

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 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 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. 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 Jacob Sears Memorial Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 23 Center Street _____ not for publication

city or town Dennis _____ vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02641

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Brona Simon

October 2, 2009

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

State or 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 this 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

11-18-09

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing Noncontributing

_____ building

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

_____ 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)

EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Shingle Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, concrete

walls wood shingle, clapboard

roof asphalt shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

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Narrative Description

Introduction

The Jacob Sears Memorial Library is located in the town of Dennis, which is located about midway along the Cape Cod peninsula. Dennis straddles the peninsula with a south coast facing Vineyard Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, and a north coast following the graceful and more protected curve of Massachusetts Bay. This north side of Cape Cod is marked by an undulated series of upland necks set between salt marshes and creeks. The entire area north of the mid-Cape Highway was designated as the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District under special legislative act, Chapter 470 of the Acts of 1973. That early designation has helped to preserve many historic buildings, creating a sharp contrast between the commercialism of Route 28 on the Cape's south side, and the more historically pristine north side.

The library is an important contributing building within the large regional historic district, which is centered on Route 6A and spans seven towns. More specifically it is the geographic heart and centerpiece of Quivet Neck, a potential National Register District. The library occupies a small lot on the south side of Center Street, nearly opposite the Evangelical Free Church of East Dennis (originally the East Dennis Methodist Church). **(Photo 1)** The remainder of the streetscape consists of a mix of historic and contemporary dwellings, all of similar scale and setback. The site slopes southward toward the rear of the lot, partially exposing the basement story on the side elevations and fully exposing it at the rear. The lot is covered with turf and landscaped with trees along the property lines, and shrubs and perennials along the front foundation. Nineteenth-century views are treeless.

Building Exterior

The wood-frame structure measures 69 feet by 34 feet, with the longer dimension running parallel to the street. It rises one story from a fieldstone foundation to a steep, overhanging hip roofs covered with black asphalt shingles. **(Photo 2)** The roof ridge over the eastern two-thirds of the building is parallel to the street, while that at the western end is perpendicular. The roof changes reflect the original uses within, with the Memorial hall to the east, and library to the west. The deep overhang is enclosed with beadboard. The sloping lot gradually exposes the basement story toward the rear of the building. A tall, narrow, brick chimney rises just inside the west side wall, near the front (north) of the building. Exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingles that are painted white. Windows are typically tucked under the eaves and contain 1/1 and 2/2 double-hung sash, a mix seen in historic views, set in simple frames. Trim is minimal, enhancing the key role played by the flowing shingled walls and sweeping roof. Early views show weathered, gray shingles, making the Shingle Style design more prominent than it is today.

All of the building's major design elements are focused on the primary north façade. They include a low, conical-roofed turret at the northeast corner balanced by a larger polygonal bay with a steep, three-sided

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roof at the west end of the facade. **(Photos 3-4)** The primary entrance is adjacent to this element. It is sheltered by a porch whose roof sweeps dramatically downward from the main ridge to two posts with four large, ornamental braces each. **(Photo 6)** A small dormer is centered on this roof. An inviting double-leaf door is framed by wide sidelights. The wood doors display square windows at eye height, with one narrow molded panel above and four below. A curving, concrete handicapped ramp with fieldstone facing to match the appearance of the original foundation has been added to the left side of the main entrance. The eastern half of the facade, between the porch and the corner turret, is dominated by a cluster of three unusually long wall dormers that contain 2/2 sash headed by eight-pane transoms. They have simple wood frames with bracketed sills and gabled roofs decorated with shingles laid in a diamond pattern. **(Photo 7)** These prominent windows light the soaring space of the Memorial Hall portion of the building. A single, standard window is adjacent to the turret at the east end of the facade. Three narrow, three-pane basement windows are aligned with the wall dormers.

The west side elevation contains five closely spaced windows that are centered on the wall and set close to the roofline. They contain 1/1 sash and are headed by three-pane transoms. A single, three-pane basement window is centered on the fieldstone foundation.

The east elevation, which encompasses the backstage area, is blank except for a small window with 1/1 sash set beneath the eaves at the south end, and a recent secondary entrance next to the turret at the north end. The door is approached by modern, unpainted wood stairs.

The rear elevation is shingled including the fully exposed basement story as well as the main story. **(Photo 5)** It is asymmetrically organized. Moving from west to east the exposed basement level includes two small windows with 4/2 sash; a recent double-leaf door; a small, enclosed, shed-roof ell; and three windows containing 2/2 sash. The upper story includes four standard windows with 1/1 sash and three-pane transoms like those found on the east elevation. They are set beneath the eaves. Next are three long wall dormers, similar in position and detail to those seen on the north facade. They contain 6/6 sash rather than 2/2 sash, and are headed by eight-pane transoms. The window sills are bracketed and their gabled roofs are decorated with shingles laid in a diamond pattern. The transom of the center window has been replaced by a ventilation fan that is flush with the wall and not very visible. The east end of the rear elevation is blank, corresponding to the stage area.

Building Interior

The building interior was designed with library functions at the west end, a large meeting hall in the center, and backstage/support spaces on the east. The library end is one story to accommodate a storage area and small balcony (14 feet x 12 feet) overlooking the meeting hall.

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Directly to the right of the entrance is a small, intimate reading room (11 feet x 10 feet), equipped with a fireplace and bay window. A newly refurbished portrait of Jacob Sears hangs over the fireplace. The fireplace features gray and white Dutch tiles above the dark red brick firebox, and a varnished mahogany mantel shelf. **(Photo 9)** A larger library room (22.5 feet x 13.5 feet) occupies the space behind the reading room. Window casings are varnished mahogany, as they are throughout the interior.

To the left of the entrance is a large audience hall (37.5 feet x 33.5 feet). An abundance of natural light is provided by three long windows on both the north and south sides. The hall is open to the roof area which is sheathed with varnished mahogany planks, approximately six inches wide, and supported by a two elaborate trusses. **(Photo 8)**

The hall is terminated on the east by a stage (13.5 feet x 13 feet) framed by small anterooms (ten feet by nine feet) on each side

Like the building exterior the interior remains largely intact, even though library functions, in the form of moveable bookshelves, have been placed in the memorial hall space.

