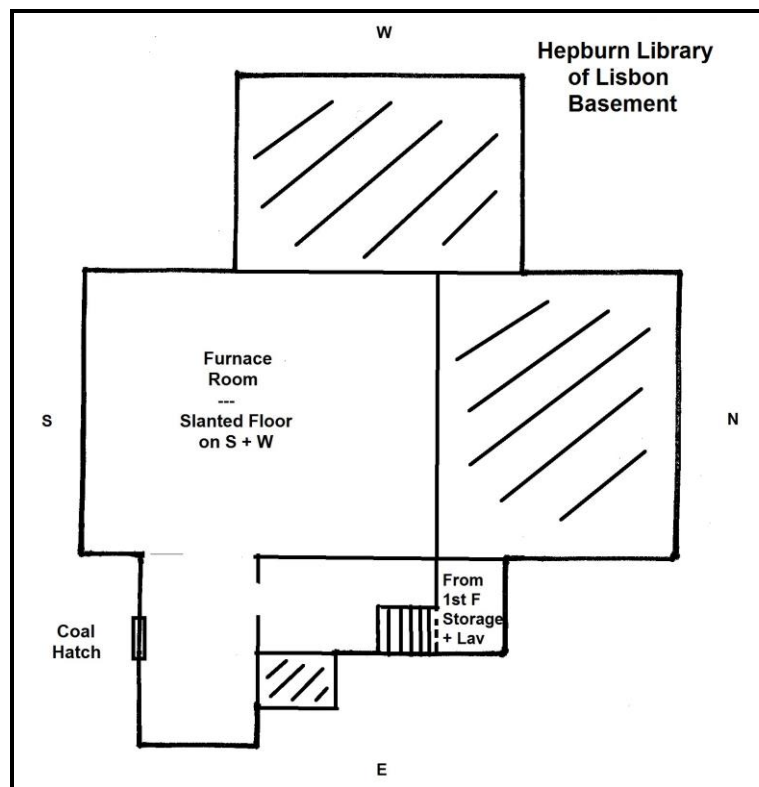
**Interior**

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon is laid out in similar fashion to the other six Hepburn Libraries of St. Lawrence County. The first floor contains a large community room at the center, with a kitchen at the west end and an office, bathroom, and staircases at the east end. The main stair opens up into the reading rooms and stacks on the second floor. There is a basement for utilities and an unfinished attic for storage. The layout of the building is practically unchanged since the library opened in 1920. In the basement, the coal storage room is now used for general storage. On the first floor, the original ladies' cloak room has been converted into the local historian's office; the men's lavatory has been turned into storage; and the ladies' rest room has become unisex. All else is the same.

*Basement*

The basement of the Hepburn Library of Lisbon is an extremely utilitarian space dominated by pipes and ducts responsible for supplying water, heat, and airflow to the building. Only half of the area is dug out, and the floors of the furnace room slope up on the south and west. The walls are concrete and the basement floor is unpainted concrete as well. At the basement's center is a large furnace.

The basement also features an original door leading from the original coal storage room out to a hatchway on the south elevation of the entrance wing.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

**Hepburn Library of Lisbon**

Name of Property

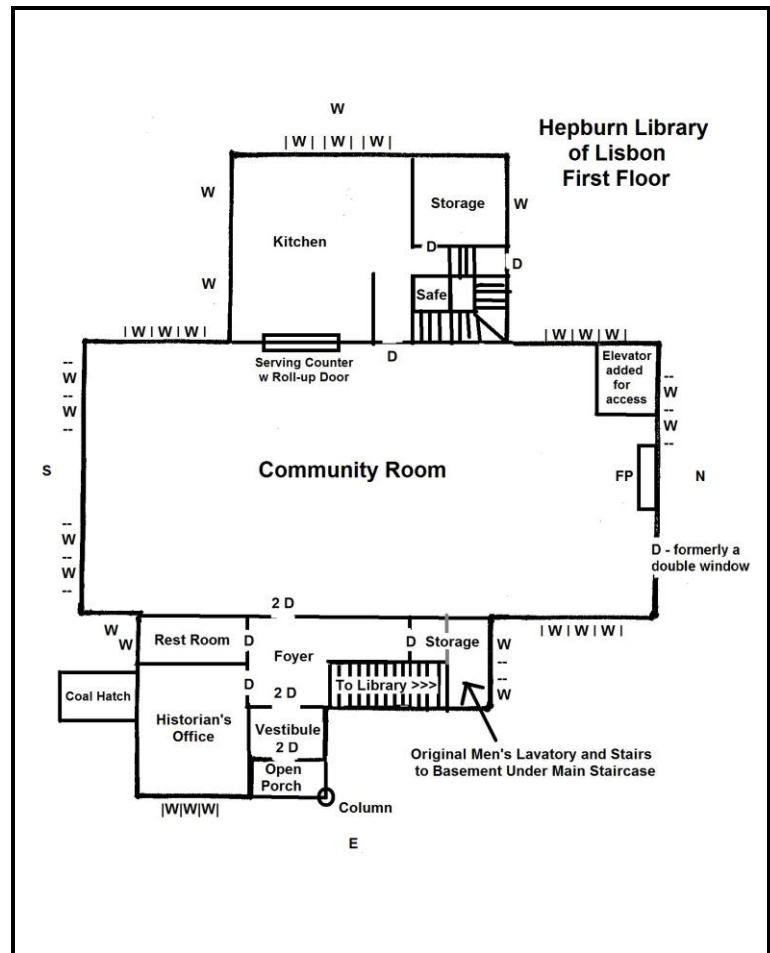
**St. Lawrence County, New York**

County and State

*First Floor*

The first floor is regularly used for community functions. The front entrance opens into a stone-walled vestibule, where paired original oak doors (beneath a leaded-glass transom) lead into the building foyer. The foyer (at the base of the east wing) gives access to the historian's office, bathroom, community room, basement, and main stair to the second floor. Each of the doors in the foyer has a small transom over the top. Except for vinyl tile added in 2011, the foyer retains its original oak paneling, plaster walls, doors, and door casings, including the elaborate surround which highlights the double doors opposite the vestibule.

By contrast, the large community room at the center of the building was renovated in 2011, though the original brick fireplace with its oak mantel remains. As refinished, the large room has gypsum walls with wood trim, an acoustic tile ceiling, and laminate floor. An accessible door in the north elevation and a wheelchair elevator in the northwest corner of the room were also added to the building sometime between 2002 and 2004.



