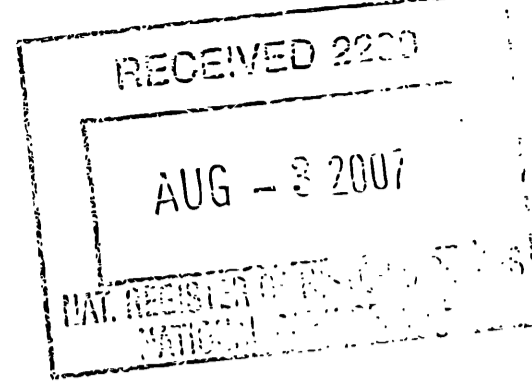


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



948

JUN 01 2007

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 Smyth Public Library

other names/site number Frederick Smyth Library

2. Location

street & number 194 High Street not for publication n/a

city or town Candia vicinity n/a

state New Hampshire code NH county Rockingham code 015 zip code 03034

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 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.)

Uida Ray Wilson DSHPO 7/30/2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE
State of 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:)

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 9.13.07 Date of Action

Smyth Public Library
Name of Property

Rockingham County, N.H.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / library

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Slate
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

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.)

Property is:

- 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

1932-1957

1932

Significant Dates

1932

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Andrews, Jones, Biscoe & Whitmore
L. H. Shattuck, Inc.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H.

Smyth Public Library
Name of Property

Rockingham County, N.H.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9
---	---

3	1	2	4	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	7	0	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone

Easting

Northing

2

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone

Easting

Northing

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Rue11

organization _____ date June 1, 2007

street & number 7 Hill Avenue, P.O. Box 1254 telephone 603-968-7716

city or town Ashland state N.H. zip code 03217

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Town of Candia

street & number 74 High Street telephone 603-483-8101

city or town Candia state N.H. zip code 03034

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, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

7. DESCRIPTION

The Smyth Public Library (sometimes known as the Frederick Smyth Library) is a former library building that stands on its own triangular lot bounded by High Street (N.H. Route 27), South Road and Cross Road in the town of Candia. The building is composed on three sections. The main block set parallel to High Street, is a one story, gable roofed, brick structure on a high concrete basement. Because of the steep slope of the land to the south, the main block's basement is fully exposed on the rear south side. In the center of the main block's façade, the north lateral side facing High Street, is the small one story, gable roofed, wooden entrance pavilion. In the center of the main block's rear south façade is the gable roofed rear wing. The rear wing is two stories high with its concrete lower level and its brick upper level corresponding to the concrete basement level and brick main level of the main block. (To avoid confusion, this description will refer to the lower levels of both sections as the lower level and the upper levels as the main level.) All three sections are covered with slate roofs. The building retains its basic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The high foundation of the entrance pavilion and the lower levels of the main block and the rear wing are all made of poured concrete ornamented by horizontal V-shaped grooves, set about ten inches apart. The concrete foundation of the entrance pavilion is visible only on the east and west sides, as the front is completely covered by the wide granite steps. The lowest of the four granite steps is as wide as the pavilion. The two middle steps and the wider top step are set between two massive granite blocks that act as sidewalls for the middle steps. The top step is flush with the top of the granite side blocks. The steps are now flanked within the side blocks by metal handrails with simple balusters and molded top rails with curved ends.

The main level of the entrance pavilion is sheathed with rusticated wooden boards, cut with horizontal and vertical rectangular grooves to imitate large stone blocks. The slate

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

gable roof is topped by a plain copper ridge cap and is bordered on the east and west eaves by molded copper gutters, which drain back into the main block gutters. The eaves are trimmed by a wooden box cornice ornamented with block modillions and moldings. The gutters are incorporated into the east and west cornices, giving the pavilion gable an uncommon profile. The triangular main gable, formed by the raking cornices and their returns, projects slightly forward of the east and west cornices, which appear in a head on view, as horizontal extensions of the returns. The returns are supported by pilasters placed over the rusticated "blocks" of the front north wall. The two pilasters, best described as Doric, are fluted, with molded bases and capitals, the latter supporting short sections of friezes, each ornamented by a triglyph. Between the two pilasters is the main entrance, an eight panel door with four vertical panels and four smaller horizontal panels. Set on a simple wooden sill, the door is topped by a four pane transom window, with a curved upper edge. The door and the transom window share a molded frame. Above the transom window, the rusticated wooden "blocks" form a segmental arch, topped by a slightly projecting, paneled "keystone". The keystone rises into the flush boarding that fills the gable above the level of the returns. The gable bears the inscribed date "1932" and the building's title "FREDERICK SMYTH LIBRARY", as well as a simple round light fixture with an exposed light bulb. The east and west walls are windowless. On one of the lower western blocks is the inscription "ANDREWS JONES BISCOE AND / WHITMORE ARCHITECTS 1932".

The main block and the rear wing share many exterior features. Both have lower levels of the already described poured concrete ornamented with horizontal grooves. The lower levels are topped by molded brick water tables made of ogee curved brick headers. The main level brick walls are laid in Flemish bond. The slate roofs have copper ridge caps and molded copper gutters on the lateral eaves. The gutters empty into metal drainpipes that bend to follow the walls as

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

they descend to empty into vertical round metal pipes that connect to underground drains. The drainpipes are found at the east and west ends of the main block's lateral (north and south) walls and at the south ends of the rear wing's lateral (east and west) walls. The lateral eaves of the main block and the rear wing are trimmed by wooden box cornices that incorporate the gutters and are ornamented by moldings. The north front cornice of the main block is continuous with the entrance pavilion cornice, and like it, is decorated with block modillions. But, the modillions were not used on the rear main block cornice or the rear wing cornices. The gable eaves of the main block and the rear wing are trimmed by close molded verges with returns of the lateral cornices. The main level windows of the two sections, are of different heights, the rear wing windows being shorter. But they are treated similarly, with curved upper sash, molded wooden frames, plain wooden sills, and segmental brick arches topped by plain limestone keystones. In the lateral walls, the keystones rise to touch the wooden cornices.

The main block roof is distinguished by two chimneys, found at each end of the roof ridge. The outer face of each chimney is a continuation of the brick gable end wall. The chimneys interrupt the close verges on the gables. The chimneys are ornamented by narrow vertical strips of projecting bricks, two each on the wider east and west sides, one each on the north and south sides. The west chimney is actually a false chimney and is topped by three corbelled courses and a simple rectangular copper cap. The top of the working east chimney has been repaired and has lost some of its corbelled courses. The vertical strips continue up and through the concrete cap of the east chimney. On the rear south slope of the main block roof to the west of the rear wing and on the west slope of the rear wing's roof, a metal snow and ice fence with three horizontal rails held by metal brackets has been installed above the lower level entrance.

The central bay of the five bay north façade of the main

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

block is occupied by the entrance pavilion. To each side of the entrance pavilion is found one horizontal three pane basement window with a molded wooden frame and a modern metal framed single pane storm window. The four side bays of the main level each contain a 6/9 sash window with curved upper sash and the ornamental features already described. Two more such windows are found in each (east and west) gable end. The west gable end also has a six pane window with molded wooden frame and a modern single pane, metal framed storm window near the southerly corner in its partly exposed lower level. The rear south façade has two lower level windows, one on each side of the rear wing. The lower level 6/6 sash windows are trimmed with molded wooden frames and protected by modern metal framed 1/1 sash storm windows. The lower level windows are topped by the brick water table. The main level has four 6/9 sash windows, two on each side of the rear wing, all of the same design as the front and gable end windows.

The rear wing has three lower level windows, one each in the south, east and west walls. These windows are like those of the main block's rear (south) lower level, 6/6 sash windows with molded frames and modern 1/1 sash storm windows that are topped by the brick water tables. The west wall also has near its north end, the lower level entrance, a wooden door with four panels beneath a high horizontal three pane built-in window. The door has a concrete sill and a molded wooden frame that rises to the brick water table. Above the door is a copper light fixture. The main level windows are of the same design as the main block's main level windows, save that they are shorter with 6/6 sash. There are two such windows in each lateral (east and west) side and one in the south gable end. The horn for the alarm system is mounted on the sill of the window above the lower level entrance. The rear wing's slate roof is lower than the main block roof that it intersects.

