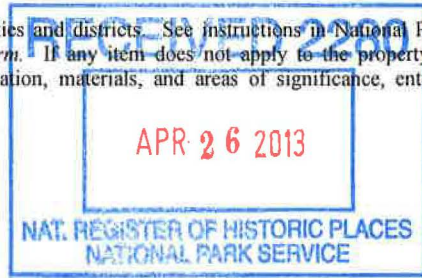


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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



367

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cobb Memorial Library

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 13 Truro Center Road

City or town: Truro State: Massachusetts County: Barnstable

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

Brona Simon April 19, 2013

---

Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO

---

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government MA Historical Commission

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

---

Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

Title : \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

*Don Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

6-12-13  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

Object

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: Library

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: Library (archive)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property  
State

Barnstable, MA  
County and

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN: Craftsman Bungalow

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_\_\_

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Shingle

roof ASPHALT

### Narrative Description

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

---

#### Summary Paragraph

The Cobb Memorial Library, built in 1912, is a fine example of the Craftsman style with a bungalow form. Its site on a rise overlooking Truro Center Road lends prominence to the relatively small, one-story building with domestic proportions. Among its outstanding, character-defining features are the deep overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, over-scaled decorative wooden braces, triple and grouped windows, a fine original front door, and an excellent example of a Craftsman front porch with tapered posts and built-in benches.

Originally the building was clad with stucco, and had a red, clay tile roof (**figure 1**). In 1940, those features were replaced by wood shingles on the walls and fiberglass shingles on the roof. The latter were more recently replaced with asphalt shingles. Fortunately, wood-shingle cladding was common on a Craftsman building, second only to clapboards,

Cobb Memorial Library

Barnstable, MA

Name of Property  
State

County and

and much more common than stucco. Another, even earlier, alteration was the addition of the clock tower in 1930. In 1960, a small one-story (9' x 20') addition was added to the rear (east elevation) of the library for toilet facilities and a utility room. The addition, which incorporates Craftsman details, was carefully integrated into the original building.

Because the alterations are not out of character with the Craftsman-style building and were made during the period of significance (1912-1963), they are considered part of the historic evolution of the building, and have achieved architectural significance in their own right.

The property includes four contributing historic resources. In addition to the building, there is one structure—a concrete retaining wall that incorporates stairs rising from Truro Center Road—and two objects: a memorial plaque (1930) and a flagpole.

---

## Narrative Description

### Setting

Truro is located on the outer portion of the Cape Cod peninsula, bounded by Cape Cod Bay to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Provincetown to the north, and Wellfleet to the south. Cobb Memorial Library is on a 0.32-acre parcel of land bounded by Truro Center Road to the west, Old Pamet Road to the south, and abutting residential parcels to the east and north. Castle Road intersects with Town Hall Road directly opposite the library.

The parcel on which the library is located is prominently sited at a curve in Truro Center Road. The land rises steeply to level ground where the library sits (**Photo 1**). A concrete **retaining wall** (1913) spans the majority of the Town Center Road frontage, and concrete steps rise from the street to the library's center entrance (**Photo 2**). At the junction of the retaining wall and the side walls of the stairs, the concrete walls rise up to form short posts that are surmounted by "hemispheres," or half-round domes. The street-facing side of these posts has raised Art Deco geometric decoration.

A **flagpole** is located south of the library. A bronze **plaque** commemorating the building's benefactor, Elisha W. Cobb, is located on a boulder to the north of the steps (**Photo 3**). The text on the plaque reads: "Cobb Memorial Clock and Chimes in Town Hall presented to the Town of Truro, Mass in Memory of Elisha W. Cobb by his daughter Nelle C. Magee, 1930." The lot is covered with turf or other groundcover, with a few shrubs, evergreens, and deciduous trees along Truro Center Road, and trees along the abutting property lines. A driveway off Truro Center Road leads from the north side of the parcel to a parking area adjacent to the north side of the library (**Photo 4**). The remainder of the streetscape consists of a mix of historic and contemporary residential

Cobb Memorial Library

Barnstable, MA

Name of Property  
State

County and

and commercial buildings of similar scale and setback, and a park bordering the Pamet River at the southwest corner of Castle Road and Truro Center Road.

### Building Exterior

The Craftsman-style, wood-frame building measures 40 feet by 24 feet, with the longer dimension running parallel to the street. Facing west, the building rises one story from a concrete foundation to an overhanging, slightly flared gable roof with clipped gable ends, covered in gray asphalt shingles. The deeply projecting eaves of the front and rear gable roof slope are open, with exposed rafter ends that are partially obscured by a modern gutter system. The clipped gable ends are supported by horizontal rafter ends, and the lower section of the roof slopes are supported by decorative wood braces. The roof is surmounted by a centered, four-sided, copper-clad clock tower which is capped with a pyramidal roof, also clad in copper, and a weathervane (**Photo 5**). The projecting eave of the pyramidal roof is articulated with a molded cornice and modillions. Octagonal-shaped clocks are set into the west, north, and south faces of the tower. The rear face of the tower has a wood beadboard door. A tall, tapered brick chimney rises from the rear roof slope behind the clock tower.