Rehabilitation

The library, including both interior and exterior, was extensively rehabilitated in 2005-2006. As a result, it is in excellent condition. Exterior work included replacement of the entire roof and much of the wood-shingle siding. A well-designed handicap ramp was added to the main entrance as described above. Trim and some windows were selectively replaced. Interior work included refinishing of all walls, woodwork, and wood flooring. New movable stacks were placed in the former main hall to increase the building's library function. Interior lighting was replaced to resemble original gas lighting.

All of the exterior work was reviewed and approved by the Dennis Committee of the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission.

Archaeological Description

While no pre-Contact period Native American sites are known on the Jacob Sears Memorial Library property, sites may be present. Seven sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile), mostly located near the library along the eastern and western shorelines of Quivet Neck bordering Quivet Creek and Sesuit Creek respectively. Environmental characteristics of the nominated property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The library is located on a well drained, level to moderately sloping outwash plain within 1,000 feet of Quivet and Sesuit Creek wetlands. Cape Cod Bay is located approximately one-half mile

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north of the library. Soils are sandy, formed in glaciofluvial deposits. The presence of both marine-related and upland ecosystems in the vicinity of the library indicates that a wide variety of flora and fauna would have been available for Native subsistence activities. Given the above information, the size of the library property (approximately 0.403 acres), and construction of the library and its utilities, a moderate potential exists for locating significant Native American resources on the library property.

A low potential exists for locating significant historic archaeological resources on the library property. Historic period land use has not been identified for the property prior to construction of the library in 1895. No evidence exists for outbuildings, barns, stables, or occupational-related features associated with the library.

(end)

Jacob Sears Memorial Library

Name of Property

Barnstable, MA

County and State

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 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1895-1959

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Rand and Taylor, architects

J.M. Kellaway, builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Sears Memorial Library

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Introduction

The Jacob Sears Memorial Library was constructed in 1895 through the generosity of Jacob Sears, a lifelong resident of Quivet Neck in East Dennis. His bequest provided for construction and endowment of a combination library/memorial hall building to improve the breadth and quality of local educational opportunities. Sears' gift brought Dennis into step with scores of other communities that were enjoying the fruits of expanded economic opportunity and exposure to a broader world view. Construction of increasing numbers of social/lecture halls and libraries in the second half of the 19th century reflected a growing appreciation for books and abstract knowledge as well as increased leisure time for communal entertainment.

From the beginning, the Jacob Sears Memorial Library served a dual function. First, it encompassed space for a lending library, thus providing a permanent home for a library association that had been established in 1866. In addition, it provided a stage and hall for lectures and other educational and cultural activities to supplement programs offered by the public schools. The library portion of the building and the library association that preceded it are both the earliest examples of their type within the town of Dennis. The Jacob Sears Memorial Library, along with the East Dennis Methodist Church (now the Evangelical Free Church of East Dennis) across the street, have served as the institutional focus for Quivet Neck, and have also been important to the surrounding village of East Dennis for over 100 years. The building has served as a library and memorial hall since it opened in 1896.

The Jacob Sears Memorial Library is a well-designed and well-preserved example of the Shingle Style, a mode used most extensively for turn-of-the-century summer residences. It was also used for a variety of other building types on Cape Cod, including the West Falmouth Library (1895; NR), the Megansett Casino in North Falmouth (1901), and the Wianno Club in Barnstable (1881; NR). The noted Boston architectural firm of Rand & Taylor, later known as Kendall, Taylor & Company, designed the Jacob Sears Memorial Library. The builder was J.M. Kellaway of Newton Centre, MA. The building has been well maintained over the years and has no major alterations to either the exterior or interior. Library functions have crept into the memorial hall space over time, but it has been accomplished largely through moving furnishings such as bookshelves, rather than installation of partitions and drop ceilings.

The Jacob Sears Memorial Library possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It meets NR criterion A for its central role in village life, and criterion C as an excellent example of the Shingle Style designed by a prominent Boston architectural firm. The building is significant on the local level with a period of significance extending from 1895 – 1959 (fifty year cut-off date established by the National Register criteria). In addition to individual NR eligibility, the library is a centerpiece of a potential Quivet Neck NR District.

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Local and Regional Context

Dennis was settled in the mid-17th century as part of the neighboring town of Yarmouth. It was set off as the East Parish in 1721, and incorporated as an independent town in 1793. Typical of the region, early settlement was concentrated on the north side of town on the shores of Cape Cod Bay and the economy was based on a mix of agricultural and maritime enterprises. By the late 18th century, the population had grown to approximately 1,000 divided among five villages, including Dennis Village and East Dennis on Cape Cod Bay to the north, South Dennis on the upper Bass River, and West Dennis and Dennis Port on Nantucket Sound to the south.

Like most Cape Cod towns, Dennis flourished after the American Revolution, largely on the strength of a diversified maritime economy. Population growth was rapid, rising to a peak of 3,662 in 1860. Growth of the established north side continued through the mid 19th century. Dennis Village (Nobscusset) remained as the primary institutional focus, while East Dennis developed as a regionally significant center for saltpacking and shipbuilding. John Sears initiated the saltpacking industry here, obtaining a patent for solar evaporation in 1799. By the 1830s, saltpworks covered much of the Cape Cod coastline. For the first time however, significant maritime growth shifted to the south side, which had better facilities for the larger vessels of the period and more direct access to fishing grounds and coastal market routes. Bass River, which is Cape Cod's largest watercourse, attracted unusually intense development to the adjacent villages of South Dennis and West Dennis. Southside growth in Dennis was formally recognized in 1815 with establishment of the South Parish.

Quivet Neck is one of many sizeable portions of upland that protrude into Cape Cod Bay from surrounding saltmarshes along the peninsula's north side. These necks of land were prized locations for early settlement because of their upland nature and their proximity to both Cape Cod Bay and saltmarshes. The varied environment allowed for agriculture as well as the numerous maritime activities – fishing, shellfishing, small-scale shipping and shipbuilding, harvesting of salt hay, and hunting – that sustained the early regional economy.

