

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire	
COUNTY: Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.6.33.0004	DATE 6/28/71

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Hunt Memorial Library**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**John M. Hunt Memorial Building**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**6 Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Nashua**

STATE: **New Hampshire** CODE: **33** COUNTY: **Hillsborough** CODE: **011**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Public library</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Nashua Public Library**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**6 Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashua** STATE: **New Hampshire** CODE: **33**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Hillsborough County Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**19 Temple Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashua** STATE: **New Hampshire** CODE: **33**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.6.33.0004  
DATE: 6/28/71  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hunt Memorial Building was designed by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, internationally known Gothic Architects, who have designed, to mention only two, such outstanding buildings as the Princeton Library and St. John's Cathedral in New York.

The building was constructed by the Nashua Building Company in 1903. The physical appearance, size and shape of the building has not been changed. This structurally sound building is made up of red brick, flemish bond pattern and limestone trim. The main entrance and tower are beautifully designed and the general overall exterior appearance of this imposing structure is one of many of the Architects' outstanding gems.

The Tower, or "Lantern" and its clock are features which give this building added charm. The north, south and east wings branch out from the central point. The west and south elevations especially give great importance, dignity and pleasant proportions to the building. The diamond leaded windows are most attractive and give the main reference reading room occupants a feeling of restfulness and tranquility.

The original heavy oak entrance doors with book-leaf panels, while not currently utilized, have been preserved by permanently securing them in an open position.

The notable elements of the building's interior involve imaginative design techniques utilizing space, proportion, lighting and detail. The most impressive rooms are: the circulation-delivery room (central lantern) for its skillful lighting effects; the reference-reading room (south wing) for its sensitively carved oak wood detail; the skillful use of the stacks (north wing) supporting the thick glass floors above is of particular interest.

The seventeen (17) different levels from basement to Tower and the seven different roofs are evidence of the dramatic and skillful handling of space and scale in the design of the building. The total building is evidence of the true principle of Gothic architecture - the vertical division, relation and subordination of the different parts, distinct and yet at unity with

(See ATTACHMENT A)



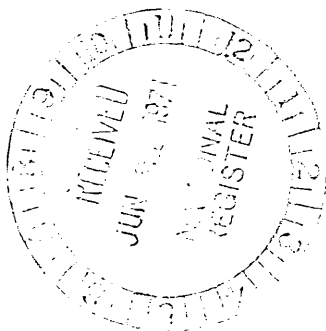
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ATTACHMENT A

7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

each other, retaining the vitality of its purpose.

In summary, it is important to re-emphasize that the Hunt Memorial Building is solid, structurally sound, and in relatively good repair and an edifice which certainly should be preserved.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

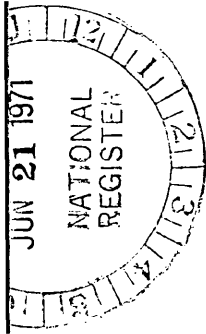
The John M. Hunt Memorial Building is significant to the City of Nashua and the State of New Hampshire architecturally because it is one of the early accomplishments of the internationally known architect, Ralph Adams Cram. The building, completed in 1903, was designed by Cram and his partners at the time, Goodhue and Ferguson, during the formative period of the firm's existence. Although the Hunt Memorial Building has not been recognized in books as one of their better-known works, it is significant as an example of the Gothic architectural style which Cram was anxious to revive in the United States.

Cram and Associates are most noted for their design of ecclesiastical buildings including Calvary Church in Pittsburgh, Saint Thomas' Church in New York City, St. Mary's of Redford in Detroit, and the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City. They were also responsible for the Graduate College at Princeton; the chapel of Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida; several buildings at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point; and the Federal Building in Boston, to name a few.

Cram was born in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire and received part of his education in Exeter. His most recognized works in New Hampshire include: All Saint's Church, Peterborough (1913); and several buildings at Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter (1915, 1925, 1931). The Hunt Memorial Building should be recognized, as it is the only early Cram accomplishment in New Hampshire.

The Hunt Memorial Building is also important by virtue of its beautiful setting overlooking the central business district from what is commonly referred to as "Library Hill". Its

(See ATTACHMENT B)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Board of Trustees, Nashua Public Library, Semi-Centennial Report 1867-1917, Nashua Public Library, 1917  
 Cram, Ralph Adams, Contemporary American Architects, 1931  
 Cram, Ralph Adams, My Life In Architecture, 1936  
 Parker, Judge Edward E., History of the City of Nashua, New Hampshire, 1897  
 Sanborn, Rachel and Florence Shepard, The Nashua Public Library 100 Years, 1967

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

42° - 45' - 20"N  
 71° - 28' - 00" W

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Don Stickle, Planner II

ORGANIZATION: Nashua City Planning Board DATE: 5-7-71

STREET AND NUMBER:  
30 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Nashua STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name George Gilman

Title Commissioner, Department of Resources and Economic Development

Date June 15, 1971

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

James A. Connolly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 JUN 28 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William J. Stewart  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 JUN 28 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 19708100/41737425  
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ATTACHMENT B

8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

location is singularly impressive, both to Nashuans and visitors to the City. It is the architectural and urban focus of all of Main Street, reflecting a European custom of locating an important building in a dramatic visual position in the City.

The Nashua Public Library has operated from the Hunt Memorial Building for the last sixty eight (68) years, and although a new library is being constructed to meet the space demands of a larger population, this building will occupy a primary position in the history of the Public Library's service to the community.

In summary, we feel the Hunt Memorial Building is of state and local importance because of the firm which designed it, and the architectural style it represents. It is also locally important for its location and setting, as well as for the feeling which the community has for it.

