

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Abbott Memorial Library

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 15 Library Street

City or town: Pomfret State: Vermont County: Windsor

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property XX meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide XX local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

XX A \_\_\_ B XX C \_\_\_ D

<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">Laura Meschman</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em;">11/7/2014</p>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Jim Falhout  
Signature of the Keeper

1.6.2015  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Granite, Slate, Terra Cotta

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Abbott Memorial Library, which was built in 1905, is located in the Village of South Pomfret, Vermont, along Library Road at its intersection with Stage Road. Constructed as a library, the building is a high-style interpretation of the Queen Anne style as it blended with the Colonial Revival style at the turn of the twentieth century. The firm of H.N. Francis & Sons acted as the architect, with J.D. Littlehale serving as the builder; both were from Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Presenting a modest rectangular form, the one-story building exhibits distinctive variants of these styles such as paired classic columns with entablature, pedimented entry porch, fanlight, ornamental sash windows set in modest surrounds, roof cresting, acroteria, and dormers. The fieldstone foundation is marked by a rough-cut water table, which reads also as a belt course, on which the brick structure is set. Square-butt red slate shingles cover the dominating hipped roof, which is completed by overhanging boxed eaves. Convex terra cotta tiles cap the flaring hips of the roof. Ornamental cresting and acroteria crown the ridge of the main roof. A brick chimney rises from the rear slope of the roof. It has served the community as a public library for over 110 years and retains considerable historic integrity because it has not been altered (save the creation of a bathroom in a former closet).

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#### Narrative Description

##### Setting

The library faces east along Library Road in South Pomfret. The most architecturally distinctive public building in the community, the library is set in the northwest corner of the intersection of Library Road with Stage Road, where they intersect with Pomfret Road. The surrounding lawn is

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bordered on the east by Library Street, on the south by Stage Road, on the north by an alley of trees separating it from Artistree/Purple Crayon Arts and Culture Center, and on the west by a border of trees that divorce it from a private home. Across Library Street is the Teago General Store and a short distance to the west is Suicide Six ski area. The Pomfret School is one mile to the south.

### Description

The one-story library was constructed in 1905 in a melded interpretation of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles from architectural designs produced by the Massachusetts firm of H.N. Francis & Sons. Although modest in form, the rectangular building (43' by 27') is expressively high style in ornamentation, material, and symmetry. With the exception of the wooden roof framing, the building was designed to be fireproof by using stone and brick for the wall structure, and poured concrete supported by iron beams for the main and attic floors. The library is constructed of red brick with a complementing red mortar. It is set on a raised foundation of fieldstone set below a rough-cut water table of Longmeadow brownstone; the height of the foundation allows the water table to also read as a belt course. A dominating hipped roof with square-butt red slate shingles caps the brick structure. Single hipped dormers pierce the north and south slopes of the roof. Paired front-gabled dormers project from the west slope of the roof. Convex terra cotta tiles cap the flared hips of the roof, while ornamental cresting and acroteria crown the ridge. It has overhanging boxed eaves with narrow torus-molded bed molding and a boxed cornice with back ogee molding. A brick chimney that tapers at the top rises from the rear slope of the roof.

A pedimented entry porch, which depicts the classical style often detailing buildings from the turn of the twentieth century, augments the façade of the library on the east façade fronting Library Street. Smooth-finished Fitchburg granite steps reach the shallow entry, which is framed by a solid balustrade of fieldstone topped with rough-cut granite coping. A metal rail, presumably added later, lines the northern edge of the stairs, which are framed by large rough-cut granite stones. The cheeks of the porch foundation are pierced by four-light wood windows set under splayed fieldstone lintels. The wide single-leaf entry holds a two-panel wood door finished with diamond-light panes. The three-light sidelights with diamond panes are set to the outer edges of the entry porch, edged by the pilasters. Paired Stony Creek granite Tuscan columns support the projecting gabled porch, which is detailed with a brownstone entablature composed of a cymatium-molded architrave and wide frieze carved with "Abbott Memorial Library." The projecting pediment over the porch has a gable roof with slightly flared eaves. Like the main roof, the roof of the pediment is covered in square slate shingles. The enclosed pediment is finished with a raking cornice and the tympanum is faced with bricks, largely formed by the thin bricks of the voussior framing a delicate lunette fanlight. A granite keystone tops the opening.