Economic and population growth were accompanied by greatly expanded opportunities for socialization and education. Following state mandate, Dennis constructed modern, graded schools in all five villages between 1858 and 1867. (see West Dennis Graded School; NR 2000) Municipal efforts were supplemented by private endeavors that resulted in several handsome community meeting halls. Liberty Hall (pre-1844) and Worden Hall (1866; East Dennis) are surviving examples. The Massachusetts Historical Commission's regional study of Cape Cod and the Islands notes that three regional towns constructed libraries in the 1860s and 1870s including Brewster (1868; Stick Style), Yarmouth (1870), and Orleans (1877; Tudor Revival). The East Dennis Library was part of a second wave of library construction that occurred in the 1890s, and also included Chatham (1896; Romanesque Revival), West Falmouth (1895-96; Shingle Style), Eastham (1897), and Bourne (1897; Colonial Revival) (MHC 1987: 221-222). The best known architects designed the two Shingle Style libraries: the Boston firm of Rand & Taylor in Dennis, and Stephen Earle of Worcester in West Falmouth.

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In the 1860s, the Cape Cod region was in the early stages of a long period of economic decline and population loss that lasted well into the 20th century. It was precipitated by decline of the various maritime industries -- shipping, shipbuilding, fishing, whaling, and salting -- that had fueled post-Revolutionary growth and prosperity. Cape Cod's peripheral location and especially its lack of deep harbors to accommodate larger ships were the principal causes. Between 1870 and 1915, Dennis experienced one of the sharpest rates of population decline in the region, losing 44% of its residents. By 1915, the population had fallen to 1,822. The decline ended in the 1920s, when the transportation freedom offered by private automobiles made Cape Cod more accessible to both tourists and residents who appreciated its quaint character, extensive coastline, and abundance of recreational activities. The Dennis population grew by nearly 20% between 1920 and 1930, and reached 2,015 in 1940. Steady and sometimes overly rapid growth has continued in the years since.

Dennis has three other libraries in addition to the Sears Library. All of them date to the economic turnaround of the 1920s, which allowed the town to begin appropriating money for village libraries. The West Dennis Free Public Library Association was organized in 1920, and the present building was constructed in 1923. The South Dennis Free Public Library was organized in 1918, replacing an earlier library association. After incorporation in 1928, the library moved into the former home of John Rose, which had been willed to the village for that purpose by Captain Jonathan Matthews (1850-1926). The Dennis Library Association dates to 1873, but its current home dates to 1924 and is dedicated to the veterans of World War I. All four village libraries have received annual support from the town since 1922, but have remained as independent entities (Reid: 602-603).

Jacob Sears Memorial Library

The origins of the East Dennis library on Quivet Neck date to 1866, when William F. Howes developed a plan for a library association. The library was initially housed in private homes until 1870, when Nathaniel Myrick made a donation of \$500. This precipitated changes in the association and a move to more permanent quarters in Worden Hall on the Old King's Highway. Captain Prince S. Crowell made a similar donation at about the same time. While located in Worden Hall, the library collection grew to about 1,200 volumes. Circulation was initially restricted to members who paid 50 cents in annual dues. An even more generous gift from the estate of Jacob Sears provided the means for construction of a permanent, purpose-built library and memorial hall.

Jacob Sears was born on May 5, 1823, in a house built by his father Daniel at 66 Sea Street on Quivet Neck in 1820. He grew up in the area and attended the East Dennis public school on the corner of School and Center streets. Sears was a successful farmer and cranberry grower (28 bogs were cited in his 1871 will) and had business investments in shipping and railroads. He was particularly noted for development of an improved packing method that preserved more cranberries from shipping damage.

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Jacob married his next door neighbor, Olive Frances Kelley (7/18/1840; Harwich-1892) on April 29, 1860. Jacob and Olive moved into Jacob's family home located at 66 Sea Street, about one-fifth of a mile from the library. Olive's father, Stillman Kelley, was a successful mariner who retired from the sea in 1849 and moved to East Dennis where he opened a wharf-side store. At the same time he built a new house at 78 Sea Street. Both of the houses at 66 and 78 Sea Street remain standing today.

Sears was distrustful of the new school system of the 1860s, which replaced 14 one-room schoolhouses with five larger graded schools, one in each of the town's five villages. Specifically, he mourned the loss of the old district school on Quivet Neck that he had attended as a boy. Thus, Sears, who was childless, drew up a will that stated that following the death of his wife Olive, the proceeds of his estate should be used "for the benefit of the inhabitants of East Dennis and vicinity, for educational purposes, one-third part of said property to be appropriated for a building and appurtenances which shall be located on Quivet Neck, in East Dennis, and the other two-thirds is to be a fund for the support of said institution..." Jacob died in 1871 and Olive in 1892. At that time the estate was valued at about \$23,000.

Jacob's siblings contested the will in a case that went to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 1893. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1841-1935) was a member of that court at the time, serving as an associate justice from 1888-1898, and chief justice from 1899-1902. Holmes, Jr. is best known for his service as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1902-1932. The 1893 State Court, with Holmes, Jr. as a member, ruled that the will "constitutes a good gift to charity and may be executed as a valid charitable trust." Milton P. Hedge, Henry H. Sears and O. Walter Hall, all residents of Quivet Neck, were appointed trustees of the bequest. The court also formulated a process to carry out and administer the intent set forth in Sears' will:

One-third part of the said trust property, as near as may be, shall be appropriated and used for the purchase of a tract of land the erection of a building and appurtenances thereon, to be located upon said Quivet Neck. Said building shall be provide with a suitable hall fitted and adopted for the giving of lectures, and with suitable rooms fitted ad adopted for the maintaining of a library.....

The building, its programs, and its endowment were to be administered by a Board of Trustees and a five-member Advisory Committee, all to be residents of Quivet Neck. Use of the facility was free to all Dennis residents. Programs on subjects not taught in the Dennis public schools, such as music, were emphasized (*Yarmouth Register* 5/20/1893).

A parcel of land on the south side of Center Street, nearly opposite the East Dennis Wesleyan Church, was purchased from Barnabas H. Sears on June 15, 1895 for a cost of \$250 (Aseltine: 9). Photographs of the period show the land in apparent pasture use. The *Yarmouth Register*, which reported on the new building on July 18, 1896, stated that the plans were prepared by Boston architects Kendall & Stevens,

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who were currently known as Rand, Taylor, Kendall & Stevens. State Public Safety Commission records identify Rand & Taylor as architects. Construction of the building was initiated on September 3, 1895 under the supervision of J. M. Kellaway, a contractor from Newton Centre, MA (Aseltine et.al.: 9).