The entrance pavilion contains the small entrance hall. Part of the cork tile floor covering was damaged by water

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

and has been removed to reveal the concrete base. The rough textured plaster ceiling is trimmed by a ceiling molding. In the center of the ceiling is an exposed light bulb in an ornate round foliated metal light fixture. The north, east and west walls have similar treatment, with simple baseboards and two levels of plaster panels, trimmed by molded boards and separated by a beaded horizontal rail. The lower panels are filled with smooth painted plaster, the upper panels with rough textured painted plaster. In the center of the north wall is the main entrance, the eight panel door and the four pane transom window with a curved upper edge, which share a molded frame. To each side of the entrance, there are found narrow vertical panels, one on each level. The east and west walls each have one large plaster panel in each level. A cork bulletin board with a molded wooden frame is mounted on the upper east wall panel. In the upper west wall panel is the bronze dedication plaque for the building. The large plaque, ornamented with a molded edge, states in raised letters "1934 / THIS BUILDING IS THE GIFT OF / MARION C. SMYTH / THE SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY / WAS FOUNDED BY HER HUSBAND / FREDERICK SMYTH / IN 1888".

The south wall of the entrance hall is dominated by the entrance into the main room of the library. The fifteen panes of the glass door have beaded edges in an otherwise simple wooden frame. To each side of the door is a full five pane sidelight, with simple beading around the individual panes and the recess around the sidelight. The door and sidelights share a molded outer frame. Flanking the sidelights are narrow vertical wooden paneled pilasters with simple bases and capitals that fill the rest of the wall. Above the entrance is a paneled frieze topped by a simple molded cornice. The five panels of the frieze correspond to the elements below them, and each projects slightly more towards the center of the frieze. That is to say, the small panels above the side pilasters are the most recessed, while the wide panel above the door is the most projected. The short section of the south wall above the entrance cornice is filled by a panel of rough textured plaster with molded

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

wooden trim, like that of the plaster panels on the other three walls, on its top and sides.

The main library room occupies the entire main level of the main block. The cork tile floor is interrupted only by the brick hearth of the eastern fireplace and the simple metal grids of the three hot air heating grates. The lower portions of the walls are entirely covered by wooden bookcases save for the fireplace projection at the east end and two narrow sections of exposed wall flanking the main entrance. Where not covered by bookcases, the walls are covered with roughly textured painted plaster. The similar plaster ceiling is vaulted with a broad segmental arch. The four edges of the vaulted ceiling are trimmed by six inch wide boards with molded edges. Hanging on chains for round metal ceiling fixtures are three elaborate metal chandeliers. Each chandelier has eight electric lights on ornate curved brackets radiating from a circular central post with many moldings, a bulbous base, and rings at the top and bottom. The room is also lit by a dozen large 6/9 sash windows, with curved upper sash, all set in rectangular molded frames. The north and south lateral walls each have four such windows, while the east and west end walls each have two more windows.

In the center of the main room's north wall is the main entrance. The fifteen panes of the door are surrounded by simple bead moldings. The five pane sidelights again have bead moldings around each pane and the sidelight recesses. The door and sidelights share a molded frame, flanked by paneled pilasters with simple bases and capitals. As in the entrance hall, the entrance is topped by a paneled frieze, whose five panels correspond to the door, sidelights and pilasters and progressively project slightly more as they approach the center. Above the frieze is a pedimented molded cornice, with short extensions of the horizontal cornice at each end, echoing the profile of the entrance pavilion's gable. To each side of the entrance are 16 inch wide sections of plastered wall with molded baseboards.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Between the two windows in the east end wall is the one and a half foot deep fireplace projection. The brick fireplace opening has a brick hearth and a brick surround, the latter bordered by a simple molded wooden frame. To each side is a vertical wooden panel flanked by two paneled wooden pilasters with simple bases and capitals. These two pairs of pilasters support the entablature that serves as the mantelpiece. The architrave, frieze and cornice project above the pairs of pilasters. The frieze has three panels, one panel above each pair of pilasters and a long panel between them. In the long panel is inscribed "This building was built and given to the Town of CANDIA in 1932 / in memory of FREDERICK SMYTH who was born in Candia Mar. 9 1819 / was twice elected Governor of New Hampshire in 1865 and 1866 / and died in Bermuda April 27, 1899".¹ The projecting cornice serves as the mantelshelf. The front of the fireplace projection to the north and south of the fireplace proper and the north and south sides of the projection are sheathed with wood up to the top of the mantelshelf. This sheathing is trimmed by a simple baseboard and by two simple horizontal moldings at the levels of the pilaster capitals and the mantelshelf. A narrow plain board is placed above the mantelshelf and along the sides of the projection. The upper part of the fireplace projection is sheathed with painted textured plaster like that on the walls and ceiling.

In the center of the south wall is the door to the hallway in the rear wing. The six panel door has a molded frame and is flanked by paneled pilasters with simple bases and capitals, like those flanking the main entrance on the opposite side of the room. The doorway is topped by a frieze with three panels, one above each pilaster and a wider panel projecting slightly above the door. The frieze is crowned by a pedimented cornice reminiscent of the main entrance

¹ Governor Smyth actually died on April 22, not April 27. Obituaries of Frederick Smyth, Daily Mirror and American (Manchester, N.H.) April 22, 1899, pp. 1 and 5, Portsmouth (N.H.) Herald, April 24, 1899, p. 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

cornice with a triangular pediment, with short extensions of the horizontal cornice at each end.

The bookcases in the main room are all of the same design. Save for those under the windows, there are also all of the same height, five feet, eight inches. The bookcases are relatively simple wooden bookcases, with plain baseboards, crowning moldings, adjustable wooden shelves and simple panels on the ends. The bookcases cover the walls, including the spaces under the windows, but excepting the fireplace projection, and the two narrow sections flanking the main entrance. Bookcases project perpendicularly from the north and south walls to the east and west of the north and south doors to divide the room into three areas. Three of the four projecting bookcases have cork bulletin boards with simple wooden frames at their outer ends. In the western stack area, three long freestanding bookcases, running east to west, fill much of the space, leaving just aisles between the bookcases on the floor and along the walls. The east end of the central free standing bookcase has been covered by a book display panel, what appears to have been a wide modern formica covered and plastic edged particleboard table top that was mounted vertically on the bookcase. A number of small metal slanting individual book holders have been mounted on the face of this display panel.

The main level of the rear wing includes three rooms. The southern two-thirds is devoted to the Elizabeth Peterson Memorial Room. To its north is the stairhall, that includes the stairs to the lower level hall, and to the west of the stairhall, a small closet.

The door from the main library room opens into the upper stairhall. The hall has a cork tile floor on its main level landing. The walls are plastered with molded baseboards. The plaster ceiling has a light fixture, a light bulb in a round foliated metal fixture. Above the landing is the trap door to the attic, a large wooden panel in a molded wooden frame. (The attics above the rear wing and the main block are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

unfinished spaces, with the exposed rafters, ridgepoles and boards of the roofs serving as the ceiling. The unfinished rear wing floor and the main room vault are covered with insulation. The south end wall of the rear wing attic is exposed brick, as presumably are the gable end walls of the main block attic which was not readily accessible during the examination. Through the rough hole in the main block's boarded roof slope that connects the two attics, it was possible to see the metal rods descending from the ridgepole to support the main room's vaulted ceiling.)

The main level landing on the west side of the stairhall has three doors, all six panel doors with molded frames. The northern door opens into the main library room, the western door into the closet, and the southern door into the Peterson Memorial Room. The latter door has a small brass plaque inscribed "Elizabeth Peterson / MEMORIAL ROOM / LIBRARIAN: 1931-1962". The stairs descend from the southern end of the landing to the east along the south wall, then to the north along the west wall and finally to the west along the north wall to the lower level. The steps have plain wooden risers and wooden treads with simply molded nosings. There are no intermediate landings, as the treads are wedge shaped as they turn the corners. The molded baseboards follow the stairs downward. Mounted on metal brackets on the walls are molded wooden handrails with curved ends at the top and bottom of the stairs. The main level landing and the stairs are protected by a balustrade with plain balusters, plain square newel posts and simply molded handrails. The stairs are lit by a 6/6 sash window, with curved upper sash, in a rectangular molded wooden frame, with a molded sill, set high in the eastern wall.