Exterior walls are sheathed in wood shingles, with simple broad cornerboards. The front (west) elevation gable roof extends to cover an off-centered entrance porch, supported by wide, tapered posts onto which are attached deep pilasters (**Photo 6**). Built-in wooden benches connect these posts to the façade, where there are matching deep pilasters. The entrance area has a herringbone-patterned brick landing. The front door has three vertically aligned, recessed panels topped by a square window with nine bullseye glass panels, and the door is hung with decorative iron hinges. The door surround is a simple flat casing.

To the north of the front entrance is a wide metal **signboard** with raised lettering that reads: "Cobb-Memorial Library A.D. 1912." The signboard is framed by a simple wood border with four evenly spaced modillions under the bottom rail (**Photo 7**). To the south of the front entrance are three mullioned eight-light casement windows. The window surround projects from the façade plane, and has a molded lintel and sill with modillions. The south elevation has a triple, multilight, mullioned window similar in detail (**Photo 8**). The middle window forms a segmental arch. The upper lights of the center window were originally glazed with circular panels divided by intersecting muntins, but these have been replaced by undivided glazing. The arched middle window is flanked by multilight sash. The north elevation has five tall, narrow, fixed windows with multilight sash. The middle three windows are taller than the two on the ends. The window surrounds are similarly detailed (**Photo 9**). The rear (east) elevation has a mullioned window system, matching that on the opposite elevation, on either side of a 1960, one-bay, one-story addition. This small addition, which is incorporated into the roof slope, is similarly detailed with exposed rafter ends (**Photo 10**). The south and east elevations of the addition have modern, single, square, fixed windows, and the rear (east) elevation has a modern clad door (**Photo 11**).

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property  
State

Barnstable, MA  
County and

### **Building Interior**

The building interior measures 39'4" wide by 23'3" deep with an arched vaulted ceiling. The interior was designed as one open room partially divided into three parts: a central hall with a projecting fireplace opposite the entrance, a small reading area to the south, and a larger reading area to the north (**Photos 12, 13, 14**). The walls are painted white, and a molded chair rail extends across all interior elevations just below the windows. The windows are cased with simple molded surrounds. Where the wall meets the vaulted ceiling, a deep interior boxed cornice with molding and dentils spans the front and rear walls (**Photo 15**). The floor is finished with moderate-width fir planks.

The central hall area is demarcated by two square beams, set 8'3" apart, which span from either side of the entrance on the east interior wall to the west interior wall, where they flank either side of the fireplace. Each of these beams is supported by square posts located five feet from the east entrance wall. Half-walls with coat hooks span from either side of the entrance to these interior posts. Hand rails with bracketed rectangular-cut 1" x 3" supports extend farther into the room from the other side of the posts, and also extend from either side of the fireplace. The fireplace has a Colonial Revival-style wood surround, with large wood overmantel and three molded panels above.

The reading areas to the right and left of the central hall are simply furnished with modern tables and storage units. A modern door to the left of the fireplace connects to the utilitarian addition, which houses a small kitchen area and a bathroom, which has a floor hatch accessing a small basement (**Photo 16**).

### **Recent Alterations**

In 1991, the brick treads on the exterior stair were replaced with concrete. The library, including the interior and exterior, underwent a rehabilitation project, completed in 2009. Exterior work included replacement in kind of wood shingle siding, installation of a short handicap ramp to the exterior rear (east) addition, and partial relocation of the retaining wall along Truro Center Road to provide a broader landing at the base of the steps. Interior work included repainting of walls, refinishing of floors, and replacement in kind as needed of chair rail components. Electrical, plumbing, and lighting systems were updated. Freestanding wood bookcases along the walls were removed and replaced with flat files and cases to accommodate the new use of the library for town archives, and a handicap-accessible bathroom was installed in the small addition.

### **Archaeological Description**

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the Cobb Memorial Library property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. The Pamet area of Truro was a known locus of Native American settlement during both the historic and ancient periods. Environmental characteristics of the library property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of

Cobb Memorial Library

Barnstable, MA

Name of Property  
State

County and

Native American sites. Land surfaces rise sharply to where the library sits on level to moderately sloping topography. The soil type includes excessively drained coarse sand. The property is located within 1,000 feet of the Pamet River and related wetlands. The Pamet River extends across the entire Cape Cod peninsula. During high storm tides, the river actually connects the Atlantic Ocean to the east with Cape Cod Bay to the west. The library property is located at the approximate midpoint of the Pamet River drainage.

In spite of the information presented above, the potential for locating significant archaeological survivals, both ancient Native American and historic, is low. The library property was graded and landscaped including a concrete retaining wall with brick steps and lawn in 1913, shortly after construction. This information, combined with impacts to the property from the original construction of the library, installation of utilities, cesspool, and well in the 1960s, all on the small (0.32 acres) lot, would have destroyed any historic or ancient resources that might have been present. Although no toilet facilities were present in the original building, the presence of an outhouse and other outbuildings is not mentioned in historic documents viewed to date or visible on historic photographs of the property dating to the time of the library dedication. Other types of occupational-related features, such as trash pits, are also unlikely, due to the landscaping of the property since the time of library construction.