The building was quickly completed for a cost of \$3,500 (Aseltine et.al.: 9). On May 23, 1896, the inhabitants of Quivet Neck met at the library to choose trustees and discuss other related matters. They voted to name the building the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building. The library portion of the building was opened on July 3, 1897. At that time, there were 254 books on hand and another 1,103 in circulation. By 1967, the collection had grown to approximately 7,000 volumes (Sears 1967: 2). The formal dedication of the building occurred on July 10, 1896 (Aseltine et.al.: 9; *Yarmouth Register* 7/18/1896). The ceremony included a speech by Mr. Samuel L. Powers of Newton who had married into the local Crowell family. He identified many examples of self-made men who taught themselves through reading. Orchestral music and two vocal soloists rounded out the program. Each year, at least one lecture was scheduled to carry out the terms of the will and trust. The trust that Jacob left to support the library has a current value of approximately \$550,000.

The library was incorporated by Chapter 254 of the acts of 1908, allowing state funds to be used in its support. This act reinforced the Supreme Court's 1893 interpretation of Jacob Sears' will. It appointed three trustees and established an advisory committee of five to be elected each year to advise the trustees. Annual meetings were set for the month of May. Any resident of Quivet who was at least 21 years of age was eligible to vote at the meetings, including both men and women. Four uses were established for the income produced by the Jacob Sears trust.

1. For the expenses of said Trust
2. For the establishing and maintaining of a library
3. For the instruction of classes in music or in such branches of study as are not taught in the public schools of said Dennis
4. For courses of lectures to be given from time to time in the Hall of said Library.

Mrs. Nathan Sears, a retired schoolteacher, was selected as the first librarian, serving for 26 years until she was succeeded by Mrs. Braddock N. Kelly in 1922. Mrs. Dean S. Sears. assumed the position in 1939, followed by Mrs. Lambert Lynn, who served from 1973 to 1983. Mrs. Cynthia Hotaling became the librarian in 1984.

The single person who is most strongly associated with the library over time is Dean S. Sears, whose wife Esther was librarian from 1939 to 1973. Dean began working at the library at the age of sixteen for 50 cents per week. In 1930, he was appointed a trustee and later named clerk and treasurer, positions he held until 1978. He was honored by the trustees and advisory committee with a steeple clock that remains in the library. The clock is currently on the fireplace mantle within the front sitting/reading room. Dean and Jacob were not related.

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The Jacob Sears Memorial Library has been the scene of many and varied events over the years. One of the most notable occurred in 1928, when according to her autobiography, "The Lonely Life," Bette Davis came to Dennis hoping to act at the Cape Playhouse. She was offered ushering duties instead. Then, according to the autobiography, "...in July, I was asked to join the Junior Players and played Elise Benedotti in 'The Charm School,' which we presented at Sears Memorial Hall in East Dennis. It was a benefit performance for the Methodist Church. We were such a success we were invited to play in three or four nearby towns" (Aseltine et.al.: 11).

The Ladies Aid Society held their early meetings in the hall, and used both the grounds and building over the years for their summer fairs and Christmas teas. Special events such as these continue today. In turn, the Ladies have been major supporters of the library, with members serving as librarians, volunteers, advisors, and officers.

Special events held in the Memorial Hall were reported on frequently in the *Yarmouth Register*, indicating the important role the building exerted on the community. Sometimes the topic was serious, as when Rev. R. J. Sprague closed the 1897 season with a lecture on immigration that was well attended and heartily applauded (*Yarmouth Register* 4/3/1897) or when W. Hinton White presented an illustrated lecture entitled, "In Neptune's Realm" (*Yarmouth Register* March, 1897). Other events were more purely entertainment as reported by the local papers. (undated and untitled news clippings) The following is one example:

"The hall was crowded and one of the most unique entertainments ever given in town was enjoyed. The program consisted of an up-to-date exhibition of magic and prestidigitation by Prof. W. E. Floyd of Boston. His tricks and illusions were original, and he is extremely skilful in feats of sleight-of-hand. He was assisted by Mrs. Floyd, who presented an act termed mnemonics, which delighted and mystified everybody."

The library continued to play an active and diverse role in village life well into the 20th century, with events ranging from piano recitals (*Cape Cod Standard Times*, August, 1948), to providing space for the final round of the Second Annual Cape Cod Summer Duplicate Bridge Championship (*nd*). The annual East Dennis Community Agricultural Fair was held at the Memorial Hall and Hedge Homestead barn in 1946-1949, and perhaps other years, sponsored by the county's 4H Clubs, the Cape Cod Milk Goat Breeders' Association, and the Cape Cod Extension Service. Exhibits held in the Jacob Sears Memorial Hall filled all available floor space, including the stage.

The Jacob Sears Memorial Library was always one of the primary sites for an annual historical and social event in East Dennis, known by various similar names such as Reunion Week, Home-Coming Week, and Old Home Week. It was held in late July through early August from at least 1932 to 1941. These events

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Section number 8 Page 7

were sponsored by Dr. Atwood, pastor of the church across the street for twelve years. When Dr. Atwood left Dennis, the event stopped. Each yearly event revolved around a single historic theme and included suppers, lectures, concerts, motor trips to other parts of Cape Cod, and clambakes. The Cranberry and Reunion Week of 1933 featured a cranberry supper put on by the Ladies Aid Society that attracted a record crowd of 250. The meal was followed by a lecture and moving picture show that chronicled the regional cranberry industry. A well-attended concert by the Federated choir of Sandwich was held later in the week. "The Toilers of the Sea" theme in 1935 included an address on the Fishing Industry of Cape Cod with musical accompaniment, which filled Memorial Hall to overflowing. Old Home Week of 1941 examined "Historic Interests and Industries" on Cape Cod. Memorial Hall hosted Red Cross Day and the annual Song Fest on consecutive days.