The closet has a cork tile floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, and a plaster ceiling with a ceramic light fixture with an exposed light bulb. In the east wall, is the six panel door with molded frame to the stairhall. High wooden rails, with some surviving coat hooks, are mounted on the walls. But plain wooden adjustable shelves

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

have now been mounted on both the north and south walls. In the west wall is a 6/6 sash window, with a curved upper sash, set in a rectangular molded frame, with a molded sill.

The Elizabeth Peterson Memorial Room has a cork tile floor interrupted by one metal heating grate, and a plaster ceiling with ceiling moldings and a large modern fluorescent light fixture. In the north wall is the six panel stairhall door in a molded frame. The room is well lit by three windows, one each in the south, east and west walls. They all have 6/6 sash and curved upper sash, and are set in rectangular molded frames with molded sills. The walls are now almost completely covered with bookcases, save for the small areas above the door and beneath the windows, which are plastered, with molded baseboards under the windows. The wooden bookcases, which reach to the ceiling, are simply built with plain baseboards, plain shelves and uprights, the only ornament being the ceiling moldings. Double paneled doors turn part of the northern bookcases into a small cabinet.

The lower level of the rear wing has two rooms, the lower stairhall to the north and the storage room/kitchen to the south. The lower level of the main block is largely devoted to the C. Fred Bangs Memorial Room, a meeting room. At the east end of the main block is found a furnace room with two small restrooms in the southeast corner.

The lower stairhall has a carpeted floor and plaster walls with molded baseboards. The plaster ceiling has a plain ceramic light fixture holding an exposed light bulb. A large metal duct for the hot air heating system crosses the ceiling. The west wall contains the exterior entrance, a plain framed door with four panels beneath a three pane built-in window. Plain frames also trim the five panel doors to the Bangs Memorial Room in the north wall and the storage room/kitchen in the south wall. The north door carries a small brass plaque labeled "C. Fred Bangs / MEMORIAL ROOM / TRUSTEE: 1943-1967". To the east is the already described

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

stairs to the upper level. The sloping underside of the upper stairs to the south is plastered, as is the upper portion of the wall directly under it. A vertical molding trims the northern edge of this wall. The short wall is mostly filled by the short plain modern wooden door with plain frame to the storage space under the stairs. (The storage space has a concrete floor, a poured concrete east wall, north and south walls of terra cotta building blocks, and an unfinished western wall with exposed studs and plaster. The western door to the stairhall has no door trim. The ceiling of the storage space is the unfinished treads, risers and supporting timbers of the stairs above.)

The storage room/kitchen occupies two-thirds of the rear wing's lower level. It has a carpeted floor, plaster walls and ceiling. Mounted on the ceiling are a modern fluorescent light fixture and the large metal hot air heating duct. The room is also lit by three 6/6 sash windows, one each in the east, south and west walls. The windows have simply molded frames and plain window sills and are set in shallow plaster sided recesses. The five panel door in the north wall to the lower stairhall has a plain frame. The northeast corner of the room is set up as a kitchenette. Against the north wall is a manufactured unit that combines a two burner stove, a small sink and an under counter refrigerator. Above this unit is a plain plywood shelf with plastic covered edges and a paper towel holder. Built against the east wall is a counter with grooved board sides, an under counter door of the same material and a formica counter top. Mounted above the counter is a set of three plain plywood shelves with plastic coated edges. The east wall south of the counter and all of the south and west walls are covered by plain wooden bookcases that rise to within two feet of the ceiling.

The C. Fred Bangs Memorial Room has a carpeted floor, walls of modern vertically grooved plywood, and a plaster ceiling with simple ceiling moldings. Fluorescent light fixtures and the large metal heating ducts are mounted on the ceiling. The room is lit by five windows, all set in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 12Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

recesses of the same grooved plywood sheathing the walls. The two 6/6 sash windows in the south wall and the six pane, bottom hinged window in the west wall have simply molded frames and are equipped with modern louvered folding shutters. At the top of the north wall are two horizontal three pane windows with simply molded frames. The five panel door to the lower stairhall in the south wall has a plain frame. So does the plain modern wooden door found in the west wall south of the window. (It serves a half foot deep closet containing the electrical panels. This closet has a carpeted floor, plaster ceiling and walls covered with boards or Styrofoam insulation.) The three modern wooden doors in the east wall to the furnace room and the restrooms have simply molded frames. The central door, providing access to the furnace, is shorter than its two companions, and lacks the louvered vent found in the lower sections of both other doors. The entire north wall (save for the windows) and the west wall to the north of the window are covered with wooden bookcases, with adjustable wooden shelves. The bookcases are trimmed by molded baseboards and the ceiling moldings.

The eastern seven feet of the main block lower level is occupied by the furnace room and the two small restrooms. The furnace room is effectively divided into two spaces by the bulky furnace in the center, although it would be possible to squeeze around the furnace between the two spaces. The space north of the furnace now houses the metal oil tank which is set against the east wall, while the space south of the furnace serves as the anteroom to the two restrooms built against the south wall. The floor is mostly concrete, save for the linoleum tiles laid in the southern space. The ceiling is plastered. The outer walls are exposed poured concrete. Projecting from the east wall are the brick chimney and a narrower brick pier that helps to support the fireplace projection. The west wall of the northern space is unfinished plywood with exposed studs, although the door to the Bangs Room has a molded frame. The northern space is lit by an exposed light bulb in a ceramic light fixture. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

furnace's door is untrimmed. The southern space is a little more finished, with a plywood west wall with plain baseboards and molded trim on the western door to the Bangs Room. The southern space is L-shaped around the two restrooms in the southeast corner, leaving a narrow alcove at the west end, which contains a sink and a wall mounted mirror. A simple electric light fixture is mounted on the alcove's plywood eastern wall. Plain baseboards trim the alcove's walls. East of the alcove are the two restroom doors, modern plain wooden doors with simply molded frames that fill most of the plywood wall.

The two small narrow restrooms have linoleum tile floors and acoustic tile ceilings, each with a modern ceiling fixture providing both light and ventilation. The restroom walls are trimmed with simple baseboards. The south wall of both restrooms is poured concrete, as is the east wall of the eastern restroom. The west wall of the eastern restroom and both the east and west walls of the western restroom are plywood. The north walls of both restrooms are just wide enough for the modern wooden doors with plain frames. Each restroom contains a toilet.

The triangular lot slopes from High Street on the north down to Cross Road on the south. The grounds are mostly grassed. Foundation shrubs are planted around the main block on the north street front and the east and west ends. Similar shrubs and a tree have recently been removed from the south side of the main block to the east of the rear wing. A flowerbed graces the west wall of the rear wing. A concrete walk runs from High Street to the main entrance. On the lawn east of the walk is a wooden signpost with a metal bracket for a sign, but currently there is no sign. West of the building is a rectangular paved parking lot reached by a short paved drive from South Road. On the east side of the parking lot is a utility pole with a street light. Next to the utility pole is a square concrete pad for a book drop that has since been removed. From the utility pole, one asphalt walk heads uphill to the main entrance walk, while

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

another asphalt walk goes slightly downhill and along the rear south side of the main block to the door in the lower level of the rear wing. Four trees are scattered on the lawn east of the building. Another tree stands near the southeast corner of the rear wing. Four smaller trees stand on the lawn south of the parking lot. The steep bank along Cross Road is mostly planted with short evergreen shrubbery.

The architect's original plans and elevations reveal that there has been little change to the exterior and the main level of the interior. The lower level rooms, originally devoted to the furnace and storage, have been more significantly altered.²

The photograph of the library published in the 1934 dedication brochure does not show any handrails at the front entrance.³ The minutes of the meetings of the Smyth Public Library Association first record a suggestion that handrails be installed there in 1958.⁴ The question was discussed again in 1960 and 1965, but it was not until 1966, that it was actually voted to install the railings.⁵ To solve a problem with leaking, the Association voted to cap the false western chimney in 1958, but one contractor declined to do the work, and it was only in 1960 that it was reported that the chimney had been capped.⁶ The top of the eastern chimney was repaired in 2006⁷ and may have been slightly altered in that work or some earlier repair. The storm windows were installed on the lower level windows in the

² Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, Architects "Library at Candia, N.H." plans and elevations dated March, 1932 (blueprints, Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H.)