---

## 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.



Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**Criteria Considerations**

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

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1912-1963  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1930 – Cupola and Clock Tower added  
1940 – Tile roof replaced with fiberglass shingle, stucco facade replaced with wood shingles  
1960 – small addition to rear (east) elevation of building

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Architect of original building unknown  
F. Cliff Pearce —1960 addition  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Built in 1912, the Cobb Memorial Library is historically significant in the area of community development as Truro's first town-owned public library, and for its association with the evolution of the library system in Truro. Cobb Memorial Library remained in use as a public library until 1999. It is now the town's historic archive. The building was given to the town by Elisha Wiley Cobb in memory of his parents Elisha W. and Mehitable Cobb. The donor was a Truro native who became a leather merchant in Boston, but also owned a house in Truro that had been in his family since it was built ca. 1727.

The Cobb Memorial Library is architecturally significant as an excellent, rare, and well-preserved example of the Craftsman style in Truro. The architect is unknown, but the library is the only nonresidential building in Truro designed in this style. The Cobb Memorial Library retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and it meets National Register criteria A and C with a local level of significance. The period of significance is 1912 to 1963, beginning when the library was constructed and ending 50 years from the present, a time frame established by the National Park Service as adequate for objective historical perspective.

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

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

### Architectural Significance

Cobb Memorial Library is the only nonresidential building in Truro built in the Craftsman style, which was popular nationwide from roughly 1905 to the 1920s. Since this was not a period of intense development in Truro or Massachusetts, and since the Colonial Revival style prevailed, Craftsman-style buildings are relatively rare in the state. The style, which originated in California and is common in the west, was inspired by the work of architects Greene and Greene in Pasadena who developed the Craftsman bungalow, which spread east through patternbooks and magazines. A search of MACRIS for Craftsman-style buildings in Truro identified thirteen houses and the library. The photographs of the fourteen buildings reveal that the Cobb Memorial Library is the only example that displays a wealth of Craftsman features.

### Overview of the Development of the Town of Truro

Prior to European settlement, the Pamet Indians, a branch of the Wampanoags, occupied portions of present-day Truro. According to *Mourt's Relation*, an account of the Pilgrims' exploration of the Outer Cape in 1620 by William Bradford and Edward Winslow, the Pilgrims explored portions of Truro before moving on to Plymouth. Permanent European settlement in Truro began in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1684, Eastham Proprietors bought land from the Pamet Indians, and permanent European settlement began by 1696, primarily along the Pamet River. Truro was incorporated in 1709, and in 1715, King's Highway was laid out to facilitate movement of goods and people between Provincetown, Truro, and the lower Cape. The population in Truro grew throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with more than 900 residents by 1765. Settlements were eventually located throughout Truro, including South Truro, North Truro (Pond Village), and East Harbor farther north. Fishing, whaling, and shipbuilding quickly became important Truro industries, supplementing agriculture.

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Truro had the second largest fishing fleet in the county, and by the mid-1800s, shipbuilding and fishing were well established along the Pamet River with wharves at Truro Center. The construction of pedestrian bridges and dikes across the Pamet River also increased traffic to and from this area, and it emerged as the town center with shops, a hotel (the Central House, now a restaurant), and a post office. The town center's importance was also due to its proximity to the Hill of Churches, where the Congregational Church, Methodist Church, and Union Hall (NR 1997) were or had been located.

By the 1860s, Truro entered a period of economic decline, that lasted into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This economic decline was brought on by a series of factors, including the discovery of petroleum in Pennsylvania, which greatly reduced the demand for whale oil, and the silting of the small Truro Harbor in the 1850s, which effectively ended Truro's maritime industry.

In 1873, the Cape Cod division of the Old Colony Railroad through Truro to Provincetown was completed. At first the railroad was used to transfer goods from the canning and cold storage facilities associated with the fish processing industry, but later became the means for summer vacationers to reach the Outer Cape. The arrival of the railroad and refrigerated freight cars led to an upswing in business, as three fish processing factories, a fish freezing factory, and a canning factory were constructed. Despite the arrival the railroad, and the nascent summer

Cobb Memorial Library

Barnstable, MA

Name of Property

County and State

tourism industry, Truro's population declined by one-half between 1870 and 1915. The advent of the automobile and improved road systems to the Outer Cape began to reverse this trend as artists and tourists purchased summer homes or relocated to Truro, a trend that continues to this day.

### **Private Library Services in Truro: Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century to 1894**

Cobb Memorial Library, which opened in 1912, was Truro's first town-owned public library. Private libraries had been in existence since the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Reverend John Avery operated the earliest private library in Truro. Born in Dedham in 1686, Avery was ordained in 1711 as the first minister for Truro's Congregational meetinghouse, located on the Hill of Storms in North Truro. Private lending libraries continued into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The first private library collection for dues paying members, the Truro Library Association, was launched in 1840 during the period of Truro's greatest economic prosperity. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Truro Library Association had collections in South Truro, Truro Center, and North Truro.

### **Public Library Service in Truro: 1894 to 1912**

In 1893, state law required all towns to establish and maintain public libraries. The following year, the Truro Town Library was approved at the Annual Town Meeting. The collection began with 174 books purchased from the Commonwealth and 391 books received from the Truro Library Association. Three months later, the first public library rented a room in the Truro Center home of Solomon Dyer on Depot Road. Dyer's wife served as the librarian.