The *Cape Cod Standard Times* reported on a variety of events held at the Memorial Hall in November and December, 1952. They included square dancing, an annual potluck supper, and the Community Christmas party. In October of that year classes on furniture refinishing and rug hooking were held. Today, the Jacob Sears Memorial Library continues its role as a visual, educational, and social center for Quivet Neck. The library is open year-round to serve the village's primarily year-round population.

Architectural Significance

The style of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library at the time of construction was referred to as "modified French Chateau as a type of modern architecture" and as "modern architecture." Today it would be called Shingle Style, an architectural design mode that flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was especially in summer resort areas like Cape Cod where its subtle simplicity complemented the casual lifestyle embraced there. The Shingle Style is an American original, born of admiration for the early Colonial period, and tempered by delight in the asymmetries and interweaving of interior and exterior spaces typical of the English Queen Anne style. Previously, American architects and builders had looked to England and Europe for inspiration and had followed their example as closely as possible within the restrictions imposed by their circumstances, such as wood rather than masonry materials and less money to devote to building. The Shingle Style also reflects America's growing independence from the Old World.

The primary hallmark of the Shingle Style are exterior walls that are cloaked in a uniform covering of weathered wood shingles that are sometimes applied in decorative patterns to emphasize specific architectural features. Broad, dominant roofs take gable, hip, and gambrel forms, and often sweep down from the ridge without a break to visually gather verandahs and porches into the mass of the building. This device effectively blurs the line between exterior and interior spaces. Polygonal bays, and round, conical-roofed turrets are often used to enliven the mass along with dormers, cross-gables, and chimneys. Thus, massing and native materials take the place of columns, pilasters, and pediments as arbiters of style. All of these elements appear in the Jacob Sears Memorial Library.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Section number 8 Page 8

Characteristic elements include the low, sheltering sweep of the dominant roofline, which falls from the roof ridge to become the roof of the main entrance porch. Others are the continuous wood-shingle exterior without fascias, cornerboards, or other trim elements, the low-rise rounded towers defining the front corners, and the triple-front dormers that break through the roof to gables with shingled diamonds. Historic photographs showing a weathered, rather than painted shingle exterior, present an even stronger picture of the Shingle Style than the white paint that appears today.

The library was designed by Rand & Taylor, composed of George Dutton Rand and Bertrand Taylor (1860-1946). It was a respected late 19th-century Boston architectural firm with many important private and public commissions to its credit including the Gothic Revival-style Worcester State Hospital (1870), and the Queen Anne-style Winchester Town Hall (1887). Their turn-of-the-century successor firm, Kendall, Taylor & Stevens, and later Kendall, Taylor & Company, produced a wide variety of building types, but specialized in hospital design. Henry Kendall was born in New Braintree, MA, studied architecture at M.I.T., and trained in the office of William G. Preston. From 1879 to 1889 he served as Assistant to the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. Albert Kendall, who was Henry's son, graduated from Harvard in 1905, and trained in his father's office, soon becoming a partner. Mr. Taylor was born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, trained in the Boston office of Ober & Rand, and attended classes at M.I.T. Other partners in this firm included Edward F. Stevens (1860-1946) and George Dutton Rand. In addition to their Massachusetts state hospital and school work, the firm designed buildings at the New Hampshire Hospital for the Insane; Hitchcock Hospital at Hanover New Hampshire; the City, Homeopathic, and Corey Hill Hospitals at Boston; and the Newton City Hospital (Withey 1970: 339-340, 590).

Archaeological Significance

While several pre-Contact period Native American sites have been identified in the Dennis area, especially along the Bass River, few sites have been systematically studied, resulting in limited interpretative data usually confined to locational and typological information. As a result of these limitations, any surviving sites in the library locale could potentially be significant. Pre-Contact period sites in this area have the potential to contribute information relating to Native American settlement and subsistence in the town of Dennis, especially in the northern portion of town along Cape Cod Bay, and on a larger scale along the Bass River/Mid-Cape areas. Native sites in the area may contribute important information related to pre-Contact land use in the Bass River and Mid-Cape areas, where settlement during that period has been documented through extensive representation in surface artifact collections. Pre-Contact period sites on library property may also contain information that documents the relationship of sites located in this area to subsistence and settlement located to the south along the Bass River drainage or to sites along the Cape Cod Bay estuaries and shoreline. Ancient sites in the area may contain information that contributes to our knowledge of Native subsistence techniques in upland and marine-related environments.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Jacob Sears Memorial Library Bibliography

Aseltine, Mary and Florence Bennett, Cynthia Hotaling. History of Libraries. Unpublished manuscript; lecture presented to the Ladies Aid Society, January 4, 1894

Barnstable County Probate Records. *Will of Jacob Sears*, 1871.

Cape Cod Standard Times. "Events Scheduled at East Dennis Hall". October - December 1952.

Chapter 254/Acts of 1908. *An Act to Incorporate the Jacob Sears Memorial Library*. 1908.

Deyo, Simeon L. *History of Barnstable County, Mass.* Chapter XVIII. H. W. Blake Co. N. Y. 1890.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic & Archaeological Resources of Cape Cod & the Islands*. 1987.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Inventory B Forms for Jacob Sears Memorial Library*. 10/2002, 1969.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Town Reconnaissance Survey Reports*. 1985.

Old Home Week at East Dennis (also known by similar names). At least 1933-1941.

Reid, Nancy Thatcher. *Dennis, Cape Cod From Firstcomers to Newcomers 1639-1993*. Dennis Historical Society. 1996.

Sears, Mrs. David. The Jacob Sears Memorial Library of East Dennis: the past history and a hopeful look into the future. May, 1967

Sears, Dean. *Jacob Sears Memorial Library*. Unpublished manuscript 3 pages.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects*. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

Yarmouth Register. May 20, 1893. "Bequest to East Dennis".
July 18, 1896. "Jacob Sears Memorial Building."
April 3, 1897

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

County Maps and Atlases

Map of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket Counties. Henry F. Walling. 1858.

Atlas of Barnstable County. George H. Walker & Co. 1880

Atlas of Barnstable County. Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co. 1908

Land Plans

Eagle Surveying, Inc. Plan of Land in Dennis, MA. Prepared for Eastman Nominee Trust. 5/2/2000.
1.04 acres. Scale 1" = 30'

Sweetser, Stanley R., Inc. Plan of Land in Dennis, Massachusetts as prepared for Marjorid Milano.
10/20/1993. .97 acres. Scale: 1" = 30'.