Flanking the entry porch at the foundation level are single six-light wood windows with jack-arched fieldstone lintels. Symmetrically placed above on the first story are Queen Anne-style windows with six diamond panes set over a single-light sash. The openings sit on the water table, which acts as the sill, and are crowned with jack-arched brick lintels. Narrow molded surrounds

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frame the window sashes.

The north and south sides of the building are identically fenestrated and finished. The raised foundation of fieldstone is pierced by four window openings, each holding four-light windows that appear to be fixed. Fieldstone lintels crown the openings, covered by single-light wood storm windows. The first story is marked by the rough-cut stone water table with finished splayed top. The sills of the four window openings are created by chamfering of the water table. The elongated windows have four diamond panes set over a single light, framed by a narrow molded surround. Brick jack-arches crown the openings, extending up to the bed molding of the roof's overhanging eaves. Hipped roof dormers interrupt the slopes of the roof. The dormers have square-butt slate shingles cladding the face and cheeks. The hipped roofs have wide overhanging eaves supported by solid knee brackets at the outer edges. The two openings hold diamond-pane casement windows with wood sills.

The west side of the building is utilitarian in nature, yet finished with the same materials as the façade and side elevations. The fieldstone foundation has four openings, the outer two being six-light fixed windows with fieldstone lintels. The more centralized opening is narrow, filled with wood and punctured by mechanical equipment. The single-leaf entry door, located in the southern inner bay, is wood with twelve-lights over two panels. Inset within the stone foundation, the entry has a narrow square-edge surround of wood and abuts the rough-cut water table. Symmetrically placed over the foundation openings are the first-story windows. The outer two windows are notably wider while the two inner bays hold elongated windows similar to those on the side elevations. Each window has diamond panes in the upper sash, set over a single-light lower sash. Narrow wood surrounds frame each. The jack-arched brick lintels abut the bed molding of the roof. A metal-clad slope extending from the juncture where the chimney rises through the roof joins the paired dormers piercing the roof. The dormers have slate-clad cheeks and faces, with solid knee brackets at the outer edges to support the overhangs of the gable roofs. Each dormer holds a diamond-paned casement window of wood with wood sill and narrow surround.

The interior of the library consists of three primary rooms: reading room, delivery room with stair and fireplace, and stack room (Figure 1). The basement has the same configuration of three rooms, the center divided into two spaces for storage and mechanical (Figure 2). The main rooms on the first floor retain a use consistent to the original design, with an entry lobby, circulation and adult collection, and children's room. Entry to the lobby is gained through a vestibule flanked by closets. The floors are ornately finished with marble terrazzo tiles, edged with a Greek key border in grey, yellow/cream, black and white mosaic. The closet entries, each with a four-paneled wood door, feature surrounds finished with sunk-panel pilaster casing, a wide frieze, and egg-and-dart molding under the stepped ogee lintel cap, all of vanished birch. Picture molding and crown molding with beading encircles all three of the rooms. Two fluted Tuscan columns of birch support the opening between the entry lobby and reading room in the south end of the building, visually dividing the spaces. The circulation room, in the north end of the building, can be closed off from the entry lobby with a very wide, single wooden pocket door.

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The wall-breast fireplace dominates the west wall of the lobby. Crowned by an overmantel, the fireplace is constructed of terra cotta and brick forming corbeled brackets, rope molding and inverted ogee molding. Egg-and-dart acts as bed molding for the birch shelf of the mantel. It is ornately finished with ogee, cavetto, and fillet molding. Tuscan pilasters with torus-molded shafts, which support a wide frieze topped by water leaf-and-dart molding, modillions, dentil molding, and a cyma recta molding that reaches the plaster ceiling, form the overmantel. The chimney breast is flanked by single-leaf entries, one leading to the basement and one leading to the attic.

To the north of the lobby, the circulation area and adult collection occupies the space originally designated as the stack room. Finely crafted birch rack shelves, a custom made wooden circulation desk, and a large table with cane-seated chairs, define the space. The racks have eight adjustable shelves, rising to meet the frieze of the window casing. Below the windows, meeting the sills, are two-shelf bookracks. A brass pendent light with metal stem hangs from the center of the ceiling. A single ornate lintel cap joins the wall punctured by three narrow side windows. The children's reading room is similarly finished with tall and short bookshelves and two pendent lights illuminating a small table.