The kitchen occupies most of the west end of the building. The original plaster walls and window casings survive, as do the original glass-fronted upper cabinets. However, the original concrete floor was covered with floor tile in the mid to late-twentieth century and new lower cabinets and vinyl tile were installed in 2011. On the east wall of the kitchen, a large, original wood-paneled roll-up door above a serving counter connects to the community room. In the southwest corner of the wing, a small hallway leads to a door and rear spiral stair to the library and attic. Utilizing the space underneath the stair is a large built-in safe that was used to store rare and important local documents, including a genealogy of the Hepburn family. The face of the safe is composed of a flush steel door, painted black with a double line of gilded trim around the perimeter. At the center of the face are the words *Hepburn Memorial Library* and, below, the original stainless steel handle and safe dial.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

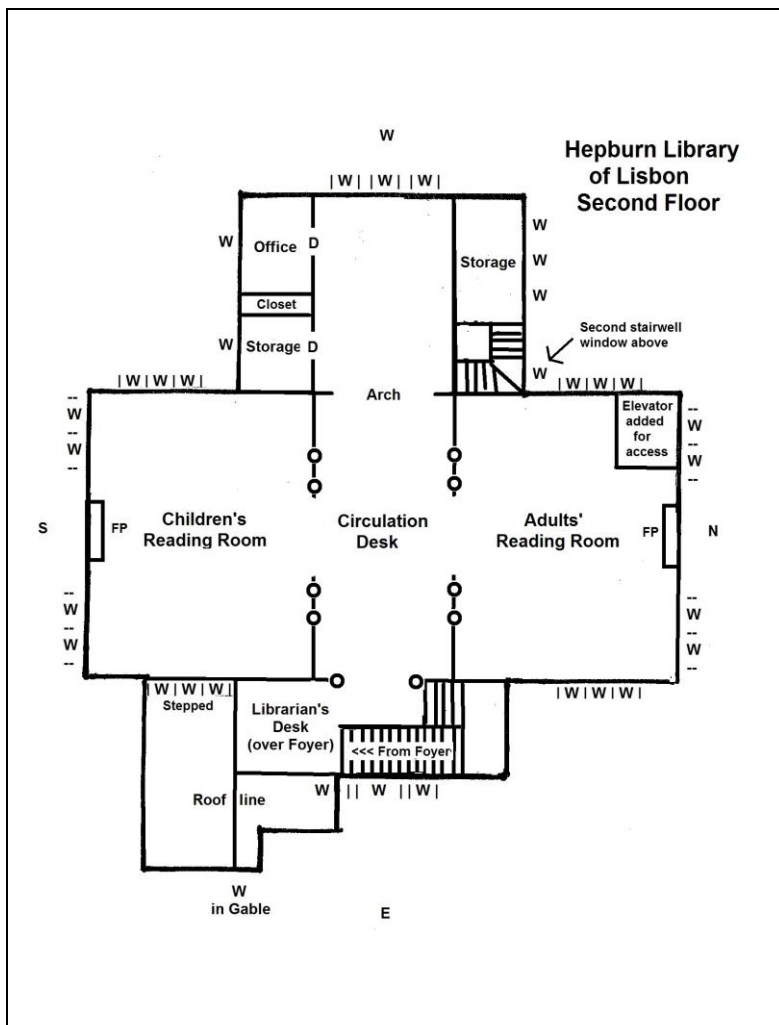
St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

*Second Floor*

At the second-floor level, the cross-shaped plan of the building is more evident. The eastern wing is occupied by the original main stair, composed of cast iron treads and risers with decorative wood newel posts, a wood handrail supported on straight wood balusters, and wood-paneled walls; the stair hall is lighted by a triple window. Patrons enter the library through a column screen composed on each side of an engaged square column connected to a freestanding column by a low paneled wall. The columns support an elegant wood entablature.

The center block of the building is open, with reading rooms located in the north and south wings and stacks in the rear (west) wing. (The northwest and southwest corners of the rear wing also house the rear stair, an office, and two storage areas.) Both the north and south reading rooms are entered through column screens almost identical to the one in the main stair hall. An arch leads to the stacks where the original wood bookcases continue to hold the library's collection. Throughout the second floor the original plaster walls, baseboard, paneling, picture rails, and casings remain, all in beautiful condition. Both the north and south reading rooms have original yellow-brick fireplaces with eared wood trim and oak mantels supported on carved brackets. The original long tables and chairs that were made for the reading rooms continue to be used on a daily basis by library patrons. Carpeting covers the original hardwood throughout the second floor.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

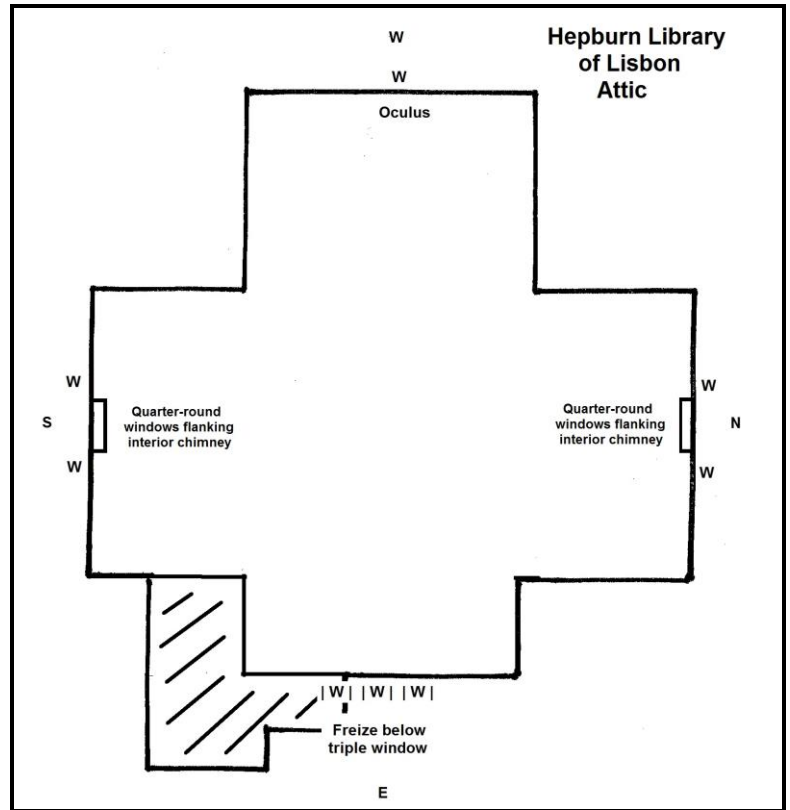
Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

*Attic*

The attic is unfinished and accessed by a door at the top of the building's rear spiral staircase. The space is dominated by heavy support timbers that help to hold up the complex roof system. Light to the attic is provided by the small triple window on the façade, quarter-round windows on both side elevations, and the round window on the rear.