The collection grew to 2,400 volumes, which filled Dyer's pantry. A state library inspector reported that "the walls are lined with books from floor to ceiling and some of the books are piled on the floor and on chairs." During this period, a second public library was established in North Truro, renting space in the corner of a dry-goods store. The state inspector noted that "[t]here is some friction between the two libraries."

By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Truro Library Association had begun efforts to build a public library. The first attempt centered around the relocation of the unused South Truro School to the center of town. The Library Trustees began a fund-raising campaign, sending invitations to both current and former residents to subscribe to a fund for a public library, but the effort only raised \$118 in two years. In 1911, local resident David Lombard bequeathed \$1,000 to the town, of which \$700 was earmarked for a library building and \$300 for books. According to the 1911 Town Report, the Library Trustees concluded this was an insufficient sum to build a library. The hope that a benefactor would emerge is documented in the 1912 Town Report, which covered the year ending Dec 31, 1911. It reads: "[W]e venture to express the hope that, at no distant day, some benevolent citizen or friend will erect a suitable building near the center of the town, as a depository for the main body of books."

The report goes on to say, "Prominent among those interested in our library cause is Mr. Elisha W. Cobb of Boston, who has visited the town, viewed the situation, and conversed with Trustees. Truro being his native place the goodness of his heart overflows in recognition of our need.... At the time of closing our report Mr. Cobb advises us that his architect is designing plans for a building..."

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

### **Elisha Wiley Cobb**

Elisha Wiley Cobb (1856-1928) was born in Truro, the son of Elisha W. Cobb (1826-1871) and Mehitable (Smith) Cobb (b. 1829). At the time of Elisha Wiley Cobb's birth, the family lived at 84 Prince Valley Road, in a house that had been in the Cobb family since it was built ca. 1727. Cobb's father, Elisha W. Cobb, was a local mariner and captain. After the silting of Truro harbor in the 1850s, many Truro fishermen relocated either to Provincetown or the North Shore of Boston to continue fishing. Cobb's father, however, moved the family to Melrose, where he entered the coal business. This venture failed within one year, after which Cobb's father received financing to captain another vessel. This vessel, the *Warren Sawyer*, was funded in part by Warren Sawyer, who was president of the Everett Bank and in the leather business. Cobb's father died two years later, when Cobb was fourteen years old. Cobb was sent to live with an uncle in New Bedford and worked in a plumbing shop, but returned to Melrose three months later. The family's connection to Warren Sawyer allowed Cobb to begin an apprenticeship with Beggs, a wholesale leather merchant in Boston. Beggs eventually invited Cobb to buy into the business as a partner, which became known as Beggs and Cobb, located in Winchester and Boston.

The Cobb homestead at 84 Prince Valley Road in Truro had passed to Cobb's brother Joseph at the time of their father's death in 1871. Cobb purchased the property from his brother in 1888. At the time of his death in 1928, Cobb owned a residence in Swampscott and the property on Prince Valley Road, which is extant.

### **Cobb Memorial Library: 1912 to 1939**

On March 19, 1912, Cobb, then 56 years old, purchased land from Thannie Dyer in Truro Center and had the Cobb Memorial Library designed and built. The architect for the library is unknown. On September 6, 1912, he deeded the property with the completed building to the town, to be used in perpetuity as a library. Cobb gifted the library to the town in memory of his parents. According to the 1912 Town Report, the site chosen was "located on north end of town dyke, on the east side on a bluff above and facing the state road." Cobb provided funds for both its construction and ongoing maintenance. Cobb Memorial Library was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, August 31, 1912 (**figure 1, historic photo**). The building was clad with light-colored stucco, and the roof was sheathed with clay roof tiles with a half-round profile.

When it opened, Cobb Memorial Library was a Class 1 Library, that is defined as a library "owned and controlled by the town and free for circulation to all the people." The 1913 Report of the Free Public Library Commission listed John B. Dyer as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and there were three librarians: Mrs. Laurena A. Ryder (who had been running the library from her nearby home), Mrs. Anna H. Small, and Allison B. Cobb (relationship to Elisha W. Cobb unknown).

The town decided to grade the surrounding lawn in 1913. They also constructed a concrete retaining wall around the property, and brick steps with concrete sides leading from the street to the front entrance, all of which was built by Charles W. Snow. At the junction of the retaining wall and the side walls of the stairs, the concrete walls rose up to form short posts that are

Cobb Memorial Library

Name of Property

Barnstable, MA

County and State

surmounted by “hemispheres”—half-round domes—which Snow made using Aladdin kerosene lamp shades from his house as molds. The street-facing side of these posts had raised Art Deco geometric decoration.

The 1914 report of the Free Public Library Commission stated that the library contained 4,689 volumes, and 4,526 books had been in circulation. This report also noted that library privileges had extended to visitors, and according to the following year’s report, “The library has been generously patronized by summer guests, and bookmarks have been circulated, showing the privileges extended to them.”

In 1916, Cobb Memorial Library was presented with a painting of Truro native Shebna Rich (now housed at the Highland House Museum in North Truro), who was born in Truro on August 7, 1824, and was a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the author of *Truro, Cape Cod*. A second celebration was held on Labor Day in 1917, when Elisha Cobb presented the library with a flag and flagpole for the library grounds.