The attic is unfinished and used for storage. The wooden rafters are joined along a ridge board. The floor of the attic, like the main floor, is poured concrete supported by iron beams. Soon after the library opened, the attic was used as housing for the librarian. The basement is largely unfinished, housing the furnace and providing storage and activity space for children. The floor is poured concrete and the walls expose the field stone foundation.

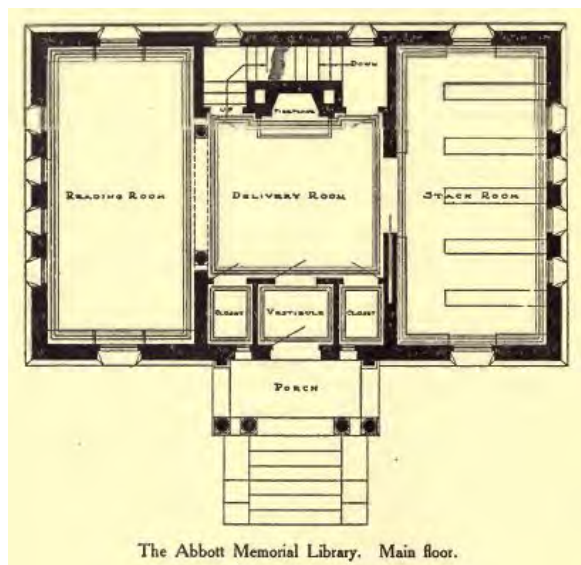


Figure 1: Plan of Main Floor

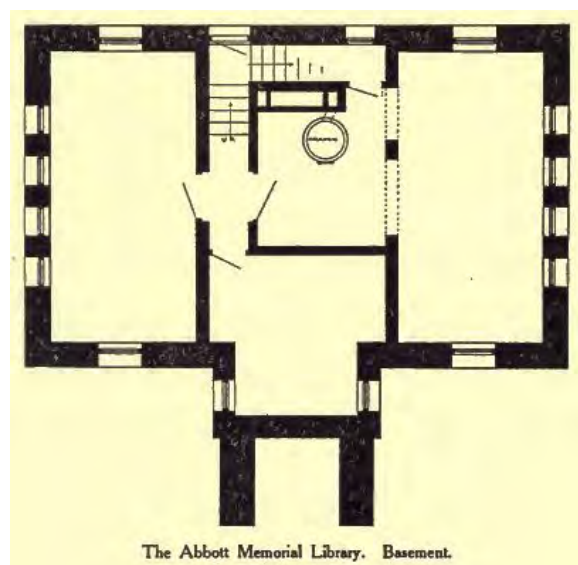


Figure 2: Plan of Basement

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Education

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1905

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1905

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

H.M. Francis & Sons (architect)

J.D. Littlehale (builder)

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Abbott Memorial Library is locally significant as an outstanding expression of the union between the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles of architecture, and as the educational center of South Pomfret, Vermont. The modest-sized building, dressed in a high-style design, is the work of the architectural firm of Henry M. Francis & Sons of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. John Dudley Littlehale, also of Fitchburg, was responsible for its construction. The symmetrically fenestrated library is constructed of red brick detailed with Stony Creek granite, Longmeadow brownstone, and Fitchburg granite. It maintains a commanding presence at the center of the village, which is defined by vernacular wood-frame residences and commercial buildings. Since its dedication at the opening ceremony on August 12, 1905, the Abbott Memorial Library as actively played a role in the education of the residents of Pomfret and surrounding villages by offering library and community services. Judge Ira A. Abbott donated the library building as a memorial to his parents and the Union soldiers of Pomfret who fought in the Civil War. It was his clear intent that the library ignite book learning as well as community pride through education and architecture. Abba Doton Chamberlin, the librarian hired in 1907, administered his vision by creating a lending library for area schools, engaging students with a Roll of Honor, and promoting the library as the social center for Pomfret and village neighbors. The property is eligible under Criteria A and C for education and architecture, with the period of significance representing its construction in 1905.