³ "Dedication of Frederick Smyth Library, Candia, New Hampshire, November 3, 1934", four page brochure (1934)

⁴ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H." minutes of meetings 1888 to 1974 (manuscript, Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H.) p. 124

⁵ Ibid., pp. 133, 164 and 168

⁶ Ibid., pp. 124, 129 and 133

⁷ Interview of Fred Kelley, selectman, by David Ruell, April 23, 2007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 15Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

late 1980's.⁸ The snow and ice fence was placed on the roofs above the lower level entrance in the late 1990's, and the alarm system horn mounted on the window sill above that entrance in the early 1990's.⁹ Otherwise, the exterior appears to be unchanged.

The main level rooms still appear virtually as shown in the original plans and elevations.¹⁰ Part of the cork tile floor in the entrance hall was damaged by moisture and is now missing.¹¹ The bronze dedication plaque on the west wall of the entrance hall is dated 1934 and is described in the 1934 dedication brochure,¹² so it must have been installed in that year. The bulletin board was mounted on the east wall of the entrance hall in the late 1980's.¹³ The book display panel was attached to one of the main room bookcases in the 1990's.¹⁴ The early 1990's saw the installation of the shelves in the rear wing closet and the fluorescent light fixture in the Elizabeth Peterson Memorial Room.¹⁵ The insulation must have been placed in the attic following the September 1968 vote of the Library Association to insulate the building.¹⁶

The lower level has seen more change. The carpet in the two lower level rear wing rooms is so similar to the carpet in the Bangs Memorial Room that it might have been installed at the same time, that is to say in 1970, when the town report notes "Carpet Installed" but gives no further

⁸ Interview of Jon Godfrey, librarian, by David Ruell, May 1, 2007

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, Architects, op. cit.

¹¹ Interview of Fred Kelley by David Ruell, April 23, 2007

¹² "Dedication of Frederick Smyth Library, Candia, New Hampshire, November 3, 1934", op. cit.

¹³ Interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 1, 2007

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", p. 178

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 16Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

details.¹⁷ But, a former librarian thinks that the carpet in the lower stairhall and the storage room/kitchen may have been added later.¹⁸ A 1961 plan to use what is now the Peterson Memorial Room as a study space was rejected because there was then no heat in the room.¹⁹ So, the duct that now runs through the lower stairhall and the storage room/kitchen to heat that main level room must have been added later, perhaps as part of the 1970 installation of a new heating system.²⁰ The storage space under the stairs is not shown in the original plans.²¹ A former librarian recalls the space being used for trash storage in the 1960's.²² The plain modern storage space door does appear to be a later addition. But, whether the door was added to make use of the under stair space or replaced an earlier door is unclear.

The project to provide running water and sewage disposal to the building in 1974 included the installation of the kitchen unit in the storage room.²³ In December of the same year, the Library Association voted to spend up to \$150 for shelves in the kitchen area,²⁴ so presumably the counter and the related shelves were added soon thereafter. In the mid 1990's, the walls were covered with new bookcases, replacing older bookcases that were removed.²⁵ A new fluorescent light fixture was mounted on the ceiling in the late 1990's.²⁶

¹⁷ ANNUAL REPORTS TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1970 (1971), p. 28

¹⁸ Interview of Edna Brown, former librarian, by David Ruell, May 7, 2007

¹⁹ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", pp. 144, and 146-147

²⁰ ANNUAL REPORTS, TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1970, p. 28

²¹ Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, Architects, op. cit.

²² Interview of Edna Brown by David Ruell, May 8, 2007

²³ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TOWN REPORTS YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974 (Candia, N.H.: 1975) p. 49

²⁴ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", p. 215

²⁵ Interviews of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 1 and 9, 2007

²⁶ Interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 1, 2007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 17Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The original plans show the lower level of the main block as one large room with a furnace in its center.²⁷ The 1986 town report states that the space was a "coal cellar and furnace room".²⁸ By 1952, the heating system had been switched to oil, as the Association was then discussing the replacement of the oil burner.²⁹ The oil furnace was located near the east end of the building by 1962.³⁰ In November 1969, the Association voted to install a new heating system, and in January of 1970, the furnace was being replaced.³¹ Later in 1970, most of the lower level of the main block was converted into the C. Fred Bangs Memorial Room, a community meeting room. The work included carpeting, plywood paneling of the walls, new doors in the east and west walls, and light fixtures.³² The librarian who served from 1962 through 1985 cannot recall the louvered shutters on the south and east windows, while the present librarian says that they were in place when he arrived in 1987, suggesting that they were added in the interim.³³ The 1989 town report notes the addition of the bookshelves to provide more book storage.³⁴

In 2006, a new oil tank was set in the space north of the furnace to replace an exterior oil tank that was removed in 2007.³⁵ The building was designed without any restrooms or even running water,³⁶ and was not supplied with such

²⁷ Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, Architects, op. cit.

²⁸ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1986 (1987) p. 70

²⁹ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", p. 106

³⁰ Interview of Edna Brown by David Ruell, May 7, 2007

³¹ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", pp. 186-187

³² Ibid., pp. 189, 191 and 193-194; ANNUAL REPORTS, TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1970, p. 28, interview of Edna Brown by David Ruell, May 7, 2007

³³ Interview of Edna Brown by David Ruell, May 7, 2007; interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 1, 2007

³⁴ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1989, (1990) p. 100

³⁵ Interviews of Fred Kelley by David Ruell, April 23 and May 23, 2007

³⁶ Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, Architects, op. cit.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 18Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

facilities for over four decades.³⁷ In 1973, the nearby Congregational Church agreed to share its well water with the library.³⁸ 1974 saw the installation of a septic system and the construction of the restrooms and sink alcove in the south end of the furnace room.³⁹ This work must have included the tile floors and the plywood walls of the sink alcove and the adjoining furnace room space.

The grounds have also seen some change. In 1966, after the state highway department objected to a plan to install parking spaces along the entire High Street frontage of the property, the Library Association began considering a parking lot.⁴⁰ In November of 1970, the Friends of the Smyth Public Library offered the funds to grade and fill a parking lot. The Library Association accepted the gift and voted to proceed with the project as soon as possible, and to erect a light pole at the new lot.⁴¹ The librarian of the time recalls the completion of a dirt parking lot.⁴² But, the parking lot did not remain unpaved for long. In May of 1971, the Friends presented an anonymous offer to pave the parking lot and the two walks from the lot to the building. The gift was accepted and the paving was completed by September.⁴³ In the late 1980's, a book drop was placed next to the light pole on a concrete pad, which remains although the book drop has since been removed.⁴⁴ The plantings on the lot must also have changed over the years, most recently with the removal of a tree and shrubs on the south side of the main block.⁴⁵

³⁷ Interview of Edna Brown by David Ruell, May 7, 2007

³⁸ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", p. 207

³⁹ Ibid., pp. 208-209; TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TOWN REPORTS, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974, p. 49

⁴⁰ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", pp. 164 and 166

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 192

⁴² Interview of Edna Brown by David Ruell, May 7, 2007

⁴³ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H." pp. 194-197

⁴⁴ Interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 1, 2007

⁴⁵ Interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 4, 2007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 19Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Smyth Public Library is significant under Criterion A in the area of education as the first building erected in the town of Candia to house a public library. The building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as the best example of Colonial Revival style architecture in Candia. It retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for the date of its construction in 1932 and for its period of use as a public library from 1932 through 1957, the end of the period of significance.