**Integrity**

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon has exceptional integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. With the exception of vinyl storm windows, the exterior of the building is little changed from its opening in 1920, and the interior spaces remain intact despite some change of use. The setting remains rural, much as it was in the early twentieth century, and little has changed in the adjoining hamlet of Lisbon. The materials are somewhat unusual. The other Hepburn Libraries in St. Lawrence County are made of red brick in a Colonial Revival style, while the Hepburn Library of Lisbon is yellow-brick with Richardsonian Romanesque, Tutor, and Dutch Colonial influences. This difference reflects the choice of Samuel D. P. Williams as architect. The workmanship is excellent and has been well maintained by the library board and community. The Hepburn Library of Lisbon fully reflects the sense of community ownership and pride that philanthropist A. Barton Hepburn hoped to create in the townships of St. Lawrence County when he funded his library program in the late 1910s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

**Statement of Significance:**

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon, New York, is an early twentieth-century library constructed as part of a program of philanthropy undertaken by Alonzo Barton Hepburn (born in Colton) who gifted seven libraries and a hospital to the people of St. Lawrence County.<sup>1</sup> Built starting in 1917 and completed in 1920, the Lisbon library is one of the largest buildings in the community and one of the few to be made of brick and mortar instead of wood-frame construction. The Hepburn Library is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of **Education** as a community library in the Town of Lisbon that also served as a meeting place for many area clubs and community events, and as one of Alonzo Barton Hepburn's seven Hepburn Libraries, intended to serve rural parts of the county. The building is also locally significant under **Criterion C** in the area of **Architecture**, as a brick community library executed in an eclectic twentieth-century revival style with notable Richardson Romanesque and Tudor motifs. Of note, the Hepburn Library of Lisbon was built by Samuel D.P. Williams of the architecture firm, Williams and Johnson. This makes it the only Hepburn Library not erected by architect Ehrick Kensett Rossiter and contributes to its unique place among the fraternity of Hepburn Libraries in St. Lawrence County.

The **Period of Significance** for the Hepburn Library of Lisbon stretches from **1917 to 1966** – from the laying of the building's cornerstone to the fifty-year cut-off for significance. As soon as it opened, the Hepburn Library became one of the most prominent structures in Lisbon and a center of community activity and intellectual growth in the township. It continues to fulfill that role today.

*Lisbon*

Lisbon was founded in 1801 and is the oldest settlement in St. Lawrence County, predating the county's foundation by a year. By 1802 enough people had moved to what would become St. Lawrence County for it to be considered its own entity. Portions of Clinton, Herkimer, and Montgomery Counties were taken to form St. Lawrence, which occupies the northern edge of New York State and is the largest county by area in the state. The county has been rural in character from its founding to the present day with agriculture, logging, mining, and livestock (particularly dairy cows) serving as the major local industries. Located in the St. Lawrence River Valley, just southeast of the City of Ogdensburg and due north of the county seat in Canton, Lisbon is directly tied to the dairy industry with several family-owned farms tracing their lineage back to the town's earliest days.

It is often assumed that Lisbon was named for the capital of Portugal; however, the town's name comes from Lisburn, Northern Ireland, the hometown of Alexander Macomb, who purchased much of northern New York in 1791. The first settlers arrived in the vicinity of Lisbon in 1799, taking advantage of the St. Lawrence River to operate gristmills and traffic in timber. These settlers congregated around what today is known as Red Mills, one of the larger communities inside the township. Within the town of Lisbon, the hamlet of Lisbon is currently the largest population center. The town is a ten square-mile portion of St. Lawrence County and contains a

<sup>1</sup> The Hepburn Hospital was constructed in Ogdensburg, while the seven libraries were erected in the communities of Lisbon, Colton, Norfolk, Madrid, Edwards, Hermon, and Waddington.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

number of small hamlets such as the aforementioned Red Mills, Flackville, and Pine Grove; however, the heart of the township is the Lisbon, located directly at its center. The hamlet derived its local importance from the Northern Railroad, later known as the Rutland Railroad, which laid tracks through the hamlet in 1848-1850.<sup>2</sup> Following the railroad, many people began to settle in Lisbon and a large Queen Anne Style town hall was built in 1889 (NR 1980), cementing the role of the Lisbon as the cultural and governmental heart of the township.

In addition to the town hall, the town's most important buildings have historically been located around the railroad. These include the United Presbyterian Church (1857, NR 2005), Lisbon Central School (1954), and the Hepburn Library of Lisbon (1917). The hamlet is also a center of commerce in the community with businesses such as Martin Feed, Gray's Gun Shop, and the Bank of Lisbon having longtime ties to the area.

The greatest period of growth and activity in Lisbon occurred around the end of the nineteenth century and stretched into the early decades of the twentieth. During this time the Rutland Railroad was running lines out of northern New York with destinations across the northeast such as New England, Ottawa, Syracuse, and New York City.<sup>3</sup> The train was a critical component of Lisbon's farm economy, allowing the tiny community to efficiently export products to distant markets, particularly New York City. "Turkey Day" was an important day in the region. On this day in November, all the local farmers would drive into Lisbon and ship their turkeys to downstate markets. In 1920, a total of 22 tons of turkeys were sold at the Lisbon Market at \$.50 per pound and shipped downstate to be eaten on Thanksgiving.<sup>4</sup>

The Rutland Railroad stopped running trains to the Lisbon Train Depot (1930, NR 2000) in 1960, leading to dramatic changes in Lisbon's local economy. Animals such as turkeys, chickens, and rabbits were no longer raised for sale; instead the town's agricultural output became completely tied to dairy farming. The implementation of refrigerated trucks and bulk tanks for milk storage lead to the loss of the town's butter factories, cheese plants, and creameries during the 1960s.<sup>5</sup> Some of the lost creameries include Ideal Creamery, North Lisbon Gilt Edge Creamery, and East Lisbon B & C. These small local interests fell to larger regional corporations such as Cabot and McAdam Cheese, which currently take much of Lisbon's raw milk. Lisbon's geographic isolation limits its growth, and today most of community's population is employed in farming enterprises or at state correctional facilities.

Architecturally, the majority of buildings in both the hamlet and town of Lisbon are of wood frame construction, significant exceptions being the masonry school building, Bank of Lisbon, and Hepburn Library. The small hamlet is presently surrounded on all sides by cornfields and pastures used by local dairy farmers.

<sup>2</sup> Glenn Harris, *Lisbon Railroad Depot* [National Register Nomination, 98NR01381] (Waterford, NY: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, 2000), Section 8, Page 1.

<sup>3</sup> Harris, Section 8, Page 2.

<sup>4</sup> Harris, Section 8, Page 2.

<sup>5</sup> Jane K. Schweizer, *Lisbon Town Hall* [National Register Nomination, 90NR02555] (Waterford, NY: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, 1980), Section 8, Page 1.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

*Community Libraries and the Growth of Library Systems*

Public libraries as we know them are largely an invention of the late nineteenth century. Prior to this, libraries relied on subscriptions so, while nominally public, they only served the middle and upper classes who could afford to pay for membership. In addition, many libraries only existed as traveling subscription services, bringing new titles to paying readers on a set rotation.