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

The Abbott Memorial Library is eligible under *Criterion A: Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.*

The Abbott Memorial Library was dedicated with great fanfare at a local ceremony attended by nearly 500 people. It was the gift of Ira A. Abbott to the residents of Pomfret. Ira Anson Abbott (1845-1921) was born in Barnard, Vermont, and lived in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Abbott was educated as a lawyer and was appointed as district judge in Massachusetts from 1898 to 1904. From 1904 to 1912, he lived in Albuquerque, where he served as justice of the New Mexico Territorial Supreme Court, a presidential appointment. A Civil War veteran of the Union Army, Abbott dedicated the Pomfret library in memory of the community's fallen soldiers and his parents, Daniel and Deborah Abbott, who had lived in the community.

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At the dedication ceremony, Judge Abbott imparted his reasons for the memorial donation and its intention to educate the residents through architecture and books:

My real purpose, therefore, looks forward and not back, and asks "How can this building be made most useful to those for whose benefit it is intended?" I will tell you briefly my hopes for it. Its first and most obvious use is one which formerly would not have been highly regarded in a town such as this was. But there can be no doubt that merely because the building and grounds will be attractive and pleasing to everyone who passes this way, they will be of value not only to the town but to all in this region. Every resident of the town will, I trust, feel a certain satisfaction and pride in being a part owner of them, and be led to question whether he cannot, in some way suggested by what he sees here in and about the building, make his own home more attractive for his family and so for himself. Then, too, the existence of a good library here should serve to strengthen the attachment of young and old in the town. It should help to keep the young people from leaving and attract those who have gone away, but would like to pass the evening of life where its morning was spent. There will soon be, I believe, a respectable collection here of objects interesting from their connection with the past of the town, and that cannot fail to be of interest to you all. Among them should be portraits of those who were the strong ones in their times.

I hope, too, that here will be inscribed the names of all Pomfret's soldiers. Thus far they have not been commemorated, by tablet or monument. It is fitting that the supreme proof of patriotism, which they gave in jeopardizing their lives in their country's service, should be thus recognized, not for their glory, but as an inspiration and incentive to the Pomfret boys of the future.

Finally, and chiefly, this building will be useful, I trust, as a repository of books for the free use of the people of the town. It should be borne in mind, however, that there may be excess even in reading books not in themselves harmful, and that many books should be treated as deadly drugs and plainly marked 'Poison'. It will be the high duty, therefore, of the trustees to see that only suitable books are provided and to that I am confident they will carefully attend.

In conclusion I wish to invoke the aid of those who have gone out from Pomfret as boys and met with a degree of success which will warrant them in doing something for those who have remained here, and so well maintained the standing of Pomfret as a farmer's town.

I believe a better future is near at hand for the New England farmer, that already those who till the fertile soil of this town are better rewarded for their toil than has been the case for many years. It is only fair that Pomfret boys who have in other fields of effort acquired perhaps more money, but very likely less content than those who remained here, should help to maintain this and other towns as

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nurseries of the stock which must, from time to time, be transplanted to the great centers of activity in our country to make good the tremendous loss at those points.

The building welcomed the public on January 1, 1906, and was opened only on Saturdays for the next sixteen months. There is a long history of literary appreciation in Pomfret, starting with the establishment of three private book clubs in 1804, 1826 and 1862, respectively. The first public library in Pomfret was established in 1896 and worked in concert with the Abbott Memorial Library to serve the public. At Judge Abbott's insistence, the finely detailed interior was augmented by a collection of portraits depicting citizens of Pomfret.

The modest library building was gifted to the trustees of the library, who hired a librarian to tend to the volumes of books and periodicals donate by Abbott and many other residents and friends of the library. With the hiring of the librarian in May 1907, the library was to be open more often for public use. Abba Doton Chamberlin, the librarian, lived in the attic, with rooms divided by hanging curtains. She wrote that the "building is open each week day at all reasonable hours, just as is every farmhouse. On Sundays it is open from 2 to 6 p.m." According to her accounts, all books "except a few rare volumes that are now out of print are lent to any one who wishes them, whether a resident of Pomfret or of some other town. Records are carefully kept, but no fines are taken for overdue books. We put our patrons on their honor, and they are loyal to us." Knowing everyone "old and young in the town," Chamberlin did not feel the need for a system to register borrowers, but rather used charge slips "in the simplest possible way" as record keeping. By 1911, just six years after its opening, the Abbott Memorial Library housed about 4,000 volumes, 600 of which were children's books. A lending program had been established with local schools in 1909, allowing children to use and donate books to the growing collection. Chamberlin was also instrumental in making each schoolhouse a branch library by sending boxes of 52 selected books for students and teachers to easily access. The number of loans made by each branch library was published in the local newspaper each school term. A Roll of Honor noted pupils who distinguished themselves as good students and library patrons. The points of honor noted on each lending box included:

1. The care of books furnished by the town
2. The care of library books
3. The care of school property generally
4. Cleanness of speech
5. Kindness to every living thing
6. Habits of order and neatness
7. Politeness
8. Truthfulness
9. Cheerful obedience
10. Other social virtues one much have if he is to become a desirable citizen

The librarian recorded that in the fall term of 1910, 51 of the 82 students enrolled in the school had distinguished themselves and were listed on the Roll of Honor. The numbers increased in

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subsequent terms and other communities adopted the lending policy established at the Abbott Memorial Library.

In September 1908, the State Library Commission and the Vermont Library Association held a joint meeting on the expansive corner lot of the Abbott Memorial Library in Pomfret. The audience included the state superintendent of schools, principal of the Randolph Normal School, several superintendents, "together with clergymen, librarians, teachers, and an interested public." The use of the building and its lawn continued to unite the community and engage residents of the surrounding region and state. As there was not a church in Pomfret, services held initially on the second floor of the schoolhouse were moved to the Abbott Memorial Library by the winter of 1909. The library also served as the social hub of Pomfret, with the motivated Abba Chamberlin encouraging gatherings such as socials, basket lunches, recitals, exhibits, educational discussions, and lectures.

The emblem of the library, used on bookplates by 1909, was drawn from the history of the name "Pomfret." John C. Dana of the Free Public Library in Newark, New Jersey, explained in a letter to Mrs. Frank S. Mackenzie of Woodstock, Vermont, the derivation of the emblem:

I found it in this way. After long and vain searching for a suggestion for an original library symbol or trademark, I turned at last to the history of the old English town of Pomfret, after which all American Pomfrets are named. I found that the word is often spelled "Pontefract" in England, though pronounced "Pomfret." A reason given for this curious spelling is this: In the days when the Romans were in Britain, a stone bridge was built over the stream which runs through the present Pomfret. The bridge in time was broken down; and the hamlet which was near it gradually came to be called "Broken bridge," in Latin, "Pons fractus." This Latin phrase was gradually changed to Pontefract. This came at length to be shortened to Pomfret in pronunciation ; and finally came to be spelled as pronounced.

I suggest that in using this symbol, for a time at least, perhaps until its history and significance come to be generally understood in Pomfret, it be printed with a brief explanatory note below it, and above it the words, "The Public Library completes the Bridge on the old Highway of Public Education."

The educational activities of the Abbott Memorial Library reached beyond the Green Mountains of Vermont to John C. Dana (1856-1929), a librarian of noted who worked in Colorado, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Best known for pioneering the open stack system and creating the first children's library room, Dana had great interest in Pomfret's modest library, in part because he was born in nearby Woodstock. In 1910, Dana contacted Judge Abbott to update him on the events taking place at the benefactor's library and to suggest these activities be publicized so others may learn of the successes. Abbott was overwhelmingly pleased with the news:

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I know very little about the details of public library work and am therefore especially glad to have your assurance that Mrs. Chamberlin's administration is so highly successful as you say it is. I have had misgivings as to the wisdom of my course in giving a library building to a town so small as Pomfret, especially as the topography of the region made it impossible so to locate the library that it could be conveniently reached from all parts of the town; but Mrs. Chamberlin has apparently solved the problem through an adaptation of Mahomet's compromise with the Mountain!

The plan you suggest for issuing a pamphlet descriptive of the library's work has my cordial approval. It is very fortunate that the library has found such friends as yourself and Mrs. Mackenzie, through whom its sphere of usefulness will, I hope, be so greatly extended. Since there are comparatively so few people living in the vicinity to profit directly by the library, it is the more fortunate that Mrs. Chamberlin has there shown a spirit and set in operation methods which will, I trust, indirectly benefit my native state entire; and whose light may even shine beyond its borders, if I may credit the kind assurance of yourself and others on the subject. If that happens, I shall feel abundantly repaid for what I have done in establishing the library.