Cobb died in 1927, and his daughter, Nellie (Cobb) Magee, became the family benefactor. In 1929, she donated a portrait of Elisha W. Cobb to the library (also now housed at the Highland House Museum). In 1930, Nellie Magee and her husband, Richard Magee, donated the cupola and clocktower. At the same time, she donated chimes to the Truro Town Hall, located a half mile away on the Hill of Churches. The chimes were sounded by an impulse from the Cobb Library clock. Nellie Magee also donated a bronze plaque commemorating these gifts, given in honor of her father. The plaque was placed on a boulder set into the slope to the north of the main steps.

### **Cobb Memorial Library: 1939 to Present**

In both 1929 and 1933, the Truro Town Report noted that roof repairs had been made at the Cobb Memorial Library to stop leaks. By 1939, the stucco siding and the red tile roofing were considered too difficult to maintain. According to the 1939 Town Annual Report, a new asbestos shingle roof was installed in place of the tile roof on the east (rear) roof slope, “similar in color to the present tile, but costing less than half as much with a longer guarantee.” The 1940 Town Annual Report states that, “The tile roof which has caused so much expense in past years was removed and replaced with a guaranteed roof of Bird [fiberglass] shingles.” It is unclear whether this new roof system also replaced the asbestos roof shingle installed the year before on the east (rear) roof slope. The roofing material was subsequently replaced (date unknown) with the current material, asphalt shingle. The same report also states that the stucco was replaced with wood shingles on the building elevations. These new materials, in addition to being perceived as requiring less maintenance, were perhaps also chosen to connect the building to the more common styles and materials found in Truro at that time. A columnist for the *Provincetown Advocate* wrote in 1942 that it “looks like a real Cape Codder now.”

In 1955, the town appropriated \$1,500 to replace the electromagnetic mechanism in the library clock that also rang the town hall chimes, but was deemed a fire hazard and allegedly interfered with local TV reception. The mechanism was changed to a mechanical drum and cable system; it is unclear if the new mechanism still rang the town hall chimes. In 1959, Colonel and Mrs.

Cobb Memorial Library

Name of Property

Barnstable, MA

County and State

Richard A. Magee gave the library a large steel receptacle with a slot to receive books when the library was not open. It was installed at the foot of the steps leading to the library. This receptacle has since been removed.

The only addition to Cobb Memorial Library was completed in 1960. The 1959 Annual Town Meeting approved \$3,300 for a 9' x 20' addition to the library, designed by F. Cliff Pearce of Orleans, MA, for toilet facilities, storage space, and space for Children's Hour. The original building had no toilet. The addition was modified after initial bids came in higher than expected. The final plans called for a toilet, small kitchen area, storage space, shelves and utility room, as well as a cesspool, well, pump, and electric water heater. Work began in November and was completed in January of 1960. The addition was constructed by the Norm Lee Company.

### **Other Libraries in Truro**

Within ten years of Cobb Memorial Library's construction in 1912, North Truro residents decided they needed their own public library building. Land was donated, and funds for a building were raised in part from the Tercentenary Pilgrim Pageant. The pageant, for which more than 3,000 visitors paid a 50-cent admission, included a re-creation of the Pilgrims' landing on Cape Cod. The new branch was called the Pilgrim Memorial Library and consisted of a small, 16' x 20' one-story wooden building located at the corner of Shore Road (Rt. 6A) and Highland Road in North Truro (Pond Village). The two town libraries shared the book supply on a rotating basis. A larger building was constructed in 1961 to house the Pilgrim Memorial Library farther south along Shore Road. The first branch building was relocated to the town hall grounds, where it is used as a town office for the Public Works Department. The second Pilgrim Memorial Library remains in its original location and is now also used as a town office.

### **Cobb Memorial Library Today**

In 1999, due to the increased population in Truro and increased activity and number of volumes, a new library was built in North Truro, and the Cobb Memorial Library became informally used as an archive for a collection of maps and documents belonging to the Truro Historical Society. In 2009, the Cobb Memorial Library was rehabilitated and formally rededicated as the Cobb Archives. The rehabilitation project, designed by Ammondson Architects, Inc., Cambridge, MA, included renovation of the 1959 addition to accommodate a handicap-accessible bathroom. The main reading room was restored and lighting and electrical systems were upgraded. The exterior stairs were repaired, and the landing by Town Hall Road was widened to accommodate easier access from the street. The retaining wall profile and ornamental details of the stone posts at the bottom of the stairs were replicated.

(end)

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

### Books, Articles and Unpublished Materials

Brennan, Susan W., and Worthington, Diana. *Images of America: Truro*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2002.

Deyo, Simeon L., ed. *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts: 1620-1890*. New York: H. W. Blake & Co., 1890.

Driver, Clive. *Looking Back*. Provincetown, MA: Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, 2004.

Freeman, Frederick. *The History of Cape Cod: The Annals of Barnstable County and its Several Towns, including the district of Mashpee*. 1858, 1862. Reprint, Yarmouth Port, MA: Parnassus Imprints, 1965.

Kane, Tom. *My Pamet: Cape Cod Chronicle*. New York: Moyer Bell Limited, 1989.

Rich, Shebna. *Truro: Cape Cod or Land Marks and Sea Marks*. Boston: D. Lothrop and Company, 1883.