The earliest free public libraries were founded through the philanthropy of major businessmen who saw the library as an opportunity to civilize the masses, though this model of paternalism was not favored by the librarians themselves. The buildings these early philanthropists constructed were often massive edifices such as the New York Public Library and the Chicago Public Library, both beautiful structures, but expensive to heat and maintain and unsuitable outside a metropolis. Andrew Carnegie changed the model of library philanthropy in the 1880s. Rather than construct a few massive buildings for major cities such as Chicago, Boston, or New York, Carnegie funded libraries in any town that could provide him with proof of need, library staff, and a proper building site. Following these guidelines, Carnegie build a total of 2,509 libraries in the English-speaking world. His buildings can still be found in both major cities and small communities such as Ticonderoga in Essex County (Black Watch Library, 1905, NR 1988).

Carnegie's philanthropic efforts inspired the building of a number of other libraries in northern New York. Notable examples include the Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay, Essex County, built by Jean Wells and Wallis Craig Smith, a wealthy industrial couple (1907, NR 2011); the Sherman Free Library built by George R. Sherman, a wealthy mine owner, in Moriah, Essex County (1887, NR 1995); as well as the seven Hepburn libraries of St. Lawrence County.<sup>6</sup> All of these libraries were critical to the intellectual growth and social unity of their communities, especially in the villages of Essex County, where mountains and deep forests often separated hamlets and villages. Without such individuals, who considered the physical needs of the region for small, cost-effective libraries, much of the North Country's library system would not exist. Major communities such as Canton, Potsdam, Ogdensburg, Lake Placid, and Saranac Lake had the tax base and population to fund their own library projects, but small communities did not. Their library buildings, which served as places of intellectual enrichment and socialization in towns like Lisbon, would not exist without philanthropy.

*The Hepburn Library of Lisbon*

Alonzo Barton Hepburn was a locally-born philanthropist and banker from Colton, New York, who had worked as a county school commissioner before he went into politics and made his fortune on the board of Chase National Bank. Inspired by the work of Andrew Carnegie, Hepburn decided to give back to his hometown of Colton and, later, to the towns of St. Lawrence County that he'd served as commissioner, bestowing a public library on each township. The cornerstone of the Hepburn Library of Lisbon, the third of Hepburn's seven

<sup>6</sup> Nancy Todd. Todd, Nancy. *Wells Memorial Library* [National Register Nomination, 03NR05186]. Waterford, NY: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, 2011.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

public libraries, was laid in 1917.<sup>7</sup> It would, however, be the last library completed, taking three years to finish and opening on April 3, 1920. At this opening, the library's board of trustees offered refreshments and thanked members of the community for their help in organizing the library for the opening. Over one hundred people came to tour the building and eighty-five books were lent as library members enjoyed tea and cakes.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, the board of trustees reiterated that use of the community room was free for any interested farm association or church group so long as an appointment was made with the custodian Elmer Wheeler.<sup>9</sup> A description of the festivities surrounding the opening of the Hepburn Library is given in the *Ogdensburg Republican-Journal* and describes the library as:

*a large structure, measuring 62x73, built in the form of a cross of light colored rough faced pressed brick. It is Dutch Colonial in type and... is not only a lasting monument to the generosity of Mr. Hepburn, but also a tribute to the master minds of men who designed the building.*<sup>10</sup>

The article goes on to describe the library's major features, pointing out things such as the terra-cotta cement floors in the community room (no longer extant), as well as features such as the fireplaces, bookshelves, and second-floor pillars, which are still a vital part of the library's look and feel.<sup>11</sup>

Like Hepburn's other libraries, the Lisbon library was built at a cost of roughly \$50,000 with the community contributing \$1,000 for maintenance and upkeep of the building. Hepburn also endowed the Lisbon library with \$20,000 upon its completion.<sup>12</sup> The library was built following a short, but heated debate in the township. Detractors argued that the library would only benefit people living in the Lisbon while those living in hamlets such as Red Mills and Flackville would be stuck paying additional taxes to keep the library up.<sup>13</sup> Despite this criticism, the community voted the two-thirds majority that Hepburn required before commissioning the library's construction, and the structure's cornerstone was laid at the end of 1917.

Upon its completion, the library immediately became one of the most important civic structures in Lisbon. Hepburn's philosophy motivated him to create a building that would serve as a repository of books and other learning materials, yet also contain facilities for meetings and other large gatherings. This was borne out in Lisbon, where the Hepburn Library saw frequent use by patrons in search of reading material as well as clubs and other organizations who used the downstairs community room for lectures and presentations.<sup>14</sup> Within a month of opening, the library was being used as a meeting place for the 'Study Club' and by the trustees of the

<sup>7</sup> "A Barton Hepburn is 72 Years Old Today," *Watertown Daily Times*, July 24, 1918. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>8</sup> "Lisbon Proud of Library, A Gift to Town," *Ogdensburg Republican-Journal*, April 12, 1920. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>9</sup> "New Library at Lisbon to Open April 3<sup>rd</sup>," *Ogdensburg Republican Journal*, March 31, 1920. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

<sup>10</sup> "Lisbon Proud."

<sup>11</sup> "Lisbon Proud."

<sup>12</sup> "Hepburn's Grave Near Remington," *Watertown Daily Times*, January, 1922. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>13</sup> "Expect Library will be Carried," *Watertown Daily Times*, November 1, 1917. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>14</sup> "Morley," *St. Lawrence Plaindealer*, August 21, 1934. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com); "Churches and Organizations," *St. Lawrence Plaindealer*, October 3, 1940. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com); "Home Bureau Meetings," *St. Lawrence Plaindealer*, November 10, 1941. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com); "Ladies Aid," *St. Lawrence Plaindealer*, October 12, 1949. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com); "Next Sewing Machine Clinic Slated Oct. 20," *St. Lawrence Plaindealer*, October 12, 1950.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

Lisbon Cemetery.<sup>15</sup> Other notable clubs and organizations that utilized the library's community space include the Altar and Rosary Society, Trappers Association, and Jersey Cattle Club. In 1921, the library common room was the setting of a large banquet with over ninety-three people sitting down to eat. The event featured the singing of hymns and short sermons by the pastors of several local congregations.<sup>16</sup> The community room was even used as the site of a throat clinic where doctors removed the tonsils of twenty-two local children in 1922. The library lodged those children who could not return home before dark.<sup>17</sup>

Despite its small rural population, Lisbon's library flourished to a greater extent than any of the other Hepburn libraries. In 1960 Lisbon had over 7,500 books in its holdings, second only to Colton with 9,300; even with its smaller available selection, Lisbon lent more books to its townspeople than any other library in the Hepburn system.<sup>18</sup> The library's success came partially due to donations from concerned local citizens. One woman by the name of Jennie Purves provided over 1,200 books in 1920, a few months ahead of the library's opening.<sup>19</sup> The proximity of Lisbon Central School also doubtlessly aided circulation. Another factor to consider is Lisbon's population, which was historically larger than some of the smaller library communities like Hermon and Waddington. In recent years the Hepburn Library was one of the first places in Lisbon with a connection to high speed internet, printing stations, and computers, extending the building's relevance in the community into the twenty-first century. Presently the library community room is a popular destination for bridal showers, birthday parties, and educational seminars. In 2016, the library estimates its circulation at 10,000 books and DVDs per year, showing the continued importance of the Hepburn Library to Lisbon.