The Abbott Memorial Library is eligible under *Criterion C: Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

The Abbott Memorial Library was designed in a high-style expression of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles combined and remains remarkably intact as constructed in 1905. The firm of H.M. Francis & Sons from Fitchburg, Massachusetts, was responsible for the design. Noted as the most prominent architect in Fitchburg at the turn of the twentieth century, Henry Martyn Francis founded the architectural company in the nineteenth century. His sons, Frederick (1870-1919) and Albert (1876-1946), joined the firm in 1902, carrying on the business to produce high artistic works in the styles characteristic of their father. The elder Francis was born in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, in 1836, graduating from Lawrence Academy in 1858. He studied architectural drawing and apprenticed with Boston architect, Alexander R. Estey. His talents brought him to the architectural offices of George M. Harding in Portland, Maine, and George F. Meacham of Boston. He opened his own architectural firm in 1868 in Fitchburg. He left a mark "through his designs of churches, public buildings, and many houses throughout Fitchburg as well as some other parts of New England."

Frederick Francis, for whom the design of the Abbott Memorial Library is credited, studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (class of 1892). Born in Fitchburg, he traveled abroad to study architecture on several occasions. In 1902, Francis joined the office of Charles A. Platt, a prominent architect and landscape architect based in New York City. Francis returned to Massachusetts and became a partner with his father's firm in August 1903, two years

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before the dedication of the Abbott Memorial Library. Sadly, Frederick Francis committed suicide in 1919. His brother, Albert Francis, despite having no formal architectural training, continued to run the firm until the 1940s.

The firm designed many architecturally notable buildings in Vermont and Massachusetts, including the Fitchburg Historical Society, Newbury Library, Randolph Library, Worcester County YMCA, Phoenix Building, Calvinistic Congregational Church, Academy Street School, Union Depot, and more than 30 school buildings, 25 churches, 15 libraries, a number of public buildings, and several hundred residences. Often the architectural firm worked with John Dudley Littlehale (1847-1924), also a resident of Fitchburg. Littlehale, born in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts, was a member of the Fitchburg Master Builders' Association, serving at one time as its president. Having fought in the Civil War, he received a gunshot wound to his shoulder, an injury that did not negatively affect his successful building and contracting career. Littlehale died while living in Pomfret, Vermont, in 1917, twelve years after constructing the Abbott Memorial Library.

Details of the buildings construction, including descriptions of the materials used, was published in the *Spirit of the Age* newspaper of Woodstock, on August 19, 1905. The article, which included an architectural rendering of the building, noted H.M. Francis & Sons was the architect and J.D. Littlehale was the contractor responsible for the library's construction. The much-loved building was the subject of postcards depicting interior and exterior views by 1908.

The design of the Abbott Memorial Library is overwhelmingly characteristic of educational and civic architecture from the turn of the twentieth century. The building is comparable in style, detailing, form, plan, and material to libraries, schools, depots, and public buildings constructed nationally during this period. The architecture of the Abbott Memorial Library is similar to and likely greatly influenced by the fashions directing educational and civic architecture, which the firm of H.M. Francis & Sons was profoundly familiar with and designing throughout Vermont and Massachusetts. The design presented by this regionally prominent firm for the library embodies the distinctive characteristics of the turn of the twentieth century and the melding of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Identifiable elements include the juxtaposition of rusticated and smooth stones, use of both granite and brownstone, colored mortar to meld the red brick exterior, terra cotta roof cresting and acroteria on a dominating hipped roof with slightly flared eaves, Queen Anne-style window sashes and diamond-paned dormers, strict symmetry, Tuscan columns, varnished birch interior detailing, and ornately detailed fireplace prominently presented in the entryway. Creating a patterned masonry effect, the exterior materials possess a high artistic value.

Yet, despite the grandeur commanded by the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles in general and the materials used to unite them in this case, the Abbott Memorial Library respects its setting and location in the small village of South Pomfret. The building's height, massing, and form are consistent with the surrounding one- and two-story buildings, occupied for residential and commercial uses. Architectural historian Glenn Andres states the library's "stone, the eaves, the

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Name of Property

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County and State

hipped dormers evoke the bungalow design,” a form respectful of a residential village like South Pomfret, Vermont.