Sweetser Engineering. Plan of Land in East Dennis, Massachusetts as prepared for Jacob Sears Memorial
Library Corporation. 4/18/2000. Approximately .403 acres. Scale: 1" = 20'.

<http://capecodhistory.us/Deyo/Dennis-Deyo.htm>

(end)

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	404580	4622190	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Candace Jenkins, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2009

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees of the Jacob Sears Library Association

street & number Box 782 telephone _____

city or town East Dennis state MA zip code 02641

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Dennis (Barnstable), MA**

Section number 10 Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Jacob Sears Library encompasses the entire Lot #12 on Assessor's Sheet #398.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated area includes all land historically associated with the library.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Section number photos Page 1

List of Black & White Photographs

Photographer: Carolyn Weiss

Location of Negatives: Jacob Sears Memorial Library

Date: early spring 2006

Roll 1: Exterior Views

1. Facing west on Center Street. The Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building is on south (left) side of road, nearly opposite the Evangelical Free Church of East Dennis (originally the East Dennis Methodist Church).
2. Facing south to the main front façade (north) of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building.
3. Facing southwest to the main front façade (north) of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building.
4. Facing southeast to the main front façade (north) and west side elevation of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building.
5. Facing north to the rear elevation (south) of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building.
6. Detail view of the main entrance (west end of front façade) of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building.
7. Detail view of the trio of long wall dormer windows (east half of front façade) that light the main hall of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Building.
8. Interior: main hall, facing east toward stage.
9. Interior, reading room, facing west toward fireplace.

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sears, Jacob, Memorial Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 10/09/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/27/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/11/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/22/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000934

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 11-18-09 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.



Photo #1 - Neg. #1-10
Jacob Sears Memorial Library
23 Center St - Dennis, MA
Barnstable County
Carolynn Weiss - Spring 2006
Negative at library
Factory west on Center Street; library on left



Photo #2 - Neg. #1-2

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
23 Center St. - Dennis, MA

Barnstable County

Carolyn Weiss - early Spring, 2006

Negative at Library

Facing south to primary facade



Photo #3 - Neg. #1-4
Jacob Sears Memorial Library
23 Center St. - Dennis, MA
Barnstable County
Carolyn Weiss - early spring 2006
Negative at library
Facing southwest to primary facade



Photo #4 - Neg. #1-1

Jacob Sears Memorial Library
23 Center St - Dennis, MA

Barnstable County

Carolyn Weiss - early spring 2006

Negative at library

Facing southeast to main facade + ~~east~~ west side elevation



Photo #5 - Neg # 1-12

Jacob Sears Memorial Library

23 Center St. - Dennis, MA

Barnstable County

Carolyn Weiss - early spring 2006

Negative at Library

Facing north to rear elevation

JACOB SEARS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

LEIB
183
1842
NOV
1871



Photo #6 - Neg. #1-19

Jacob Sears Memorial Library

23 Center St., Dennis, MA

Barnstable County.

Carolyn Weiss - early spring 2006

Negative at library

Detail view of main entrance; facing south



Photo #7 - Neg. # 1-17

Jacob Sears Memorial Library

23 Center St. - Dennis, MA

Barnstable County

Cynthia Weiss - early spring 2006

Negative at library

Detail view of wall dormers on front facade; facing south



Photo #8 - Neg #2-18,19)
Jacobs Sears Memorial Library
23 Center St. - Dennis, MA
Barnstable County
Carolyn Weiss - early spring 2006
Negative at library
Main hall facing east toward stage

018-nr-jp9 (33834)



Photo #9 - Neg. # 2-9, 12)

Jacob Sears Memorial Library

23 Center St. - Dennis, MA

Barnstable County

Carolyn Weiss - early spring 2006

Negative at Library

Reading room facing west toward fireplace

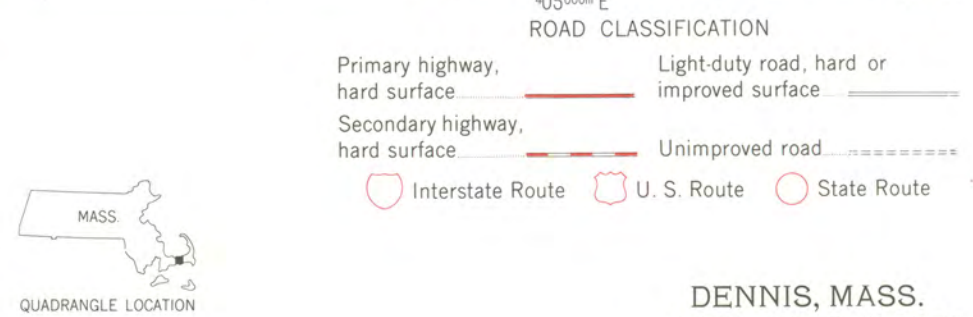
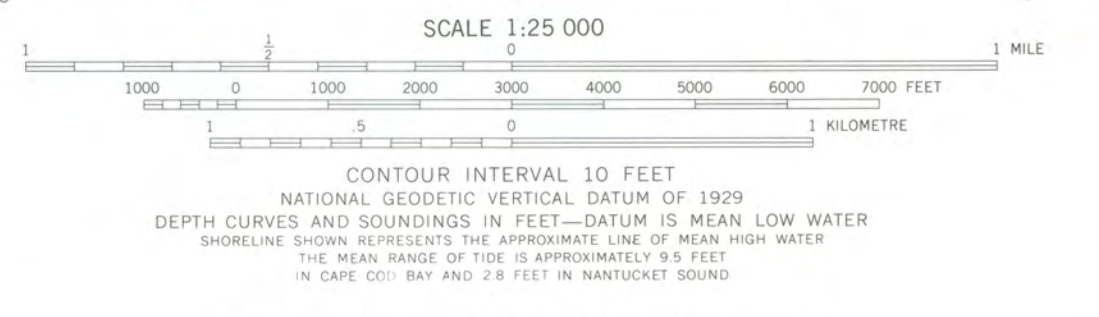
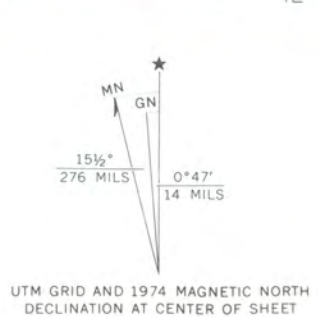
009-nr-jp9 (33834)