### *The Hepburn Public Libraries*

Generally speaking, the seven Hepburn Libraries share a number of common features reflective of Hepburn's vision of the buildings as places of intellectual growth and social gatherings. However, architecturally, there are noticeable differences between the Hepburn Library of Lisbon and Hepburn's other six libraries.

Each Hepburn Library contains a large community room on the first floor with an attached kitchen to facilitate club meetings, dances, and other social gatherings in the towns, most of which lacked large dedicated community spaces. Upstairs, each library features two reading rooms oriented on a horizontal axis to the main block. These rooms feature fireplaces, and many of the libraries feature oak columns to create a secondary axis. Each library has a raised ceiling on the second floor to provide a sensation of spaciousness.<sup>20</sup>

Despite these similarities in function and interior layout, the Hepburn Library of Lisbon is architecturally unique among its peers. Unlike many of the other Hepburn Libraries, the Lisbon library doesn't feature a large Colonial

<sup>15</sup> "From Lisbon," *Ogdensburg Republican-Journal*, May 3, 1920. [Fultonhistory.com](http://fultonhistory.com).

<sup>16</sup> "Lisbon Library Notes – Father and Son Banquet Proves a Fine Success," *Ogdensburg Republican Journal*, January 5, 1921. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

<sup>17</sup> Otilie Hirt Rollins, "The Hepburn Libraries of the St. Lawrence Valley," Masters diss., Western Reserve University, 1960, 56-7.

<sup>18</sup> Rollins, 97.

<sup>19</sup> "Lisbon Library Notes," *Ogdensburg Republican Journal*, January 15, 1920. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

<sup>20</sup> Rollins, 15.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Revival entryway or dominant columns on the exterior. Instead, the library features four gabled roofs, two of which protrude vertically out of the wider length of the library, with a one-story entrance wing. The other Hepburn Libraries show varying degrees of Colonial Revival influence; however, the Lisbon library, with its steep pitched roof and dominant chimney stacks mixes these stylings with Richardsonian and Tudor motifs. Additionally, the choice of yellow brick is seen exclusively in the Lisbon library. The library's yellow masonry is not only unique among the Hepburn Libraries but among the buildings of St. Lawrence County. Most of the county's other masonry buildings are built from red clay brick or Potsdam Sandstone. The Lisbon library's yellow brick façade is a major anomaly.

The choice of Samuel Williams as architect, rather than Ehrick Rossiter (architect of the other six Hepburn Libraries), no doubt influenced these stylistic changes. Though no explanation for Williams's selection can be made, it is possible that Rossiter was too busy designing the Hepburn Libraries of Norfolk, Waddington, Hermon, and Edwards to dedicate time to the Lisbon library. Samuel Williams, of the firm Williams and Johnson, was the most accomplished local architect available and his hiring would no doubt have pleased Hepburn, who wanted his library construction projects to employ primarily local labor. [See more on Williams below.]

Beyond having a unique presence in the pantheon of Hepburn Libraries, the Lisbon library is also distinctive among buildings in the hamlet and greater township of Lisbon. Aside from the physical massing of the building – one of the town's largest and one of only a handful of buildings made of brick – the library is also singular in function. Aside from the town hall and Lisbon Central School, there are no free public spaces of assembly in the community outside of the Hepburn Library. The school was not erected until 1954, meaning that for thirty-four years the town hall and library existed as the only public spaces for social gatherings in Lisbon. This was the case in all the communities where Hepburn installed his libraries.

The reality of life in rural St. Lawrence County was such that community buildings were difficult to fund due to the small size of the tax base. Lisbon was actually the second largest community to receive a library from Hepburn; only Norfolk was larger, and several of the library communities had fewer than 1,500 people in the mid-1910s. Generally speaking, even today, only the major population and government centers of Ogdensburg, Canton, Potsdam, Gouverneur, and Massena possess large purpose-built stone buildings. In the early twentieth century, these buildings housed local governments, fraternal organizations, universities, and public libraries established before Hepburn's time. Hepburn's library-building program fulfilled a community need that might otherwise still be ignored. The libraries provided access to reading material to people in the townships and, importantly, gave each community space for clubs and public organizations in an attractive and modern setting.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Hepburn Library of Lisbon**

**Name of Property**

**St. Lawrence County, New York**

**County and State**

Section 8 Page 7

*Hepburn Libraries Timeline*

Colton	Commissioned 1912	Built 1912-1913	(NR 2012)
Madrid	Commissioned 1917	Built 1917-1918	
Lisbon	Commissioned 1917	Built 1918-1920	
Hermon	Commissioned 1918	Built 1919-1920	
Norfolk	Commissioned 1918	Built 1919-1920	(NR 2004)
Waddington	Commissioned 1918	Built 1919-1920	(NR District 1992)
Edwards	Commissioned 1919	Built 1919-1920	

*Alonzo Barton Hepburn (1846-1922)*

Alonzo Barton Hepburn was born in Colton, New York, in 1846 and attended Middlebury College in Vermont, dropping out after a year. Soon after, he returned to St. Lawrence County to become a professor of mathematics at the St. Lawrence Academy, which would later be renamed SUNY Potsdam.<sup>21</sup> Hepburn also began a local legal practice. Over his lifetime Hepburn became both a locally and nationally significant individual. While living in St. Lawrence County, Hepburn was appointed school commissioner, and in this role he traveled the county, where he was exposed to the limited educational opportunities for county children. In an interview, Hepburn stated that he was “deeply impressed with the meager educational facilities of these villages. Those storehouses of the accumulated thought and knowledge of the pages – books – were scarce. There was no such thing as a public library.”<sup>22</sup> His role as school commissioner and the time he spent traveling St. Lawrence County were highly influential in Hepburn’s later philanthropy.<sup>23</sup>

Because of his service in the local community, Hepburn was elected to the New York State Assembly and represented St. Lawrence County in the legislature from 1875 to 1879. The following year, Hepburn became the New York State superintendent of banking (1880 to 1883) and, later, the federal comptroller of currency under President Benjamin Harrison (1893 to 1894).<sup>24</sup> Hepburn made his fortune in the 1910s, when he became president of Chase National Bank and oversaw a massive increase in the bank’s capital between 1904 and 1917. As his personal wealth grew, Hepburn decided to return some of his gains to his community and hit upon a strategy to endow the school districts for which he had been commissioner with public libraries. Hepburn’s system required each community to vote to accept his philanthropy by a two-thirds majority and to promise to raise a yearly sum of \$1,000 for maintenance of a library. For this, Hepburn would construct the library at the cost of \$50,000 and provide an endowment of \$20,000.<sup>25</sup> Each library was to feature a reading room with a large selection of books additionally purchased through his philanthropy (300 per library with the exception of Colton, which received 1,200). Further, the libraries were to contain community rooms that would serve as social gathering spaces in the hopes that, while attracted to the community room, otherwise uninterested

<sup>21</sup> “A. Barton Hepburn, Noted Financier, Dies,” *Buffalo Evening News*, January 25, 1922. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>22</sup> “Tells Why He Has Given Libraries.” *Watertown Daily Times*, December 1, 1921. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>23</sup> “Tells Why.”