Of the architectural expression and form, Andres writes, “The result is a surprisingly urban building for a decidedly rural place.” The Abbott Memorial Library has served the community as a public library, education center, and the social heart of Pomfret for over 110 years and retains considerable historic integrity. The building has not been altered, save the creation of a bathroom in a former closet.



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Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont  
County and State

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## 11. Major Bibliographical References

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

“Abbott Memorial Library.” Woodstock, Vermont: The Elm Tree Press, 1911.  
[http://www.archive.org/stream/pomfretlibraryve00danaiala/pomfretlibraryve00danaiala\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/pomfretlibraryve00danaiala/pomfretlibraryve00danaiala_djvu.txt)

Andres, Glenn M., and Curtis B. Johnson. *Buildings of Vermont*. Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2014.

Crane, Ellery Bicknell. *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Worchester County, Massachusetts*. New York, NY: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1907.

H.M. Francis, Architect. <http://bostongringo.com/united-states/massachusetts-fitchburg-hm-francis-architect.htm>

*Legendary Locals of Fitchburg, Massachusetts*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.

Vail, Hobart. *Pomfret, Vermont*. Volume 1. Boston, Massachusetts, Cockayne Publishing, 1930.

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

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

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Other

Name of repository: Abbott Memorial Library

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** #1413-4

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## 12. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 43.665123° | Longitude: -72.539225° |
| 2. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |
| 3. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |
| 4. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is located at 15 Library Street in South Pomfret. The library faces east along Library Road, in the northwest corner of the intersection of Library Road with Stage Road, where they intersect with Pomfret Road. The surrounding lawn is bordered on the east by Library Street, on the south by Stage Road, on the north by an allee of trees separating it from Artistree/Purple Crayon Arts and Culture Center, and on the west by a border of trees that divorce it from a private home. Across Library Street is the Teago General Store and a short distance to the west is Suicide Six ski area. The Pomfret School is one mile to the south.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the property as granted by Judge Ira A. Abbott in August 1905 and the acreage owned since that time by the Library Trustees.

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**13. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Laura Trieschmann and Devin Colman, Architectural Historians; Anne Bower and the Abbott Memorial Library Trustees

organization: Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

street & number: One National Life Drive, Deane C. Davis Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

city or town: Montpelier state: Vermont zip code: 05620-0501

e-mail devin.colman@state.vt.us

telephone: 802-828-3043

date: September 26, 2014

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Abbott Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont  
County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Abbott Memorial Library

City or Vicinity: Pomfret

County: Windsor

State: VT

Photographer: Devin Colman

Date Photographed: June 18, 2014

Abbott Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont  
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 7. View looking west, showing front (east) facade
- 2 of 7. View looking southwest, showing front (east) façade and side (north) elevation
- 3 of 7. View looking northeast, showing rear (west) elevation and side (south) elevation
- 4 of 7. Interior view looking west, showing fireplace and overmantel in the entry lobby
- 5 of 7. Interior view looking southwest, showing one of the wood columns that defines the entrance to the reading room, on the left. Door to the right of the column leads to the attic staircase.
- 6 of 7. Interior view looking northeast, showing the circulation room.
- 7 of 7. Detail of main level floor, showing marble terrazzo and Greek key mosaic border.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