Whalen, Richard. *Truro The Story of a Cape Cod Town*. Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2007. (This book contains an extensive annotated bibliography which includes many for individual resources and persons).

### Other Sources

*Twenty-eighth Report of the Free Public Library Commission*. Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1913.

Annual Reports of the Town of Truro. At Truro Town Hall, and from 1900 to present at Truro Public Library.

*The Provincetown Advocate*, 1912-1939.

[www.trurohistorical.org/lighthouse/cobb](http://www.trurohistorical.org/lighthouse/cobb)

[www.trurolibrary.org](http://www.trurolibrary.org)

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Barnstable, MA.



Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Truro Public Library, Cobb Memorial Library, Truro, MA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** TRU.114

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

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

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.994829 | Longitude: -70.050749 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983 *(UTM converted from WGS84 Lat/Long, not from enclosed USGS NAD 27 map)*

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 412972 | Northing: 4649736 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

The boundaries follow lot lines on Truro Assessors Map Sheet 50-149-0-E.

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

The boundaries include the entire parcel on which the Cobb Memorial Library sits as it is configured today.

---

**9. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC NR Director  
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission  
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.  
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125  
telephone: 617-727-8470  
date: February 5, 2013

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

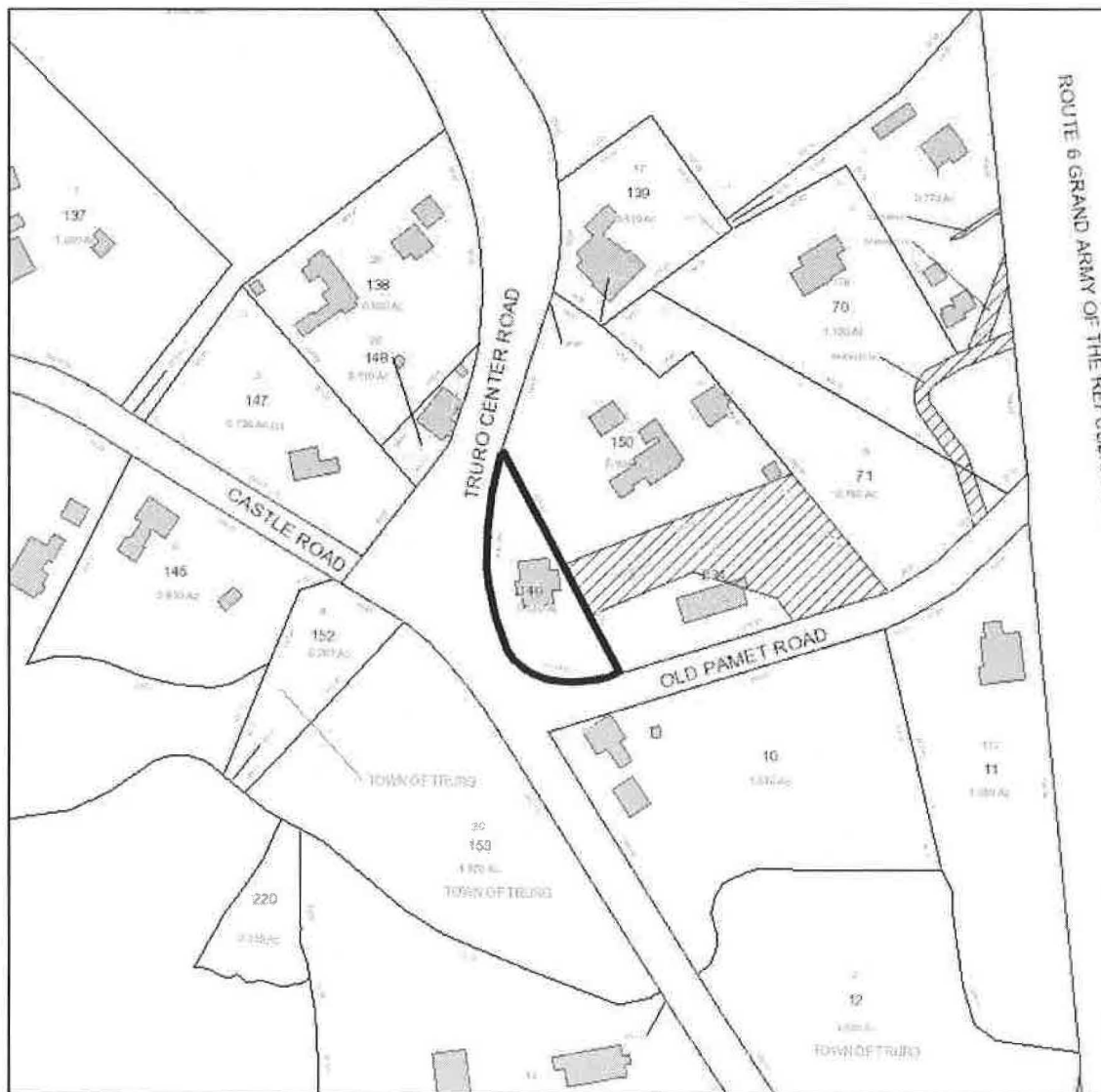
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**SKETCH MAP**

