

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

JAN 28 1981

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Nichols Memorial Library

and/or common Nichols Memorial Library

2. Location

street & number Main Street Corner Depot Road not for publication

city, town Kingston vicinity of congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Rockingham code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: library

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Kingston

street & number Town Hall, Main Street

city, town Kingston vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds (book 564, page 271)

street & number Rockingham County Court House Building, Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Survey of Kingston, New Hampshire has this property been determined eligible? yes nodate 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Strafford-Rockingham Regional Council

city, town One Water Street, Exeter state New Hampshire

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nichols Memorial Library was built as a library and donated to the Town of Kingston, New Hampshire at dedication ceremonies on June 9, 1898. It is a single building, facing west, on a corner lot of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in the central part of Town. The main portion of the building is rectangular in shape with an ell at the back or east side of the building. It consists of one story and basement and is constructed of irregular stone, with a steep, red slate, hipped roof, capped with copper. All windows have granite sills and all basement windows have granite sills and all basement windows have lintels of vertically placed stones.

Facing the building, to the left of center, is a porch with four granite steps leading to the front door level with a wall and pillar on each side topped with molded concrete. The pillars support a curved roof over the porch with a relief ornament filling the curved area. To the right of the door is a tablet set into the wall with raised letters, "Nichols Memorial Library". The entrance door is heavy oak with glass above the center covered with wrought iron grille work.

In the center of the area to the left of the entrance is a bay window consisting of three double hung sash, the center being the larger. To the right of the entrance is a round tower extending above the height of the eaves. The height of the roof of the tower is slightly lower than the height of the main roof giving it a good proportion to the rest of the building. There are four small windows just under the eaves of the tower, and one basement window on the lower right side. There are no other basement windows at the front of the building. To the right of the tower are three small windows, consisting of double hung sash, in the stack room area.

The north side of the building is dominated by a stone chimney, topped with granite, which extends above the peak of the roof. There is one double hung sash on each side of the chimney with a shallow window under each in the basement.

On the east, or back of the building are three large double hung sash with a basement window under the third, starting at the northeast corner. In the ell there is a pair of small double hung windows on the side and in the back there is a double hung sash on the first floor and a basement window below. Next to this area an enclosure has been constructed in recent years around an exit door on the first floor and the basement entrance door so that the basement could be used as the Childrens Library. There are two small double hung in the stack room area now visible. There are also two roof dormers on this side of the building.

On the south side of the building are triple double hung sash with two basement windows below. All of the main windows have stained glass transom windows, the central design of each being different, representing trade marks of ancient book makers.

From the front door you enter a vestibule which leads to a spacious reading room finished in quartered oak with oak wainscoting. This room is separated from the book stack area by a screen of oak balusters to a height of about ten feet. Both rooms are open to the roof showing king trusses and purlins of Georgia pine with gulf cypress sheathing panels.

At the north end of the reading room is a large fireplace with a panel of relief carving in wood on each side, vertical for four feet and then at an angle to meet the hood over the fireplace. Over the opening is a tablet with relief design and the following inscription in raised letters: "This building was erected by J. Howard Nichols, a native of this town, in loving memory of his parents, Nicholas and Mary Barstow Nichols MDCCCXCVIII".

The upper part of the tower has shelving and is used for storage and there is a stairway leading to the basement in the lower half. The room in the ell is used for reference material pertaining to New Hampshire and the room below is the office which is off the Children's Library, which was originally an open basement.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates June 9, 1898 **Builder/Architect** Dwight and Chandler

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nichols Memorial Library is an excellent example of late nineteenth-century institutional architecture, combining the influence of the shingle style with that of the architecture of Henry Hobson Richardson. The structure was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Dwight and Chandler in 1897 and repeats the solid yet sensitive handling of simple components and natural materials that had characterized a number of New England buildings, especially those near the seacoast, since about 1880.

In designing the library for the Boston philanthropist J. Howard Nichols (a native of Kingston), the firm of Henry Hyde Dwight and Howland Shaw Chandler created a design of powerful simplicity. The library, built at a cost of \$10,000, utilized the best of local and imported materials. The building's low profile, broad unbroken roof planes, and squat circular tower reflect the influence of the shingle style as seen in the work of such contemporary New England designers as William Ralph Emerson, John Calvin Stevens, and Arthur Little. The rugged walls of local stone also reflect the work of Dwight's and Chandler's contemporaries while recalling the late work of H.H. Richardson, done in the 1880s. Richardson's style is reflected as well in the curved roof of the porch and in the conical cap and tiny windows of the tower.

Although various New Hampshire towns have late nineteenth-century libraries in the Romanesque revival and neoclassical styles, the Nichols Memorial Library is unique in the state in reflecting so fully the shingle-style aesthetics that were evidently favored by the building's donor and by his Boston architects.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Kingston (N.H.) 1694-1969.

Newspaper clipping from time of dedication, program, and miscellaneous papers to be found in the library.

Exeter News-Letter, Exeter, N.H. June 17, 1898.

The American Architect and Building News, October 23, 1897.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acres of nominated property $\frac{1}{2} +$

Quadrangle name Haverhill, NH-MA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

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4	7	5	5	6	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Town Map No. U-10, Lot No. 31
Size $-\frac{1}{2}$ acre plus or minus

The boundary measurements are
112.4' x 116' x 181' x 144.5'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gertrude W. Semple, Assistant Children's Librarian

organization Nichols Memorial Library date September 10, 1980

street & number Main Street telephone Home - 603-642-5508
Library - 603-642-3521

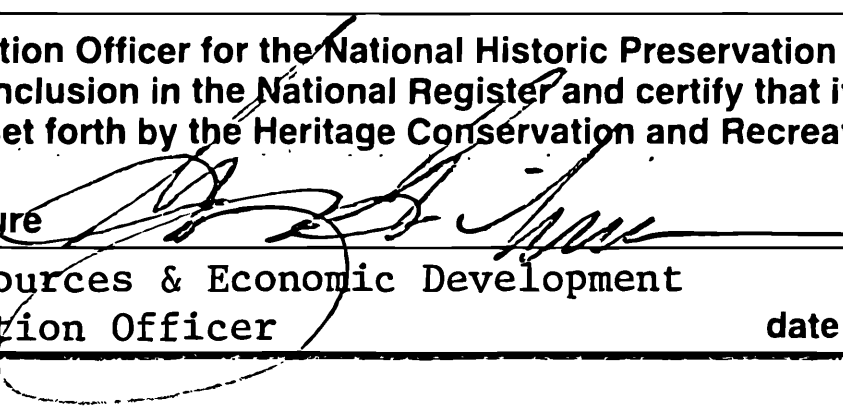
city or town Kingston state New Hampshire

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 
Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date November 6, 1980

For HCRS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register date 1/28/81

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration _____

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED	12/3/80
DATE ENTERED	12/28

CONTINUATION SHEET Sketch Map ITEM NUMBER PAGE 5