Education

Books have always been relatively expensive, limiting the acquisition of large book collections to the wealthy. Libraries have therefore been established to meet the needs of those with more modest incomes. In New Hampshire in the 18th century and for much of the 19th century, libraries were mostly private institutions, open only to those members whose contributions supported the purchase of books and the maintenance of the collection. Candia had no less than four such private libraries from the late 18th century to the late 19th century. The Candia Social Library was established in 1791 and dissolved in 1810. The largely religious Female Library of the Congregational Society was founded in 1795 and "lasted until about 1828". The Candia Literary Library Society was chartered by the state legislature in 1824 and was disbanded in March of 1858. A month later, the Farmers and Mechanics Library was established. It was discontinued by 1869, was revived in 1883, but had faded away again by the end of 1885.¹

The shortcomings of the private libraries, particularly the limitations on who could use them, stimulated the growth

¹ J. Bailey Moore, HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA (Manchester, N.H.: 1893), pp. 235-237; Dorothy Foster Purington, TOWN OF CANDIA, N.H., HISTORY OF THE SMYTH LIBRARY (Candia, N.H.: 1990), unpagged

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 20

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

of free public libraries open to all without charge. Peterborough established the first free public library in America supported by taxes in 1833. The New Hampshire state legislature formally authorized town owned public libraries in 1849. The public library movement had a slow start in the state. But, after the Civil War, the number of public libraries increased dramatically. By 1889, there were 154 public libraries in the state.²

One of those libraries was the just opened Smyth Public Library in Candia. The one thousand dollar fund used to establish the library was donated by Frederick Smyth (1819-1899), a native of Candia, who had made his fortune in the nearby city of Manchester. The Smyth Public Library Association was established in the spring of 1888 to operate the library. And the library was opened to the public on March 2, 1889.³

Since its creation, the Smyth Public Library has had four homes, all of them located on a half mile stretch of High Street, a major east-west highway through Candia, near the geographic center of the township.⁴ The first home of the library was actually the home of the first librarian, Frank E. Page. Bookshelves were built in the dining room in the first story of the Page house, a wooden house built around 1763, with a two story Federal style main block, that still stands at 146 High Street. There the library remained for the rest of the 19th century.⁵

The library acquired its first permanent home at the

² ed. Shirley Gray Adamovich THE ROAD TAKEN, THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 1889-1989 (West Kennebunk, Maine: 1989), pp. 3-4

³ Moore, p. 237, Purington, unpagged

⁴ David Ruell, "Homes of the Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H." (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.)

⁵ Purington, unpagged; Manchester (N.H.) Union, November 5, 1934, p. 5; interview of Dorothy Purington by David Ruell, May 24, 2007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 21Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

beginning of the 20th century. Space in the Page house was becoming a problem, when the former James Fitts house was offered to the town for a library and a museum. The donors were James Fitts' widow Mary, and his brother J. Lane Fitts, the president of the library association. The March 1901 town meeting accepted the building which was to be called the Fitts Museum. The second story was fitted up to serve the Smyth Library.⁶ The town report notes a late February 1902 payment to the librarian for moving the library to the Fitts Museum.⁷ But, it is not clear if the move was made in late 1901 or early 1902.⁸ The Fitts Museum (185 High Street) is a fine Federal style wooden house built in 1823.⁹ In 1927, the library was moved from the second story to the more accessible and spacious first story.¹⁰

Still, a converted house is not a proper library building. The Smyth Public Library finally acquired a building specifically built for library use in 1932 with the gift of the nominated building by Frederick Smyth's widow, Marion C. Smyth¹¹ (1861-1946).¹² Designed by the Boston architectural firm of Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, the new

⁶ Purington, unpagged; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1902 (Manchester, N.H.: 1902) p. 15; Candia Bicentennial Committee, CANDIA BICENTENNIAL 1763-1963 (Candia, N.H.: 1963), p. 22

⁷ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1902, p. 23

⁸ Interview of Dorothy Purington by David Ruell, May 3, 2007

⁹ Interview of Dorothy Purington by David Ruell, May 24, 2007. The two story, hip roofed 1823 main block was built in front of an earlier smaller undated building.

¹⁰ Purington, unpagged, ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1928 (Manchester, N.H.:1928), pp. 44-45

¹¹ Purington, unpagged; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1933 (Manchester, N.H.: 1933) p. 44

¹² Death certificate of Marion H. Cossar Smyth, (manuscript, N.H. Division of Vital Records, Concord N.H.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 22Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

building featured a large room in the main block that housed the collection and provided space for the librarian's desk and for readers, and a smaller room in the rear wing that served as a workroom for the library staff.¹³ This well designed building served as the Candia town library for almost exactly seven decades, from November of 1932 to November of 2002.¹⁴

By the late 20th century, as both the town's population and the library's collections increased, the 1932 building was no longer adequate. For many years, money was raised and plans discussed for an addition to the existing building.¹⁵ But, in the late 1990's, a library building committee concluded that it was better to construct a new single story building on a flatter lot than to expand the older two level building.¹⁶ The present Smyth Public Library building, a spacious modern one story building, was therefore built in 2002 at 55 High Street.¹⁷

All four buildings that have housed the Smyth Public Library still survive. The nominated 1932 building should be considered the most historically significant of the four. It was the first building erected specifically to house the library. And, in its 70 years of service, the 1932 building was used as a library for more years than all three other buildings combined.

¹³ Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, Architects "Library at Candia, N.H." plans and elevations dated March 1932, (blueprints, Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H.)

¹⁴ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1933, p. 44; TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 2002 ANNUAL REPORT (2003), p. 86

¹⁵ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1981 (1982), p. 45; TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1996 ANNUAL REPORT (1997), p. 68

¹⁶ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1998 ANNUAL REPORT (1999), p. 78

¹⁷ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 2002 ANNUAL REPORT, p. 86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 23Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The nominated building retains its basic historic integrity for its period of significance from its construction in 1932 to 1957, the 50 year cutoff date. Changes to the exterior have been limited to such minor items as the addition of handrails at the front steps and storm windows in the lower level. The original library rooms of the main level are almost intact, with the only changes being the book display panel in the main room in the main block, shelves in the rear wing closet and a modern light fixture in the former workroom in the rear wing. The basement rooms have seen more changes, but these subsidiary spaces, formerly devoted to storage and the heating system, have little historical significance. The actual library spaces still appear virtually as they did in the period of significance.

The 1932 building should be recognized for its historic significance as the first structure erected specifically as a library building in Candia and as the building with the longest service as a public library in the town.

Architecture

The Colonial Revival style was a very popular style in New England through most of the 20th century. The style is characterized by the use of the architectural vocabulary and design principles of the early American vernacular tradition and the Georgian and Federal styles. The typical composition is dominated by axial symmetry with an emphasis on the central main entrance. Brick and wood are the favored materials. The architectural elements and ornament are inspired by those used in the colonial and early republic periods.

The Smyth Public Library is a good example of the Colonial Revival style. The design of the main block suggests a small but very sophisticated 18th century house. The exterior is rigidly symmetrical around the main axis, to the point that a false chimney was built at one end of the main block to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 24Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

balance the working chimney at the other end. The main entrance in the projecting central entrance pavilion is the focus of the façade. The dominant material is brick, with wood used for the trim and the entrance pavilion. The architectural ornament, such as the modillioned front cornices, the rustication of the entrance pavilion, the entrance pilasters, and the segmental arches of the main door and the main level windows, is largely borrowed from the Georgian style.

A recent windshield survey of Candia discovered numerous buildings that could be classified in the Colonial Revival style.¹⁸ Virtually all of these buildings are residences, most of them erected in the last fifty years, and, with a few recently built exceptions,¹⁹ of little architectural merit.

The only real rival to the Smyth Public Library among the town's Colonial Revival buildings built over fifty years ago is the Henry W. Moore School (12 Deerfield Road). Built in 1933 and subsequently rebuilt after a fire in 1938,²⁰ the original main block of the school is a wide two story hip roofed building, with a monumental portico of four columns in the center of the street façade and a two stage "cupola" crowned by a weathervane in the center of the roof. The school's decorative details are not as fine as those of the library. Its cornices are simpler and its windows have flat brick tops rather than arches with keystones. The school has also seen more change, including large additions for more classrooms on the rear. The original main entrance in the center of the main facade, wide doors topped by a semi-

¹⁸ The windshield survey was conducted by David Ruell on May 4, 2007. Like all windshield surveys, it may have missed buildings not visible from the public highways. But, it appears to have covered virtually all of Candia's buildings. The survey was summarized in "Colonial Revival Buildings in Candia" (typescript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.)

¹⁹ Dates were obtained for the better buildings in the Candia property tax assessments, on computer files in the Candia, N.H. Town Offices.