<sup>24</sup> “Nomination Confirmed,” *Buffalo Courier*, July 28, 1892. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>25</sup> “Tells Why.”

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 8

individuals might be tempted to explore the library and become readers. In addition to the community libraries, Hepburn also endowed a significant amount of money on the hospital in Ogdensburg, New York; it is now known as the Hepburn Hospital in honor of his over \$500,000 gift.

In January 1922, Hepburn was attempting to cross Fifth Avenue in New York City when a bus struck him.<sup>26</sup> He suffered a broken leg, and days later had a stroke due to the shock of his injuries. Hepburn died soon after at the age of 75, and his remains were interred in Canton, New York.<sup>27</sup> At the time of his death Hepburn had donated over one million dollars to St. Lawrence County.<sup>28</sup>

*Samuel D.P. Williams (1866-1958)*

The Ogdensburg-based architect, Samuel D.P. Williams, of the firm Williams and Johnson, is critical to understanding the Lisbon Hepburn Library as it relates to the other six Hepburn Libraries. Hepburn selected his friend, Ehrick Kensett Rossiter, of New York City, to erect the others and, with similar styles and architectural features, these libraries make Rossiter's design concepts clear.<sup>29</sup> He favored wide primary facades, grand exterior staircases, and monumental entrances with imposing columns, all executed in Colonial Revival style. The Hepburn Library of Lisbon is an outlier, and this is because it is the only library Rossiter did not design. Instead, Samuel Williams was chosen as architect of Lisbon's Hepburn Library and his vision was different. Instead of a wide primary façade, the Lisbon library is cruciform; instead of an exterior staircase, one enters the Lisbon library at ground level; and, instead of a monumental central entrance, the Lisbon library features a one-story, asymmetrical wing housing a vestibule, first-floor foyer, and rest room. Further, Williams eschewed grand columns for a single stout Romanesque column and, as has been already noted, his choice of yellow brick is completely unprecedented in the libraries of Erick Rossiter. Samuel Williams's design met with approval from state government which commissioned pictures of the exterior and interior of the Lisbon library to be sent to Denver for publication in a book called *American Library Buildings*.<sup>30</sup>

Samuel Williams was one of the North Country's most prolific and respected architects. Born in Malone, New York, in 1866, Williams was active between 1894 and 1936, designing many important civic, commercial, and private buildings. Williams's most notable civic designs are the Edwards Town Hall (1896, NR 2004), Russell Town Hall (1921, NR 1996), and St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office (1924), but these important government buildings are not his only architectural contributions.<sup>31</sup> Samuel Williams also built the commercial Hyde Block and two small schools in Massena, New York, in 1900 and 1926 respectively.<sup>32</sup> In Ogdensburg, he designed the

<sup>26</sup> "A. Barton Hepburn, Banker, Dies of Injuries Suffered When Run Down in 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.," *Evening Telegram*, January 25, 1922. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>27</sup> "Hepburn's Body Placed At Rest," *Watertown Daily Times*, May, 1922. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>28</sup> "Hepburn's Grave Near Remington." *Watertown Daily Times*, January, 1922. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>29</sup> "To Build Four Libraries," *Journal and Republican*, May 8, 1919. [Fultonhistory.com](http://Fultonhistory.com).

<sup>30</sup> "Hepburn Library of Lisbon," *Ogdensburg Advance and St. Lawrence Weekly Democrat*, November 8, 1923. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

<sup>31</sup> "Samuel D.P. Williams," *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=27412706>.

<sup>32</sup> "The Hyde Block," *Massena Observer*, July 16, 1967. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>; "Notice to Contractors. School Buildings, Massena, N.Y.," *Massena Observer*, March 18, 1926. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 9

old Century Club, St. John's Church Rectory, Masonic Temple, and Ogdensburg Public Library, along with the homes of Walter Guest Kellogg and Lawrence F. Cuthbert.<sup>33</sup> Probably, his most impressive domestic commission is the 'Twin Cottages' on Cherry Island in the Thousand Islands; currently, the building is known as Ingleside (1900, NR 1980) and used as an elite summer residence on the St. Lawrence River. Williams also worked for Hepburn prior to the construction of the Lisbon library; he was the architect in charge of several additions to the Hepburn Hospital in Ogdensburg, including an X-Ray room and nurses' residence. Last but not least, Williams designed the Oswego Hospital (1905), Young Memorial Church in Brier Hill (1908, NR 2010), and Alice Hyde Memorial Hospital in Malone (1911).<sup>34</sup>

Williams-designed buildings show an eclectic flair, making them difficult to categorize neatly. In the National Register nomination for the Russell Town Hall, Lynn Garofalini described some of his civil works as having, "a Neoclassicism leavened with an Arts and Crafts sensibility in the handling of materials...Williams employed Neoclassical columns and pilasters, proportioned, however, with exaggerated entasis and thickness not seen in academic interpretations of the style."<sup>35</sup> Among the other works of Samuel Williams, the Hepburn Library of Lisbon is restrained in its features; only the library's stout entry column points back to Williams's more elaborate designs.

Samuel Williams died in 1958 in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California, at the age of 92. The products of his prolific career are still visible as some of the most dominant pieces of architecture in the hamlets and cities of St. Lawrence County.

*J.D. Flack (Builder)*

The contract for building the Hepburn Library of Lisbon was given in June of 1918. The award went to J.D. Flack, a Heuvelton builder who put in the lowest bid for the building.<sup>36</sup> Flack's bid of \$26,000 undercut that of C.E. Castle, the Ogdensburg contractor who erected the Hepburn Libraries of Waddington, Hermon, Edwards, and Madrid. Flack's work on the Lisbon library met with difficulties in 1918 when he encountered trouble finding regular help. Late in 1918 the townsfolk of Lisbon formed 'bees' of volunteer labor to aid Flack and ensure that the library would be covered by a roof before winter set in.<sup>37</sup> Flack's labor issues offer an explanation for why the Hepburn Library of Lisbon, though the third commissioned, was the last library completed.