Jacob Sears Memorial
Library
23 Center St.
Dennis, MA
Barnstable County
1949-580 H-22-190



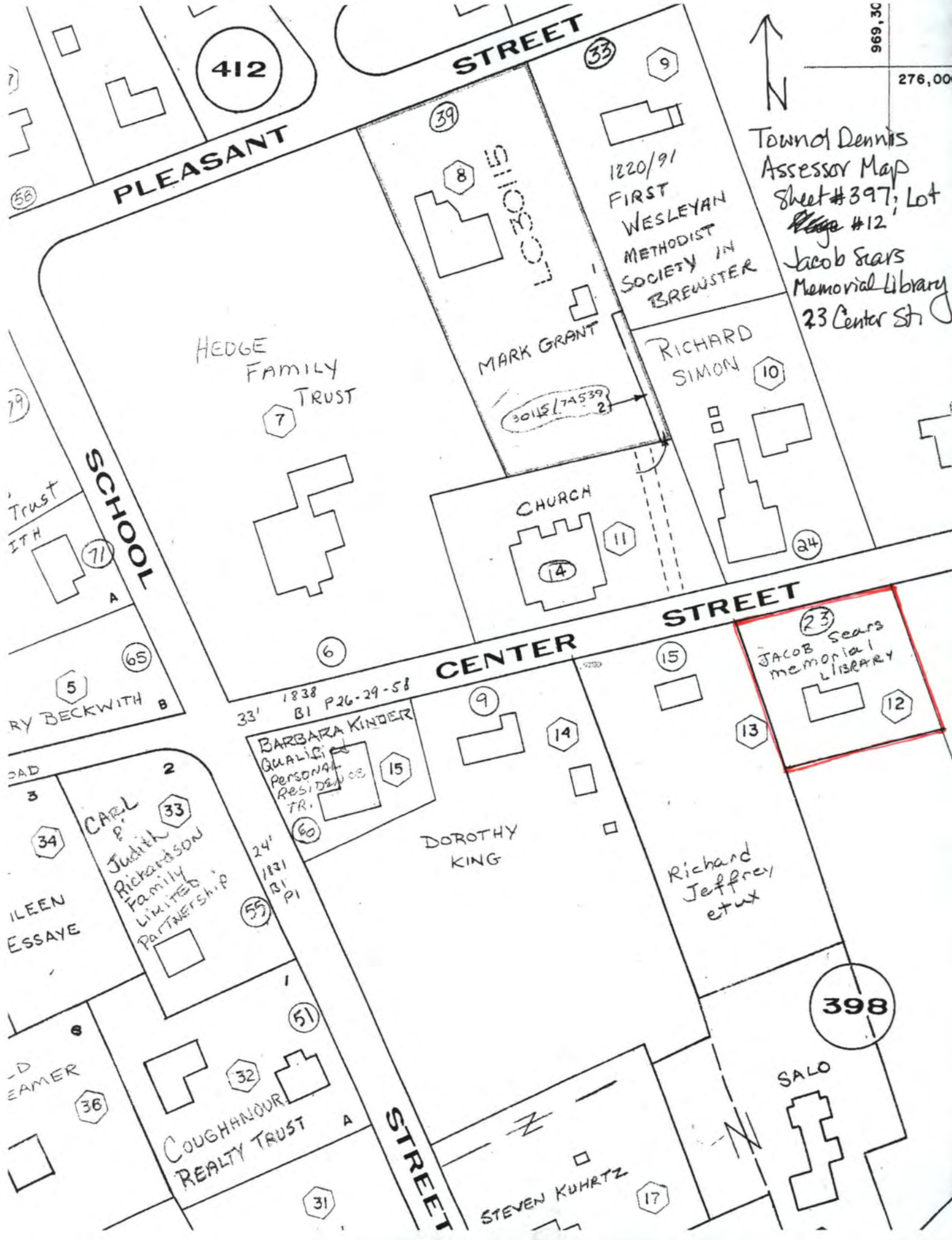
Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1940.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 257
and 258 (1972), 581 (1971), and 339 (1973)
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-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



DENNIS, MASS.
N4137.5—W7007.5/8.5 X 7.5
1974
AMS 6967 II NW—SERIES V814



Town of Dennis
Assessor Map
Sheet #397; Lot
#12
Jacob Sears
Memorial Library
23 Center St



PLEASANT STREET

STREET

CENTER STREET

STREET

SCHOOL STREET

412

33

39

9

8

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METHODIST
SOCIETY IN
BREWSTER

MARK GRANT

RICHARD
SIMON

HEDGE
FAMILY
TRUST

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CHURCH

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RY BECKWITH

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BARBARA KINDER
QUALIFIED
PERSONAL
RESIDENCE
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23
JACOB SEARS
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY

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STEVEN KUHZTZ

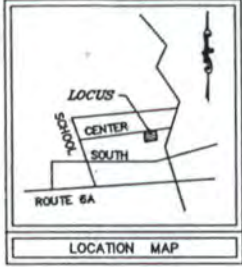
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EAMER

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Jacob Sears Memorial Library
 23 Center St. - Dennis, MA
 Scale: 1" = 200'
 Sweetser Engineering
 April 18, 2000

604-9



397/12



RECEIVED AND RECORDED
 MAR 21 2 3 10
 MASSACHUSETTS
 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL
 SURVEYOR
 JOHN F. DEBATE

BOOK 604 PAGE 9

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE THE LINES DIVIDING EXISTING OWNERSHIPS, AND THE LINES OF THE STREETS AND WAYS SHOWN ARE THOSE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE STREETS OR WAYS ALREADY ESTABLISHED, AND THAT NO NEW LINES FOR DIVISION OF EXISTING OWNERSHIP OR FOR NEW WAYS ARE SHOWN.