²⁰ Candia Bicentennial Committee, pp. 22, 31 and 36

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 25Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

elliptical fanlight,²¹ has been removed and replaced by two levels of windows, leaving the large portico with no focal point. The school remains an attractive example of the Colonial Revival style, but the Smyth Library is a finer and a better preserved building.

The Smyth Public Library has seen little change in its exterior and its original public spaces. Exterior change has been limited to such minor changes as handrails at the front entry, a cap on one chimney, and storm windows on the lower level. The exterior still appears virtually as it did in 1932. The same can be said for the entrance hall, which has gained a bulletin board, and the main room, which now has a new book display panel. Basically, the two original public rooms retain their architectural integrity almost intact.

The charming entrance pavilion is notable for its rusticated walls, attractive entrance, fluted pilasters and the modillioned cornice it shares with the main block. The main block and rear wing are distinguished by their arched windows, grooved lower level concrete walls, Flemish bond brick upper walls, and wooden cornices, both modillioned and not. The whole exterior boasts good proportions and a fine composition. The entrance hall is a fine small room notable for its paneled walls and the nice woodwork around the doorways. The main room is an exceptional space, with a vaulted ceiling and more fine woodwork in the bookcases, the doorways, and the fireplace. All in all, the Smyth Public Library is Candia's best example of the Colonial Revival style, a well designed and very attractive building.

Historical Background

Frederick Smyth was born in Candia on March 9, 1819. He moved to Manchester in 1839, where he became a clerk and

²¹ Candia Bicentennial Committee, p. 36

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 26Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

then a partner in a general store.²² Manchester was then "only a country village". As the town grew into the state's largest city, Smyth prospered with it. "What money he got he invested widely...Every year he added to his possessions and he died a very rich man...He organized and controlled two of the largest banks in the state. He was one of the leading spirits in the creation of the Concord & Montreal railroad system"²³, and served for many years as that railroad's president. At the time of his death, he was described as "one of the wealthiest..men in New Hampshire".²⁴ Smyth was remembered as well for his generosity. "But, if Governor Smyth owned a good share of this world's goods, he was also a generous and benevolent man. He gave cheerfully of his abundance, and no man ever more readily lent a hand to those who were trying to help themselves. His public charities were large and amounted to many hundred dollars each year."²⁵ (The greater buying power of the dollar in the late 19th century must be recalled in evaluating this statement.)

Smyth also had a distinguished career in public service, beginning with his election in 1849 as Manchester's city clerk, a position he held for three years. He was elected mayor of the city in 1852 and reelected in 1853, 1854 and 1863. He served as a representative in the state legislature in 1857 and 1858. Smyth reached the pinnacle of his political career when he was elected governor of the state in 1865, a position to which he was re-elected in 1866. He declined the nomination for a third term.²⁶

By modern standards, Gov. Smyth had a limited education, what he could get from the Candia district schools and a

²² Daily Mirror and American (Manchester, N.H.), April 22, 1899, p. 1

²³ Ibid., p. 4

²⁴ Portsmouth (N.H.) Herald, April 24, 1899, p. 4

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Daily Mirror and American, April 22, 1899, pp. 1 and 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 27Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

single term in an academy.²⁷ This may explain his interest in libraries. As a young store clerk in Manchester, he served as the librarian for a reading club that eventually evolved into the Manchester Atheneum, a private library.²⁸ As mayor, he was a leader in the movement to establish a free public library in the city. He promoted the idea in his second and third inaugural addresses.²⁹ As his obituary noted, the proposal was "a recommendation then somewhat in advance of the public sentiment, but which was finally carried and which will always stand as an honorable and enduring monument to the name of Governor Smyth. While the idea originated with the late Hon. Samuel D. Bell, it is very doubtful if that idea would have been realized at the time without the active and persistent efforts of Mayor Smyth. The city government was composed of men who had but little faith in the value or necessity of literary culture and who opposed all which seemed to them needless expenditures in city affairs. It required tact and wise handling to get a measure which called for an annual expenditure of \$2000, with a certainty of future increase, framed into law."³⁰ When the Manchester city library opened in 1854, it was one of only four or five municipal libraries in the state.³¹

Smyth remained interested in the town of Candia, where both he and his first wife Emily still had relatives.³² "He was a loyal son of his native town and continued his

²⁷ Ibid., p. 1

²⁸ Ibid.; comp. Benjamin P. Poore and F. B. Eaton, SKETCHES OF THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF FREDERICK SMYTH OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (Manchester, N.H.: 1885), p. 17

²⁹ Daily Mirror and American, April 22, 1899, pp. 1 and 5; Poore and Eaton, pp. 50-52; THE NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JAN. 31, 1855 (Manchester, N.H.: 1855), p. 93

³⁰ Daily Mirror and American, April 22, 1899, pp. 1 and 5

³¹ "Histories of Public Libraries" in NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY REPORT 1905-06 (Manchester, N.H.: 1906), pp. 363-497

³² Purington, unpagged

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 28Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

intimate acquaintance with the schoolmates and friends of his boyhood."³³ In 1893, he would donate to Candia a soldiers monument, complete with a bronze statue, which still stands just across High Street from the nominated building.³⁴

Gov. Smyth's wealth, generosity, interest in public libraries and fondness for Candia must all have contributed to his decision to donate funds for a public library in Candia. The historian of the Smyth library has speculated that conversations with his nephew Frank E. Page about the demise of the private Farmers and Mechanics Library in 1885 may have led to Smyth's proposal. In any case, in February of 1888, Gov. Smyth offered one thousand dollars to establish a library. In April, Frank Page and George Cass, the librarian of the Farmers and Mechanics Library, called on Gov. Smyth, who promised to give the town a public library if they would arrange it.³⁵ The mechanism chosen was somewhat uncommon, as it was decided to give the funds to a private corporation, rather than to the town government. (In later years, however, the library has relied increasingly on town appropriations, rather than on the Association's own funds.³⁶) A May 1, 1888 newspaper notice formally announced the formation by seven men of a corporation known as The Smyth Public Library Association of Candia, N.H. "for the purpose of caring for and preserving the Library donated to said Association by Ex Gov. Smyth for the use of the inhabitants of the town of Candia, N.H."³⁷ The new Association held its first formal meeting on May 19 to adopt a constitution, elect officers and set up committees for the

³³ Daily Mirror and American, April 22, 1899, p. 4

³⁴ comp. George W. Browne, ADDRESSES AND PROCEEDINGS AT THE DEDICATION OF CANDIA'S SOLDIERS MONUMENT: PRESENTED TO THE TOWN BY HON. FREDERICK SMYTH, OCTOBER 13, 1893 (Manchester, N.H.: 1894)

³⁵ Purington, unpagged

³⁶ Interview of Dorothy Purington by David Ruell, May 29, 2007

³⁷ Purington, unpagged; "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H." (manuscript, Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H.) p. 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 29

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

various tasks of establishing the library.³⁸ As noted above, the library was set up in the dining room of the High Street home of librarian Frank Page, where it opened on Saturday, March 2, 1889.³⁹

As early as 1891, the need for more space for the library was apparent. Gov. Smyth then considered either building a separate one story building on the Page property or erecting an addition to the Page house to house the library.⁴⁰ But, nothing came of these proposals. Smyth died on April 22, 1899, while wintering in Bermuda.⁴¹ He bequeathed \$5,000 to the Candia library for the purchase of books,⁴² but left no funds for library expansion.

In 1901, Mrs. Mary C. Fitts and J. Lane Fitts, the widow and brother of James Fitts, donated to the town of Candia the Fitts home, which was to be known as the Fitts Museum and to house both a museum and the town library. If the town failed to insure and maintain the building, it would pass on to the Smyth Public Library Association.⁴³ The selectmen had the building repaired. The library had moved into its new home in the second story of the Fitts Museum by February of 1902.⁴⁴ However, the Fitts Museum was not a solution to the library's long term space needs. A brief history of the Smyth Public Library in the state library's annual report of 1906 ends with the comment "The greatest need is a new building, as in a few years, [the library] will have

³⁸ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", p. 10

³⁹ Purington, unpagged; interviews of Dorothy Purington by David Ruell, May 3 and 24, 2007

⁴⁰ Purington, unpagged

⁴¹ Daily Mirror and American, April 22, 1899, p. 1

⁴² Purington, unpagged; Will of Frederick Smyth, Hillsborough County Probate Records (manuscript, Hillsborough County Registry of Probate, Nashua, N.H.)

