

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA

FORM NO.

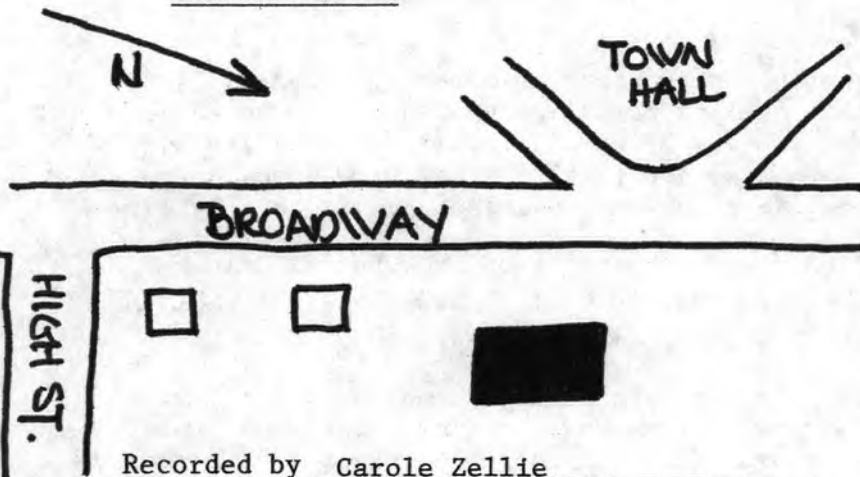
1

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number 1-2

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.



Recorded by Carole Zellie

Organization Landscape Research, Ltd.

Date August, 1982

Assessor's Data: Block 57, Lot 19

Town Methuen

Address 305 Broadway

Historic Name Nevins Memorial Library (M.M.R.)

Present Owner: Nevins Memorial Library

Use: Present town library and assembly ha

Original same

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1883

Northern Essex Registry

Source (Book 81, p.181)

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect Samuel J.F. Thayer

Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings nine-stall garage (frame)

at rear

Major alterations (with dates) handicap

ramp

Moved no Date n/a

Approx. acreage 8.02A acre

Setting busy thoroughfare on edge of

town center

UTM Reference: Lawrence Quad 1:25,000
19 320700/4733070

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Nevins Library is an excellent example of the Romanesque style fully developed by H. H. Richardson of Boston and chosen by many architects for the design of public buildings. It is the most developed example of the style in Methuen and in excellent condition. Terra cotta and copper crockets cap the slate roof; stained glass decorates three round-arch windows. Low-sprung arches carried by brick piers, a stepped parapet, and octagonal bay provide assymetrical arrangement of the red brick facade.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The Nevins Library possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It is significant as a well preserved institutional building, the only public/private library in Methuen. It was built as a result of the philanthropy of mill owner David Nevins and was designed by a recognized architect, Samuel J. F. Thayer. It meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Nevins Library was donated to Methuen by the Nevins family, who are associated with the development of the Methuen Cotton Mills and numerous ventures, including Nevins Park, a residential section near the Library grounds. The Library is sited on a landscaped tract with many imported trees and botanical specimens. The Nevins family graves are at the rear of the library, marked by a boulder and plaque. An 1896 statue by C. Moretti titled, "Angel of Life," is situated near the grave site.

The second floor of the library is devoted to an assembly hall. Despite some modernization, much of the original interior woodwork is intact.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

North Essex Registry of Deeds, Book 81, Page 181.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 12/7/87

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Methuen Multiple Resource Area
State Essex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. House at 50 Pelham Street Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest22. House at 526 Prospect Street Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest23. House at 9 Park Street Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest24. Johnson House Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest25. Lawrence Street Cemetery Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest26. Methuen Water Works Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest27. Morse, Moses, House Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest28. Nevins Memorial Library Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest29. Nevins, Henry C., Home for
Aged and Incurables Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Delores Byers 1/20/84
Attest30. Pleasant-High Historic
District Substantive ReviewKeeper Bruce Van Duzee 6/20/84
Attest

Ref. # 84002407

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Nevins Memorial Library (Methuen MRA)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC - 7 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 1/5/84 - 1/21/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1/20/84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ original site
		☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Nevins Memorial Library
 Methuen MRA, Ma

634A

301

492.07

5-20,5

175

19A

27,664

VOL 22 #24 $\frac{1}{2}$

178.3

BLK
57

19



8.02 AC.

6-12
TOP

19



8.02 AC

BLK
57

BROADWAY

GAGE ST. —

826	74	63	59.5	29	551	9,610	64.5
90				155			

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000284