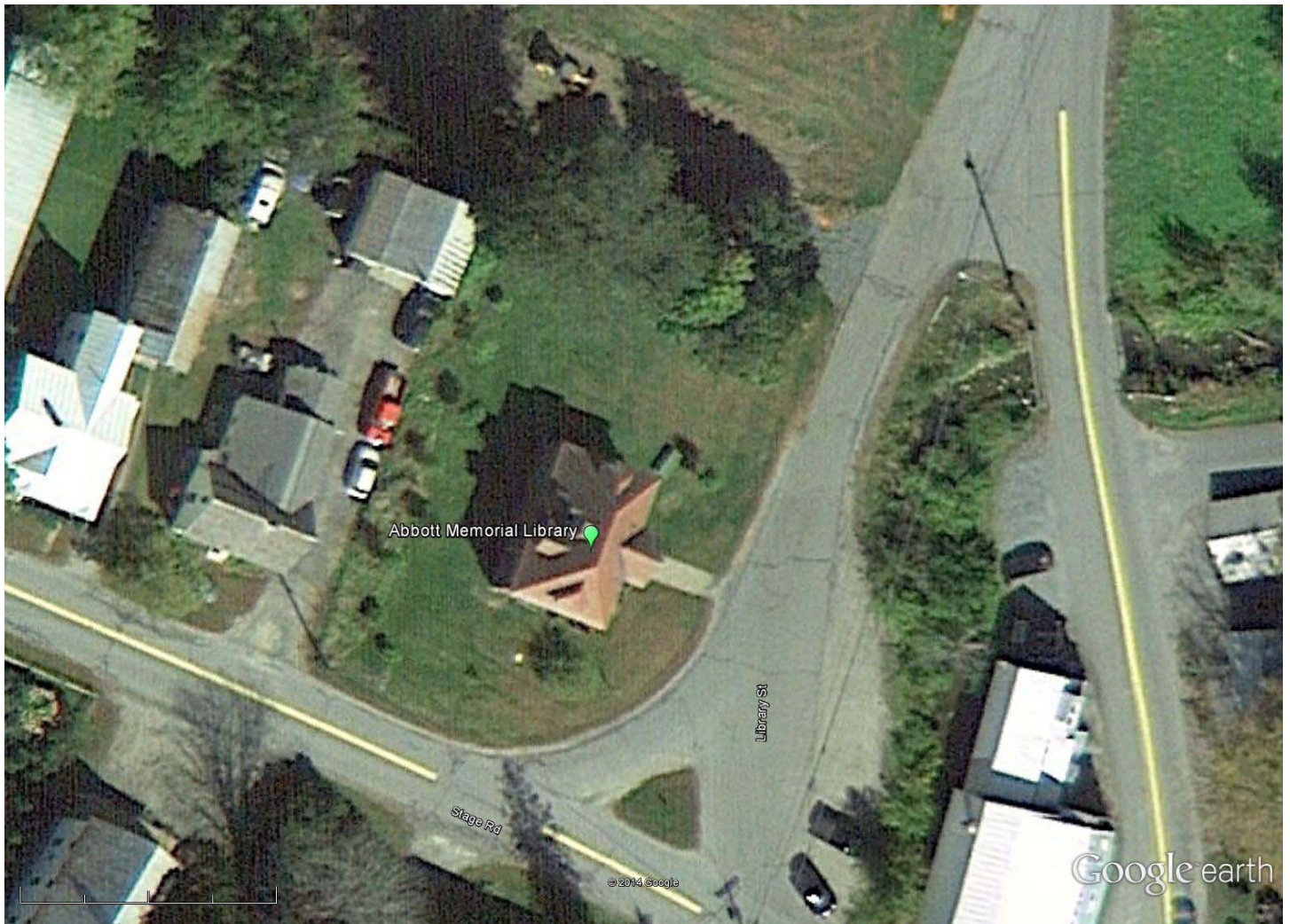
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Google earth



Abbott Memorial Library  
15 Library Street  
Town of Pomfret  
Windsor County  
Vermont  
Latitude: 43.665123  
Longitude: -72.539225



Google earth



Abbott Memorial Library  
15 Library Street  
Town of Pomfret  
Windsor County  
Vermont  
Latitude: 43.665123  
Longitude: -72.539225

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Abbott Memorial Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VERMONT, Windsor

DATE RECEIVED: 11/21/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/07/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001141

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 1-6-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Picturesque Library in small community that served  
as center for educational & social activities*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A + C

REVIEWER J. Gabor DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**State of Vermont**  
**Division for Historic Preservation**  
One National Life Drive, Floor 6  
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501  
[www.HistoricVermont.org](http://www.HistoricVermont.org)

[phone] 802-828-3211  
[division fax] 802-828-3206

*Agency of Commerce and  
Community Development*



November 5, 2014

J. Paul Loether  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

**Re: Abbott Memorial Library**  
**Town of Pomfret, Windsor County, VT**

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed a true and correct copy of the nomination for the Abbott Memorial Library to the National Register of Historic Places.

No objections to the nomination were submitted to the Division during the public comment period.

The Vermont Advisory Council reviewed the draft nomination materials at their meeting on October 15, 2014. The Council voted unanimously that the property meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation under Criteria A and C, and the Council recommends that the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at (802) 828-3043 or [devin.colman@state.vt.us](mailto:devin.colman@state.vt.us).

Sincerely,  
VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Devin A. Colman  
State Architectural Historian