⁴³ Purington, unpagged

⁴⁴ Ibid., ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1902 (Manchester, N.H.: 1902), pp. 14, 15 and 23

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 30

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

outgrown its present quarters."⁴⁵

That need would eventually be met by Gov. Smyth's second wife and widow, Marion Cossar Smyth. Born in Scotland on March 23, 1861,⁴⁶ she emigrated to the United States and Manchester with her parents at the age of ten. She married Gov. Smyth in 1886,⁴⁷ a year after the death of his first wife.⁴⁸ The forty-two year age difference meant that she long outlived the governor, not dying until July 22, 1946.⁴⁹ She is said to have "lived a retired life" in the governor's North Manchester mansion after his death. But, she was active in the Manchester Children's Home and she did remember the library he established in Candia.⁵⁰

The first mention in the Association records of Mrs. Smyth's intentions is the vote at the May 13, 1913 annual meeting that the librarian Frank "Page see Mrs. Marion Smyth regarding her plans for a new library building."⁵¹ But, these plans were slow to materialize. No further mention is made of them in the Association records until May of 1920, when the Association voted to have the library trustees "consider a location for a new library building."⁵² At the May 1921 annual meeting, it was voted to place the new library building on the Fitts Museum lot, to the southwest of the existing building.⁵³ But, those plans changed two years later. The Association, at its May 1923 annual meeting "voted to concur with the wishes of Mrs. Smyth in removing

⁴⁵ NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY REPORT, 1905-06, p. 385

⁴⁶ Death certificate, Marion H. Cossar Smyth (manuscript, N.H. Division of Vital Records, Concord, N.H.)

⁴⁷ Manchester (N.H.) Union, July 24, 1946, p. 8

⁴⁸ Daily Mirror and American, April 22, 1899, p. 5

⁴⁹ Death certificate, Marion H. Cossar Smyth; Manchester Union, July 24, 1946, p. 8

⁵⁰ Manchester Union, July 24, 1946, p. 8; July 27, 1946, p. 10

⁵¹ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H." , p. 48

⁵² Ibid., p. 53

⁵³ Ibid., p. 54

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 31Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

the Museum building and replacing it by a new building to house both Library and Museum, if it be in our power to do so." It was further voted to contact the selectmen about the possibility of moving or demolishing the Fitts Museum and erecting a new building.⁵⁴ The selectmen were supportive of the idea, although they did point out in a letter to Mrs. Smyth that the deed for the property did include the requirement to keep the old building insured and in repair, and that a special town meeting would be required to act on the proposal.⁵⁵ However, this plan also seems to have been abandoned, and the fine Federal style Fitts Museum building was spared.

In 1927, the library was moved from the second story to the first story of the Fitts Museum. The new location had more space, better lighting and no stairs to climb.⁵⁶ But, it was not the promised new building.

On August 21, 1928, the project took a major step forward, when Marion Smyth deposited \$20,000 in a Manchester bank, "for a library building to be erected on a suitable site in Candia". Her note announcing the deposit explains that "I make this gift in memory of my late husband, Frederick Smyth...The details of the site and building are to be decided in the immediate future by a committee to be formed" But she wished to make the declaration so "that whatever may happen to me before the building is completed, the library is assured to the town."⁵⁷ The Manchester newspaper article announcing the creation of this fund states that "the funds have now become available from the will of the late Gov. Frederick Smyth" and that "the fund is made possible by the

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 56

⁵⁵ Purington, unpagged

⁵⁶ Purington, unpagged; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1928, pp. 44-45

⁵⁷ Purington, unpagged

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 32Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

estate of the late governor".⁵⁸ Since Gov. Smyth did not leave any bequest for a new library building⁵⁹, these statements suggest that the reason for the long delay in the building project may have been financial, that Mrs. Smyth may have been waiting for sufficient funds to become available from her inheritance for the construction. The news article also states that "Neither the location nor the plans for the new building are decided upon at this time, but it is expected that a fire proof structure will be erected".⁶⁰

On February 28, 1929, Marion Smyth signed an agreement giving the control of the fund "to build and furnish a library in the Town of Candia" to three trustees, John E. Hobbs, Wesley A. Critchett and Paul Sargeant, "who shall have full power and authority, subject to my approval during my lifetime, to determine the site of the library, to employ an architect, to make contracts for the erection and equipment of the building, and to do all incidental acts necessary to accomplish the purpose of my gift."⁶¹

1929 also saw the erection of the building that would inspire the new Candia library building. That year Frederick Shepard, Jr. donated a new building to the Taylor Library in East Derry.⁶² The architects for the East Derry library were Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore of Boston, and the contractor was L.H. Shattuck, Inc. of Manchester.⁶³ This

⁵⁸ Manchester (N.H.) Leader, August 23, 1928, p. 3

⁵⁹ Will of Frederick Smyth, Hillsborough County Probate Records (manuscript, Hillsborough County Registry of Probate, Nashua, N.H.)

⁶⁰ Manchester Leader, August 23, 1928, p. 3

⁶¹ Purington, unpagged

⁶² ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF DERRY FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1930 (Derry, N.H.: 1930), pp. 78 and 80; Derry Historical Booklet Committee GLIMPSES OF DERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1719-1969 (Derry, N.H.: 1969), p. 35

⁶³ Derry (N.H.) News, August 16, 1929, p. 3; THE MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE DIRECTORY FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 1, 1929 (Boston: 1928),

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 33Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

attractive Colonial Revival style brick building⁶⁴ is located only twelve miles south of Candia. At some point, the Smyth library fund trustees and/or Mrs. Smyth must have visited the new library and been so impressed with it that they decided to virtually copy it for the new library in Candia, by hiring the same architects and contractor. The differences between the two buildings are relatively minor and mostly relate to the differences in site. The Taylor library is on a flat lot, rather than a steeply sloping site, and has a smaller rear wing. The Taylor Library has only short basement windows and a rear wing basement level door reached by a short descending set of steps. When the design was translated to Candia, the plain concrete foundation was ornamented with horizontal grooves. The rear wing in East Derry has a small room in the second story level, and therefore a window in its gable. The workroom in the rear wing is shorter and smaller than the similar room in Candia. The main rooms are very similar, although the East Derry library has taller bookcases and chimney projections at both ends, with the fireplace at the opposite end of the room from that in Candia. Still, the two library buildings are almost identical twins.

The long standing question of the library site was settled on March 4, 1932 when Marion C. Smyth purchased, in her own name, a large vacant triangular lot bounded by High Street, South Road, and Cross Road.⁶⁵ The location is almost directly across High Street from the Soldiers Monument donated by Gov. Smyth and the Fitts Museum. With the site selected, work could now proceed. The plans for the new

p. 588⁶⁴ The Taylor Library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the East Derry Historic District on August 10, 1982.⁶⁵ Deed, George W. Beane to Marion C. Smyth, February 12, 1934, Book 903, Page 173 (manuscript, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.) This deed is a corrective deed for the original deed, dated March 4, 1932, which was never recorded.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 34Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

building, prepared by architects Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, are dated "March, 1932".⁶⁶ The contract between the trustees of the building fund and the contractor L.H. Shattuck, Inc. was signed on May 5, 1932. The contractor was to be paid \$13,200. Work was to begin within one week and to be substantially completed within four months.⁶⁷ Within two to three weeks, two local newspapers reported that the work had begun.⁶⁸

By late fall, the new library building was completed and occupied. The library was opened to the public in its new quarters on November 12, 1932.⁶⁹ It was greeted with praise. The local newspaper correspondent called it "a very beautiful structure of which Candia should be justly proud."⁷⁰ The librarian was even more enthusiastic in his annual report describing it as "This beautiful building, furnished complete with every necessary equipment and so skillfully and intelligently designed as to meet all the requirements of our library needs".⁷¹

The property was not formally presented to the Association for another two years. It was not until September of 1934 that Marion Smyth deeded the land and the building to the Smyth Public Library Association.⁷² The dedication of the

⁶⁶ Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore "Library at Candia, N.H." plans and elevations dated March, 1932 (blueprints, Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H.)