<sup>33</sup> "Samuel Williams Arrives at Summer Home," *Ogdensburg Journal*, July 12, 1950. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

<sup>34</sup> Virginia Bartos, *Young Memorial Church* [National Register Nomination, 11NR06201] (Waterford, NY: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, 2011), Section 8, 3.

<sup>35</sup> Linda Garofalini, *Russell Town Hall* [National Register Nomination, 95NR00901] (Waterford, NY: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, 1996), Section 8, 3.

<sup>36</sup> "Brevities," *Watertown Herald*, June 15, 1918. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

<sup>37</sup> "Form 'Bees' to Aid Contractor," *Ogdensburg Republican Journal*, November 9, 1918. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Hepburn Library of Lisbon  
Name of Property  
St. Lawrence County, New York  
County and State

*Architectural Analysis*

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon is a noteworthy example of small-scale, early twentieth-century civic architecture in the St. Lawrence Valley and remains one of the most prominent buildings in the town of Lisbon. Designed by regionally prominent architect Samuel D.P. Williams, the building's design is somewhat eclectic and restrained, combining basic elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque, Tudor, and Dutch/Colonial Revival styles. It was conceived and continues to function as Lisbon's library and was intentionally designed to serve as a place of assembly for community events as well.

Williams's design for the Lisbon Hepburn lacks any clear parallels to his other works in St. Lawrence County; however, a clear definition of Williams's style is hard to pin down. In the Edwards Town Hall, he executed the structure in a classic Richardsonian Romanesque form; in the Young Memorial Church, he favored Arts and Crafts; and in the Russell Town Hall (planned and built around the same time as the Lisbon Hepburn Library), he worked in the Neo-Classical Revival, building the sort of monumental entrance and front staircase that E.K. Rossiter designed for his six Hepburn Libraries.

By contrast, the design of the Hepburn Library of Lisbon is relatively subdued and eclectic. Richardsonian influences on the library's façade include arched brick windows with blank arches in the gable and the name of the library in brick. The thick column at the front entrance is another Richardsonian element that Samuel Williams was fond of employing in many of his designs. Lastly, the system of parapets coming to a peak with small brick and stone caps on the façade and rear elevation, and the quarter-round windows, sandstone parapets, and matching central chimneys on the side elevations reflect the Romanesque. Equally important exterior elements are Williams's Tudor stylings, as seen in the steeply pitched roofs, cross-gabled façade, and decoration of both chimneys with brick quoins. Interior Tudor influences include the impressively detailed woodwork around doors, posts, and wood columns of the first-floor foyer and throughout the second floor. In terms of a Dutch Revival influence, this building was described at its opening as a piece of Dutch Revival architecture; the building's constrained massing and the windows with their stone sills partially support this label.

Changes to the Lisbon Hepburn Library have been made over the years; however, these have generally been sympathetic to the original layout of the library, and most are limited to surface materials. The most notable change to the exterior is the addition of thermally-efficient vinyl storm windows over the original wood sash. On the interior, the community room and kitchen have seen the most renovation. The community room features laminate flooring from 2011, while the kitchen floor is vinyl tile, replacing the original terra-cotta cement. The lower kitchen cabinets were replaced by modern pieces donated in 2011, and both the kitchen and community room feature acoustic tile and drop ceilings. On the first and second floors, a handicapped elevator has been installed in the northwest corner of the community room/adult reading room. In addition, carpeting covers the original hardwood floor on the second floor. These changes notwithstanding, the vast majority of the library's original features remain intact and in excellent condition despite almost a full century of continuous use by the community.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

*Conclusion*

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon, New York is one of the oldest and most recognizable buildings in the township. Constructed from 1917 to 1920 with funds gifted by philanthropist Alonzo Barton Hepburn, the library has been an enduring cultural center in this small rural community. For generations, school children and adults have come to the library seeking reading material and space for social events. In more recent years, the library was one of the first places in the area to offer high speed internet, increasing its importance in the community during a time when internet access was still incredibly limited.

Architecturally the Hepburn Library in Lisbon is distinct not only for Lisbon (where the majority of structures are built of wood), but within the fraternity of Hepburn Libraries. The six other Hepburn libraries feature a number of common tropes such as Greek columns and grand entryways that are eschewed by the Lisbon library. In the place of a large Colonial or Georgian style entrance, the Lisbon library features a small sheltered entrance in conjunction with yellow brick and a multi-gabled roof. This can be attributed to the selection of local architect Samuel D.P. Williams as the lead architect for the project.

The Hepburn Library of Lisbon is extremely intact both inside and out. Over the years, maintenance work and repairs have been respectful to the original layout and intended functions of the building. The Hepburn Library of Lisbon retains its original form and includes features such as the original main staircase, fireplaces, bookshelves, woodwork, and interior columns. Currently three of the seven Hepburn Libraries are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, these being the Hepburn Libraries of Norfolk, Waddington, and Colton. Due to its high historic integrity, and the important role it has played in community life for almost a full century, the Lisbon library is a worthy structure for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Visually different from its six peers, but functionally the same, the Hepburn Library of Lisbon operates as Hepburn intended when he donated and endowed the library to Lisbon in 1917.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Hepburn Library of Lisbon  
Name of Property  
St. Lawrence County, New York  
County and State

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Section 9 Page 2

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section   9   Page   3  

**Hepburn Library of Lisbon**

**Name of Property**

**St. Lawrence County, New York**

**County and State**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Hepburn Library of Lisbon**

**Name of Property**

**St. Lawrence County, New York**

**County and State**

Section 11 Page 1

**Photographs:**

Name of Property: Lisbon Hepburn Library

City or Vicinity: Lisbon

County: St. Lawrence

State: NY

Photographer: Matthew Shoen (Photos 1-15) and Emilie Gould (Photo 16).

Date Photographed: Jan. 25, 2016 (Photos 1-15) and May 12, 2016 (Photo 16)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0001	Façade (East), with primary access, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0002	South Elevation, from the southeast, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0003	South Elevation, from the southwest, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0004	North Elevation, showing secondary access, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0005	Rear Elevation (West), Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0006	Main Staircase, First Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0007	Common Room, facing south, First Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0008	Common Room, facing north, First Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0009	Kitchen, First Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0010	Wall Safe, under back stairs, First Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0011	Circulation Desk, Second Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