PLAN OF LAND IN EAST DENNIS, MASSACHUSETTS
 AS PREPARED FOR
JACOB SEARS MEMORIAL LIBRARY CORPORATION
 SCALE 1" = 20' APRIL 18, 2000

APRIL 18, 2000
 DATE
 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
 I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN CONFORMS TO THE 1978 RULES & REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS.
 APRIL 18, 2000
 DATE
 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

0 10 20 40 60 80
 SWEETSER ENGINEERING
 235 GREAT WESTERN ROAD
 P.O. BOX 713
 SOUTH DENNIS, MASS.
 02660
 (508) 398-3922
 FAX (508) 398-3063



4700A

Jacob Sears Memorial Library

23 Center Street
P.O. Box 782
East Dennis, MA 02641

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2009

MASS. HIST. COMM

BF
NR
HL

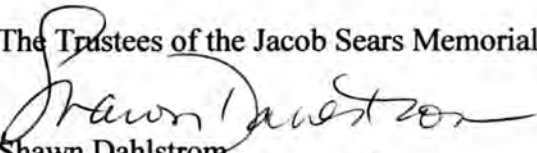
July 6, 2009

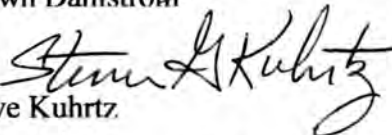
To whom it may concern;

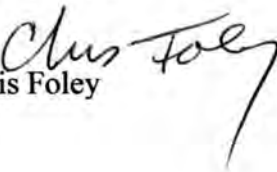
The trustees of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library strongly support the inclusion of our building in the Historic Register. Our building is a little gem, tucked away in a quaint New England village.

Sincerely,

The Trustees of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library


Shawn Dahlstrom


Steve Kuhrtz

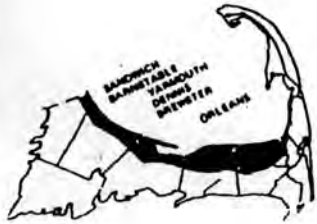

Chris Foley

BF

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2009

MASS. HIST. COMM



Town of Dennis

Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Committee

Town of Dennis Annex, 465 Route 28, Dennisport, Massachusetts 02639
508-760-6127 (fax) 508-364-6289

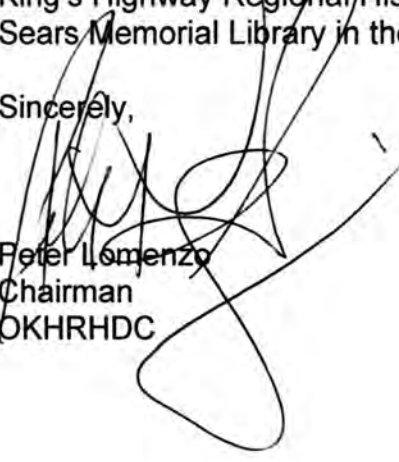
July 22, 2009

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chair, Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Secretary Galvin;

The purpose of this letter is to convey the unanimous and complete support of the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Committee of Dennis for listing the Jacob Sears Memorial Library in the National Register of Historic Register.

Sincerely,


Peter L. Menzo
Chairman
OKHRHDC



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2009

MASS. HIST. COMM

CLEON H. TURNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1ST BARNSTABLE DISTRICT
BREWSTER DENNIS YARMOUTH

COMMITTEES:
GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE
PUBLIC HEALTH
STATE ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

July 22, 2009

ROOM 540, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2090
FAX (617) 626-0542
Rep.CleonTurner@hou.state.ma.us

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chair, Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Secretary Galvin,

We are writing to offer our full and sincere support for the Jacob Sears Memorial Library's application for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. There are few landmarks in the town of Dennis more deserving than the Sears Library.

Since its founding in 1896, the Sears Library has served the residents of the Quivet Neck area of East Dennis as a congregating venue as well as a lending library. Resident Jacob Sears' generosity has benefited town residents for generations, starting with the Library. A farmer, cranberry grower, and the founder of salt works in Dennis, Sears was an entrepreneur extraordinaire who was determined to give back to the community which raised him. His family lives on in the town, and the effects of his trust are still felt today.

His belief in public access to education and educational materials led the Sears Library to be one of the earliest public lending libraries in Dennis. In addition, another purpose of the Library, at the time of its founding, was to provide educational forums on matters not covered in public schools. The Library has also been a meeting place where important social and political issues are discussed, friends gather, and townspeople are entertained.

In a historical twist, the original relatives of Sears opposed his trust to benefit the public. Before becoming Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, then State Supreme Judicial Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. and his colleagues ruled that Sears' gift was indeed valid, preserving until today the Library for all residents and visitors to Dennis.

Finally, in addition to the many contributions and the history of the Library, the building itself should be noted as a standing example of times past. A "Shingle Style" design, it reflects the building styles of the times and was used in many other Cape Cod public buildings. The Library has been well-maintained and it is our hope it will continue to serve the community for many more generations to come as a community building, library, and portal to another time.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We ask you give the Sears Library your full consideration for naming to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

CLEON H. TURNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1ST Barnstable District

ROBERT A. O'LEARY
STATE SENATOR
Cape and Islands District



RECEIVED

JUL 30 2009

MASS. HIST. COMM

BF
NR file

Town of Dennis

P.O. BOX 2060, SOUTH DENNIS, MA 02660-1614 / Telephone: 508-394-8300 • Fax 508-394-8309

July 28, 2009

William Frances Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Secretary;

This letter is intended to inform you that the Dennis Board of Selectmen strongly support the request from the Jacob Sears Memorial Library Board of directors to establish the Jacob Sears Library as a national treasure by the issuance of distinction in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Jacob Sears Library is a landmark building within Quivet Neck. It truly is a treasure in our community. If this office can be of any additional assistance please contact me at (508) 760-6148.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul R. McCormick
Chairman, Dennis Board of Selectmen



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission



October 2, 2009

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Jacob Sears Memorial Library, 23 Center Street, Dennis (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 property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Four letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Paul McCormick, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Nancy Thatcher Reid, Dennis Historical Commission
Candace Jenkins, Consultant
Willette Murray, Dennis Planning Board
State Senator Robert O'Leary
State Representative Cleon Turner
Sarah Korjeff, Cape Cod Commission
Trustees, Jacob Sears Memorial Library
Peter Lomenzo, Chair, Old King's Highway Regional
Historic District Commission