⁶⁷ Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitmore, "Specifications for Candia Memorial Library, Candia, N.H." (manuscript, Smyth Public Library, Candia, N.H.) The agreement between the fund trustees and the contractor is bound into this copy of the specifications.

⁶⁸ Exeter (N.H.) News Letter, May 20, 1932, p. 7; Manchester Union, May 25, 1932, p. 2

⁶⁹ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1933, p. 44

⁷⁰ Exeter News Letter, December 9, 1932, p. 7

⁷¹ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1933, p.44

⁷² Deed, Marion C. Smyth to the Trustees of the Smyth Public Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 35Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

library building took place on November 3, 1934. The ceremony included several speeches and the presentation of the keys for the building by Mrs. Smyth to the trustees. The library building was then "said to be one of the best in the state."⁷³

The library building and grounds saw little change until the late 1960's and early 1970's. A Friends of the Library group was formed in 1961, which helped in later improvements to the library.⁷⁴ Providing enough parking spaces had become a problem by 1965, when the Association discussed creating parking spaces along the entire High Street frontage.⁷⁵ But, the state highway department objected to that plan.⁷⁶ In 1970, the Friends of the Library offered to grade and fill a parking lot, and the following year, presented an anonymous offer to pave the new lot. Both donations were accepted by the Association, and the paved parking lot was completed by the fall of 1971.⁷⁷

The lower level, originally devoted to the heating system and storage, presented an opportunity for new facilities. With contributions in memory of long time trustee C. Fred Bangs and a special town appropriation, a new heating system was installed in late 1969 and early 1970 and the lower level of the main block was remodeled into a community meeting room, the C. Fred Bangs Memorial Room, in late 1970.⁷⁸ The library was designed without water or restrooms.

Association, September 12, 1934, Book 903, Page 172 (manuscript, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.)

⁷³ Manchester Union, November 5, 1934, p. 5; Exeter News Letter, November 9, 1934, p. 7; "Dedication of Frederick Smyth Library, November 3, 1934" (program brochure)

⁷⁴ Purington, unpagged

⁷⁵ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", p. 164

⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 166

⁷⁷ Ibid., pp. 192-197

⁷⁸ Ibid., pp. 172, 174, 178, 180-184, 186, 187, 189, 191, 193 and 194; Purington, unpagged; ANNUAL REPORTS, TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, YEAR

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 36Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Although this was inconvenient for the staff,⁷⁹ most patron visits were probably too short to need such facilities. But, with the establishment of a meeting room, the need for restrooms and kitchen facilities must have increased. After discussing a gas fired toilet in 1970, the Association obtained the use of water from the nearby Congregational Church well in 1973. 1974 saw the installation of restrooms and a small kitchen area in the lower level, and the septic system to serve them.⁸⁰

But, the greatest need was for more space for patrons and books. By the end of the 20th century, Candia's population had more than quadrupled, rising from 812 in 1930 to 3911 in 2000.⁸¹ The patronage and the collection also grew, and by the 1990's, the space shortage had become critical. In his 1996 annual report, the librarian wrote that the library "is literally bursting at the seams. Every flat surface, including the window ledges, is in use. More and more people visit each year, and many evenings there is insufficient space for those wishing a little table space to study. ... [The building] long ago became hopelessly inadequate as a functioning library."⁸² Bookshelves were installed in the Bangs Memorial Room in the late 1980's and the rear wing's kitchen/storage room in the mid 1990's.⁸³ But, more was needed.

ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1970 (1971), p. 28; ANNUAL REPORT, TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1971 (1972), p. 28

⁷⁹ Interview of Edna Brown by David Ruell, May 7, 2007

⁸⁰ "Smyth Public Library Association, Candia, N.H.", pp. 187, 205, 207-209, and 215; TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TOWN REPORTS, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974 (Candia, N.H.: 1975), p. 49

⁸¹ Candia Bicentennial Committee, p. 32; Candia Master Plan Committee, CANDIA 2004 MASTER PLAN (Candia, N.H.:2004), Part II, p. 66

⁸² TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1996 ANNUAL REPORT (1997), p. 68

⁸³ Interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 1, 2007; ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1989 (1990), p. 100

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 37Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

As early as 1979, the librarian reported the overflowing shelves and called for an addition to the building.⁸⁴ In 1981, a building fund was established to receive donations for a future expansion.⁸⁵ In 1985, an architect and library consultant were hired to develop ideas for an addition.⁸⁶ But, no action was taken in the 1980's. A committee was created in 1991 to assess the library's needs.⁸⁷ In 1995, the voters agreed to create a capital reserve fund for future library expansion.⁸⁸ By 1996, a building committee composed of the library trustees, the librarian, and "concerned individuals" was working on a proposal for an addition which they hoped to present to the voters in 1998.⁸⁹ The committee hired an architect in 1997, but the problems of the site delayed the scheduled production of a plan for an addition.⁹⁰ As the librarian later explained, the steeply sloping site would require a two story addition, with both levels handicapped accessible. There were also problems with parking on the existing lot. Although \$25,000 was spent on plans for an addition, the committee concluded that a new building was preferable.⁹¹ In the 1998 annual library report, the problems of the old building site, including the need for "a very expensive elevator" were pointed out, and an alternative site presented.⁹² The selectmen had offered town owned property on High Street

⁸⁴ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979 (1980), p. 45

⁸⁵ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1981 (1982), p. 45

⁸⁶ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1985 (1986), p. 60

⁸⁷ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1991 (1992), p. 64

⁸⁸ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1994 (1995), p. 7; TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1995 ANNUAL REPORT (1996), p. 24

⁸⁹ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1996 ANNUAL REPORT, p. 68

⁹⁰ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1997 ANNUAL REPORT (1998), p. 76

⁹¹ Interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 4, 2007

⁹² TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1998 ANNUAL REPORT (1999), p. 78

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 38Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

near the local school. The new location was flat, allowing a one story building, with ample room for parking. The new library would be a "more cost-effective, efficient and accessible facility", as compared to "a very expensive and less efficient facility on the present site"⁹³.

In March of 2000, a bond issue for a new library was placed before the voters, the funds to be used with already raised donations and capital reserve funds.⁹⁴ But, under New Hampshire state law, a bond issue required a two-thirds supermajority vote. The library bond fell short of passage by 18 votes.⁹⁵ But, fund raising for the new building continued. And in 2001, a smaller town appropriation, requiring only a simple majority vote, was successful.⁹⁶ Construction of the new building began on April 14, 2002. In late November of that year, the books were transferred from the old library to the new building.⁹⁷

So, after seventy years, the 1932 library building was vacated. A few months later, in February of 2003, the Smyth Public Library Association deeded the former library building and its lot to the Town of Candia.⁹⁸ At this writing, the old library remains vacant while town officials consider possible uses for the building.

⁹³ Ibid., interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 4, 2007

⁹⁴ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1999 ANNUAL REPORT (2000) pp. 5 and 64

⁹⁵ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 2000 ANNUAL REPORT (2001), p. 79

⁹⁶ Ibid, pp. 8 and 79; interview of Jon Godfrey by David Ruell, May 4, 2007

⁹⁷ TOWN OF CANDIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 2002 ANNUAL REPORT (2003), p. 86

⁹⁸ Deed, Smyth Public Library Association to Town of Candia, signed February 11, 2003, Book 3959, Pages 728 and 729 (manuscript, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 39

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 40

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 41

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Rockingham County, New Hampshire

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 42

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 43

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 44

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a triangular lot bordered on all three sides by public highways. The boundary is described as follows. Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of High Street and South Road, the boundary proceeds east along High Street to its intersection with Cross Road, then southwest along Cross Road to its intersection with South Road, then north along South Road to its intersection with High Street, the point of beginning. The nominated property is described in the Deed of Smyth Public Library Association to Town of Candia, signed February 11, 2003 and recorded in Book 3959, Pages 728 and 729, at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds in Brentwood, New Hampshire. The property appears on Candia Property Tax Map 405 as Parcel 1.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire property historically associated with the Smyth Public Library, being the same lot purchased by Marion Smyth in 1932 and on which the library building was erected in 1932. (Deed, George W. Beane to Marion C. Smyth, Book 903, Page 173, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Map Page 45

Smyth Public Library, Candia
Rockingham County, New Hampshire