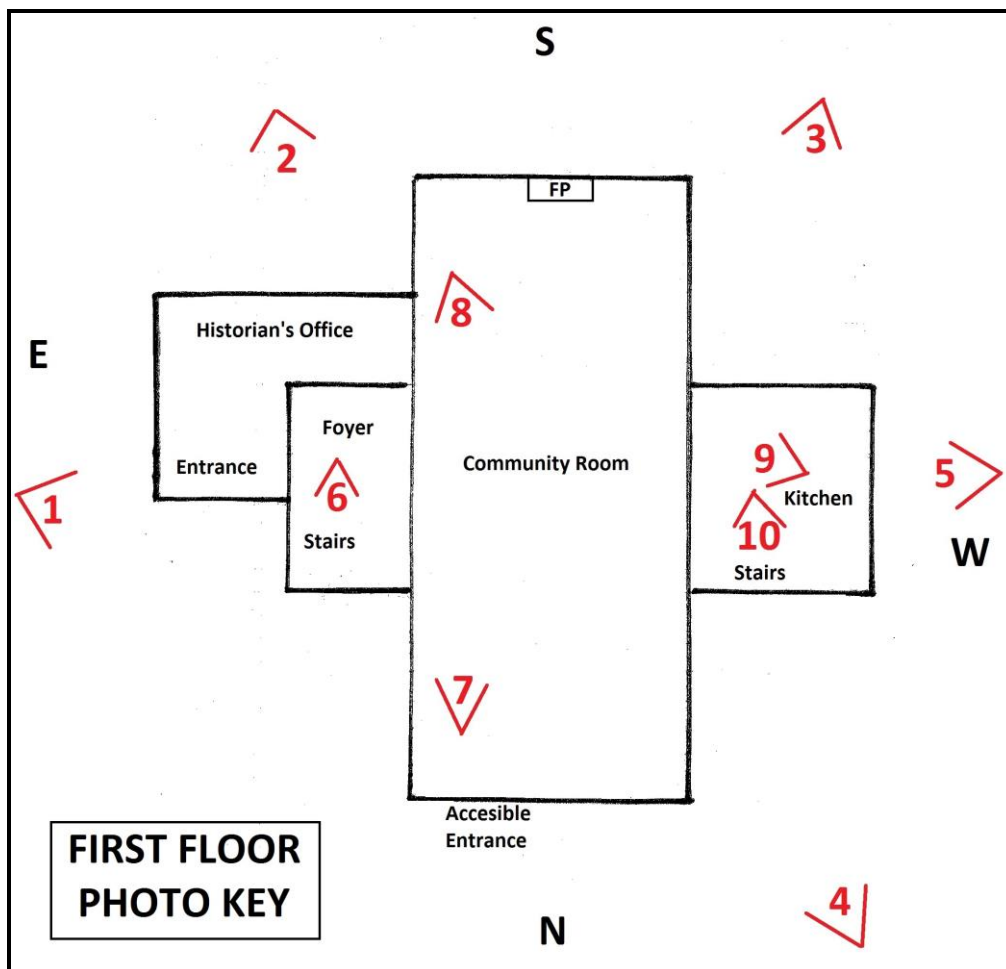
St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 2

NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0012	Reading Room (North), Second Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0013	Children's Reading Room (South), Second Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0014	Fireplace, Children's Reading Room (South), Second Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0015	Stacks (West), Second Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon
NY_St Lawrence County_Hepburn Library of Lisbon_0016	Rear Staircase (West) From Attic to Second Floor, Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Photo Keys:



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

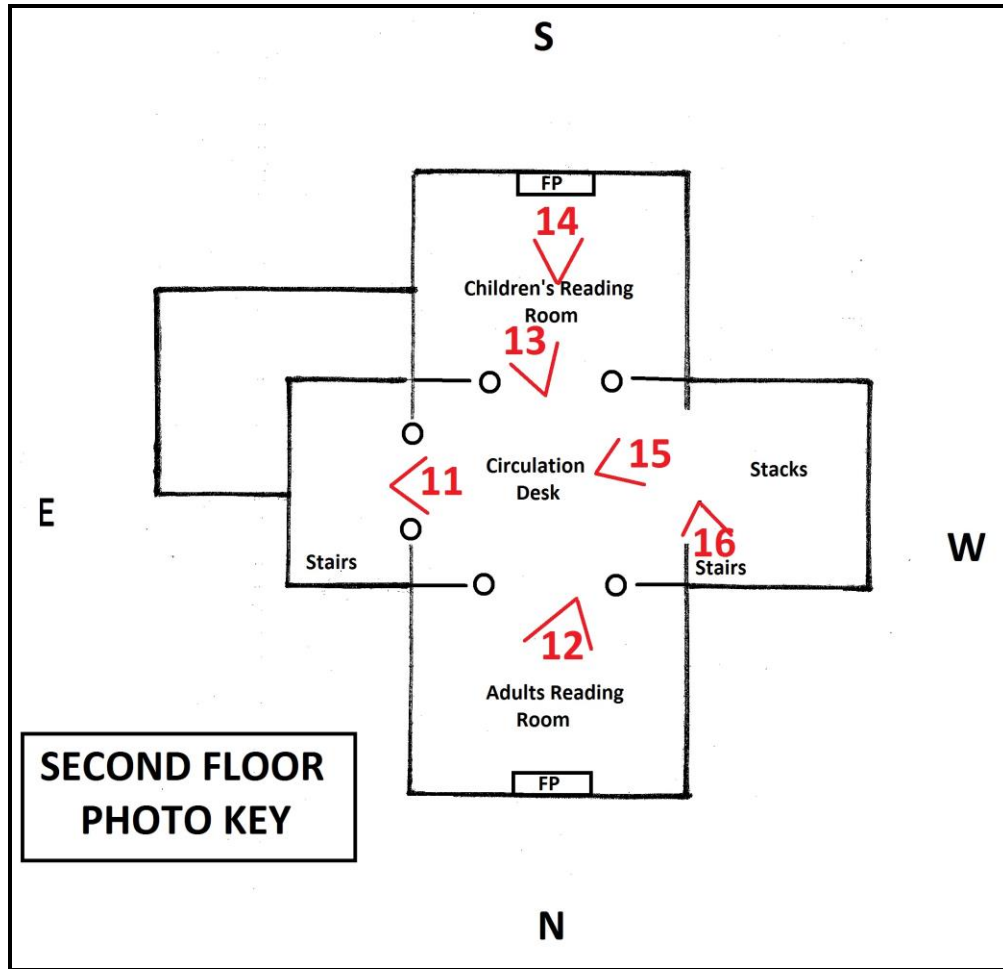
Section 11 Page 3

Hepburn Library of Lisbon

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York

County and State







HEPBURN LIBRARY















MAXIMUM  
OCCUPANCY  
109

NO  
SMOKING

MAXIMUM  
OCCUPANCY  
109

ATA  
ATA  
ATA





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hepburn Library of Lisbon

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, St. Lawrence

DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/16      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/26/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/16      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/23/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000556

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      8.22.16 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.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

JUL - 8 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

5 July 2016

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following nine nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Alton B. Parker Estate, Ulster County  
Hepburn Library of Lisbon, St. Lawrence County  
Benner-Foos-Ceparano Estate, Suffolk County  
Fort Independence Historic District, Bronx County  
Old Lowville Cemetery, Lewis County  
Haxtun-Tower House, Dutchess County  
Orator F. Woodward Cottage, Wyoming County  
Webster Grange No. 436, Monroe County  
Austin R. Conant House, Monroe County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office