Map Source: Truro, MA Tax Map



Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**Photographs**

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

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Cobb Memorial Library

City or Vicinity: Truro

County: Barnstable

State: MA

Photographer: Eric Dray

Date Photographed: December 2010, January and February 2011

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

<u>Photo#</u>	<u>View</u>
1. View from Truro Center Road	Looking north
2. View from Castle Road	Looking east
3. 1930 Bronze Plaque	Looking east
4. View from Truro Center Road	Looking south
5. Clock tower	Looking northwest
6. Main entrance	Looking east
7. Cobb Memorial Library sign	Looking east
8. South elevation	Looking north
9. North elevation	Looking south
10. East (rear) elevation (partial)	Looking northwest

Cobb Memorial Library

Name of Property

Barnstable, MA

County and State

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 11. East (rear) elevation (partial)          | Looking southwest |
| 12. Interior - view from entrance            | Looking east      |
| 13. South reading area                       | Looking south     |
| 14. North reading area                       | Looking north     |
| 15. Detail of boxed cornice, beam and column | Looking east      |
| 16. Interior of 1960 rear (east) addition    | Looking south     |

**Figure 1: Cobb Memorial Library dedication, August 31, 1912 (looking east).**



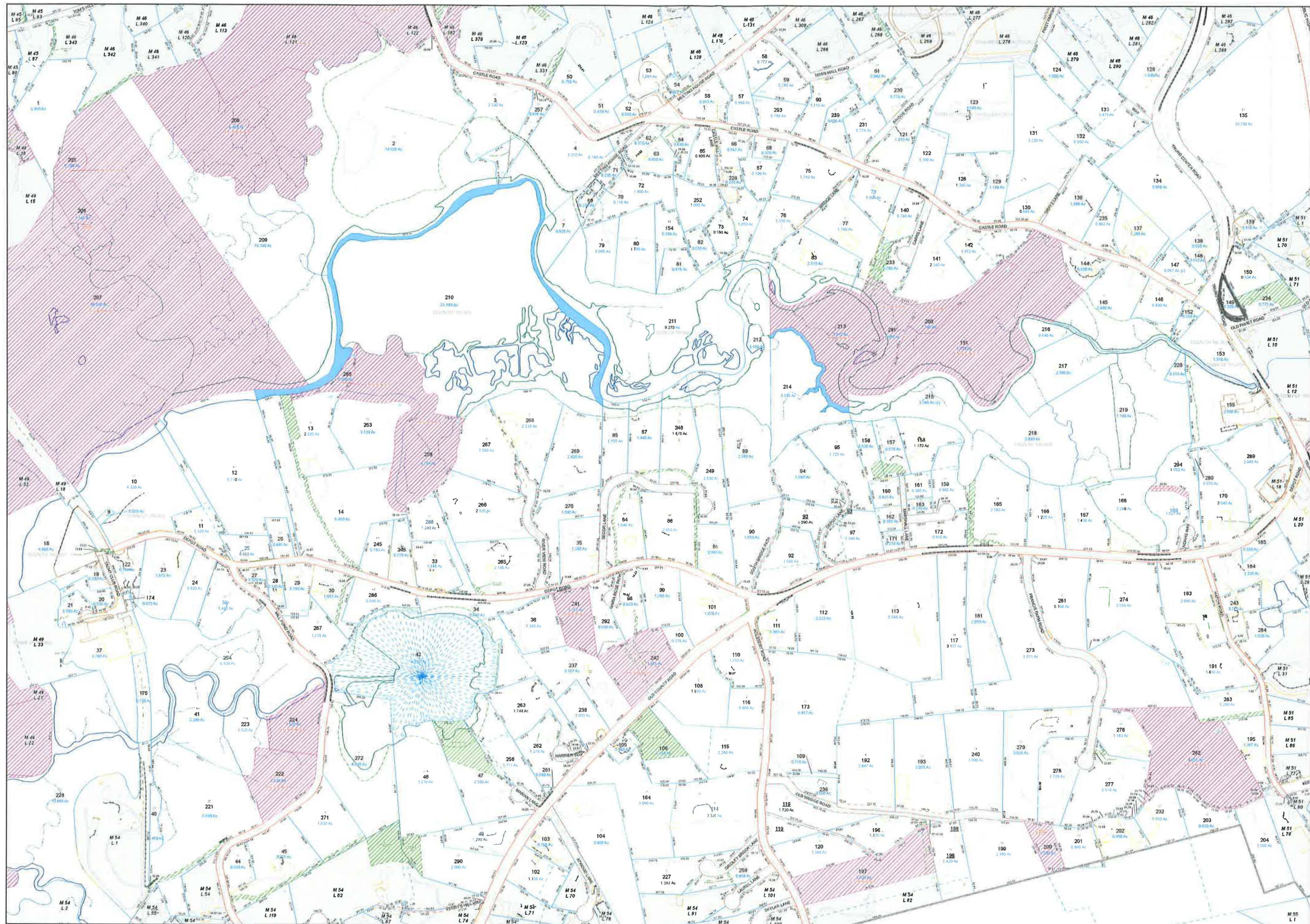
Source: Cobb Memorial Library Archives

Cobb Memorial Library  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA  
County and State

**PHOTOGRAPH LOCATOR MAP**  
Map Source: Truro, MA TaxMap





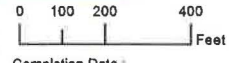
Tax Map  
50  
TRURO  
MASSACHUSETTS



LEGEND

- Easement
- Utility ROW
- Conservation Restriction
- Hydrography
- Original Parcel
- National Seashore Boundary
- Parcel
- Condominium
- Public Right of Way
- Private Right of Way
- Water
- Wet Area
- Other
- Parcel Number
- Duplicated Parcel Number
- Survey Dimension
- Scaled Dimension
- Survey Lot Number
- Acreage Test
- Calculated Acreage Test

INTENDED FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. COMPARE TO TAXMAPS, ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA USERS SHOULD CONSULT THE PUBLIC PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS FOR VERIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION APPEARING ON THIS MAP.



Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Revisions: \_\_\_\_\_







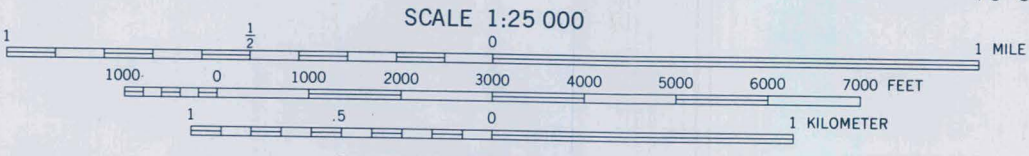
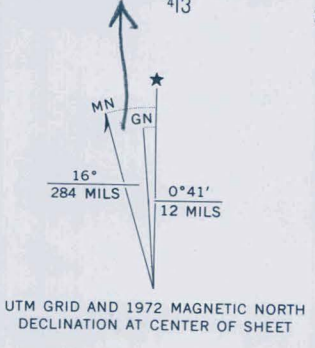
CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4200
13000	3900
12000	3600
11000	3300
10000	3000
9000	2700
8000	2400
7000	2100
6000	1800
5000	1500
4000	1200
3000	900
2000	600
1000	300
500	150
0	0

Feet Meters  
1 3048  
2 6096  
3 9144  
4 12192  
5 15240  
6 18288  
7 21336  
8 24384  
9 27432  
10 30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1938. Topography by planetable surveys 1941. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972. Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 580 (1972), 581 (1971), and 1208 (1972). This information is not intended for navigational purposes. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19



SCALE INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 7 FEET IN ATLANTIC OCEAN  
AND 10 FEET IN WELLFLEET HARBOR

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



WELLFLEET, MASS.  
N4152.5—W6957.5/7.5  
1972  
AMS 6967 I NE—SERIES V814





125th



COBB MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY  
1912

WILLIAM  
HENRY HALL  
1857-1912  
MAY 12 1857  
DIED 1912  
WIFE  
MARGARET  
WIFE OF  
WILLIAM HALL  
1857-1912  
1912









COBB - MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY A.D. 1912

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Cobb Memorial Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/13                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/13                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/12/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000367

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6-12-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 19, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Cobb Memorial Library, 13 Truro Center Road, Truro (Barnstable), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Chuck Steinman, Truro Historical Commission  
Breon Dunigan, Truro Board of Selectmen  
Eric Dray, consultant  
Sarah Korjeff, Cape Cod Commission  
Karen Snow, Truro Planning Board



# TOWN OF TRURO

P.O. Box 2030, Truro, MA 02666

## Selectmen's Office

Tel: 508-349-7004 , Extension: 10 & 24 Fax: 508-349-5505

Email: [ntudor@truro-ma.gov](mailto:ntudor@truro-ma.gov) or [nscoullar@truro-ma.gov](mailto:nscoullar@truro-ma.gov)

*Cobb BF  
Memorial Library  
NR fig*

February 12, 2013

Betsy Friedberg  
Director, National Register Program  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 19 2013**

**MASS. HIST. COMM**

RE: Pine Grove Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Truro  
Old North Cemetery, US Route 6, Truro  
Snow Cemetery, 0 Bridge Rd, Truro  
Cobb Memorial Library, 13 Truro Center Road, Truro

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

This letter is to inform you that the Truro Board of Selectmen voted on February 12, 2013 to support the nomination of the town-owned Pine Grove Cemetery, located at Cemetery Road; Old North Cemetery, located at US Route 6; Snow Cemetery, located at 0 Bridge Rd; Cobb Memorial Library, located at 13 Truro Center Road in Truro, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Breon N. Dunigan, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen  
Town of Truro

/nt

**Massachusetts Historical Commission Digital Image Submission Form**

*Please submit one form for each group of digital images*

---

**About your digital files:**

Camera Used (make, model): Panasonic DMC-TZ3

Resolution of original image capture (camera setting including resolution and file format):

1 meg

File name(s) (attach additional sheets if necessary) check here  to refer to attached photo log:

MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 1  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 2  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 3  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 4  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 5  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 6  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 7  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 8  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 9  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 10  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 11  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 12  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 13  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 14  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 15  
MA\_Truro\_(Barnstable County) Cobb Memorial Library 16

---

**About your prints:**

Printer make and model: HP Photosmart 6510

Paper: brand & type (i.e., Epson Premium Glossy Photo)

HP Premium Plus Photo Paper

Ink: HP 564

---

**Signature:** (By signing below you agree that the information provided here is true and accurate.)

Signature: Eric May

Date: 12.20.12